



Iran, Turkey agree to boost military cooperation

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Iranian airline signs MoU to purchase 10 Boeing planes

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CBI: 11th gov't absorbs \$11.8b of foreign investment

The 11th government absorbed \$ 11.8 billion of foreign investment, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced in a report on Thursday.

According to IRNA, the investments were made in the framework of 36 projects, the report said.

CBI also added that the 10th government absorbed \$3.9 billion of foreign investment in the framework of 29 projects, while the 89 projects of the ninth government fetched \$3.4 billion.

Iran's Ministry of Economy has reportedly signed bilateral agreements to incentivize and mutually support investments with Japan, Russia, Singapore, Iraq, Slovakia and Luxembourg, with the goal of attracting more foreign investments, undertaking risk coverage, and lowering the risk of investment in the country.

Japan's Inpex eyes bid for Azadegan oil project



Japan's Inpex Corp. might participate in a tender to develop Azadegan oilfield in southwestern Iran and form a consortium with other foreign oil firms to that end, a high-ranking Iranian official said.

If Inpex gets involved in the Azadegan again — after giving up its stake in the development project in 2010 to avoid being placed on a list of companies subject to US sanctions over Iran's nuclear program — it would be a symbolic achievement as Japan tries to resume investment in the country, japantimes.co.jp reported.

"Inpex replied to our invitation letter for international bid, then told us they liked to be our partner in developing Azadegan," Ali Kardor, the managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company and also deputy oil minister of Iran, said in an interview.

"We had meetings with executives from Inpex many times. They asked us how they could find a foreign operator, so we advised them to negotiate with major European companies with high technology," Kardor said.

"Azadegan is a huge oilfield. We certainly need new technology introduced by foreign firms. Forming a consortium would be better for both sides," he added.

Inpex, Japan's largest oil and gas exploration and production company, signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct studies for Azadegan in June 2016.

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South Asia floods affect more than 16m people



Iran to face S. Korea in FIBA Asia Cup semis



INCC: Over 700 Iranian firms to attend world's largest handmade carpet expo

One person killed in Finland knife rampage

One person was dead after a man armed with a knife stabbed several people in Finland before being shot by armed police.

Eyewitness reported hearing one or more gunshots and seeing at least one person lying dead on the ground in the southwestern city of Turku, the Daily Mail reported.



The Tabloid Ilta-Sanomat said six people were injured, one man and five women, and that a woman with a pram was attacked by a man with a large knife.

Footage from the scene showed people fleeing the area and people shouting 'Varo - varokaa' which means 'Watch out'.

Police tweeted: "Several people stabbed in central Turku. People are requested to avoid the city center."

They added that they have shot the suspect in the leg and took him into custody.

Police warned people to stay away from the area. Security at Helsinki airport and train stations was reinforced following the attack.



14 dead in twin attacks as Spanish police launch manhunt

Spanish police hunted Friday for the driver who plowed a van into crowds of pedestrians on a busy avenue in Barcelona, just hours before a second such assault hit a nearby resort, in twin attacks that left 14 dead and over 100 injured.

Police said they killed five "suspected terrorists" during the night and three others were arrested as Spain reeled from the double tragedy in Barcelona and in Cambrils, some 120 kilometers (75 miles) south, AFP reported.

But the driver responsible for the carnage in Spain's second largest city remained at large, authorities warned, while police said they believed the two attacks were connected.

In a poignant moment, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, King Felipe VI and the president of Catalonia, where both places are located, held a minute of silence in Barcelona that was followed by applause and shouts of "not afraid."

Both attacks followed the same modus operandi, with drivers deliberately targeting pedestrians with their vehicles, slamming them to the ground or sending them flying in the latest such assault in Europe where

cars and vans have been used as weapons of terror before.

Javier Zaragoza, a prosecutor advising the attorney general in terrorism matters, said the attacks were most likely the work of an organized "cell."

Otso Iho of Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre added there appeared to be "a much higher level of coordination than has been typically present in previous attacks."

In an additional twist, police said an explosion in a house in another part of Catalonia Wednesday evening was potentially linked to the attacks, believing those inside "were preparing an explosive device."

As world leaders united in condemning the violence, the Daesh terror group claimed one of its members carried out the rampage in Barcelona.

In the Barcelona incident, a white van sped down the popular Las Ramblas Avenue, packed full of tourists on Thursday afternoon, knocking people down and killing 13 in a scene of chaos and horror.

The driver left the vehicle on the busy boulevard lined with shops and restaurants, and fled on foot.

Then just eight hours later attackers struck again in the early hours of Friday morning, this time in the seaside resort of Cambrils where an Audi A3 car rammed into pedestrians, injuring six civilians and a police officer. One of the civilians later died.

Gunfire ensued during which police killed the five attackers.

Many nationalities

Police announced the arrest of three suspects, including a Spaniard and a Moroccan.

Carles Puigdemont, Catalonia's president, warned the suspect still on the run was potentially dangerous, saying "these types of people have already demonstrated they have the will to harm whatever happens."

There were at least 34 nationalities among the dead and injured.

"We're united in grief," Rajoy said Thursday in a televised address after rushing to Barcelona, the biggest city in Catalonia, a region in Spain's northeast whose separatist government is defying Madrid with a drive for independence.

Saudi Arabia reopens border to Qatari pilgrims despite tensions

Qatari Hajj pilgrims began crossing into Saudi Arabia, after Riyadh reopened the border in a move that Doha welcomed but saw as "politically motivated" as regional tensions simmer.

The Salwa border crossing, a key passage for Muslims on the annual Hajj pilgrimage, has been closed since June in a major diplomatic crisis that saw Riyadh and its regional allies cut relations with Doha over allegations that the emirate supported extremists, AFP reported on Friday.

Qatar has denied the charge and in turn accused Riyadh of politicizing the Hajj by restricting its citizens from making the pilgrimage to Mecca, the holiest site in Islam that is located in western Saudi Arabia.

Around 120 Qataris entered Saudi territory on Thursday through the Salwa border, also known as Abu Samrah, Saudi state television reported, after King Salman called for the border to be opened for pilgrims without electronic permits.

The government separately allocated seven flights of the Saudi national car-

rier to bring pilgrims from Doha at the monarch's expense, state news agency SPA announced.

Qatar welcomed the decision but also lashed out at what it called Riyadh's politicization of religious freedoms.

"Regardless of the manner in which



pilgrims from Qatar were banned from the pilgrimage, which was politically motivated... the government of Qatar welcomes the decision and will respond positively," Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told reporters on a visit to Stockholm.

"What matters to us is the bottom

line, which is that our citizens now have a way to attend the Hajj, and we uphold our demand that Hajj be spared politicization."

The Hajj, a pillar of Islam that capable Muslims must perform at least once, is to take place this year at the start of September and it is expected to draw around two million Muslims from around the world.

On June 5, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates severed diplomatic and trade ties with Qatar in what has evolved as the worst political crisis to grip the Persian Gulf region in decades.

The kingdom's decision to reopen the frontier came shortly after its powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met Qatari envoy Sheikh Abdullah bin Ali bin Abdullah bin Jassim Al Thani, a member of Qatar's ruling dynasty.

The meeting on Wednesday in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah was the first public high-level encounter between the nations since the crisis erupted more than two months ago.

The Qatari foreign minister, however, said that Sheikh Abdullah had acted on a "personal initiative" and not on behalf of the Doha government.

Karroubi ends hunger strike after health minister's visit

Mehdi Karroubi, a former Iranian Parliament speaker under house arrest for six years, ended his hunger strike late Thursday after the authorities accepted to remove security guards from his home in Tehran.

The 79-year-old cleric stopped eating and drinking on Wednesday to demand a public trial and the removal of intelligence ministry agents. He was hospitalized a day later with high blood pressure.

His son, Mohammad Hossein, told IRNA that Karroubi met with Health Minister Hassan Qazvini Hashemi on Thursday, and secured promises that convinced him to end the hunger strike.

He said the government had promised to remove the agents from his home.

The cleric had a pacemaker fitted earlier this month and was prescribed heart medication, which he continued to take after starting the hunger strike.

After visiting Karroubi on Thursday, Hashemi told IRNA that his heart beat and blood pressure is under control.

The minister said he visited Karroubi upon the request of President Hassan Rouhani.

Hashemi noted that Karroubi could be discharged once his condition becomes stable.

He remained in hospital on Friday as doctors monitored his condition.

Mehdi Karroubi and fellow reformist Mir Hossein Mousavi, 75, were candidates in Iran's 2009 presidential election, which was won by incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The election result sparked months of deadly street protests over claims that the polls were rigged in favor of the winner.

The two, along with Mousavi's wife Zahra Rahnavard, were placed under house arrest in 2011 for their role in the protests.

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Iran, Turkey agree to boost military cooperation

Following a rare visit by Iran's top military chief to Turkey, Tehran and Ankara agreed to forge closer military cooperation.

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri arrived in Turkey on Tuesday at the head of a high-ranking politico-military delegation. It was the first visit by an Iranian chief of staff of the Armed Forces to the neighboring country after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

During his three-day stay in the country, General Baqeri held separate talks with the country's top authorities, including President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, his Turkish counterpart, General Hulusi Akar, and Defense Minister Nurettin Canikli.

Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin told a news conference on Thursday that Iran and Turkey have agreed to forge closer military cooperation following talks in Ankara.

"An agreement was reached to hold further high-level visits from now on," Kalin said.

"A series of activities will also be held to boost military cooperation," he added.

"Fruitful and successful" visit

Kalin described Baqeri's visit as "fruitful and successful" and added that bilateral talks focused on counter-terrorism, the campaign against Daesh terrorists, and a joint effort by Iran, Turkey and Russia to stem the fighting in parts of Syria.

