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Rouhani:

Iran could quit nuclear deal if new US sanctions imposed

MPs start debates on ministerial lineup

Political Desk

President Hassan Rouhani issued a direct warning to the United States on Tuesday, saying Iran could abandon its nuclear deal with world powers "within hours" if the US imposed any more new sanctions.

Rouhani said Iran is capable of restarting its nuclear program and quickly bringing it to even more advanced levels than in 2013, when Iran began marathon nuclear talks.

"If America wants to go back to the experience [of imposing sanctions], Iran would certainly return in a short time – not a week or a month, but within hours – to conditions more advanced than before the start of negotiations," Rouhani told a session of Parliament, IRNA reported.

The landmark agreement between Iran and six world powers two years ago capped Iran's uranium enrichment levels in return for the lifting of international sanctions.

No good partner

Rouhani also struck out at US President Donald Trump, saying that he had shown the world that he was an unreliable partner, not just for Iran but for US allies.

"In recent months, the world has clearly seen that under Trump, America has ignored international agreements and, in addition to undermining the nuclear deal, has broken its word on the Paris climate agreement and the Cuba accord... the United States is not a good partner or a reliable negotiator," said Rouhani.

"Those who are trying to go back to the language of threats and sanctions are prisoners of their past hallucinations. They deprive themselves of the advantages of peace."

Trump said last week he did not believe that Iran was living up to the spirit of the nuclear deal despite regular verifications by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on several occasions that Iran remained committed to the terms of the deal.

Rouhani said the new sanctions that the US has imposed on it breach the agreement it reached in 2015 with the US, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany.

In late July, the US Treasury imposed sanctions on six Iranian firms for their role in the development of a

ballistic missile program after Tehran launched a rocket capable of putting a satellite into orbit.

In early August, Trump signed into law new sanctions on Iran, Russia and North Korea, passed by the US Congress. The sanctions in that bill also target Iran's missile program as well as alleged human rights violations.

The United States imposed unilateral sanctions after saying Iran's ballistic missile tests violated a UN resolution, which endorsed the nuclear deal and called upon Tehran not to undertake activities related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

Rouhani denies its missile development breaches the resolution, saying its missiles are not designed to carry nuclear weapons.

Iran to remain loyal to nuclear deal

But Rouhani also tempered his own threat, adding that Iran seeks to remain loyal to its commitments under the nuclear deal, which opened a "path of cooperation and confidence-building" with the world.

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Iran Air selecting financiers for 200 jets: CEO

Iran is in the process of selecting financiers for the purchase of 200 passenger aircraft from among many domestic and foreign companies which have submitted their proposals to Iran Air, said the CEO of the national airline.

Farzaneh Sharafbafi told IRNA on Tuesday, "Many proposals have been submitted to Iran Air and a preliminary decision will be made in the next month."



AFP

Sharafbafi became the first Iranian woman in July to take the helm at Iran Air which has signed deals with Airbus and Boeing as well as Franco-Italian aircraft manufacturer ATR for the purchase of new brand passenger planes.

ATR, a joint venture of Airbus and Italian company Leonardo which signed a firm contract with Iran Air for 20 turbo-prop aircraft and options for a further 20 planes early this year, is even willing to finance the purchases, Sharafbafi said.

Iran Air received four ATR 72-600s planes earlier this year, with the deliveries of the other aircraft to be completed by the end of 2018.

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China warns of retaliation as Trump launches trade probe

Trade tensions between the United States and China heated up on Tuesday as Beijing warned that it "will not sit idle" if a US probe into its intellectual property practices leads to sanctions.

US President Donald Trump on Monday signed a memorandum directing US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to determine whether Chinese policies hurt American investors or companies – with retaliatory measures a possible outcome, AFP wrote.

"We will stand up to any country that unlawfully forces American companies to transfer their valuable technology as a condition of market access. We will combat the counterfeiting and piracy that destroys American jobs," Trump said.

"We will safeguard the copyrights, patents, trademarks, trade secrets and other intellectual property that is so vital to our security and to our prosperity."

"Washington will turn a blind eye no longer," Trump insisted. He said the US would no longer tolerate Beijing's "theft" of US industrial secrets, long a concern of major foreign corporations seeking a share of the huge Chinese market.

"We will engage in a thorough investigation and, if needed, take action to preserve the future of US industry," Lighthizer said. China's Commerce Ministry issued a statement voicing "serious concern" and warning that any US trade protectionism "will definitely harm bilateral trade relations."

"If the US side take actions that impair the mutual trade relations, disregarding the facts and disrespecting multilateral trade rules, China will not sit idle," the statement said.

"The ministry said the country "is definitely going to adopt all appropriate measures to vigorously defend the lawful rights and interest of China."

The United States is China's second-largest trading partner after the European Union, but Washington and Beijing have seen their relations grow increasingly fraught since a promising summit between Trump and China's Xi Jinping in April.

The new intellectual property inquiry joins numerous investigations launched by Washington into Chinese trade practices, notably those concerning steel and aluminum and their national security consequences, which the Trump administration began earlier this year.

However, the start of a US inquiry will not immediately result in open confrontation.

Lighthizer will first need to reach a preliminary finding of unfair practices by China before opening a formal investigation, which could take as much as a year, administration officials said.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry said the country has "always been paying high attention to intellectual property right protection, continuously perfecting the legislation", and that the progress it has made on that front is "obvious to all".

Trump has frequently accused China of undermining the US economy. The bilateral US trade deficit with China approached \$350 billion in 2016, and Trump has repeatedly blamed Chinese imports for gutting employment in US sectors such as steel.

Last week, Washington announced preliminary sanctions against Chinese imports of aluminum foil. But so far, the US has not imposed heavier trade measures on Chinese goods.

North Korea holds off on Guam missile plan

North Korea's leader has delayed a decision on firing missiles toward Guam while he waits to see what the United States does next, the North's state media said on Tuesday, as South Korea's president said Seoul would seek to prevent war by all means.

In his first public appearance in about two weeks, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected the command of the North's Army on Monday, examining a plan to fire four missiles to land near the US Pacific territory of Guam, the official KCNA said, Reuters reported.

"He said that if the Yankees persist in their extremely dangerous, reckless actions on the Korean Peninsula and in its vicinity, testing the self-restraint of the DPRK, the latter will make an important decision as it already declared," the report said. The DPRK stands for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In photos released with the KCNA report, Kim was seen holding a baton and pointing at a map showing a flight path for the missiles appearing to start from North Korea's east coast, flying over Japan toward Guam.

Pyeongyang's plans to fire missiles near



REUTERS

Guam prompted a surge in tensions in the region last week, with US President Donald Trump saying the American military was "locked and loaded" if North Korea acted unwisely.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Tuesday there would be no military action without Seoul's consent and

his government would prevent war by all means.

"The government, putting everything on the line, will block war by all means," Moon said.

Speaking to his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said it was urgent the United

States and North Korea "put the brakes" on mutually irritating words and actions to lower temperatures and prevent an "August crisis," China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

North Korea has persisted with its nuclear and missile programs, to ward off perceived US hostility, in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions and sanctions.

China, North Korea's main ally and trading partner, has repeatedly urged Pyongyang to halt its weapons program and at the same time urged South Korea and the United States to stop military drills to lower tensions.

On Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, said the crisis was approaching a critical juncture and urged all sides in the standoff to help "put out the flames," and not add fuel to the fire.

Hua said she noted comments by US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson about using diplomacy to resolve the issue, saying China hoped these words can be put into action.

"We also call on North Korea to echo this in response," Hua told a daily news briefing.

Tehran slams terrorist attack in Burkina Faso

Iran sympathizes with Sierra Leone over deadly landslide

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi condemned a terrorist attack on a restaurant in Burkina Faso's capital, which killed at least 18 people, many of them children.

"Today, terrorism is a global problem and its eradication requires the will and resolve of all countries," Qassemi said on Tuesday, Press TV reported.

As a victim of terrorism, which has made constructive and crucial efforts in the region to fight the ominous phenomenon, the Islamic Republic has always expressed its readiness to cooperate with other countries and share its experience in this regard, he added.



Over 22 people were wounded after the assailants raided the upscale Turkish restaurant — Aziz Istanbul — in Ouagadougou late Sunday evening and started shooting at people. The terrorists, who were of foreign origin, also took 170 people hostage. The Al-Qaeda terror group claimed responsibility for the attack. Qassemi further said, "Committing inhumane and violent acts by extremist groups against innocent people has no trace of religious teachings, particularly those of the enlightening religion of Islam," which cherishes the principles of humanity, mercy and peace.

The Prosecutor's Office has opened an investigation into the attack in Ouagadougou. Defense and security forces also established a security perimeter and closed all roads to the Ouagadougou International Airport.

The attack brought back memories of the January 2016 massacre, which saw assailants launch an attack on a hotel popular with foreigners and a café in the capital, killing at least 30 people from 18 different nationalities.

Burkina Faso, one of the poorest countries in the world, shares a northern border with Mali, which has long been battling the Al-Qaeda terrorists.

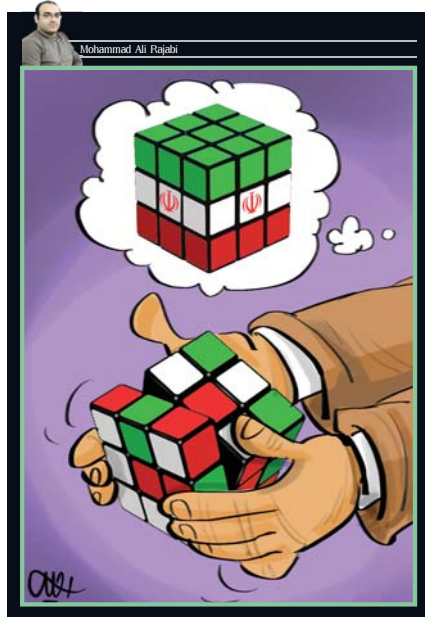
Sierra Leone's deadly landslide

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also sympathized with the Sierra Leone government and people over a deadly landslide that left hundreds dead in the West African nation, IRNA reported.

Authorities have said more than 300 people were killed in and around Freetown on Monday following heavy rains. Many were trapped under tons of mud as they slept.

The Connaught Hospital mortuary in central Freetown was overwhelmed on Tuesday, with more than 300 bodies spread on the floor.

Many of the impoverished areas of Sierra Leone's capital are close to sea level and have poor drainage systems, exacerbating flooding during the rainy season. Freetown is also plagued by unregulated building of large residential houses in hilltop areas.



Baqeri: Iran, Turkey exchange ideas over military issues

Political Desk

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri said on Tuesday that Iran and Turkey share safe and secured borders; however, it was important to pay a visit to Turkey to exchange ideas over military and regional issues.

Meeting his Turkish counterpart, Chief of Staff General Hulusi Akar, Baqeri added: "Turkey is an important neighboring country of Iran and enjoys a high status in the region and the Muslim world."

"It has been quite a while since the two countries had meetings on this topic; so it was important to make this visit to discuss regional developments, the countries' security, and confronting terrorism."

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Major General Baqeri is on a three-day visit to Turkey.

Baqeri is scheduled to meet other high-level political and military officials in Turkey including President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Turkey's Minister of National Defense, Nurettin Canikli.

Iran and Turkey enjoy cordial bilateral relations. Despite some differences on regional issues, Iran and Turkey are two sides of a trilateral mechanism to maintain a cease-fire in certain parts of Syria.

Turkey has started building a wall along its border with Iran in parallel with the Turkish barrier along the Syrian frontier.

Turkey claims that the construction work is aimed at improving security by



MEHMET ALI OZCAN/ANADOLU AGENCY
Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri (C) is welcomed by Chief of the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces General Hulusi Akar (L) at Turkish General Staff headquarters in the capital Ankara on August 15, 2017.

halting the infiltration of Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants and illegal smugglers.

An informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in May that Turkey must keep Iran updated on any construc-

tion of a wall along the two countries' border.

The source added that Iran welcomes Turkey's plan and does not oppose it; however, Ankara must notify Tehran before any move.