Speaking to reporters after his meeting with Erdogan on Wednesday, Baqeri said bilateral defense ties, regional developments and battling terrorism were the key issues discussed.

"On military issues, both sides agreed to have mutual cooperation on education and student exchanges as well as holding joint training courses," he said.

He added that it was agreed that both countries would increase information exchange in the field of counter-terrorism.

Erdogan to visit Iran

Baqeri noted that Erdogan would be traveling to Iran in the near future, and that a joint strategic commission would be held between the two countries with the presence of high-ranking officials with the goal of devolving bilateral economic, political, cultural and military ties.

Kurdistan referendum

The top Iranian commander also noted that during the meet-



Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri (L) shakes hands with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a meeting in Ankara on August 16, 2017.

ing, it was agreed that holding an independence referendum by Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region would only increase tensions in Iraq and its neighboring countries.

In June, the leader of Iraq's semi-autonomous region Kurdistan region, Massoud Barzani, announced that the northern territory would hold an independence referendum in September not only in the three provinces that make up the Kurdish region but in the areas that are disputed by the Kurdish and the central Iraqi governments.

Following the announcement, the Iraqi government issued a statement saying that it would reject any unilateral move by the regional Kurdish authorities to push for independence.

Iran and Turkey enjoy cordial bilateral relations. Despite some differences on regional issues, Iran and Turkey are two

Intelligence Ministry dismisses illegal conduct allegations

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry dismissed the hostile media speculations and accusations by the anti-revolutionary groups aimed at "fomenting discord and sedition" in Iran, stressing that it acts fully within the law and respects Islamic

morals and values.

In a statement released on Thursday, the Intelligence Ministry said, "suspicious currents and hostile and anti-revolutionary media outlets are trying to disturb the atmosphere in the society by falsifying information and spreading accusations," while Iranian lawmakers have been discussing the credentials and backgrounds of the proposed ministers for a vote of confidence, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Such hostile moves are aimed at inciting discord, leveling accusations against Iranian organizations and their personnel, and sowing sedition in the society, it warned.

The statement further dismissed all allegations and false

news against the Intelligence Ministry, rejecting the "spurious" documents and their contents published by hostile parties, stressing, "All the ministry's activities take place within sacred religious regulations and the law, and by respecting Islamic morals."

While the Iranian Parliament has held sessions since Tuesday for vetting President Hassan Rouhani's proposed ministers, some news media outlets have published reports leveling accusations against Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, the proposed pick for the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

Azari Jahromi, 36, the youngest on the list of proposed ministers, has denied the accusations.



President's pick for defense minister to enhance missile power

President Hassan Rouhani's new pick for defense minister has underlined his resolve to further enhance Iran's ballistic missile capabilities if he qualifies for the post.

Brigadier General Amir Hatami was speaking on Thursday before the parliament on the third day of discussions on the qualifications of Rouhani's nominees for ministerial posts, Press TV reported.

He underlined the importance of promoting the country's missile defense capabilities as one of the key priorities on his agenda over the next four years.

"In the next four years, apart from enhancing combat and defense capabilities, we will devote a special effort to boost missile and ballistic power, strategic air power as well as strategic maritime power and increase rapid reaction forces," Hatami said.

During the Thursday debate, four legislators delivered speeches in favor of the defense minister nominee, while no lawmaker

spoke against his qualifications. Hatami needs the legislature's vote of confidence to serve in the new cabinet.

"Iran has achieved defense de-



TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

terrence power and the enemies acknowledge Iran's high defense power in the region and the world," he pointed out.

The defense minister nominee pointed to the failure of enemy attempts to isolate the Islamic Republic, noting, "Many of the governments, which pioneered sanc-

tions against Iran, are now trying to develop cooperation with Iran."

Hatami also stressed the need for spotting and countering US-led threats as another part of his plan for the Defense Ministry.

Iran has recently made major breakthroughs in its defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in producing important military equipment and hardware.

The Islamic Republic says its military power poses no threat to other countries and is merely based on the doctrine of deterrence.

Over the past months, the US administration has imposed a series of sanctions against Iran over its national missile program.

Iran has slammed the bans as a violation of the nuclear deal signed between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia — plus Germany on July 14, 2015. They started implementing the agreement on January 16, 2016.

OPINION

US-Iran tensions over nuclear pact cause alarm in Europe

By Seth Jacobson

With the war of words between Iran and the United States taking on an increasingly belligerent tone, there is increasing concern across Europe that the nuclear deal overseen by the Obama administration in 2015 is unravelling.

On Tuesday, the Iranian president, Hassan Rouhani, told his parliament that Donald Trump was "not a good partner" and warned that his country could walk out of the deal — which saw sanctions lifted against Tehran — in a "short time."

"Those who try to return to the language of threats and sanctions are prisoners of their past delusions," he said in a televised address. "If they want to go back to that experience, definitely in a short time — not weeks or months, but in the scale of hours and days — we will return to our previous situation very much stronger."

"In recent months, the world has witnessed that the US, in addition to its constant and repetitive breaking of its promises in the JCPOA [the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the official name of the nuclear deal], has ignored several other global agreements and shown its allies that the US is neither a good partner nor a reliable negotiating party," Mr. Rouhani said.

In response, Washington's United Nations envoy Nikki Haley said: "Iran, under no circumstances, can ever be allowed to have nuclear weapons ... The nuclear deal must not become 'too big to fail.'"

European countries were key signatories to the agreement, with the UK, France and Germany, as well as Russia and China, putting their names to it.

France's minister for Europe and foreign affairs, Jean-Baptiste Lemoine, said last week during a visit to Tehran that his country would pull out all the stops to ensure the deal would continue.

"France and Iran have been strengthening their relations since the nuclear deal was brokered on July 14, 2015," Mr. Lemoine said. "Our political dialogue should make it possible to work toward resolving the crises in the Middle East."

"Promotion of co-operation with Tehran is among Paris's priorities," he said after his meeting with Iran's foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

The Russian government has given its continued backing to the deal and criticized new sanctions recently imposed by Washington over Iran's missile development.

"The missile program budget is basically Iran's business. It is not prohibited from having this program," Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said. "There are no legal bans in UN Security Council resolutions on this issue."

"I think unilateral sanctions ... are irresponsible actions that can hurt and undermine the balance achieved."

In July, on the second anniversary of the deal, British foreign secretary Boris Johnson said: "The Iran nuclear deal has helped to make the world a safer place by imposing strict limits on Iran's nuclear program, in return for the lifting of sanctions. It's an example of what can be achieved when the international community works together."

"Britain will continue to join with the rest of the international community to ensure the implementation of the agreement is a success, and delivers real gains for global security and nuclear non-proliferation, along with tangible benefits for the Iranian people."

The British foreign office confirmed to The National on Thursday that "the UK remains fully committed to the nuclear deal and will work closely with the international community to ensure that the deal is a success."

The European Union has also committed to supporting the deal, even in the face of US antagonism towards Iran. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said in June that the EU will guarantee that the agreement "continues to be in place and our policy of engagement with Iran will continue."

The Iranians are keen on the EU acting as a key promoter of the deal. Earlier this month, President Rouhani told the Austrian ambassador to Tehran that "the full implementation of the nuclear deal benefits the EU and the region; therefore, it is necessary that the EU increases its efforts and role in this regard."

This article was first published by The National.

South Asia floods affect more than 16m people

More than 16 million people have been affected by floods in South Asia, aid workers and officials said, with heavy rains and damaged roads hampering relief efforts amid severe food shortages and a growing risk of waterborne diseases.

Heavy monsoon rains in Nepal, Bangladesh and India have killed more than 343 people, officials and aid workers said, according to timesofmalta.com.

"This is fast becoming one of the most serious humanitarian crises this region has seen in many years," said Martin Fuller, deputy regional director for Asia Pacific at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

"Millions of people face severe food shortages and disease. We fear (it) will get worse in the days and weeks ahead."

More than a third of Bangladesh and Nepal have been flooded, Fuller said.

In Nepal, 27 of 75 districts were either submerged or hit by landslides, leaving villages and communities stranded without food, water and electricity.

Home Ministry official Shankar Acharya said 131 people had been killed and 30 were missing.

"We need donors' assistance and support from social organizations," an official stated said.

Aid workers are rushing to deliver tarpaulins for temporary shelter, food and water, said Dev Raina Dhaklwa, secretary general of the Nepal Red Cross Society.

Residents face "severe food shortages" as food crops have been wiped out in the worst



MANISH PAUDE/ALP

floods in 15 years, he said.

The risk of a "significant public health crisis" from waterborne diseases such as cholera is also high, charity WaterAid said.

In Bangladesh, flood levels have reached record highs. At least 56 people have been killed and about 4 million are affected, the Red Crescent said Thursday.

The situation could get worse as swollen rivers carry rainwater from neighboring India downstream into the low-lying and densely populated country.

"The immediate situation is extremely desperate," Save the Children Director Mark

Pierce said in a statement.

"The sheer volume of water is also making it really difficult to access some of the communities most in need."

In India, more than 11 million people have been affected in four states across the north and east, with at least 156 killed.

"These are the worst floods in Assam in a decade," Keshab Mahanta, relief and rehabilitation minister, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Relief operations have been hampered, even as food packets are being dropped from helicopters in the worst affected areas.

South Africa plans to grant immunity to Grace Mugabe, sources say

South Africa plans to grant diplomatic immunity to Zimbabwe's first lady, Grace Mugabe, after she was accused of assaulting a model at a hotel in Johannesburg, government sources have said.

Mugabe is accused of attacking Gabriella Engels, 20, with an electrical extension cord after Engels went to see the Mugabes' sons Robert and Chatsanga at the Capital 20 West hotel in Johannesburg's upmarket Sandton district, the guardian.com reported.

South African police have put border posts on "red alert" to prevent Mugabe fleeing and said she will not receive special treatment, but a source in Pretoria, the country's administrative capital, told Reuters there was "no way" the 52-year-old would be arrested.

It is expected that a grant of diplomatic immunity would be challenged in court. It is not clear whether Mugabe entered South Africa on a personal or diplomatic passport.

"Afriforum, a South African rights group, which is advising Engels, said it would be a "disgrace" to grant diplomatic immunity, which

would allow Mugabe to return to Harare.

"The government has two responsibilities: one, to protect its own citizens and two, to act according to the law. And the granting of diplomatic immunity would transgress the law," the chief executive of Afriforum, Kallie Kriel, said.

Pictures posted on social media appeared to show a cut to Engels' forehead and she claimed to have more injuries on the back of her head. Engels has said she "did not lift a finger on the first lady."

"We were chilling in a hotel room, and [the sons] were in the room next door. She came in and started hitting us. She flipped and just kept beating me with the plug, over and over," Engels told local media.

The South African model said she had no clue who her attacker was until the alleged assault was over. She had "no idea what was going on ... I was surprised. I had to crawl out of the room before I could run away," she said.

UN urged to put Saudi Arabia on blacklist over killing Yemeni kids

Hospitals, schools, factories, funeral halls and people's homes — these are just some of the civilian targets in Yemen that the US and UK backed Saudi-led coalition has bombed in the past year.

"There has to be a change in the way they are conducting their warfare because even wars have rules," said Mark Kaye, the humanitarian advocacy advisor on Yemen for the NGO Save the Children, abc.net.au reported.

"Every other party, every other side to this war inside Yemen is on that list. It's only one side that isn't on that list and it's the Saudi-led coalition."

Each year, the United Nations releases an annual report on children and armed conflict, naming and shaming nations and armed groups responsible for killing and maiming children during war.

Human rights advocates were outraged last year when former UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon admitted Saudi Arabia had been taken off the list of shame after intense lobbying.

There were also numerous reports the country had threatened to cut funding to UN refugee programs across the Middle East.

"When you delist a country based not evidence but on politics you send out a message across the globe that only certain people only certain states will be held responsible for their actions," Kaye said.

In anticipation of this year's report, Save the Children has been running a campaign demanding the UN stand up to the autocratic Middle East

regime and shame it for its alleged war crimes in Yemen.

"Last week we handed in a petition to the secretary general's office with 37,000 signatures ... he needs to make a strong decision. He needs to make sure that the Saudi led coalition are listed," Kaye explained.



SOPHIE MCNEILL/ABC NEWS

"He should do what Ban Ki-moon failed to do last year."

On August 17, Foreign Policy Magazine published excerpts from a leaked copy of the UN draft report.

It said the Saudi-led coalition, which has been bombing Yemen now for more than two years, had committed "grave violations" of human rights against children in the past 12 months, killing more than 500 Yemeni children and injuring more than 800 others.

The magazine reported that Virginia Gamba, the UN special representative for children abused in wartime, has informed top officials that she does intend to recommend the Saudi-led coalition be added to this year's list of shame.

But the final decision will be up to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who is expected to make the report public later this month.

"This list basically holds entities, states, armed groups accountable," said Amnesty International's Rasha Mohamed, who investigates abuses in Yemen for the human rights group.

"It shows them that they are being watched. If you don't hold them accountable and you don't try to call them out then who does?"

Mohamed said the list is a crucial mechanism for the UN as it tries to influence and alter how entities and states act during war.

"It will be much harder to bring them to the negotiation table and try and change their behavior for the better if they can show they can cave under pressure," she said.

"So really violators will be really emboldened and the mechanism will be really weakened."

The list will lose all its credibility if Saudi Arabia is one again removed in the face of political pressure, Mohamed said.

"If you cave under the pressure and remove and entities from the list, then other entities will just, won't feel like this list is even credible or has any standing," she told the ABC.

OPINION

President Trump needs friends in the Senate

By Elaine Kamarck

At some point in 2019 (if not sooner) a Republican Senator may walk into the Oval Office and say to President Trump: "Mr. president, we don't have the votes," at which point the Trump presidency will end in a resignation or a conviction in the Senate. This scenario actually occurred forty-three years ago this summer when Republican Senator Barry Goldwater walked into the Oval Office and told Republican President Richard Nixon that they didn't have the votes in the Senate to save his presidency. Following impeachment in the House, a trial takes place in the Senate. Conviction requires two-thirds of the Senate and by my count there are already twelve senators who have shown a willingness to take on the president when they believe he is in the wrong. If you add that to the forty-eight Democrats in the Senate (who have shown no inclination to work with this president), Donald Trump could be six votes away from conviction in the Senate.

Of course this assumes that the forces now in motion continue on their same trajectory and result in an impeachment vote. They are: the investigations into the Trump campaign; evidence of weakness in the Republican base; historical trends indicating a possible Democratic takeover in the House and, last but not least, defiance in the Senate.

This last trend should be particularly worrisome for the president. Article I of the Constitution gives them the last word on the presidency. And yet instead of making friends in the Senate, Trump has done exactly the opposite. After the Senate failed to pass his Obamacare replacement, Trump took to Twitter to denounce them as "fools" and "total quitters." That could not have gone over well with the senators who opposed him along the way. One of them, Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine), arrived home to an impromptu gathering of supporters at the Portland airport who applauded her vote against the president's replacement of Obamacare.

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) was defiant after being called out by the president, saying "No second thoughts at all. None," after her vote against the president on health care. Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) has been none too pleased with the efforts to repeal Obamacare, insisting that it "does not go far enough in lowering premiums for middle-class families."

But perhaps the most high profile opposition to the president came from Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) who returned to Washington from his hospital bed to cast the dramatic and final vote killing the Republican replacement for Obamacare. After Trump, during the presidential campaign, ridiculed McCain's seven years in a prison camp in Hanoi the Arizona senator showed he is clearly not afraid to take on the president.

Another Republican senator from the west, Dean Heller (R-Nev.) also felt free to criticize the president and vote against him on several key issues. Senators Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) have been vocal in their opposition to the president's budget — especially the proposed cuts in drug treatment programs.

Capito threatened to lead "a bipartisan group of my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and in the Senate to reject those proposed cuts." They are part of the 18 Republican senators who voted against the Trump budget.

A second major setback for the president in the Senate was passage of a Russia sanctions bill that curtailed the president's freedom of action in adjusting sanctions — a clear signal that an overwhelming number of senators don't trust the president on Russia issues. As a further reflection of that inter-branch distrust, there are two bi-partisan bills in the Senate which would check the president's ability to fire the special prosecutor Robert Mueller looking into the Russia issue.

One is sponsored by Senator Thom Tillis (R.N.C.) and Senator Christopher Coons, (D-Del.) and the other by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Senator Cory Booker (D-N.J.).

Senator Graham has gone so far as to warn the president that firing Mueller would mark "the beginning of the end of the Trump administration."

And then there is the man who used to be the president's closest friend in the Senate, Jeff Sessions, who endorsed Trump when no one else would and became his Attorney General only to suffer weeks of embarrassing insults from the president. Senators such as Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) have defended Sessions against the president, warning that if Sessions is fired there will not be a confirmation hearing for another attorney general this year. Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) has been a consistent thorn in President Trump's side, repeatedly questioning his foreign policy appointments and insisting in an op-ed, "Make no mistake, no matter who is president or what their party is, it is my firm belief that the president needs congressional authorization for military action, as required by the Constitution."

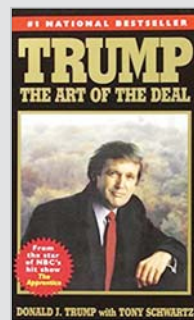
Finally, Senator Jeff Flake, (R-Ariz.) wrote an entire book accusing President Trump of abandoning conservative Republican principles. Flake is facing a tough reelection race, and his book Conscience of a Conservative (the same title used by his hero Senator Barry Goldwater 57 years ago), is either a Hail Mary play, a genuine attack on what Trump has done to his party, or both. In it he writes, "Never has a party so quickly or easily abandoned its core principles as my party did in the course of the 2016 campaign."

These 12 Republicans have no fear of the president. You could probably add Senator Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), who is up for reelection in 2020 and whose state also voted for Clinton in 2016. The president needs to start making friends in the United States Senate.

This article first appeared on the Brookings Institution site.

Trump is going to resign soon, president's 'Art of the Deal' writer predicts

The guy who helped President Donald Trump write his seminal book, "The Art of the Deal," said the former reality-TV star will soon leave the White House on his own accord, Newsweek reported.



In a series of tweets Wednesday, Tony Schwartz — who co-authored the 1987 book that helped define the real estate magnate's public image — said he thought the walls were closing in on Trump and he would soon leave office in an attempt to save face.

Every tweet Schwartz sent Wednesday was about Trump. "Think of Trump as a toddler w/reactive attachment disorder, and therefore in a permanent virulent tantrum. His development ended at age 7," he posted. He later added, "Remember that every time Trump criticizes and demeans someone he is projecting his deep sense of inadequacy & self-hatred onto others."

Later, he wrote in a series of three tweets that Trump's end would come before the year was out. "The circle is closing at blinding speed. Trump is going to resign and declare victory before Mueller and congress leave him no choice," Schwartz tweeted. "Trump's presidency is effectively over. Would be amazed if he survives till the end of the year. More likely resigns by fall, if not sooner."