Iran is also fighting a PKK offshoot in

its northwestern border region with Turkey. Iranian forces killed five PJAK terrorists in an ambush there last June.

PJAK randomly carries out hit-and-run attacks on Iranian targets, after which they retreat to their lairs in Iraq and Turkey.

Bangladesh marks National Mourning Day

National Desk

Bangladesh observed National Mourning Day on August 15 to commemorate the 42nd anniversary of the martyrdom of its founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The ceremony at the Bangladesh Embassy in Tehran commenced with the country's Ambassador to Iran Majibur Rahman Bhuiyan hoisting the national flag to half-mast. The participants then observed a minute silence in memory of those who laid down their lives on the fateful morning of August 15, 1975.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with 18 members of his family in his residence at the crack of dawn on August 15, 1975 by a cabal of unruly army personnel under a deep-rooted conspiracy against the country and its independence.

At the ceremony, separate messages by President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmud Ali were also read out.

IRGC rejects US claim of Iranian drone's "unsafe approach" to its carrier

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in a statement rejected US navy claims that an Iranian drone made an "unsafe approach" to a US aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf.

The Monday statement stressed that IRGC carries out air patrol missions in the Iranian Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) every day and in accordance with the standard safety regulations. IRNA reported.

It added that the IRGC drone patrols in the country's airspace would continue despite psychological operations underway by some foreign countries.

The IRGC's statement further dismissed the US claims as "unfounded," saying that the drones are equipped with standard navigation systems and



the drone flights are operated precisely and professionally.

The US Naval Forces Central Command claimed that an Iranian drone had come within 1,000 feet (300 meters) of a US aircraft carrier while it was in international waters in the Persian Gulf, conducting flight operations.

Spokesman Lieutenant Ian McConaughy said the Iranian drone "conducted an unsafe and unprofessional approach" as it passed by the USS Nimitz without navigation lights late on Sunday.

Rouhani: Iran could quit nuclear deal if new US sanctions imposed

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"The deal was a model of the victory of peace and diplomacy over war and unilateralism," said Rouhani. "It was Iran's preference, but it was not and will not remain Iran's only option."

'Wanted to nominate women'

Rouhani was addressing lawmakers as deliberations start over his new ministerial lineup, which must be approved by MPs in the coming days.

nications and Information Technology Ministry, 36-year-old Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, as "our first experience in choosing from the youth, someone who has grown up after the revolution."

Structural reforms

Rouhani promised a more targeted approach to social welfare and job creation.

He promised to eradicate absolute poverty and improve the conditions of the poorest "by five times" by the end of his term in 2021.

"The government is determined to carry



On August 8, he presented a list of his proposed picks to head 17 out of 18 ministries to the legislative body for a vote of confidence.

The president started his second term two weeks ago under criticism over his all-male cabinet.

"I wanted to nominate three women ministers but it did not happen," he said, without explaining why.

"All ministers must use women in high-ranking positions... and especially female advisers and deputies," he added.

Rouhani, a 69-year-old moderate cleric, won a resounding re-election victory in May in large part on a platform of reform and greater civil liberties and equality.

He defended his cabinet selections on Tuesday, pointing to his pick for the Commu-

out structural reforms. It sees the all-out fight against corruption as an absolute prerequisite for progress and social justice," he said.

He also detailed a range of economic challenges, particularly the need to clean up the banking system, which is riven with toxic debt, and reform taxation to end the country's reliance on unstable oil revenues.

He courted controversy in his first term by demanding that powerful economic groups must be brought into the tax system.

"Reducing tax exemptions along with expanded tax coverage can elevate justice," he said.

He promised a new rating system for banks and an increase in their capital requirements "to reach global standards".

Israeli demolitions

Israeli troops destroyed several EU-funded Palestinian homes in a Bedouin village located in the southern West Bank.



Iraq launches operation to liberate Tal Afar from Daesh control

Iraq began an operation to liberate the northern city of Tal Afar from Daesh the terrorists weeks after driving the terror group out of its last urban stronghold in the country, the Defense Ministry said.

Mohammed al-Khudari, a spokesman for Iraq's Defense Ministry, announced that the Iraqi Air Force launched Tal Afar liberation operation by carrying out aerial attacks on Daesh positions on Tuesday, Press TV reported.

He stressed that the ground offensive to retake Tal Afar, located 70 kilometers west of Mosul, will start following the completion of those strikes.

Following the start of the offensive, a local source said that six large explosions rocked several areas in Tal Afar. One of the blasts reportedly hit a workshop used to manufacture explosives in the west of the city.

There were no immediate reports of casualties and the extent of damage inflicted on the terrorists.

Tal Afar, which has a population of around 200,000, was captured by Daesh in 2014.

A high-ranking official of the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), commonly known by the Arabic name Hashd al-Sha'abi, said on Monday that the pro-government fighters will actively participate alongside other security forces in the operation to liberate the Tal Afar.

Speaking at a youth meeting on July 29, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi also said Hashd al-Sha'abi fighters would take part in the offensive to win back Tal Afar.

He said the army and security commanders had devised a plan to dislodge Daesh from Tal Afar, which required the participation of security personnel as well as Hashd al-Sha'abi and tribal fighters.

In late June, Commander of Nineveh Liberation Operations Major General Najim Abdullah al-Jubouri said there are between 1,500 and 2,000 Daesh terrorists holed up in Tal Afar, and predicted a relatively easy victory for government forces in the operation saying the terrorists were "worn out and demoralized."

Daesh lost control of Mosul, its last urban bastion in Iraq, early last month, following a two-phased Iraqi military offensive, which first began in October 2016.

Source: French pizzeria crash driver under influence of medication

The driver who rammed his car into a pizzeria near Paris, killing a girl and injuring 13 people, had consumed large quantities of medication before setting off, a legal source said.



Investigators have ruled out a terror motive, saying the driver had allegedly tried to kill himself the day before, AFP wrote.

"He's confirmed that he had taken large amounts of medication," the legal source said.

"We still don't understand his motive from what he's told us so far," the source added. The crash in the village of Sept-Sorts, 55km east of Paris, killed a girl aged around 12 years and left five other people seriously injured, including her three-year-old brother.

UN rights experts slam US immigrant detention

A group of UN experts voiced alarm at the widespread detention of immigrants and asylum seekers in the United States, and warned of "systemic problems" in the country's criminal justice system.

In a fresh report, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention voiced concern over soaring detention rates as President Donald Trump's administration cracks down on illegal immigration and works to deport legal immigrants with criminal records, AFP reported.

"The Working Group is of the view that the mandatory detention of immigrants, especially asylum seekers, is contrary to international human rights and refugee rights standards," the five independent experts said.

The report, based on visits to a range of US detention facilities late last year, found that non-criminal immigrants were subjected to "punitive conditions that were often indistinguishable from those applicable to persons who had been sentenced to punishment in the criminal justice system."

The report also highlighted the difficulty for detained immigrants to access legal representation, unreasonably long incarceration — including of children — and the separation of family members during detention.

"Immigration detention should be the exception rather than the rule," the experts said, insisting that the current "excessive use of immigration-related detention"

could not be justified by necessity.

They warned that current system "appeared to be implemented to deter individuals from continuing their immigration claims and could result in asylum seekers revoking their legitimate immigration claims."

Monday's report also examined the broader rights situation in US jails and prisons, pointing to "several areas where systemic problems in the criminal justice system are resulting in the arbitrary deprivation of liberty."

The panel listed lengthy pretrial detention, the lack of effective legal representation, economic and racial disparities, disproportionate sentences and the practice of treating minors in certain cases as adults.

They voiced concern that some states are increasing their use of the death penalty, especially in light of the problems they had seen in guaranteeing fair trials, arguing: "Imposing the death penalty after a trial at which the defendant was not afforded all necessary safeguards constitutes arbitrary deprivation of life."

The experts also decried the continued operation of the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, urging Washington to close the facility.

Former president Barack Obama promised to do so, but his successor Donald Trump has signaled he instead plans to ramp up use of the prison.



Venezuela calls for military drills after Trump threat

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro called for military exercises after US President Donald Trump's threat of a possible armed intervention in the country.

Maduro insisted he still wanted to hold talks with the US leader whose threat of a "military option" came amid violent protests in Venezuela, Al Jazeera wrote.

As Maduro told supporters in Caracas to prepare for an "imperialist" invasion, US Vice President Mike Pence sought to calm concerns in the region about Trump's talk, promising a peaceful solution to Venezuela's "collapse into dictatorship."

"President Trump has made it very clear that we will not stand by while Venezuela collapses into dictatorship," Pence told reporters in Cartagena, Colombia.



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro

"A failed state in Venezuela threatens the security and prosperity of our entire hemisphere and the people of the United States of America," he added.

Venezuela's Vice President Tarek el-Aissami condemned the visit by his US counterpart to neighboring Colombia.

"We are deeply saddened that that nation, a sibling country that is Colombia, founded under the

same sword that founded this homeland, would lend itself to that menace, would lend itself to the aggression against our people," he said.

Maduro used Trump's comments to reaffirm long-standing accusations that Washington is preparing a military attack.

"Everyone has to join the defense plan, millions of men and women, let's see how the American imperialists like it," Maduro told supporters, urging them to join the two-day operation on Aug 26 and 27 involving both soldiers and civilians.

Thousands of government supporters rallied in Caracas where they denounced Trump's suggestion of armed force to resolve Venezuela's crisis.

More than 120 people have been killed since anti-government protests began in April.

UN: Air raids on Yemen exceed last year's rate

The number of airstrikes on Yemen in the first half of 2017 has already exceeded the total for 12 months last year, according to a UN report.

The monthly average of air raids on Yemeni provinces for 2017 is almost three times higher than that of last year, according to a report released by the Protection Cluster Yemen, Reuters wrote.



dailyipakistan.com

The cluster is part of the Global Protection Cluster, which is headed by the UN refugee agency UNHCR and coordinates inter-agency aid work within the United Nations.

Saudi Arabia has been leading a brutal military campaign against Yemen for more than two years, which has led to the deaths of over 12,000 Yemenis.

The country is also regularly targeted by US drone strikes. Washington says the air raids are aimed at targeting Al-Qaeda positions.

However, facts on the ground indicate that many civilians have fallen victim to such attacks. While the report does not specify who is behind the air raids, Saudi Arabia largely controls Yemen's airspace.

Obama message goes viral after Charlottesville violence

A tweet from Barack Obama drew more than two million "likes" by Monday as the former US president offered a message of tolerance following a deadly weekend clash at a white supremacist rally, AFP reported.

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion," Obama said in the message, quoting the late South African leader Nelson Mandela.

Obama's tweet garnered 2.3 million "likes," the third most popular of all time, according to the Twitter-tracking site Favstar.

The message was retweeted 980,000 times. Obama's tweet struck a chord after the death of a 32-year-old woman hit by a car driven into a crowd by a suspected white supremacist on Saturday in Charlottesville, Virginia.

President Donald Trump drew fire for a tepid initial response to the violence, and he followed up Monday with a stronger condemnation of "those who spread violence in the name of bigotry."



Obama gave additional quotes from Mandela. "People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love," a tweet read.

"For love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

The most-liked tweet of all time was from singer Ariana Grande earlier this year — saying "from the bottom of my heart, i am so so sorry" — after a deadly attack at her Manchester concert.

Obama's tweet also prompted more than 37,000 responses, including both positive and negative comments.

Trump drops to new low in Gallup poll

President Donald Trump's approval rating hit a new low on Monday, matching former President George W. Bush's low approval ratings when he left office after eight years, Business Insider reported.

Gallup's daily tracking poll showed Trump with just a 34% approval rating, his lowest since taking office in January, and a 61% disapproval rating.

For perspective, on August 14, 2009, Gallup showed President Barack Obama with a 55% approval rating and a 37% disapproval rating.

Gallup surveys 1,500 US adults by telephone and has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points. It's unclear whether Trump's most recent drop is the result of Trump's initial failure to condemn a violent white supremacist gathering in Charlottesville, Virginia over the weekend, though some polling experts said it was likely too soon to tell whether the president's response affected his support.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Iran to launch totally homebuilt steel mill

Iran is about to launch a sponge iron mill with an annual capacity of 800,000 tons in the northwestern city of Minah in East Azarbaijan Province.

The complex, developed by Khatam-ul Anbiya Construction Headquarters, will convert pellets made from iron ore into sponge iron, using the indigenous Persian Reduction (PERED) method, Press TV reported.

PERED, jointly developed by Iran and Germany, is a direct reduction process converting iron oxides, in the form of pellets or lump ore, to highly reduced product suitable for steel making.



The project is being implemented under the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contracting arrangement to provide feedstock for Iran's steel factories. The owner of the project is the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) which is also in charge of sourcing equipment from domestic companies in line with the policy to create jobs and prevent capital flight.

Steel is a strategic commodity for Iran, which is also the Middle East's biggest carmaker. It is fundamental to the Iranian society with its massive oil and gas industry, transportation network, water supply, urban centers and mammoth construction.

Steel was Iran's largest export item after oil, gas and petrochemicals last year, partly because of the slump in domestic construction.

The country has been boosting steel production, targeting an output plateau of 55 million tons per year by 2015.

Currently, the nation produces 16 million tons, which is one percent of the world total. A statement on IMIDRO website says exports are expected to hit 20-25 million tons by 2025.

Iran's biggest mill is Mobarakeh Steel Company which produces 7.2 million tons of steel per year. The country exported four million tons of steel last year, according to IMIDRO Managing Director Mehdi Karbasian.

Italian steel firm Danieli has signed commercial agreements worth up to \$5.7 billion with Iran, including a joint venture, called Persian Metalics, worth \$2 billion.

UITE to expand IT industry ties with Iran

The Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE) will expand international cooperation by strengthening the IT industry ties with Iran.

Armenian Ambassador to Iran Artashes Tumanyan announced this during a visit to the UITE's Tehran office, panorama.am reported.

During his visit, he discussed current issues and prospects of cooperation for two countries' IT sphere development with UITE Executive Director Karan Vardanyan.

In December 2016, Armenia communicated Iran's interest to create a free trade zone with the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) — an economic alliance uniting Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan — to the Union's heads of state in a key summit in Russia.

Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan told the EEU summit in Russia's St. Petersburg that he was carrying a message of interest to create the free trade zone with the union from his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani.

"The president of Iran has shown interest in signing a temporary deal with the EEU, leading to the creation of a free trade zone," Sargsyan said.

"Armenia is actively assisting the negotiations between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union, aiming to sign the agreement fast," he told the summit that was attended by the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.

Armenia's president further underlined that his country, as the only EEU member state that has a land border with Iran, was focusing on the development of joint transport and logistics projects with Iran.

Those projects, he added, included the creation of a transit route from the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea, which would "create the platform for a safe and convenient access to the Persian Gulf and on to the Indian Ocean for our EEU partners".

The EEU was initiated by Russia in 2015 and is meant to simplify and modernize trade of goods and services between its member states. Russian President Vladimir Putin said in August that he wanted to see Iran join the union.

Putin emphasized that he supported the creation of a free trade zone between Iran and the union, adding that a research over this had already started.

"Iran is Russia's longtime partner. We believe that bilateral relations will benefit from the reduction of tensions around Iran following the comprehensive agreement on the Iranian nuclear program," Putin said.

Turkey's Unit International, Russia's Zarubezhneft sign drilling deal with Iran's Ghadir



Turkey's Unit International signed a \$7-billion agreement with Russia's state-owned Zarubezhneft and Iran's Ghadir Investment Holding to drill for oil and natural gas in Iran, the company said on Tuesday.

In a statement, Unit said the three companies had invested a total of \$7 billion for the drilling, which would take place at three oilfields and one large natural gas field in Iran, Reuters reported.

The total reserves at the three oilfields stand at 10 billion barrels, and the fields will produce 100,000 barrels per day, Unit said. It said the natural gas field had a production capacity of 75 billion cubic meters per year.

The consortium will also be able to drill in other parts of Iran, the statement said.

The natural gas extracted from the drilling will be equal to 1.5 times the 50 billion cubic meters of gas Turkey imports annually, Unit said, adding that the reserves in this field would help meet Turkey's gas demands over the next 150 years.

Unit said all three companies had signed the agreement as equal partners, and added that this marked the first trilateral deal an Iranian company signed with foreign partners.

South Korea's July Iranian crude oil imports jump 27%

South Korea's crude oil imports from Iran rose 27 percent in July from a year ago, driven by Seoul's strong appetite for competitively priced Iranian light oil as Tehran looks to boost market share.

South Korea, one of Iran's major Asian customers, shipped in 1.40 million tons of crude from Tehran in July, or 330,151 barrels per day (bpd), up from 1.10 million tons last year, customs data showed on Tuesday, reported Reuters.

The world's fifth-biggest crude importer brought in 10.67 million tons of Iranian crude in the first seven months of this year, or 368,952 bpd — up 47.7 percent from 7.22 million tons over the same period last year, the data showed.

South Korea mainly imports Iranian condensate, an ultra-light oil used to produce more expensive fuels like naphtha.

Iran, a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), is exempt from the oil



bloc's deal to limit production to drain a global supply glut.

The country is seeking to regain market share lost during the years it was under western sanctions over its

nuclear program.

In July, the Middle Eastern country exported 2.2 mbd of oil to Asian and European markets, with its exports to Asia up by 100,000 bpd.

South Korea's intake of crude oil from top exporter Saudi Arabia fell 9.3 percent to 3.69 million tons, or 873,656 bpd, a year ago.

OPEC's July oil production rose further by 173,000 bpd to 32.87 mbd, in the latest sign the oil producer club's joint efforts to cap output are weak.

Overall, South Korea's total July crude imports increased 3.2 percent to 12.44 million tons, or 2.94 million bpd, from a year ago, the data showed.

In the January-July of 2017, South Korea imported 84.68 million tons of crude, or 2.93 million bpd, up 2.0 percent from 83.04 million tons in the same period last year. South Korea's final data for July crude oil imports by state-run Korea National Oil Corp (KNOC) is due later this month.

NZ has long-standing trade, economic relationship with Iran: Minister

New Zealand has a long-standing trade and economic relationship with Iran, observed Foreign Minister Gerry Brownlee.

Since the easing of United Nations sanctions in 2016, there has been increased interest in the Iranian market by New Zealand exporters, the minister said, reported scoop.co.nz.

Exports to Iran last year reached \$151 million while the first export of New Zealand lamb in decades was sent to Iran in May.

Brownlee further announced that New Zealand's new ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran is Hamish MacMaster.

"There is real scope for further diversification of our trade relationship with Iran and New Zealand's new ambassador will play a key role in supporting this," Brownlee said.

In February, Iran signed an agreement to resume sheep and beef imports from New Zealand and discussed possible kiwifruit and shrimp exports to that country.

New Zealand Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy and Iranian Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati were present in the signing ceremony of the agreement which provides for chilled and frozen sheep and beef exports to resume with Iran.

Hojjati touched on capacities between the two countries for cage fish farming and marketing cooperation on exports to other countries.

"The determination of the two countries to develop constructive relationships is serious and Iran is ready to cooperate with New Zealand in fields such as research, exchange of germplasm, pasture pest management and hybrid seed production," he said.

"Joint investment in cage fish farming and marketing for exports of products to other countries can be another field for cooperation between Iran and New Zealand," he added.



The two sides also signed two documents on commercial veterinary and gardening development.

The agreements were signed between Iranian Veterinary Organization and the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, with Guy hailing them as "a crucial step for New Zealand meat companies as they look to re-enter the Iranian market".

Meat is New Zealand's second-largest commodity export after dairy, and was

worth \$5.92 billion in 2016, according to the country's media.

New Zealand kiwifruit marketer Zespri International and Iran's Ministry of Agriculture Jihad meanwhile signed a statement of intent outlining undertakings to further explore commercial opportunities in Iran, Guy said.

Iran has well-established kiwifruit orchards and supply chains and produces the fruit in New Zealand's off-season, he said.

New Zealand sent its Trade Minister Todd McClay to Tehran in December 2016 at the head of a senior-level business delegation to look into the prospects of reviving trade with the Islamic Republic after a hiatus of over a decade.

McClay said at the time that the lifting of sanctions on Iran had created new opportunities in the education, construction, food and beverage, energy, forestry, specialized manufacturing and services sectors.

Iran Air selecting financiers for 200 jets: CEO

From Page 1

"There is no problem financing these planes, and Iran Air has bought all the 20 ATR aircraft in the form of hire purchase, and now proposals for financing these purchases are under review at Iran Air," Sharaftabi said. The purchases are part of Iran Air's

plans to rebuild the airline's fleet after nuclear-related sanctions against Iran were lifted last year.

The company struck a deal with Boeing in December for 80 passenger planes. In January, Iran Air signed agreements to buy 118 planes from Airbus, before cutting the number to around 100.

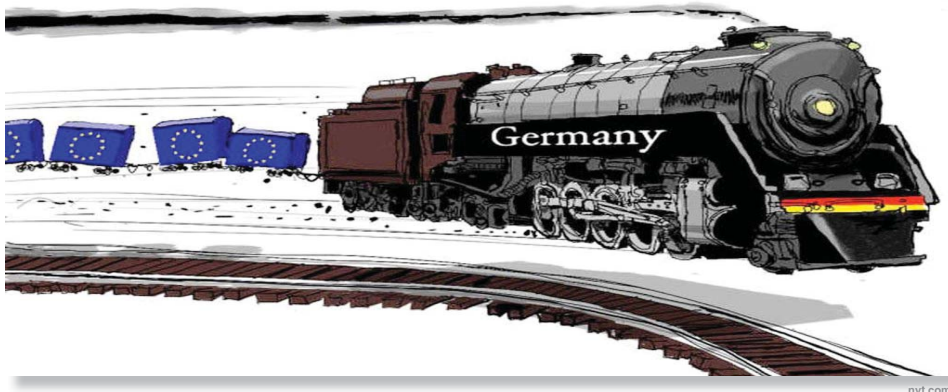
Iran Air has taken delivery of three Airbus jets and will get another by the year-end, while the first Boeing is due around May 2018.

According to Iran's Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development Asghar Fakhrieh-Kashan, given the type of Iran Air's orders, the total value of the three contracts for the

purchase of 200 aircraft from Airbus, Boeing and ATR is less than \$18 billion.

Iran Air has undertaken to make an advance payment of \$1 billion to Airbus and Boeing for the purchases, which will be reimbursed over a period of four years, he said recently.

Germany: From 'sick man' of Europe to engine of growth



nyl.com

Any politician would love to head into an election with the kind of economic record that Germany has shown under Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Bidding for a fourth term in office in elections in September, Germany's chancellor can point to brightening economic growth forecasts, bulging state coffers and a booming jobs market, according to Financial Times.

"Employment growth is strong, the unemployment rate is at a record low, output growth is above potential and the fiscal position keeps strengthening," is the judgment of the International Monetary Fund.

Merkel will hope to reap the benefit of dramatic change in the German economy since the period when the country was mocked as the 'sick man of Europe' — and the origins of that transformation lie in the period before she took office in 2005.

Here we examine the origins of that transformation.

Why was Germany in such a mess?

Throughout the 1990s and the early 2000s Germany's economic growth was lower than that of the eurozone as a whole, largely due to the cost of the reunification of West and East Germany in 1990.

Katinka Barysch, of the Center for European Reform, in a 2003 paper, noted, "The shock of absorbing an economy with 16 million people, thousands of outdated smokstack factories and a 50-year legacy of central planning would have brought any economy to its knees."

The consequences strained Germany's jobs market and its budget.

By 2004, unemployment rates were higher than for

most of its peers, including Italy and France. And with a fiscal deficit of 3.7 percent of gross domestic product, Germany was breaching the Maastricht treaty limit of three percent — again faring much worse than its main peers.

How did the German economy turn around so rapidly?

According to Christian Odendahl of the Center for European Reform, a lot of the answer lies in good timing.

In the mid-1990s, wage bargaining became more decentralized, with less negotiation at the sectoral level and more within companies.

This lowered labor costs, argues Alexandra Spitz-Oener, in the Harvard Business Review.