For Americans who don't support Trump — that's a lot of folks, considering the president's approval rating is hovering at about 57 percent — Schwartz warned that they have to keep up the pressure if they want the billionaire to resign. "Trump must be isolated. Resistance every day. The end is near but must keep pressure high," he tweeted. Schwartz, now the CEO of the Energy Project, has been a critic of Trump as he ascended to the White House and has regularly tried to explain how the president goes about making decisions. In May, Schwartz wrote in The Washington Post that Trump "didn't value — nor even necessarily recognize — the qualities that tend to emerge as people grow more secure, such as empathy, generosity, reflectiveness, the capacity to delay gratification or, above all, a conscience, an inner sense of right and wrong."

Instead, everything for him is transactional and considered a win or a loss. If that is true, it would stand against that Trump will desert the presidency before it could be considered an unsalvageable loss.

Odds makers seem to feel the same as Schwartz. The latest odds from bookmaker Ladbrokes, for instance, give Trump about a 48 percent chance of not finishing his first term due to either impeachment or resignation.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Iran asks steel mills to allocate more billet to domestic market

Steel mills have been asked to allocate more steel billet to the domestic market as demand has increased significantly, informed sources in Tehran said.

The sources confirmed a report on the Iranian Steel Producers Association's website Wednesday that the request had been made, but said there was no immediate talk of banning billet exports, Platts reported.

Officials from major steel producers, the Iran Mercantile Exchange and the producers association attended a meeting organized by out-going Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade, Mohammadreza Nematzadeh, earlier this week to discuss the impact of billet price increases in the domestic market, the sources said.



msec.ir

"The country's steel industry has been instructed to allocate at least 50 percent of the output to the domestic market through IME, and with a base price of an average of three international market indices," ISPA Vice President Hamidreza Taherizadeh was quoted as saying by Chiltononline, according to ISPA website.

Exports will continue, although domestic demand will be a priority for billet producers, he added.

Taherizadeh said re-rollers were waiting for the billet to become available, and were also ready to import if the import duty on billet was removed and domestic producers were unable to cover their requirements.

The import duty on billet is currently 15 percent, and a 9 percent VAT is also payable.

The market reacted very quickly to the latest news. The Iran Mercantile Exchange said 5,000 tons of Khouzestan Steel Company billet was traded on the exchange on Wednesday at 19.8 million rials (\$600/ton) — down 3.4 percent from Monday.

It is not yet clear whether the billet import duty will be removed. Such a measure would take three to four weeks to be put into place, one market player in Tehran suggested.

He said it was more likely the current policy of seeking to have more domestic steel allocated to downstream industries would continue, with production also expected to be increased over the next few months.

Iran's garment industry gears up for new markets

Iran has taken steps to renovate its garment industry to enter international markets, an industry official said.

"Exporting apparel products to the neighboring countries, including the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and, in particular, Azerbaijan, is on the agenda," the head of Tehran's Apparel Manufacturers and Retailers Union, Abolqasem Shirazi told Trend News Agency.

He added that capabilities of Iranian manufacturers for producing clothing items have doubled over the past year.

Iranian media outlets earlier reported that about 1,500 industrial units and 30,000 employees were involved in the clothing sector with a capacity for producing 340,000 tons of garments per year.

Noting that international sanctions over the past several years slowed down the industry as well as exports, he added that following the removal of nuclear related sanctions on the Islamic Republic in January of 2016, Iranian manufacturers have drawn up plans to export about 30 percent of their total output.



IRNA

He further touched on Iran's clothing items imports and said that notwithstanding the recent calls for support of domestic production, the volume of garment imports has significantly dropped.

Shirazi estimated that, in the period prior to the new Iranian year (on March 21), domestically-produced garment items have formed about 50 percent of Tehran's total clothing items markets.

According to him, public interest in the domestic products has dramatically surged over the recent months.

Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Education and Research Committee Mohammad Mehdi Zahedi, had earlier said that the garment sector has an annual turnover of 400 trillion rials (over \$12 billion based on official rate).



Iranian airline signs MoU to purchase 10 Boeing planes

Iran's Kish Airlines signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Boeing to purchase 10 commercial planes, said the airline's managing director.

Mohammad Taqi Jadidi added that the MoU to purchase 10 Boeing-737-MAX airplanes was signed following negotiations with representative of the US company, Fars News Agency reported on Friday.

He further said that, Kish Airlines seeks investors to finance the deal, adding that, since purchasing new airplanes in cash is not economically feasible, airlines prefer to obtain financing on the purchases.

Domestic banks have obtained licenses to open L/CS and can easily undertake the financing of the deal, added Jadidi.

He noted that Kish Airlines will purchase six Airbus A-320 family jets by March 20, 2018, explaining that these will be the planes reprocessed by financier banks.

Jadidi said that talks are underway with Boeing and Airbus and he predicted that the talks will be concluded within two months.

Iran had been expected to receive the first of 80 aircraft ordered from the US planemaker in April or May 2018, but Iranian media and industry sources have said that Iran might get the first Boeing jet a year earlier than expected under a proposal to swap deliveries with Turkish Airlines.

Industry sources had said Boeing was in talks to release at least one 777-300ER originally built for Turkish Airlines, which is deferring deliveries due to weaker traffic following last year's failed coup attempt in Turkey.

Boeing said it does not comment on specific deliveries. "Boeing and Iran Air continue to work on implementing the sales contract for commercial passenger airplanes signed in December 2016, at which time

we announced first deliveries are scheduled to start in 2018," a spokesman said.

"We continue to follow the lead of the US government on all our dealings with approved Iranian airlines."

Since last year, when most sanctions imposed on Iran were lifted under a 2015 nuclear deal with six major powers, Tehran has joined a long waiting list for new airplanes and the swap would have allowed it to speed up its fleet renewal.

Iran Air has also ordered 100 aircraft from Europe's Airbus under a deal to lift most sanctions in return for modification on Iran's nuclear program, and has taken three deliveries.

Iran's return to the aviation market after decades of sanctions is a boon to planemakers trying to dispose of some new planes discarded by airlines facing economic difficulties.

Iran's first glass expo to be held in Tehran next week

Scores of foreign and domestic companies are expected to take part in the First International Exhibition of Glass and Related Industries scheduled to be held in Tehran from August 23 to 26.

The participants of the first edition of International Exhibition of Glass and Related Industries are expected to put their latest achievements and products on display. The event will be held in Tehran International Fairgrounds, ifnews.com reported.

Among the items to be showcased at the expo are glass production machines, equipment and production lines, methods and machineries to process raw materials, different kinds of construction, facade, car and anti-bulb glass as well as door and window and items pertaining to other related industries.

Iran's Trade Promotion Organization has issued the permit for the exhibition which will be organized in cooperation with Germany's Glasstec — the world's leading trade fair for glass industry and its suppliers — as well as Iranian associations for glass producers in an area spanning over 7,500 square meters.

In addition to domestic and foreign glass production companies, the exposition will be attended by Renewable Energy Organization of Iran, Iran's Road, Housing and Development Research Center, Iran's Nanotechnology Initiative

Council as well as representatives from France, Italy, Germany and China.

Several foreign and domestic trade, economic, industrial and investment companies are expected to visit the expo for with representatives of the participating companies.

Commenting on the expo, Fardad Maghanti, the head of the HQ responsible for holding the exhibition, said glass is mainly used in Iran in the building construction industry.

He noted that glass production is among the most important industries in Iran, adding



industrial production of glass in the country began in 1996.

Stressing that glass production is highly economical in Iran, he said all the raw materials are available in the country which has increased the importance of expanding the industry.

He listed silica, sodium carbonate, magnesium oxide, lime and dolomite as the raw materials for producing glass, noting that they are all found in abundance in Iran at cheap rates, which is the primary and most important advantage of the industry in the country.

Maghanti said in the early years after the victory of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, the country met more than 70 percent of the domestic demand for glass through imports. "However, once a number of glass production factories were set up in Iran in the 90s, the country achieved self-sufficiency in this industry."

Currently, 10 major companies in Iran produce 450,000 square meters of glass per day of which 40 percent are exported to Persian Gulf littoral states, Central Asian countries and even Europe.

Iranian official urges full free trade with Syria

An Iranian business official called for making the most out of a free trade agreement with Syria, voicing Iran's readiness to meet the Arab country's needs.

Deputy head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Hossein Selahvarzi, in a meeting with Syria's Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Samer al-Khalil in Damascus on Thursday, called on the Syrian minister to assign a special envoy to arrange for "thorough and full implementation of a free trade agreement" between the two countries, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Selahvarzi further pledged that ICCIMA would meet the needs of Syria once Damascus lists its urgent needs and specifies the construction or reconstruction projects that require assistance from Iran.

Al-Khalil hoped that ICCIMA's experience would contribute to stronger economic cooperation between Iran and Syria and strengthen interaction between the private sectors of the two countries.

The Syrian minister also unveiled plans for a visit to Iran with a big business delegation.

Iran is among the 43 countries that have attended the 59th Damascus International Fair, which kicked off on Thursday following a 5-year hiatus. Iran has the highest number of companies in the event, with 30 firms in a pavilion with an area exceeding 1,000 square meters.

Earlier this month, Syrian Prime Minister Imad Khamis said his country hopes to get assistance from Iran to nurse its ailing economy back to health. Syria is increasingly restoring its political and military power, but the major challenge it now faces is economic issues, Khamis said in a meeting with Iran's parliament speaker in Tehran on August 6, adding that Syria relies on Iran to go through the 'economic recovery and development' stage.

More than six years of war have taken a severe toll on Syria, costing the economy \$226 billion, according to a new World Bank report.

Japan's Inpex eyes bid for Azadegan oil project

From Page 1

In a telephone interview, a spokesperson for Inpex confirmed receiving the invitation letter from NIOC and said, "It is true that we are mulling how we should deal with Azadegan, though we cannot announce details."