Odendahl said: "Unions and works councils agreed to hold down wage growth, helping German businesses adapt to a higher level of international competition."

The competitiveness of German companies was further helped by having more of their production chains abroad, particularly in Eastern Europe. More than 1,800 German companies invested in over 3,500 projects in Eastern Europe, creating more than 650,000 jobs since 2003.

No other country invested that much in the region, especially in automotive, electronic components and industrial machinery.

What else helped Germany become an export Weltmeister?

German companies looked at exporting to emerging markets earlier than most of their peers "in response to

the rigidities of the domestic economy and expectations of falling domestic demand", explained Carlo Bastasin in a paper published by Brookings. As a result, they were able to offer high-quality and increasingly competitive capital goods to countries in the throes of an investment boom.

In 2003, Germany became the largest source of imports in Eastern Europe, a market that has grown fourfold since 2000. In 2005, Germany surpassed the US to become the leading source of machinery imports into India: The value of that market has multiplied eight times since 2001. Germany is the largest exporter of vehicles to China, the value of those imports multiplied 18 times over the same period.

In the seven years before the financial crisis, real German exports increased 76 percent, compared with about 20 percent for its peers.

What about the role played by government reforms?

Some believe that the country's economic recovery was largely the result of the Hartz labor market reforms introduced in 2003, named after the former Volkswagen executive (Peter Hartz) who headed the commission that came up with the package. They were aimed at making the labor market more flexible and providing stronger incentives to take up work.

Others argue that the economic impact was modest. The Hartz reforms are widely considered to "have contributed to the recent decline in long-term unemployment" but critics point to the resulting rise in in-work poverty and insecure jobs.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	81696.3	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	70641.7	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	89679.5	3826	4.27
First Market Index	57160.7	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	178521.8	2030.5	1.14

Overall Index details on 20170815

First	81769.2	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	81716.7	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	81611.4	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	81696.3	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

Industry Index details on 20170815

First	70695.1	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	70652.4	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	70278.2	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	70641.7	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

Free Float Index details on 20170815

First	89948.9	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	89679.5	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

Main Board Index details on 20170815

First	57341.5	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	57228.2	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	57160.7	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

Secondary Index details on 20170815

First	177976.3	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	178627.2	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	178521.8	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2030.5		

Chinese economy addicted to debt

In the aftermath of the global financial crisis, China's manufacturing and export dependent economy crumpled and the ruling Communist Party panicked.

Party leaders estimated they needed to sustain a minimum annual growth rate of eight percent if they were to contain political unrest that could threaten authoritarian rule, FT reported.

The solution was to unleash what economists have called the greatest example of monetary easing in history — an enormous wave of easy loans channeled through the state-owned banking system.

In absolute terms, China's total debt has

ballooned from around \$6 trillion at the time of the financial crisis to nearly \$28 trillion by the end of last year.

As a percentage of GDP, total debt has risen from 140 percent to almost 260 percent over the same period.

There is no question that the Chinese economy was saved in the short term by the government's decision to open the credit floodgates, but that has resulted in an economy addicted to borrowing and afflicted with serious asset bubbles.

The ultimate test will come when Beijing eventually attempts to wean the country off this debt dependence.



french.china.org.cn

UK PM to lead business delegation to Japan



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/REUTERS

Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May (R) and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan hold a joint news conference at the Chequers, near Wendover, Britain, April 28, 2017.

UK Prime Minister Theresa May will visit Japan this month for talks with her Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe to discuss Brexit, trade and defense, her office said on Tuesday.

May will lead a business delegation drawn from a range of different sectors on the trip, which comes as her government looks to strengthen its relationship with key international investors ahead of Britain's exit from the European Union, Reuters wrote.

"The delegation will showcase the strength of British business, the shared confidence in the UK-Japan economic relationship as we leave the EU, and the potential for future growth," a spokesman from May's office said.

The three-day trip begins on August 30.

Japanese companies including carmaker Nissan and conglomerate Hitachi have invested more than £40 billion (\$52 billion) in Britain, and Japanese companies

employ a total of 140,000 people in the country.

May's office did not give details of which businesses would be traveling to Japan. May will also meet Emperor Akihito, the spokesman said.

Since voting to leave the EU last June, Britain has trumpeted decisions by Japanese carmakers Nissan and Toyota to continue production in the country as a sign that Brexit will not scare off international investors.

But both those investments came after the government wrote letters to ease the firms' concerns, drawing criticism that May was making secret deals and giving firms privileged information on Brexit. Britain said the letters were commercially sensitive.

May and Abe, leaders of the world's fifth and third largest economies, met last month on the sidelines of an international summit in Germany, and in April she hosted him at her English country residence, the Chequers.

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2831	Chinese Yuan	0.1497
Euro	1.1759	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.2907	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3105
Australian Dollar	0.7845	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0090	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$47.68	Silver	\$16.86
Gold	\$1279.90	Platinum	\$965.10
Copper	\$2.90	Wheat	\$437.50

Tagus River, the longest in the Iberian peninsula, is in danger of drying up completely as Spain once again finds itself in the grip of drought.

13th National Handicrafts Fair underway in Arak



mehrnews.com



asriran.com

Thirteenth National Handicrafts Fair kicked off in Arak, Markazi Province on August 14. It will run until August 18.

The five-day event intends to make the public acquainted with handicrafts from other provinces.

Over 100 artisans from other provinces are taking part in the fair in 100

pavilions, while 200 artisans are participating from Markazi Province in 120 pavilions.

Markazi Province has over 8,000 artisans involved in the handicraft sector. More than 120 fields of handicrafts are practiced in the province. At present, 10 shopping centers and eight marketplaces and exhibitions are operational in the

handicraft industry with the approval of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization.

Wood carving, engraving, carpet-weaving, copper smithing, painting, calligraphy and plasterwork are among the major handicrafts of the province.

Given the huge number of handicraft fields in the province, seven handicraft

marketplaces are under construction province-wide. Geometric wooden works, wood carving, engraving and enameled works are exported as carry-on baggage.

The government aims to set up at least one handicraft marketplace in every city. It also plans to equip handicraft workshops and revive the neglected fields.

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mehrnews.com



eghtesadonline.com



epochtimes.com

Ozone treaty taking a bite out of US greenhouse gas emissions

The Montreal Protocol, the international treaty adopted to restore Earth's protective ozone layer in 1989, has significantly reduced emissions of ozone-depleting chemicals from the United States. In a twist, a new study showed the 30-year old treaty has had a major side benefit of reducing climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions from the US.

That's because the ozone-depleting substances controlled by the treaty are also potent greenhouse gases, with heat-trapping abilities up to 10,000 times greater than carbon dioxide over 100 years, *enn.com* wrote.

The new study is the first to quantify the impact of the Montreal Protocol on US greenhouse gas emissions with atmospheric observations.

The study's results show that reducing the use of ozone-depleting substances from 2008 to 2014 eliminated the equivalent of 170 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

That's roughly the equivalent of 50 percent of the reductions achieved by the US for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases over the same period.

The study was published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, a journal of the American Geophysical Union.

Extreme temperatures shown in southern Europe heat map

A new heat map published by the European Space Agency offers a colorful, bird's-eye-view of last week's heatwave in southern Europe.

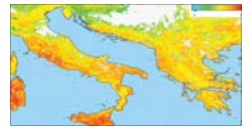
As showcased by the swath of oranges and red hues blanketing much of the Mediterranean, much of Southern Europe experienced highs near 105°F, *UPI* reported.

During the string of extreme highs, ESA's Earth-observing and weather satellites helped track developments from Earth's upper atmosphere.

Satellites like Copernicus Sentinel-3A tracked wildfires and measure surface temperatures, enabling the creation of the newly published heat map.

"The map uses data from the satellite's Sea and Land Surface Temperature Radiometer, which measures energy radiating from Earth's surface in nine spectral bands—the map therefore represents temperature of the land surface, not air temperature which is normally used in forecasts," ESA officials wrote in a blog update.

Over the weekend, a cool front moved across the region providing relief to southern and eastern Europe, but forecasts suggest more hot weather is on the way.



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و مدیران شرکت‌های بین‌المللی
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

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

مالکین محترم
ساختمان دربست در مناطق شمال تهران
جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه
و کمیته‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

Rates of knee osteoarthritis have doubled in the US since the 1940s, but it's not just because Americans are living longer and weigh more, a new study suggested.



**Anger, hatred
can make us
feel happy**

huffingtonpost.com

People are happier if they are able to feel emotions they desire — even if those emotions are unpleasant, such as anger and hatred, a study suggested.

The results of the study, compiled by an international team of researchers, found happiness is "more than simply feeling pleasure and avoiding pain" BBC wrote.

Researchers asked participants what emotions they desired and felt.

This was then compared to how they rated their overall happiness, or life satisfaction.

The researchers found that while people overall wanted to experience more pleasant emotions, they had the greatest life satisfaction if the emotions they experienced matched those they desired.

The cross-cultural study included some 2,300 university students from the US, Brazil, China, Germany, Ghana, Poland and Singapore.

feel emotions you want to feel, even if they're unpleasant, then you're better off."

Surprisingly, the study also found 11 percent of people wanted to feel less of positive emotions, such as love and empathy, while 10 percent of people wanted to feel more negative emotions, such as hatred and anger.

Tamir explained, "Someone who feels no anger when reading about child abuse might think they should be angrier about the plight of abused children, so want to feel more anger than they actually do in that moment."

She added that a woman who wants to leave an abusive spouse but is not willing to do so may be happier if she loved him less, for example.

Feeling bad can be good

Dr. Anna Alexandrova, from the University of Cambridge's Wellbeing Institute, said that the research challenges how people think of happiness.

"This study nicely calls into question a traditional measure of happiness that defines it as a ratio of positive to negative emotions."

But when it came to unpleasant emotions, this study assessed only anger and hatred, which Alexandrova said is a limitation.

"Anger and hatred may be compatible with happiness, but there is no indication that other unpleasant feelings, such as fear, guilt, sadness and anxiety, are."

Tamir said that the research does not apply to those with clinical depression.

"People who are clinically depressed want to be sadder and less happy than other people. That only exacerbates the problem."

"The study sheds light on the downsides of expecting to always feel happy."

"People want to feel very good all the time in Western cultures. Even if they feel good most of the time, they may still think that they should feel even better, which might make them less happy overall."

Negative emotions

Lead researcher Dr. Maya Tamir said, "If you

**Breast cancer breakthrough:
This finding could stop
disease spreading, save lives**

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the UK.

Now experts have revealed treating the disease before it spreads is a realistic goal and could stop the disease spreading to other parts of the body, according to express.co.uk.

Breast cancer cells that spread to other parts of the body break off and leave the primary tumor at late stages of disease development, scientists from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and their collaborators have found.

The findings reveal that catching and treating breast cancer before it spreads is a 'realistic goal'.

Scientists also believe it opens the door to predicting which drugs will work against breast cancer that has already spread.

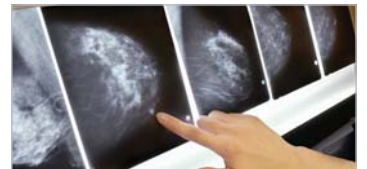
It is estimated that 35,000 people in the UK have metastatic breast cancer.

The survival rates are poor with figures revealing around 15 out of 100 women will survive advanced breast cancer for five years or more after diagnosis.

Dr. Peter Campbell, joint lead author from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, said, "Our study shows that in order to catch breast cancer before it spreads, early detection of breast cancer is key and we provide a good rationale for continuing to improve methods for detecting breast cancer sooner."

"These results show the power of genetic sequencing in understanding metastatic breast cancer and open the door to personalized treatment for breast cancer in the future."

Most of the research into breast cancer has focused on primary breast cancer, and there is little understanding of the biology underpinning breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body, known as metastatic cancer.



health.com

This is in part due to the difficulty in finding samples of tumors that have spread to other tissues.

In this study, scientists investigated how breast cancer evolves from the original tumor in the breast to tumors that have spread.

It has been controversial whether the breast cancer cells that spread to other parts of the body break off and leave the primary tumor in the breast at early or at late stages of cancer development.

The team found that most of the genetic changes in the original breast tumor were also present in the metastatic tumors, showing that the cancer cells spread late in disease development.

Experts said this shows promise for breast cancer patients as diagnosing and treating the breast cancer at early stages means there is a greater chance of preventing cancer cells spreading to other tissues, such as the lungs, brain and bone.

Dr. Lucy Yates, from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and Guys, said, "As the cells that cause the spread of breast cancer leave relatively late, it means they are still quite similar to the cells in the primary tumor."

"Therefore by studying the genome of the primary breast cancer tumor, in the future we may be able to predict what cells that might have spread 'look' like, and potentially which treatments they will respond to."

In the study, the team looked at the DNA of 299 tumors from 170 patients with breast cancer that either returned in the remaining breast local relapse — or had spread — metastatic breast cancer.

Professor Per Eystein Lonning, joint lead author from the University of Bergen, said, "Most women who have metastatic breast cancer do not have another biopsy of the cancer, and rarely have it analyzed using genetic sequencing."

"In this study we found that in some cases, the metastatic tumors had particular genetic changes that could be targeted with treatments."

"We would not have seen these mutations by sequencing the primary tumor alone."

"Our results suggest that it should be more routine to biopsy the metastasis and have it genetically analyzed in order to open up clinical trials of treatment options for metastatic breast cancer."

The study was published in the journal Cancer Cell.

Scientists find new way to activate stem cells to grow hair

Researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles said in a study they have identified a new way to activate stem cells in hair follicles to regrow hair.

The study, published in Nature Cell Biology, findings could lead to new drugs that could promote hair growth for people with baldness or alopecia, UPI wrote.

Hair follicle stem cells are quiescent, meaning they are inactive except during a new hair cycle when they activate to grow hair.

The quiescence is regulated by several factors and failure to activate leads to hair loss.

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) researchers found that hair follicle stem cell metabolism differs from other cells of the skin in that they consume glucose from the bloodstream and process the glucose to produce a metabolite called pyruvate.

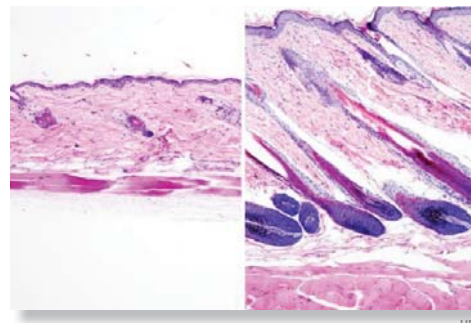
The cells then either sent pyruvate to their mitochondria or convert it to lactate. Heather Christofk, an associate

professor of biological chemistry and molecular and medical pharmacology at UCLA, said, "Our observations about hair follicle stem cell metabolism prompted us to examine whether genetically diminishing the entry of pyruvate into the mitochondria would force hair follicle stem cells to make more lactate, and if that would activate the cells and grow hair more quickly."

Researchers blocked the production of lactate genetically in mice and found that this prevented hair follicle stem cell activation and then increased lactate production genetically in the mice, which accelerated hair follicle stem cell activation.

William Lowry, a professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology, said, "Before this, no one knew that increasing or decreasing the lactate would have an effect on hair follicle stem cells."

"Once we saw how altering lactate production in the mice influenced hair growth, it led us to look for potential drugs that could be applied to the skin



UPI

and have the same effect."

Researchers identified two drugs that influenced hair follicle stem cells in mice, RCGD423 and UKS099.

RCGD423 activates a cellular signaling pathway known as JAK-Stat, which transmits information from outside the cell to the nucleus.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL, RURAL AND STATE LIVESTOCK AFFAIRS LOGISTICS INC (S.L.A.) ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTARY TENDER DOCUMENTS

FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT DATED 03.AUG.2017 IN THE IRAN DAILY NEWSPAPER NO 5695 THE TENDERS NO 54/10334 & 54/10335 THE ISSUE FOR SUPPLY OF 200,000 MTS OF CORN & 200,000 MTS OF FEED BARLEY. HEREBY, THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS ADDED TO ARTICLE 10 OF TENDER CONDITIONS:

IN ADDITION OF CASH DEPOSIT, TENDERER MAY PROVIDE A VALID & UNCONDITIONAL BANK GUARANTEE EQUIVALENT THE AMOUNT OF CASH DEPOSIT, ISSUED BY IRANIAN BANKS OR FOREIGN BANKS APPROVED BY THE CENTRAL BANK OF IRI WITH A MONTH PERIOD OF VALIDITY & CAN BE RENEWED FOR AN ANOTHER MONTH.

ADDRESS: NO 33, EASTERN BRAZIL ST, VANAK SQUARE, TEHRAN, IRAN. TELEPHONE: (+98-21)88772654-5

**Injectable
tissue patch
may help
repair
damaged organs**

UPI

Researchers at the University of Toronto to have developed a tiny patch of heart tissue with its own blood vessels that can be delivered via injection.

Invasive open-heart surgery is typically required to repair heart tissue destroyed by heart attack or other medical conditions by using regenerative cells or tissues, UPI reported.

A new study, published in Nature Materials, suggested that a technique using 3D slices of human tissue developed by biomedical engineering researchers at the University of Toronto can repair human heart tissue non-invasively.

The team was able to use a small needle to inject a repair patch without having to open the chest cavity to access the heart.

Professor Milica Radisic, of the University of Toronto Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, said, "If an implant requires open-heart surgery, it's not going to be widely available to patients."

Researchers found a design that matched the mechanical properties

of the heart tissue and had the necessary shape — memory by unfolding itself into a bandage-like shape after it emerges from the needle.

In tests on rats and pigs, researchers were able to grow real heart cells on the patch that was then injected into the animals.

Miles Montgomery, a researcher in Radisic's laboratory, said, "When we saw that the lab-grown cardiac tissue was functional and not affected by the injection process that was very exciting."

"Heart cells are extremely sensitive, so if we can do it with them, we can likely do it with other tissues as well."

The study showed that injecting the patch into rat hearts could improve cardiac function after a heart attack by allowing damaged ventricles to pump more blood than without the patch.

Radisic said, "You could customize this platform, adding growth factors or other drugs that would encourage tissue regeneration."

"I think this is one of the coolest things we've done."

The project to build first Iranian university in Iraq was launched in a ceremony in Kadhemain attended by Iran's ambassador to Iraq and the country's deputy minister of science, technology and research.

Iranian student grabs silver in South Korean Olympiad

Iranian student Mobina Vatankhah received a silver medal in the 2nd Korea International Youth Olympiad, an education official said.

Vatankhah has invented an intelligent system for fluid and water leak detection, Bandar Abbas education office manager As-



IRNA

ghar Bahrami said, IRNA wrote.

The Iranian inventor also bagged the bronze medal in the 45th International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva which was held during March 29-April 2 in Switzerland.

The Second Korea International Youth Olympiad, which took place in Hwasong, South Korea from August 11 to 13, attracted 400 inventors from Iran, Russia, the US, Moldova, Sri Lanka, Thailand as well as some other countries.

Researchers discover new tectonic plate

A team of researchers from Rice University in Texas have discovered a new tectonic plate off the coast of Ecuador.

There were 56 plates; now, there are 57 — and researchers think there could be one more to find, according to UPI.

Scientists discovered the microplate — which they've dubbed 'Malpelo' — while analyzing the movements of what they believed to be the convergence of a trio of plates.

Researchers were studying the coming together of a major tectonic plate and two smaller plates.

The edges of the Pacific lithospheric plate roughly form the Ring of Fire, a region of volcanic activity.

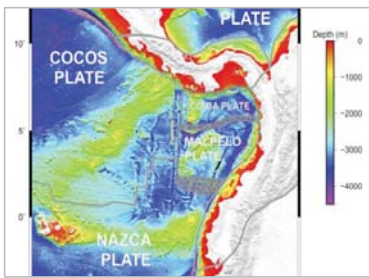
Filling in the gaps between larger plates is smaller plates. Just west of the Galapagos Islands, the Pacific plate is met by Cocos and Nazca.

The intersected plates don't collide head on. Nor do they slip over and under one another, such as the case at a subduction zone. The plates rotate around each other, like a series of gears.

By measuring the rates of seafloor spreading and the angles at which the plates slip by each other, researchers can estimate the speeds at which plates spin.

Rice geophysicist Richard Gordon said, "When you add up the angular velocities of these three plates, they ought to sum to zero.

"In this case, the velocity doesn't sum to zero at all. It sums to 15 millimeters a year, which is huge."



UPI

Researchers discovered a new tectonic plate off the coast of Ecuador, and their analysis suggested there may be one more yet-identified microplate.

The scientists surmised a plate was missing from the equation. To find its boundaries, researchers mined a catalogue of multi-beam sonar soundings.

Anomalies in the data suggested the presence of a new plate east of the known Panama transform fault, a region originally believed to be part of the Nazca plate.

Their analysis — detailed in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* — revealed the presence of a diffuse plate boundary running from the Panama fault east to a deep ocean trench off the coasts of Ecuador and Colombia.

Gordon said, "A diffuse boundary is best described as a series of many small, hard-to-spot faults rather than a ridge or transform fault that sharply defines the boundary of two plates.

"Because earthquakes along diffuse boundaries tend to be small and less frequent than along transform faults, there was little information in the seismic record to indicate this one's presence."

When researchers crunched the seafloor spreading and boundary angle numbers again, they still couldn't zero out their equation.

Researcher Tuo Zhang said, "The nonclosure around this triple junction goes down — not to zero, but only to 10 or 11 millimeters a year.

"Since we're trying to understand global deformation, we need to understand where the rest of that velocity is going. So we think there's another plate we're missing."

Japan looks to wood pulp to make lighter auto parts

The global push among carmakers to make ever lighter vehicles is leading some auto suppliers in Japan to turn to what seems like an unlikely substitute for steel — wood.

Japanese researchers and auto component makers said a material made from wood pulp weighs just one fifth of steel and can be five times stronger, reuters.com reported.

The material — cellulose nanofibers — could become a viable alternative to steel in the decades ahead, they said, although it faces competition from carbon-based materials, and remains a long way from being commercially viable.

Reducing the weight of a vehicle will be critical as manufacturers move to bring electric cars into the mainstream.

Batteries are an expensive but vital component, so a reduction in car weight will mean fewer batteries will be needed to power the vehicle, saving costs.

Masanori Matsushiro, a project manager overseeing body design at Toyota Motor Corp., said, "Light weighting is a constant issue for us."

"But we also have to resolve the issue of high manufacturing costs before we see an increased use of new, lighter-weight materials in mass-volume cars."

Researchers at Kyoto University and major parts suppliers such as Denso Corp., Toyota's biggest supplier, and DaikyoNishikawa Corp., are working with plastics incorporated with cellulose nanofibers — made by breaking down wood pulp fibers into several hundredths of a micron (one thousandth of a millimeter).

Cellulose nanofibers have been used in a variety of products ranging from ink to transparent displays, but their potential use in cars has been enabled by the "Kyoto Process", under which chemically treated wood fibers are kneaded into plastics while



reuters.com

simultaneously being broken down into nanofibers, slashing the cost of production to roughly one-fifth that of other processes.

Kyoto University Professor Hiroaki Yano, who is leading the research, said, "This is the lowest-cost, highest-performance application for cellulose nanofibers and that's why we're focusing on its use in auto and aircraft parts."

The university, along with auto parts suppliers, are currently developing a prototype car using cellulose nanofiber-based parts to be completed in 2020.

Yukihiko Ishino, a spokesman at DaikyoNishikawa, which counts Toyota Motor Corp. and Mazda Motor Corp. among its customers, said, "We've been using plastics as a replacement for steel, and we're hoping that cellulose nanofibers will widen the possibilities toward that goal."

Automakers are also using other lightweight substitutes. BMW uses

carbon fiber reinforced polymers (CFRPs) for its i3 compact electric car as well as for its 7 series, while high-tensile steel and aluminum alloys are currently the most widely used lightweight options because they are cheaper and recyclable.