"A final decision will be made after we finish evaluating the condition of the international bid, and also the international situation."

According to Kardor, the NIOC will soon provide all necessary data about the Azadegan oilfield to interested firms. It will take about six months to gather technical and financial proposals from all applicants and evaluate them, and the contractor will be finalized by early next year, he said.

Kardor said the number of foreign firms participating in the Azadegan tender will exceed 10.

In addition to Inpex, Total S.A., Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Petrolim Nasional Bhd (Petronas) and China National Petroleum Corp. have already signed memorandums of understanding with NIOC.

Several other oil giants, including Eni and BP, have expressed a desire to participate in the tender.



theguardian.com

Leaving EU without deal would be no disaster for UK

Leaving the European Union without a deal in place would not spell disaster for the UK economy, according to a free market thinktank advocating trade with the rest of the world over a "hamstrung" deal with Brussels.

Despite repeated warnings that leaving without an agreement would hurt British companies and consumers, the report from the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), published on Friday, said the UK could remove all import barriers to achieve lower prices for consumers,

increased productivity and higher wages, according to theguardian.com.

However, a separate report from the Institute for government, which seeks to promote more effective government, said failure to strike a deal would put the UK in a worse place than any other major trading partner and maximize disruption.

Britain should resort to World Trade Organization rules for its relationship with Europe if a bad deal is offered, while striking free trade agreements with major trading partners such as

the US, Canada and Australia, according to the IEA report. It would then be up to Brussels if it wanted to impose tariffs on British imports, which the thinktank said would hurt EU consumers.

The position echoed that of the international trade secretary, Liam Fox, who has advocated deals with the US and other countries and argued that the UK is in a position to walk away from the negotiating table if no deal can be reached with Brussels. EU leaders have poured cold water on Britain's hopes of such arrangements in recent

days.

British consumers could benefit from the removal of all tariffs because the UK would be able to import goods at lower prices from countries on which the EU imposes high tariffs, such as oranges from South Africa, according to the IEA. Such tariffs protect the livelihoods of domestic producers, although 92 percent of UK workers are employed in sectors that do not benefit from such measures, according to the report.

Although removing tariffs could result in job losses for

the eight percent of British workers in protected sectors, such as farming, the IEA said new roles could be created to offset the losses.

Jamie Whyte, research director at the IEA, said: "There are many myths being perpetuated about trade policy — and more specifically about the UK's relationship with the EU — that must be debunked. We could unilaterally eliminate all import tariffs, which would give us most of the benefits of trade, and export to the EU under the umbrella of the WTO rules."

Ministers have begun privately admitting that negotiations over the future trade relationship with the EU may not begin until the end of the year, cutting the time for talks to as little as 10 months.

Britain agreed in June to discuss the withdrawal agreement first, with talks moving on to trade only once sufficient progress had been made on settling the rights of EU nationals in the UK, the Brexit divorce bill and the border with Ireland.

The institute for government said leaving with no deal was a "recipe for maximum disruption" should the UK have to trade with the EU under WTO rules, because it would include higher tariffs and more document checks and inspections at borders.

Leaving the EU would disrupt the flow of goods required by manufacturers in the UK, harming sectors such as car production, and create friction in trade across borders, its report, concluded.

China's home price

China's home price growth slowed in July, with Beijing declining for a second straight month, reinforcing expectations that property price growth may stagnate over the course of the year.



reutersmedia.net

Japan's consumer prices seen rising for seventh straight month

Japan's core consumer prices were expected to show their seventh straight month of annual increases in July, a Reuters poll found, offering the central bank some hope a strengthening economic recovery will gradually lift inflation toward its two percent target.

But the projected 0.5 percent year-on-year increase will be well off the Bank of Japan's target and keep the central bank under pressure to maintain its massive monetary stimulus, analysts said.

"The increase is largely due to the effect of rising energy costs. Upward price pressure for other goods remains weak," said Takumi Tsunoda, senior economist at Shinjuku Central Bank.

The nationwide core consumer price index (CPI), which includes oil products but excludes volatile fresh food prices, rose 0.4 percent in June from a year earlier.

Core consumer prices in Tokyo, available a month before the nationwide data, were seen likely to rise 0.3 percent in August from a year earlier after a 0.2 percent gain in July, according to economists polled by Reuters.

The government will announce the consumer inflation data at 8:30 Tokyo time on Aug. 25 (2350 GMT Aug. 24).

More than four years of massive monetary stimulus has failed to accelerate inflation to the BOJ's two percent target, underscoring the difficulty of eradicating the deflation that has plagued the country for two decades.

The CPI data will follow news this week that Japan's economy expanded at the fastest pace in more than two years in the second quarter as consumer and company spending picked up, heralding a long-awaited bounce in domestic demand.

Nonetheless, wage growth and inflation remain subdued as companies remain wary of passing more of their profits to employees.

Over 44m Germans employed in Q2

German employment levels have reached a new record high, figures released by the Federal Statistical Office showed.

The number of employed Germans rose to 44.2 million in the second quarter of 2017, marking an increase of 1.5 percent, or 664,000 jobs, compared to the same period last year. A gain of 475,000 jobs, or 1.1 percent, was also recorded over the first quarter of 2017, xinhuanet.com reported.

The Wiesbaden-based government statisticians attributed part of the continuing positive trend to a traditional seasonal uptick in employment during the summer months.

The study also noted that jobs growth was well above average for the past five years. Even when adjusted for traditional fluctuations in the construction and gastronomy sectors, the number of employed Germans still grew by 0.3 percent compared to the first quarter of the year.

Most new jobs were created in the service sector. The German labor market has gathered strength, riding the country's ongoing economic momentum and already saw record levels of employment in Q1.

There was a slight blemish on the otherwise positive figures, however, in as far as the number of hours worked per capita fell slightly because the number of Germans contributing to the total volume of labor continued to grow.

On average, every employed German worked 321.2 hours in Q2 — a decline of 28 hours compared to Q1.

Official figures showed that gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the eurozone's largest economy held steady at a strong 0.6 percent in Q1, adding to the wider picture of the 19-member bloc's strengthening recovery.

Malaysia surprises with 5.8 percent GDP growth

Malaysia's economy expanded at the fastest pace in more than two years in the second quarter on the back of domestic demand and robust exports, defying expectations for a slight slowdown.

The strong performance is likely to add to speculation that Prime Minister Najib Razak will call early polls to take advantage of improving economic conditions and a fractured opposition, Reuters reported.

Southeast Asia's third-largest economy grew 5.8 percent in April-June from a year earlier MYGDP-ECL data showed, well above a Reuters poll forecast of 5.4 percent.

Growth accelerated from 5.6 percent in the first three months of the year, which had also been better than expected.

Following the data, Malaysia's central bank raised its 2017 growth forecast to above 4.8 percent. The last forecast in March predicted growth of 4.3 to 4.8 percent.

"Based on the numbers from Q1 and Q2, we expect (full year) growth will go beyond our earlier forecast," Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Governor Muhammad Ibrahim told a news conference.

Construction, services and manufacturing all grew at a faster pace in the quarter, offsetting weakness in mining and agriculture.



reuters.com

Muhammad expected domestic consumption and exports to improve further in the second half, but warned there were always risks related to global factors.

Exports grew 10 percent on-year in June, well below May's 32.5 percent. But analysts believe the slide may be due to seasonal factors, noting global demand still seems strong.

Fitch Ratings affirmed Malaysia's 'A-' credit rating with a stable outlook, citing its strong economic growth and the government's ability to contain the impact of

falling oil prices on its budget deficit.

"It is another recognition for the country's economic management," Najib tweeted earlier in the day about Fitch.

The current account surplus grew to 9.6 billion ringgit (\$2.24 billion) over the second quarter from 5.3 billion ringgit in January-March, due to a larger goods surplus and smaller services and primary income deficits.

Investment in Malaysian stocks, bonds and other financial assets also improved sharply, with portfolio inflows

rebounding to 16 billion ringgit, compared with outflows of 31.9 billion in the first quarter.

The turnaround may be partly due to improved confidence in the ringgit. It has firmed 4.5 percent against the dollar this year since hitting a 19-year low of 4.9880 on Jan. 4.

But foreign direct investment dropped to 8.3 billion ringgit, from 17 billion ringgit in the first quarter. While FDI flows can be volatile, the weaker reading could point to some loss of economic momentum in the months ahead.

The central bank also said inflation is expected to ease further after moderating to four percent in the second quarter.

"Inflation will still be within the range of 3-4 percent, but we expect it to track lower for the rest of the year," BNM's Muhammad said. The central bank has kept interest rates unchanged since July 2016.

But there is widespread concern about the rising costs of living, which Najib will need to temper before going to the polls.

He may be facing his toughest election yet as he looks to counter bad press from a corruption scandal involving state-owned fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) and a growing challenge from his former mentor turned foe, Mahathir Mohamad.

Climbing imports shrink eurozone trade surplus

The eurozone's trade surplus in goods with the rest of the world shrunk by €1.7 billion in June on the back of a healthy climb in imports in the bloc.

Year on year imports rose 6.2 percent in June compared to the same period last year while exports grew 3.9 percent — bringing down the goods surplus to €26.6 billion, ft.com wrote.

Higher imports mark another sign of strengthening demand in the continent which is boasting its lowest unemployment rate since early 2009 and still subdued inflation.

Trade between eurozone countries also grew by 3.5 percent to €57.5 billion according to official figures from Eurostat.

In the first six months of the year, eurozone countries exported goods worth over €1 trillion to the rest of the world, rising eight percent over the same period last year.

But economists have warned that a marked rise in the value of the euro this year could hit exporters. The single currency is the best performing in the G10 this year, hitting a three-year high against the dollar.