Spruce Goose

Yano said he was inspired in his research by a photo of the "Spruce Goose" — a cargo plane made almost entirely of wood in 1947 by US billionaire entrepreneur Howard Hughes. At the time, it was the world's largest aircraft.

He said, "I thought that if Howard Hughes could find a way to use wood to build a massive plane, why not use wood to make a material that was as strong as steel?"

The cost of mass producing a kilogram of cellulose nanofiber is currently

around \$9.

Yano aims to halve that cost by 2030, which he said that will make it an economically viable product, since it would be combined with plastic, and so competitive against high tensile steel and aluminum alloys, which currently cost around \$2 per kg.

Industry experts anticipate that carbon fiber prices will fall to around \$10 per kg by 2025.

Analysts said high-tensile steel and aluminum will be the more popular alternative for many years to come, considering parts makers would need to overhaul production lines and figure out ways to fasten new materials like cellulose nanofiber onto other car parts.

Anthony Vicari, an applied materials analyst at Lux Research in Boston, said it would be a big deal though if Yano's projections prove to be correct.

He said, "But for now, it remains a very big 'if'."

Why are forensic scientists desperate to open human body farm in UK

Imagine a research facility where human corpses are buried in soil, left in water and hung from trees, and allowed to decompose.

The idea is that nature is allowed to take its course, allowing researchers to monitor the bodies as they decay without human interference, metro.co.uk reported.

If you're uncomfortable with that thought, you may be reassured to hear that human taphonomy facilities (HTFs), also known as body farms, are currently illegal in the UK.

However, that may not be the case for much longer as forensic scientists are in talks with the government over opening the UK's first human body farm.

Such a facility would enable scientists to understand how the body decomposes naturally, as well as helping detectives figure out what happened to murder victims, and assist in the training of student forensic scientists.

Chris Rogers, a forensic science lecturer at the University of Wolverhampton, set up an animal body farm in his previous post at Wales' Glyndwr University, exploring the way pigs' bodies decompose.

Explaining why human body farms would be useful, he said: "We can conduct research into decomposition of human remains in a UK setting.

"This is essential as decomposition can vary depending



Body farms could help scientists better understand decomposition. gettyimages.com

on a range of factors including temperature and humidity. "At the moment, we take data from experiments conducted in the UK using animal models, or data generated from facilities in the US and apply them to the UK — which is a less than ideal situation."

He explained that a forensic scientist giving evidence in court could give answers about a body's state of decomposition with certainty — rather than comparing human remains to pigs.

His comments echo those of Anna Williams, a forensic

anthropologist at Huddersfield University, who told The Guardian that some of the UK's most infamous child murders, including the cases of April Jones, Milly Dowler or Soham victims Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, 'could have been helped with information of the type that we will get from such centers'.

He added: "It would have allowed us to develop improved search and location techniques for finding bodies of people who had been missing for a long time. There is now an urgent need to establish one in this country."

While there are not yet any HTFs in the UK, the USA has seven body farms, run by the FBI, with the most recent opening in Florida in February this year.

Of course, using human bodies in this way is controversial — something that Rogers accepts.

He added, "Death is taboo in the West, we hide it, and even take steps to prevent decomposition occurring."

"In fact, decomposition is incredibly important. It is nature's way of breaking down organisms into their simple chemical components that can then be recycled back into the environment and it is a completely normal, natural process."

Despite those who oppose the idea, Rogers has also received support.

Urban flooding on the rise, as countryside dries up

New analysis of flow rates and precipitation totals suggest flooding in urban areas is intensifying while rural areas dry up.

In an effort to identify links between rising global temperatures and river flow patterns, scientists at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) surveyed flow rate and rainfall data from 5,300 river monitoring sites and 43,000 rain gauges in 160 different countries, UPI wrote.

Their findings — published in the journal *Scientific Reports* — suggest a warmer atmosphere is holding more water, yielding more intense rainstorms.

However, their analysis also revealed

an anomaly. The findings showed accelerating rates of intense precipitation are outpacing flooding rates. Researchers found a rural-urban divide explains the discrepancy.

Warmer temperatures are causing soil to evaporate more quickly. This makes rural environments, where soils are plentiful and drying, less prone to flooding.

In and around cities, soil is scarcer. Urban settings are less able to absorb large amounts of precipitation, which explains the rise in urban flooding.

Lead study author Conrad Wasko, a postdoctoral fellow at UNSW's Water Research Center, said, "It's a double whammy.



UPI

"People are increasingly migrating to cities, where flooding is getting worse. "At the same time, we need adequate flows in rural areas to sustain the agriculture to supply these burgeoning urban populations."

The findings highlight major

challenges presented by global warming. How communities and governments guard against the risks facing urban infrastructure and resources like food and water?

Mark Hoffman, dean of engineering at UNSW, said, "Climate change keeps delivering us unpleasant surprises.

"Nevertheless, as engineers, our role is to identify the problem and develop solutions. Knowing the problem is often half the battle and this study has definitively identified a major one."

Unlike many climate science studies, the latest findings are based on real-world data and analysis, not the predictions of climate models.

The American workplace is physically and emotionally taxing, with workers frequently facing unstable work schedules, unpleasant and potentially hazardous working conditions and an often hostile social environment.

Children raised in high upward mobility counties display fewer behavioral issues

Children who grow up in urban counties with high upward mobility exhibit fewer behavioral problems and perform better on cognitive tests, according to a study led by Princeton University.

Children in these counties display fewer behavior problems at age three and show substantial gains in cognitive test scores between ages three and nine. Growing up in a county with higher intergenerational mobility reduces the gap between economically advantaged and disadvantaged children's cognitive and behavioral outcomes by around 20 percent, phys.org wrote.

The study provided further evidence that place, measured at the county level, has a significant influence over the economic prospects of children from low-income families.

Contributing author Sara S. McLanahan, William S. Tod professor of sociology and public affairs at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, said, "Broadly speaking, our findings suggest that the developmental processes through which place promotes upward mobility begin in childhood and depend on the extent to which communities enrich the cognitive and social-emotional skills of children from low-income families."

The study results are based on data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, of which McLanahan, who is founding director of the Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, is a principal investigator. The study is a population-based birth-cohort study of children born in 20 large US cities between 1998 and 2000.

The new research builds upon a series of papers by economist Raj Chetty of Stanford University and others who used income tax data to show that the economic prospects of children from low-income families depend on where they grow up. However, Chetty's work does not explain why children growing up in some counties do better than others.

This question is what motivated McLanahan and her collaborators. For their analyses, the researchers looked at 4,226 children from 562 US counties whose developmental outcomes were assessed at approximately ages three,



internapcdn.net

five and nine years old.

The researchers divided these children into low- and high-income groups based on household income at birth. Children from low-income families were born in households earning below the national median household income (mean of \$18,282), while children from high-income families were born in families earning above the national median (mean of \$73,762).

Behavioral problems — like aggression and rule-breaking — were assessed by parents and teachers using the Child Behavior Checklist, a report used in both research and clinical settings, along with the Social Skills Rating Scale, a system that evaluates social skills, problem behaviors and academic competence. Cognitive abilities

were assessed through a series of vocabulary, reading comprehension and applied problems tests in the children's homes.

Both assessments were collected as part of the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study.

After analyzing the data, the researchers found that children from low-income families who grew up in counties with high upward mobility had fewer behavior problems and higher cognitive test scores when compared with children from counties with lower mobility.

These differences were significant even after controlling for a large set of family characteristics, including parents' race/ethnicity, education, intelligence, impulsivity and mental health.

Young graduates reluctant to move for new jobs



theguardian.com

The unwillingness of young graduates to move from their home regions is behind a marked drop in Britain's labor mobility since the turn of the millennium, a thinktank said.

A study by the Resolution Foundation showed that the share of the population prepared to switch both region and employer in 2016 had fallen from 0.8 percent to 0.6 percent, theguardian.com wrote.

The thinktank said the decline was only partly the result of the deep financial and economic crisis of 2007-09 and came despite a number of factors — an increase in renting, a rise in the number of graduates and higher immigration — that would tend to make the country more mobile.

It said the evidence was that the decline was being driven by the young, particularly young graduates, many

of whom were giving up the chance of getting a pay rise by their reluctance to move. A person under 30 who moves job and employer secured an 11-percent boost to their wages, the Resolution Foundation said.

The stay-at-home tendency among graduates coincided with an increase in the proportion of those with degrees doing non-graduate jobs and, according to the thinktank, was one possible explanation for Britain's dismal pay and productivity record over the past decade.

In 2001, when 31 percent of graduates were doing jobs for which they were overqualified — 1.8 percent of people with degrees moved region and employer. By 2016, only one percent of graduates moved region and employer, and 35.6 percent were doing non-graduate jobs.

It said international migrants

accounted for an increasing proportion of UK regional job-to-job moves — up from eight percent to 24 percent over the past two decades — and warned the government it needed to be alive to the impact of Brexit on labor mobility.

Stephen Clarke, a policy analyst at the Resolution Foundation, said: "The Noman Tebbit notion that the unemployed should be getting on their bikes and traveling around looking for work is obviously outdated, but our thinking on job mobility in the UK has not really evolved much beyond it."

"With only 10 percent of those moving regions for jobs previously unemployed, the focus needs to be on why there has been a fall in the share of people already in work moving region and employer, a move that leaves the typical earner £2,000 better off.

"Job mobility matters not just for the individual getting the pay rise but to our economy as a whole. On a basic level that's about avoiding labor shortages, but more importantly in an economy nearing full employment, ensuring the talent and potential of individuals and firms doesn't go to waste is essential to boosting productivity."

"But not everyone can up sticks. Alongside encouraging more mobility among the minority of in-work people — such as young people and graduates — for whom it is often more feasible to move, we should be improving thinking on how people can move into jobs they are qualified for without uprooting their family's lives. That involves thinking not just about progression and employment, but housing and transport too."

How to say no at work when you don't have kids

Despite a boom in flexible working, many singles say they're still picking up the slack from colleagues with families. Career coaches are advising them to say no.

Janice Chaka had spent her lunch hour organizing a surprise cooking class for a close friend who was visiting from out of town. After getting stuck in traffic on the way back from the venue she ended up back in her office five minutes' late from her break, BBC wrote.

"I got asked a lot of questions and I had to stay and do extra work," she said.

"But I know if I'd been late back from taking my kid to the doctor, that wouldn't have even been an issue, in fact I probably could have taken the whole afternoon off."

That happened a decade ago, when Chaka was working in human resources in Guadalajara, Mexico. But the experience conformed to a pattern that she said was common as she forged a career working for Fortune 100 companies in the US and Mexico throughout her twenties, both as a singleton.

Colleagues with children were also prioritized when it came to taking their preferred vacation dates, she claimed, while fellow single or childless workers struggled to get time off to care for elderly relatives or were asked to go on more frequent business trips.

"The assumption is that you can drop everything or that you don't have a care in the world," said Chaka. "Actually, as a single, life is more expensive, you have to run all errands yourself and you don't have someone to fall back on financially if things go wrong."

While it's tricky to nail down concrete statistics that prove how much singles might be being indirectly penalized in the workplace, a recent UK study of 25,000 workers found that two thirds of childless women aged 28 to 40 felt that they were expected to work longer hours. Growing numbers of workers, academics and analysts are documenting the issue.



sbs.com.au

During research for his book *Going Solo*, Eric Klinenberg, a professor of sociology at New York University interviewed hundreds of single people in Europe and America and discovered "there was widespread perception that singles became the work-horses in corporate offices".

"I met countless workers who complained that their managers viewed them as always available for late night and weekend assignments, because they didn't have children or spouses," he said.

Bella DePaulo, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, explored the phenomenon in her books and studies, and coined the word 'singlism' to pin down the stigmatization, negative stereotyping and discrimination against singles that she believes is widespread in the workplace and society at large.

She argued that many employers are missing a trick when it comes to single employees, who, far from being lonely and isolated, are actually more likely to be actively engaged in their communities and have strong relationships with friends who "feel like family, even if they are not family in the traditional sense".

So, what should single workers do if they feel they're being singled out because of their personal life choices or situation, yet don't want to jeopardize their careers and reputations?

"Don't mope about your particular circumstances," is the first advice dished out by UK-based business mentor David Carter.

He argues that "the answer is in the crowd". Single colleagues should consider clubbing together, he said, to identify and propose changes to company practices that might benefit the organization more widely, while at the same time demonstrating their own problem-solving skills.

That may be easier to do than ever, as unprecedented numbers of us are settling down later in life or not at all.

A 2014 Pew Report study estimated that one in four young adults in the US will have never married by the time they turn 50, while the most common type of household in the European Union in 2016 was that of a single person, according to the EU's number-crunching agency Eurostat.

One technique favored by Carter is a kind of sharing economy points system, tracked digitally or even using physical items like buttons, giving employees the chance to swap hours or tasks, and help others out in return. By making sure no-one goes more than five points into credit or debit, no-one should end up unfairly disadvantaged.

"It's not about what you're going to use your time off to do — whether it's bungee jumping, Christmas shopping, a date or taking your children to the school play — it's just about being able to work your 40 hours a week when it suits you," he said.

Carter, who allows his own employees to work "wherever or whenever they want as long as they get the job done" accepted that the points system he recommends may appear tougher for larger corporations to implement.

However, he insists that companies that fail to find ways to improve flexibility for all workers will ultimately lose out on talent.

South Korean electronics industry struggling with labor shortage

South Korea's electronics industry, including semiconductor manufacturers, has been struggling with a shortage of workers, an industry report showed.

The findings, released by the Korea Electronics Association, a business lobby group, raised alarm bells for the future of the industry that accounts for about 33 percent of the nation's exports, Yonhap reported.

During the second half of last year, the electronics industry generated 53,457 jobs, but recruited just 46,429 people, the report said.

The number of jobs that remain unfilled rose 10.1

percent on-year to 7,028 for the second half of last year.

The shortage of engineers and researchers is dire for the computer hardware and telecommunications sectors, according to the report.

To help cope with a shortage, the electronics industry was compelled to hire 5,078 people lacking skills, the report pointed out.

Last month, Samsung Electronics Co. Vice Chairman Kwon Oh-hyun asked President Moon Jae-in to lend support for the semiconductor industry to cope with the shortage.



vir.com.vn

Free diver glides among giant beasts as he dives in Indian Ocean

Weighing up to 125,000lb (approximately 57,000kg) and as long as a London bus, they're not your usual swimming partner.



dailyemail.co.uk

But champion free diver Guillaume Nery doesn't seem fazed by these magnificent sperm whales off Mauritius.

The whales glided through the Indian Ocean carefully dodging Nery, 35, a world record holder who can swim underwater for more than three minutes unaided, dailyemail.co.uk wrote.

It is the first stage of Nery's project 'One Breathe Around the World', which will see him take part in 10 spectacular dives. The diver, from Nice, has broken four world records and can dive 126 meters below the

surface on a single breathe.

In 2002, he became the youngest ever free dive record holder, by diving to a depth of -87m using the force of his fins alone.

He then beat the world record a further three times. In 2004, he pushed the record to -96 meters (314.9ft.) in Saint-Leu, la Réunion.

On September 6, 2006, he

broke the record again at -109 meters (357.6ft.) in Nice.

Footage from 2015 purportedly showed Nery reaching the bottom of the 660ft (200 meters) Dean's Blue Hole in the Bahamas hole before swimming back to the surface.

However he later admitted the video was doctored to make it seem he had scaled the drop.

The sperm whale is one of the deepest diving mammals in the world. Typically it makes dives of up to 400m, but can reach depths of up to 2-3km. It is thought to be able to hold its breath for up to two hours, although 45 minutes is the average dive time.

They are found in most of the world's oceans, but tend to avoid the high Arctic.

Athlete celebrates competing in 20km walk race with her baby son

It's no surprise to see athletes celebrating with their babies after sporting events — but this time it was an even more special occasion at the World Athletic Championships in London.

Australian Claire Tallent, 36, was pictured raising her son Harvey high into the air after finishing the 20km walk race, just 12 weeks after giving birth to him, according to dailyemail.co.uk.

She may only have finished 43rd in the event with a time of one hour and 37 minutes, but won plenty of praise for returning to action less than three months after childbirth.

And the welcoming face of her child at the finish line clearly meant the world to the athlete, whose best result in the race was winning silver at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in India.

Tallent is married to fellow Australian



GETTY IMAGES

race walker Jared Tallent, 32, who won gold in the 50km walk race at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

The Australian was making her first international appearance for her country

since the London Olympics after failing to qualify for previous events.

She has also served as a coach to her husband during the past few years, also helping him win gold at the World Race Walking Cup.

Meanwhile US high jumper Inika McPherson, 30, has also been catching the eye at the World Championships.

The 5ft 4ins athlete — who finished ninth in this year's event — certainly stands out with her 30 tattoos, while she has also worn heavy eye make-up over much of her face when competing.

But she previously served a 21-month drugs ban after testing positive for cocaine in June 2014, although she denied taking anything that boosted her performance.

She is the only woman of her height to clear a jump of 6ft 6ins and has previous been US indoor champion.

Is this footprint proof giants roamed Earth?

A footprint which conspiracy theorists believes belonged to a giant has been discovered in China, sparking claims that huge humans once walked the Earth.



express.co.uk

The human-like footprint was discovered in Gizhou, the southwestern province of China, in August last year, express.co.uk reported.

The marks, found by photographers during a trek through the region, is nearly two foot long — measuring an astonishing 57cm long and 20cm wide. Complete with toe imprints, the indent is 3cm deep, suggesting whatever caused the footprint was extremely heavy.

A rough way to estimate someone's height by foot size is to find the length of the foot and times it by seven.

So, a 57cm footprint would belong to someone who is a staggering 399cm tall — just over 396cm.

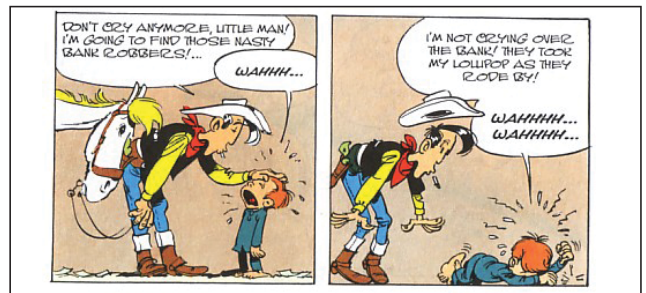
While giants are often dismissed as myths, some claim there is enough evidence to suggest they once existed.

In 1912, a 121cm long fossilized foot imprint was discovered in South Africa.

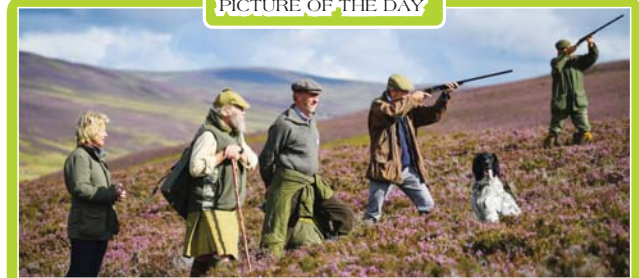
The proposed owner of that print found in the town of Mpuluzu would have been up to 822cm tall.

Also, the fossil was more than 200 million years old, which suggested that there was an ancient civilization of giants.

The existence of giants has been theorized since the dawn of time by all civilizations, including in Norse, Greek, Indian, Mayan, Aztec and Inca mythology.



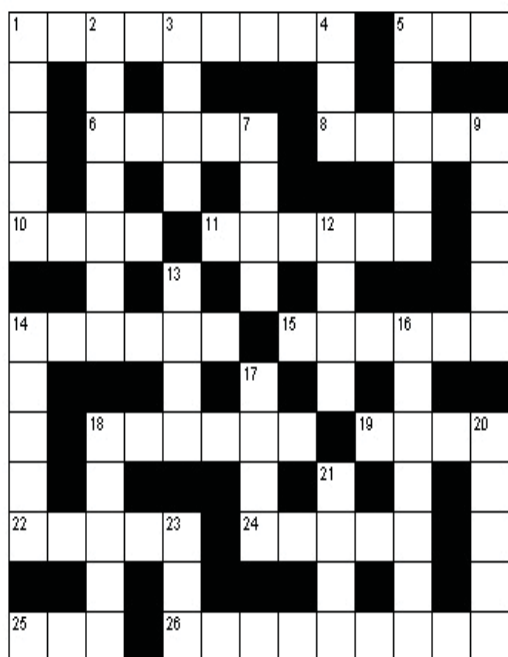
PICTURE OF THE DAY



JEFF J MITCHELL/GETTY IMAGES

A shooting party on moors in Aviemore, Scotland. The Glorious Twelfth signals the start of the grouse shooting season in Britain from August 12.

Themed Crossword



DOWN

1. May be Bactrian or dromedary (5)
2. The largest living bird (7)
3. Killer whale (4)
4. Snake-like fish (3)
5. Solid-hoofed herbivorous quadruped (5)
7. Marine mammal (4)
9. Small viper (5)
12. Wading bird (4)
13. Colony insects (4)
14. Horned ruminant mammal (5)
16. North American burrowing rodent, ___ dog (7)
17. Extinct heavy flightless bird (4)
18. Extremely large pelagic tropical ray (5)
20. Ursine mammals (5)
21. Echinoderm, ___ fish (4)
23. Donkey (3)

ACROSS

1. Large voracious aquatic reptile (9)
5. Female chicken (3)
6. Small parasitic arachnids (5)
8. Immature lifeform prior to metamorphosis (5)
10. Animal den (4)
11. Dog (6)
14. Mythical monster (6)
15. Salted and smoked herring (6)
18. Animal symbol (6)
19. Young of 14 Down (4)
22. Large black and white herbivorous mammal (5)
24. Freshwater carnivorous mammal (5)
25. Constrictor (3)
26. Arboreal rodents (9)

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.

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

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

Rafael Nadal was thrilled on Monday to learn he would return to world number one for the first time in three years but sorry it came because Roger Federer withdrew from this week's ATP Cincinnati Masters tournament.

Federer, this year's Wimbledon and Australian Open champion, was the only player who could have denied second-ranked French Open champion Nadal the top spot in next Monday's rankings.

again." It's the first time Nadal has been number one since July of 2014. The 31-year-old Spaniard, who won his 15th Grand Slam title this year at Roland Gar-

bled with knee injuries since first becoming world number one in August 2008 after a Cincinnati semi-final run. He admitted doubting he could ever regain the top spot after so many years.

"If you don't have doubts, it's because you are very arrogant and I'm not very arrogant," Nadal said. "There's a young generation up and coming. It's very tough to come back and be number one."

Federer, a seven-time champion on the Cincinnati hardcourts, apologized but said he needed to rest with the US Open so near.

"I am very sorry to pull out of the Western and Southern Open as I always enjoy playing," Federer said. "Cincinnati has some of the best fans in the world and I am sorry I will miss them."

"Unfortunately, I tweaked my back in Montreal and I need to rest this week."

Nadal said he was sorry to see Federer join the list of players absent this week, which includes Murray, Serbia's Novak Djokovic, Japan's Kei Nishikori and Swiss Stan Wawrinka.

"It's bad news for Roger he's not playing," Nadal said. "I'm sorry for all of them. I hope they have good recovery. We need to see them back for the sport."

Nadal has been forced to alter training and event schedules more as he has gotten older.

"Of course we're not 20 years old any more. We're not playing all the weeks. That's part of the sport. I skip many more events than the rest of my competitors."

"Better not. I cannot give many advices. Everybody has to learn from their own mistakes. You need to do your own way and experience it for yourself."



Nadal delighted to return to No. 1

PAUL CHIASSONAP

Third-ranked Federer said he injured his back in Montreal, where he lost in Sunday's final to Germany's Alexander Zverev in a key hardcourt tune-up for the US Open, AFP reported.

"For me to be in that position is something very special," Nadal said.

"I have the passion and love for the game. That's why I'm able to be back in that position

ros, will overtake Britain's top-ranked Andy Murray, who withdrew from Montreal and Cincinnati with a hip injury.