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2833	Chinese Yuan	0.1497
Euro	1.1729	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.2882	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3109
Australian Dollar	0.7918	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0091	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$47.27	Silver	\$17.12
Gold	\$1299.60	Platinum	\$988.60
Copper	\$2.94	Wheat	\$415.75

Bolivia has given the go ahead to a controversial highway which would cut through an Amazon biodiversity hotspot almost the size of Jamaica and home to 14,000 mostly indigenous people.

Climate change will cut crop yields

Climate change will have a negative effect on key crops such as wheat, rice and maize, according to a major scientific report out Tuesday that reviewed 70 prior studies on global warming and agriculture.



phys.org

Experts analyzed previous research that used a variety of methods, from simulating how crops will react to temperature changes at the global and local scale, to statistical models based on historical weather and yield data, to artificial field warming experiments, phys.org wrote.

All these methods "suggest that increasing temperatures are likely to have a negative effect on the global yields of wheat, rice and maize," said the report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a peer-reviewed US journal.

"Each degree Celsius increase in global mean temperature is estimated to reduce average global yields of wheat by six percent," said the report.

Rice yields would be cut by 3.2 percent, and maize by 7.4 percent for each degree of Celsius warming (almost two degrees Fahrenheit), it added.

"Estimates of soybean yields did not change significantly."

These four crops are key to the survival of humanity, providing two-thirds of our caloric intake.

Changing temperatures would likely cause yields to rise in some locations, said the report.

But for the most part, the overall trend planet-wide is downward, signaling that steps are needed to adapt to the warming climate and feed an ever-expanding world population.

Band-e Amir: One of most glorious ancient dams

Band-e Amir (Amir Dam) is a case of the heavenly water designing masterpieces accomplished by Persian architects and the main significant dam dating back to the Al-e Bouyeh Dynasty.

It is located 40 kilometers northeast of Shiraz and 15 kilometers south of Marvdasht, in the southern province of Fars over the Kor River and nearby Band-e Amir Town, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Assumed to have been built in the 10th century CE, it is viewed as one of the engineering feats in art.



TASNIM

Notwithstanding its fortified structure which has withstood the trial of time, it proceeds to effectively direct the stream of the waterway — a sign of the precision taken in its development hundreds of years ago.

An arrangement of six dams were built along the Kor River — with Amir Dam being the most important of them — during Al-e Bouyeh Dynasty.

The water passing through the aforementioned dams was basically used to feed nearby fields and factories.



TASNIM



TASNIM

Some chronicled records show that Amir Dam was constructed upon the order of Amir Azdodoleh Deylami, thus giving it its name.

The structure of the dam is made up of two sections: The dam and the bridge.

Its principal components — utilized as part of its development — are rocks held together with metal joints. The dam extends 120 meters crosswise and was the primary link to the districts on the two sides of the waterway.

On the western side of the dam, there is a rectangular structure measuring 10 meters across and seven meters deep. It was used to divert the stream of water.

The entire stream of the waterway can be diverted through this trench.



TASNIM

Privately known as the Gav-Shir trench, it extends 40 meters before making a 90 degree turn to one side and proceeding for another 800 meters before rejoining the main waterway once again.

Given its area, water can gather significantly behind the dam which is seven meters deep. Therefore a total of 24 towns around Kor River can access and exploit the waterway.

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

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New, from 150 sq.m to 250 sq.m Apts, 3 Bdrs., garden, Spj, equipped kitchen, could be fully furn and new brand, Lobby, opposite to French school, good access to Sadr highway,
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Apt in Mahmoodieh
120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., new & clean, cozy, close to shopping mall and Valiasr st. in a peaceful neighborhood, furn
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Apt in Velenjak
1st floor, 350 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., fully furn, spj, lobby, **\$7000**
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Apt in Zafaranieh
5th floor, 350 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., fully furn, excellent view, spj, nice balcony with flower boxes
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2 Bdrs., fully furn, green garden, outdoor pool, parking
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Palace in Tajrish/ Elahieh duplex, 7000 sq.m land, 2200 sq.m Built up, 8 Bdrs., renovated, green & unbelievable garden, water fall, spj, parking, completely renovated, big saloon,
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Suitable for Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Zafaranieh
600 sq.m, 5 Bdrs., fully furn, renovated, outdoor pool
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Suitable for Embassy & Residency
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مالکین محترم
ویلائی شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر
و مدیران شرکت‌های بین المللی
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

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

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

Researchers at Stanford University have found that lab-grown astrocytes, star-shaped brain cells, develop at the same rate as human astrocyte cells in the body.

Children, teens who skip breakfast lack vital nutrients

More was right — eating breakfast really is important. Without it, kids may not get recommended amounts of nutrients, British researchers suggested.

Quoting senior study author Gerda Pot, a lecturer in nutritional sciences at King's College London, UPI wrote, "This study provides evidence that breakfast is key for parents to ensure that their children are getting the nutrition they need."

The researchers used food diaries to track the diets of more than 800 children aged between four and ten and nearly 900 kids aged between 11 and 18.

Their food intake was tracked from 2008 to 2012. The researchers compared levels of key nutrients that the kids ate to British nutrition guidelines.

For the study, breakfast was defined as more than 100 calories of food between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m.

Although the study wasn't designed to prove a cause and effect relationship, the researchers did find that breakfast skippers had lower levels of nutrients such as folate, calcium, iron and iodine.

For example, nearly a third of those who skipped breakfast didn't meet the minimum recommended intake of iron, compared to about four percent of those who ate breakfast.

Almost 20 percent of breakfast skippers didn't meet calcium guidelines, compared to three percent of those who had breakfast.

The researchers found that about seven percent of 4- to 10-year-olds missed breakfast every day, compared to more than a quarter of the older



UPI

kids. The researchers suspect this difference is because parents have more said in what the younger kids are eating.

Pot said, "Further studies that investigate specific foods and dietary quality would help to

identify if the differences are due to the different types of breakfast being eaten by different age groups, as well as provide more insight into the impact of breakfast on dietary quality overall."

The study was published in the British Journal of Nutrition.

Women who take the oral contraceptive pill are protected from going on to develop arthritis in later life, a new study suggested.

Scientists believe hormonal changes prompted by the pill may decrease the risk of suffering from the painful disease, according to telegraph.co.uk.

Research in Sweden found that using the common contraceptive method for seven or more years was associated with a 19 percent lower chance of developing rheumatoid arthritis.

However, women who had stopped using the pill still appeared to benefit from a protective effect, enjoying a 13 percent lower risk of the condition.

Rheumatoid arthritis, which usually develops between the ages of 40 and 50, affects more than 400,000 people in the UK. It occurs when the body's immune system targets joints such as the wrists and ankles, causing painful swelling, and is twice as common in women as it is in men.

This has led scientists to suspect hormonal and reproductive factors may contribute to the underlying cause.

Researchers at the Karolinska Institute drew on data from 2,809 women



telegraph.co.uk

Does the pill prevent arthritis?

with the disease and compared it with the medical records of 5,312 women randomly selected from the general population.

They found that those who had used an oral contraceptive at any time had a lower risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis than those who had never done so.

The risk was 15 percent lower in

current users of the pill.

Over time, rheumatoid arthritis can damage the joints themselves as well as the nearby cartilage.

There is no cure for the condition, however the symptoms can be treated using medication and supportive therapies such as physiotherapy.

The researchers wrote, "In this large

population-based study, we were able to address these questions more thoroughly than has been possible before.

"Using the pill for more than seven years — the average length of use among the study participants — was associated with a 19 percent lower risk of developing arthritis."

"Further research is required to explore the biological mechanisms behind our findings."

The oral contraceptive pill contains artificial versions of the female hormones estrogen and progesterone, which women produce naturally to prevent the ovary releasing an egg.

Pill usage declines steeply with age, from two-thirds of women aged between 20 and 24, to 11 percent of women in their late 40s.

There is no upper age limit beyond which healthy women should not take the pill, however those who smoke are advised not to take it above 35.

Published in the Annals of Rheumatic Diseases, the study also sought to identify whether breastfeeding was associated with a lower risk of arthritis, as had been suspected, however no significant link was found.

GATA4 protein could help prevent fibrosis occurring

Heart attacks — conditions commonly associated with high blood pressure and high cholesterol — can be deadly and even if people survive them their hearts can be affected.

During a heart attack, blood stop flowing in to the heart and stops oxygen getting to the organ, express.co.uk reported.

A heart attack is a medical emergency — and should be treated as soon as possible.

If a heart attack occurs, the heart muscle replaces the dead tissue with scars made of cells.

These are called fibroblasts which do not help the heart pump and can cause the heart to weaken. A number of people who have experienced heart attacks also develop heart failure.

However, experts believe they

may have found a way to prevent the damage.

A protein — also known as a transcription factor — called GATA4 could help prevent fibrosis occurring.

Dr. Megumi Mathison, associate professor of surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, said, "Our most important goal is to treat post-heart attack cardiac failure."

"Our approach is to restore cardiac function by reprogramming scar tissue into cardiomyocytes."

Cardiomyocytes are muscle cells which make up the heart muscle.

Researchers revealed that administration of a cocktail made of transcription factors Gata4, Mef2c and Tbx5 (GMT) — or



express.co.uk

proteins — results in less scar tissue, or fibrosis, and up to a 50 percent increase in cardiac function in small animal models of the disease.

The researchers from the Baylor College of Medicine found

the first evidence that, of the three components in the GMT cocktail, only Gata4 was able to reduce post-heart attack fibrosis and improve cardiac function in a rat model of heart attack.

Experts said the cocktail of

proteins also reduced post heart-attack fibrosis.

Dr. Mathison added, "Gata4 plays a complex role in heart regeneration. As part of the GMT cocktail, it contributes to the reprogramming of fibroblasts into cardiomyocyte-like cells; we know it contributes to heart hypertrophy — the development of an enlarged heart — and now we discovered that it alone can decrease cardiac fibrosis."

"Others have reported that Gata4 also can suppress liver fibrosis."

"There is still a lot to be done before we can transfer these discoveries to the bedside, but they are important first steps."

The study was published in the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery.

Scientists develop new immunotherapy for prostate cancer

Researchers at The Wistar Institute have created a new immunotherapy technology to treat prostate cancer using synthetic DNA against a cancer specific protein.

Prostate cancer is the second most common type of cancer in men worldwide, UPI wrote.

Most current treatment options are invasive, which can impair the quality of life of patients. Immunotherapy may provide a less invasive option, researchers said.

Wistar researchers involved in a recent study, published in Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy, used synthetic DNA to directly encode protective antibodies against a cancer-specific protein known as DNA-encoded monoclonal antibody, or DMAb for cancer immunotherapy.

Dr. David Weiner, executive vice president of The Wistar Institute and director of The Wistar Institute Vaccine and Immunotherapy Center, said, "This is an important demonstration of the possibilities opened up for immunotherapy by DMAB technology to direct in vivo production of antibodies of major relevance to human cancer."

Researchers created a new DNA-based method involving an engineered DNA plasmid used to deliver instructions to make the desired anti-prostate specific membrane antigen, or PSMA, elicit an anti-tumor immune system response to control cancer.

The method was tested in mice, with researchers finding that antibodies were able to bind to cancer cells and use specific immune cells known as natural killer cells that resulted in tumor shrinkage and improved survival.

Weiner said, "There is a great need for such new approaches for prostate disease as well as many other cancers."

"As recent data suggest, PSMA is an important cancer antigen expressed on many human prostate, bladder, renal as well as ovarian cancers, so additional study of the possible benefits of this therapy are important."



UPI

Peanut allergy treatment 'lasts up to four years'

An oral treatment for peanut allergy is still effective four years after it was administered, a study has found.

Children were given a probiotic, with a peanut protein, daily for 18 months, according to BBC.

When tested one month later, 80 percent could tolerate peanuts without any allergic symptoms and after four years, 70 percent of them were still able to eat peanuts without suffering any side effects.

Food allergies have risen dramatically in recent decades, with peanut allergy one of the most deadly.

Lead researcher Prof. Mimi Tang, of Murdoch Childrens Research Institute in Melbourne, said, "Half the children were consuming peanuts regularly while others were only eating them infrequently."

"The importance of this finding is that these children were able to eat peanuts like children who don't have peanut allergy and still maintain their tolerant state, protected against reactions to peanuts." Tang said it was the first time a treatment for peanut allergy had been shown to be effective for this long.

The probiotic used is called Lactobacillus rhamnosus, which has been associated with preventing certain allergic symptoms.



bbc.com

When is it safe to eat peanuts?

- There is often confusion about when peanuts are safe as the guidelines used to advocate avoidance.
- Peanuts are now thought to be safe in pregnancy.
- If there is no family history of allergies or eczema then health officials say peanut butter and other ground or crushed nuts are OK after six months.
- If there is a heightened risk then parents should consult a doctor.
- This research suggested careful introduction of peanut may help such children, but parents should not do this on their own.
- No child under five should eat a whole nut.

The Australian research team now wants to assess whether the treatment has improved the children's quality of life, as some 250 million people worldwide are affected by food allergy — a number which has more than trebled in the last 20 years.

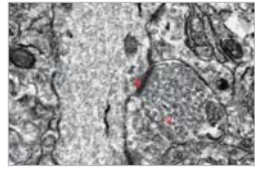
Peanut allergy, which is one of the most common causes of death from food allergy, has increased at the greatest rate.

Prof. Tang said the findings, published in The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health, suggested, "The exciting possibility that tolerance is a realistic target for treating food allergy."

"This is a major step forward in identifying an effective treatment to address the food allergy problem in Western societies."

Research discloses how neurons communicate

New research at the University of Pittsburgh suggested scientists have misunderstood the neuron communication process, specifically the dopamine release mechanism.



UPI
A close-up of a mouse brain reveals the space between two neurons, the synapse and the small sac where neurotransmitters are stored before their release, the vesicles.

The discovery — detailed in the journal *Neuron* — could have wide ranging implications for the study and treatment of dopamine-related disorders, including Parkinson's disease, depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, schizophrenia and addiction, UPI wrote.

Neurons communicate by releasing neurotransmitters like dopamine into the small gap known as a synapse before they're received by other neurons.

Inside neurons, neurotransmitters await their release inside small sacs called vesicles.

In studying the release process, researchers found the vesicles begin to fill again before being emptied.

Researchers believe the process is triggered by elevated acidity levels in the vesicles.

Until now, scientists believed vesicle acidity remained constant. The discovery suggested neurons can alter the amount of dopamine released based on neuronal activity.

Dr. Zachary Freyberg, an assistant professor of psychiatry and cell biology at Pitt, said, "When this mechanism doesn't work properly, it could lead to profound effects on health."

"Our findings were completely unexpected. They contradict the existing dogma that a finite amount of chemical signal is loaded into a vesicle at any given time and that vesicle acidity is fixed."

Further investigation revealed an influx of glutamate ions into the neuron's center to be the cause of the increase in vesicle acidity.

When researchers blocked the flow of glutamate in fruit fly and mice models, the test subjects were less reactive to amphetamine, a stimulant that encourages the release of dopamine.

Freyberg said, "It appears that these vesicles contain both dopamine and glutamate, and dynamically modify their content to match the conditions of the cell as needed."

Researchers intend to take a closer look at how increased vesicle acidity affects human health. Dopamine-related disorders like depression and anxiety may also be glutamate-related disorders.

Freyberg added, "Since we have demonstrated that the balance between glutamate and dopamine is important for controlling the amount of dopamine that a neuron releases, it stands to reason that an imbalance between the two neurotransmitters could be contributing to symptoms in these diseases."

Ancient fish fossil reveals human-like jaw structure

Australian scientists have discovered a 400-million-year-old fish fossil featuring a human-like jaw structure.

Paleontologists believe the ancient fish species' jaw bones represent an evolutionary antecedent of the human jaw, UPI reported.

Yuzhi Hu, a postdoctoral researcher at the Australian National University, said, "The fossil reveals, in intricate detail, the jaw structure of this ancient fish, which is part of the evolutionary lineage that ultimately led to humans."



UPI
Researcher Yuzhi Hu holds an enlarged, 3D printed model of the ancient fish fossil.

Researchers discovered the fish among limestone strata along the coast of Lake Burrinjuck, near Canberra, Australia's capital.

The specimen's exact species is unclear, but researchers believe the fossil represents a type of armored fish known as a placoderm and belongs to the *Buchanosteidae* family.

Scientists used high-resolution CT scanning and a 3D printer to replicate the fish's jaw bones.

The process helped paleontologists piece the fish's jaws back together and better understand the specimen's unique jaw structure.

The fossil was remarkably well preserved, and the 3D imaging process revealed the presence of internal jaw cartilages.

Hu said, "The amazing preservation of the fossil allows us to trace the grooves carrying the blood supply to the jaws and brain."

The positioning and structure of the fish's carotid arteries recall the flow of blood to the face, jaws and brain in humans and mammals.

Until recently, scientists believed extinct placoderms represented an evolutionary dead end — an isolated lineage.

But the discovery of a group of Chinese maxillate placoderms revealed a much closer relationship to humans than previously expected.

The group is named for the presence of an upper jaw bone called maxilla, similar to humans' upper jaw bone.

The latest Australian placoderm discovery confirms the link between humans and placoderms, and its exceptional preservation offers more anatomical context.

Researcher Jing Lu said, "The Australian fossil helps us to interpret these aspects in the Chinese maxillate placoderms."

Scientists detailed their analysis of the placoderm fossil in a new paper published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The algae that terraformed Earth



More than 650 million years ago, Earth froze over even down to the equator.

bbc.com

A planetary takeover by ocean-dwelling algae 650 million years ago was the kick that transformed life on Earth.

That's what geochemists argue in *Nature*, on the basis of invisibly small traces of biomolecules dug up from beneath the Australian desert, according to *bbc.com*.

The molecules mark an explosion in the quantity of algae in the oceans.

This in turn fueled a change in the food web that allowed the first microscopic animals to evolve, the authors suggested.

Lead researcher Jochen Brocks told the BBC's *Science in Action* program, "This is one of the most profound ecological and evolutionary transitions in Earth's history."

The events took place a hundred million years before the so-called Cambrian Explosion — an eruption of complex life recorded in fossils around the world that puzzled Darwin and always hinted at some kind of biological prehistory.

Scattered traces of those precursor multi-celled organisms have since been recognized, but the evolutionary driver that led to their rise has been much argued over.

Cambridge University paleontologist Nick Butterfield said, "The period was arguably the most revolutionary in Earth history, and not just

because of the rapid biological changes.

"There were violent swings in climate, too, that experts have long suspected are intertwined."

The context was a planet that previously had long had life-sustaining oceans and a benign climate.

Yet, for over three billion years — since nearly four billion years before present according to most estimates — all life was single-celled, mostly bacteria; little evolutionary innovation had happened.

Algae, more complex than bacteria but still single-celled, had themselves had been around for over a billion years (the "boring billion" some paleontologists call it), but without making much of an ecological impact.

With their DNA packed away safely inside a nucleus (so-called eukaryotes, like all animals and plants today), they had an evolutionary advantage over bacteria they seemed unable to exploit.

That changed about 650 million years ago, according to the new study.