Nadal, who has spent 141 total weeks in the top spot, has strug-

Haddadi, best playmaker in FIBA Asia Cup



fiba.com

Centers are not usually known for their passing and playmaking, but Iran's Hamed Haddadi has defied that in the FIBA Asia Cup 2017.

Haddadi, the 2.18m center for Iran, currently leads the entire tournament in assists, handing out an eye-popping 8.5 per game. That's in addition to scoring 16 points, grabbing 8.5 rebounds and blocking 1.5 shots per contest as well, fiba.com reported.

Haddadi seems to have really mastered the art of attracting opposing defenders and finding his open teammates in spots where they can easily score. Sure, he may have lost a lot of quickness and explosiveness, but Haddadi's high basketball

IQ comes to the fore when maximizes his court vision and puts the ball in the hands of his teammates who are scoring position.

This just makes things much more difficult for Iran's opponents, which know have to craft a game plan around not just stopping Haddadi's scoring but his playmaking as well.

Iran finished the group phase in style as Iranians outlasted India, Syria and Jordan to top the Group A of the competition. The biggest test of the competition, however, is yet to come for Haddadi and his compatriots when Iran faces the host, Lebanon, at the quarterfinals of the Asia Cup in Beirut's Nohud Nawfal Sports Complex later tonight.

Barcelona announces signing of Paulinho

Barcelona announced the signing of Paulinho from Guangzhou Evergrande for €10 million (£36 million), with the Brazil midfielder set to be unveiled this week.

A statement from Barça on Monday confirmed that deal with the Chinese Super League side has been agreed for the former Tottenham player, with Ernesto Valverde's side paying his release clause in full. The 29-year-old, who left White Hart

Meanwhile, Borussia Dortmund's chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke warned Barcelona that time is running out in the club's bid to sign Ousmane Dembélé. Dortmund rejected a bid of €100 million last week for the France forward, who was then suspended by the club after failing to turn up for training on Thursday.

After Saturday's German Cup victory against FC Rielasingen-Arlen, sporting director Michael Zorc confirmed that suspension would remain in place until further notice, with Watzke telling German magazine Kicker on Monday that the 20-year-old could also miss the opening Bundesliga matches against Wolfsburg on Saturday and Hertha Berlin on August 26 – five days before the transfer window shuts. "The time horizon is enough for two games," he said.

It is understood that Dembélé has not spoken to any Dortmund officials since attending the club's preseason photoshoot on Wednesday – a stance that has infuriated Watzke. He has been offered a lucrative new contract extension in a bid to keep him at the club he joined last summer from Rennes but remains determined to move to La Liga, with Barcelona weighing up whether to return with an improved bid.

With Rennes due up to 25 percent from any fee after inserting a sell-on clause, Dortmund has demanded up to €150 million for a player it signed for a 10th of that price just 12 months ago. The Germans are believed to be willing to resist any offers which do not meet their asking price, with Dembélé facing a potential further suspension if he fails to show up for training this week.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Lane in 2015 for just €14 million having played 45 Premier League games for Spurs, will be presented at the Camp Nou on Thursday, the Guardian reported.

His move, which is a record fee received by a Chinese club, had earlier been confirmed by Evergrande's coach Luiz Felipe Scolari.

"Losing Paulinho is a loss for Evergrande, but it is a good thing for Chinese football," he said. "It proves that the world's leading clubs are paying attention to the Chinese Super League."

Russia to ease hooligan fears

Russia opened an information center at its tourist office in London to help ease England fans' fears about hooligans at the 2018 World Cup.

Russians were blamed for injuring more than 100 England supporters in Marseille during Euro 2016, BBC reported.

Russia hosts the World Cup for the first time next year.

"We want the British people to see that all the doors are open. They can call in to ask any question any time," said Alexei Cherepanov of Visit Russia.

"This is what we are here for, to dispel their doubts about security matters and nuances of the trip."

A BBC Panorama documentary this year revealed how Russia fans were planning further trouble at the World Cup.

As part of attempts to address the threat of

violence, Russia will issue special identity cards which will be needed to enter the stadiums and can be used as a visa to enter the country.

In June, Russia hosted the Confederations Cup, a dress rehearsal for the World Cup.

The tournament, which passed off without any major incidents of fan violence or problems with infrastructure, was described by FIFA president Gianni Infantino as a "great success".

The Visit Russia office in London, which is in a testing phase, will be officially opened on September 1.

It will also provide travel and accommodation information for fans, Cherepanov told the TASS news agency.

The 2018 World Cup will be held in 11 cities across Russia from June 14 to July 15.



DAVID HOFFMAN

City prepares £60m Sanchez bid



REUTERS

Manchester City will make a bid to test Arsenal's resolve to keep Alexis Sanchez before the transfer window shuts with Pep Guardiola still desperate to add the forward to his squad.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, has been adamant that Sanchez will not be sold this summer, despite the Chile international entering the final 12 months of his contract, The Telegraph

reported. Wenger and Arsenal have also been particularly insistent that Sanchez will not be allowed to join a Premier League rival.

But that will not stop City, on the instruction of manager Guardiola, trying to tempt Arsenal with a bid of around £60 million before the end of this month.

City is also prepared to hand Sanchez a contract worth around £400,000 a week, including bonuses and image rights, if the Citizens can convince Arsenal to sell.

Sanchez missed Arsenal's opening Premier League game of the season through injury, but was at the Emirates to watch the thrilling 4-3 victory over Leicester City.

He is also expected to miss the trip to Stoke City on Saturday and raised fears among Arsenal fans by revealing he was in Paris over the weekend.

But Paris St-Germain's interest in Sanchez has cooled since the French club signed Neymar in a world-record deal, leaving City with seemingly a free run to try to sign the 28-year-old.

City has already spent around £220 million on new players this summer, but Guardiola still sees Sanchez as a vital potential addition as he tries to build a squad capable of challenging in the Premier League and Champions League.

Sanchez ideally wants to leave Arsenal this month, but is prepared to wait until the end of the season and leave on a free transfer if he has to.

Sources insist that his current injury is legitimate, but Sanchez, who scored 24 Premier League goals for Arsenal last season, could yet push for a move if he learns of an official City bid.

Asked whether there was any update on Sanchez after the victory over Leicester on Friday night, Wenger said, "No. He practiced well today, this morning, had a good session for the first time because he had a little muscular strain. He is focused and happy in the dressing room because we won the game."

Art & Culture

McBride wins James Tait Black prize for 'The Lesser Bohemians'

Eimear McBride, who won the Baileys prize in 2014 for a first novel which had struggled to find a publisher, has taken Britain's oldest literary award, the James Tait Black prize, for her second, 'The Lesser Bohemians'.

Won by names from E.M. Forster to D.H. Lawrence, the James Tait Black prizes for fiction and biography have a history that stretches back to 1919. More than 400 titles were submitted for this year's prizes, with a shortlist chosen by University of Edinburgh academics and postgraduate students, theguardian.com reported.



Eimear McBride

McBride's 'The Lesser Bohemians', in which an 18-year-old Irish girl comes to London and falls for an older actor, was described by judges as "an extraordinary rendering of a young woman's consciousness as she eagerly embarks on a new life in London". It beat Jo Baker's 'A Country Road, a Tree', Garth Greenwell's 'What Belongs to You' and C.E. Morgan's 'The Sport of Kings' to win the £10,000 fiction prize. Judge Dr. Alex Lawrie, of the University of Edinburgh, called 'The Lesser Bohemians' an "astounding second novel" which is "full of wit, energy and nerve".

McBride's debut novel, 'A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing', won the Baileys women's prize for fiction, the Desmond Elliott prize and the Goldsmiths prize in 2014. The Irish author had previously failed to find a publisher for it for almost a decade, until it was picked up by Norfolk independent Galley Beggar Press.

The £10,000 prize for biography, which counts Lytton Strachey, John Buchan and Antonia Fraser among its former winners, was won by the Observer's art critic Laura Cumming for 'The Vanishing Man'. Exploring the story of Victorian bookseller John Snare, who believed he had found a lost painting by Velázquez, Cumming's book beat Alexander Masters' 'A Life Discarded', a look at the life of the owner of 148 diaries which were found in a skip, Douglas Smith's 'Rasputin', and Joe Moshenska's 'A Stain in the Blood', an account of the life of Sir Kenelm Digby in the 17th century.

The University of Edinburgh's Dr. Jonathan Wild, one of the judges for the biography prize, called 'The Vanishing Man' "a real gem of a book which fully deserves its place among the winners of this prize".

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Portugal festival to screen Iran documentary



The 2017 edition of Cine'Eco — International Environmental Film Festival of Serra da Estrela — will screen Iranian environmental documentary 'Once upon a Time in Hamoun'.

Written and directed by Mohammad Ehsani, the documentary will make its fifth international appearance at Cine'Eco in Portugal, filmstv.com reported.

The documentary centers around Hamoun international wetland, the drying up of the lake and its effect on both the environment and the life of people in the south-eastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

The 30-minute documentary was produced in 2016. It has participated in international environmental film festivals in the

US, Italy and Brazil.

The Cine'Eco is the only film festival in Portugal which is completely dedicated to environmental issues, in its widest sense, according to its website.

The event has taken place in Seia each year in October since 1995 on the initiative of Municipality of Seia.

The 2017 edition of Cine'Eco filmfest is slated for October 14-21.

The festival will be held at the Municipality House of Culture in Seia and CISE Interpretation Center of the Serra da Estrela.

It has won international prestige, competing normally over 600 documentaries from more than 30 countries.

Ancient works, monuments discovered in southwestern Iran

Archeological excavations in the central part of the city of Ben, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Province resulted in discovering 93 ancient works and monuments including those dating back from the Copper and Stone eras up to the Qajar and Pahlavi dynasties.

Head of the archeological team Vahed Julaei said the first season of archeological excavations in the city of Ben was aimed at identifying the works and the ancient site of the region to complete the archeological map of the south-

western province and the country, IRNA reported.

The geographical boundaries of the city's central section will be examined during the second season of excavations, he added.



IRNA stone graves.

The identified works and monuments include ancient mounds and sites, aqueducts, buildings (mosque, fortress, baths, etc.) and

stone graves. Most of the works and sites identified in this season belong to the historical era while a few of them date back to the pre-historic period.

Iran holds educational course in Zimbabwe

Iran's Cultural Center in Zimbabwe organized an educational course on 'Islam and Christianity' in Harare, the capital of the African country.

According to Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), more than 50 Muslim and Christian university students participated in the educational program, which was held in cooperation with academic figures and Christian priests, IQNA reported.

The closing ceremony of the course was attended by official from Iran's Culture Ministry.

Speaking at the ceremony, Deputy Minister of Education Ali Mahdavi said that the number of Muslims in

Zimbabwe is rising and that there is need for such courses in all parts of the country, not just Harare, to prevent the formation of extremist



IQNA

groups. A copy of a book titled 'Religious Dialogues in Zimbabwe' published by Iran's Cultural Center was presented as a gift to the deputy minister at the end of the ceremony and certificates of attendance were bestowed on the students.

Health Film Festival names jury

The second edition of the Health Film Festival has named the panel of jury for its cinema section.

The members of the panel for the festival's cinema section are: Mohammad Hadi Karimi, Alireza Rezadad, Narges Abayar, Shahram Rafiei Far, Mohammadreza Forootan, Reza Dormishan and Fereshteh Ta'er-Pour, filmstv.com reported.

The competition section of the festival will include 'feature', 'documentary', 'student works' and 'TV programs'.

The objective of national health

filmfest is to collect brilliant ideas by inviting committed cinema artists whose concern is healthy life for people.

The festival is slated for August 23-27 in Tehran.



Straw plaiting (or 'Koub baff') is a native art in the northern province of Mazandaran.

The handicraft is gradually becoming extinct with Nasser Barari left as one of the last skillful artists in the field.

AMIRALI RAZAQI
MEHR NEWS AGENCY



Weather

35 16 Arak	29 26 Astara	35 17 Birjand	35 17 Qazvin	32 18 Mashhad	36 [^] v23 Tehran	31 18 Kabul	26 16 Minsk	20 11 Stockholm	33 17 Tashkent	33 23 Tripoli
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