Brocks quipped, "There are no fossils of the algae. Instead, Brocks and his team at the Australian National University, have tracked down molecular remnants of their cell walls, molecules closely related to the cholesterol in our bodies, "the most stable

thing of any organism — fat."

After every other trace of the cells had decayed, these fat molecules remained and were absorbed into sediments, and cemented into the bedrock of Australia.

To be drilled up and analyzed hundreds of millions of years later.

Brocks said, "The signals that we find show that the algal population went up by a factor of a hundred to a thousand and the diversity went right up in one big bang, and never went back again."

This ecological flip happened just after one of the greatest environmental catastrophes the planet has ever seen — the "Snowball Earth" period when ice extended from pole to pole, and even at the equator temperatures could have plunged to minus 60°C.

The episode ended after 50 million years, when the build-up of volcanic CO₂ in the atmosphere created a super-greenhouse that melted the ice in a second cataclysm.

The connection, Brocks believes, is that glacial action ground up continental rocks, releasing the nutrient phosphate which was then washed into the oceans as the thaw progressed.

Today's agricultural green revolution is dependent on phosphates dug up in giant

mines around the world, and the pre-Cambrian biological revolution may have been powered the same way, the researchers believe.

Brocks explained, "This rise in algae happens just around the time the first animals appeared on the scene."

"It was algae at the bottom of the food web that created this burst of energy and nutrients that allowed larger and more complex creatures to evolve."

Yale University's Noah Planavsky, whose study earlier this year [*Nature link*] revealed the phosphate nutrient outburst following the Snowball Earth, said that the new revelations are incredibly important.

"It gives the first evidence of ecosystems dominated by complex lifeforms — the eukaryotes."

In a commentary also in *Nature*, Andrew Knoll of Harvard University, a world authority on pre-Cambrian life, said the new work makes a substantial contribution to revealing the relationship between life and the surrounding physical environment at a critical time in animal evolution.

"Food source changes might have helped to pave the way for the animal radiation," he agrees, though adding key questions remain.

Getting the data was painstaking work, said Massachusetts Institute of

Technology (MIT)'s Roger Summons, who has previously collaborated with Brocks.

The nanogram traces of pre-Cambrian oil measured in the study had to be picked out from a fog of contamination made by fossil fuels.

Summons said, "I applaud Jochen's insight and his tenacity. The results show how fastidious attention to detail ultimately pays off."

However, he suggested the tale is not complete.

Likewise, Butterfield, while accepting the data, disagrees with the interpretation.

In fact, he thinks that Brocks has got cause and effect back to front; the explosion of algae did not drive the rise of animals, he says.

He argued, "There's no evidence for animal evolution being constrained by a shortage of food."

"It was the rise of animals — sponges to be precise — that cleared the ecological path for algae."

Brocks and Butterfield debated the interpretation in the corridors of the Goldschmidt geochemistry conference in Paris, as others looked on.

Brocks remains unwavering — that the outburst of algae 650 million years ago kicked off an escalating arms race in which larger creatures, fueled by their ocean-grazing, became prey to yet larger ones — until you end up with the complexity we see today.

Robot, heal thyself

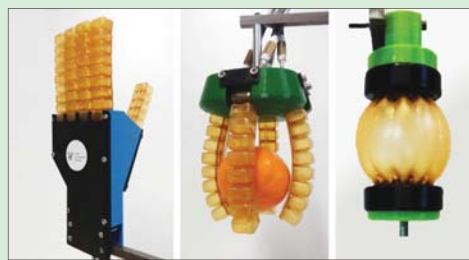
A new type of soft robot can go under the knife and make a full recovery in about a day.

Researchers fashioned a robotic hand, gripper and muscle from self-healing rubbery material, *sciencenews.org* reported.

To test their robots' resilience, the engineers sliced each with a scalpel, then put them in an oven.

After cranking up the heat to 80°C, baking the bots for 40 minutes, then cooling them to room temperature, the researchers found that all three bots' cuts had completely closed up.

Twenty-four hours later, the machines had regained at least 98 percent of their original strength and flexibility, the researchers report in *Science Robotics*.



sciencenews.org
Using an elastic, self-healing material, researchers created (from left to right) a robotic hand, gripper and muscle.

Incisions broke bonds between two chemical ingredients that make up the material, furan and maleimide. At higher temperatures, these

chemical compounds can also split up, as well as move around more easily.

So as the researchers cooled the material, the compounds were able to re-bond with those on the other side of an incision.

Study coauthor Bram Vanderborght, an engineer at Vrije University Brussels, said, "This material could heal, in theory, an infinite number of times."

The work helps address a major limitation of squishy, flexible robots — which are better suited than their traditional, rigid counterparts for navigating rough terrain and handling fragile objects, but are vulnerable to punctures and tears.

Self-healing machines could pave the way for creating more durable, reusable soft bots.

UN chief: Saudi coalition attacks killed children in Yemen



asianews.it

Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres said in a draft report that the Saudi-led coalition was responsible for more than half the children killed and injured in Yemen's civil war last year. The report, obtained by The Associated Press, said the United Nations verified 1,340 casualties and attributed 683 to attacks carried out by the coalition, startribune.com wrote.

The draft report on children and armed conflict echoes

similar findings from last year when the US-backed coalition was put on a UN blacklist for violating child rights.

It was removed by then secretary general Ban Ki-moon after Saudi Arabia and other coalition supporters threatened to stop funding many UN programs. But Ban said he stood by the report, which said the UN verified a total of 1,953 youngsters killed and injured in Yemen in 2015 — a sixfold increase compared with 2014.

Foreign Policy magazine reported Wednesday that Virginia Gamba, the new UN special representative for children and armed conflict, intended to recommend that the Saudi-led coalition be added to the list of countries that kill and maim children.

UN deputy spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters that Guterres hasn't seen the draft report that was leaked. He said its contents are still under discussion and the decision of who will be on the blacklist is up to him.

Traditional cultural norms about gendered roles and femininity still matter for women's choice of college major, said Ann Beutel of the University of Oklahoma in the US.

Beutel and her colleagues published a study in Springer's journal *Gender Issues* showing how long-held cultural norms about femininity may contribute to ongoing gender segregation in academia, and to the college majors that women decide to pursue in particular, springer.com wrote.

The study was motivated by the persistence of gender segregation in terms of college major choices, despite the tremendous strides that have been taken by young US women in their overall level of educational attainment and representation in the workplace.

Data were collected from 657 undergraduate female students at one US university.

Participants answered questions about their intended or current study program. They completed the Conformity to Feminine Norms Inventory which measures to what degree women conform to eight dominant feminine norms held in high esteem in US culture. This includes being relationship-orientated, caring for children, thinness, sexual fidelity, modesty, being domestic and physical appearance.

Gender norms still important for women's choice of college major



chicagonow.com

The results suggested a relationship between the extent to which young women conform to feminine norms and their choice of college major.

For instance, women who reported greater conformity to feminine norms generally had significantly lower odds of choosing a major in science,

technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) or doctoral-track-medicine (e.g., pre-medicine) or arts or humanities. Women choosing majors in social sciences, education, and social services generally aligned more to the norm of caring for children than did those choosing to major in arts, humanities, business, communication and journalism.

Interestingly, those who reported greater conformity to the domesticity norm were more likely to choose a major from the STEM, doctoral-track medicine or clinical and health sciences fields.

"Given that the college years are a time when gender norms may be increasingly salient to young women, it is important to understand whether conformity to norms about women's sexuality, appearance, and relationships, as well as conformity to norms about women's caregiving and domesticity, are associated with college major choice," said Beutel.

"At least some of the barriers to increased gender integration of academic fields of study may come from cultural norms about gender, and in particular femininity, which have been durable in spite of increases in gender egalitarian ideology and women's educational attainment and labor force participation," she explained.

Language puts people at a disadvantage in criminal justice system

Language is pervasive throughout the criminal justice system. A textual chain follows a person from the moment they are arrested until their day in court, and it is all underpinned by meticulously drafted legislation. At every step, there are challenges faced by laypeople who find themselves in the linguistic webs of the justice system.

Anyone who reads a UK act of parliament, for example, is met with myriad linguistic complexities. Archaic formulae, complex prepositions, lengthy and embedded clauses abound in the pages of the law. Such language can render legal texts inaccessible to the everyday reader. Some argue that this is a deliberate ploy by the legal establishment to keep the non-expert at an arm's length, the conversation www.write.com wrote.

But closer to the truth is the fact that legal language, like all language in all contexts, is the way it is because of its function and purpose. Those drafting laws must ensure enough precision and unambiguity so that the law can be applied, while also being flexible and inclusive

enough to account for the unpredictability of human behavior.

The cost of this linguistic balancing act, however, is increased complexity and the exclusion of the uninitiated. Legal language has long been in the crosshairs of the Plain English Campaign which argues for its simplification, claiming that 'if we can't understand our rights, we have no rights'.

It is not only written legal language that presents difficulties for the layperson. Once someone is arrested they go through a chain of communicative events, each one colored by institutional language, and each one with implications for the next. It begins with the arresting officer reading the suspect their rights. In England and Wales, the police caution reads:

You do not have to say anything. But, it may harm your defense if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence.

This may seem very familiar to many readers (perhaps due to their penchant for police

dramas), but this short set of statements is linguistically complex. The strength of the verb 'may'; what exactly constitutes

written extensively on the language of cautioning and found that when police officers explain the caution to detainees in cus-



phys.org

'mentioning' or 'relying', and what 'questioning' is and when it will take place, are just some of the ambiguities that may be overlooked at first glance.

Indeed, research has found that, although people claim to fully comprehend the caution, they are often incapable of demonstrating any understanding of it at all. Frances Rock has also

today, there is substantial variation in the explanations offered. Some explanations add clarity, while others introduce even more puzzles.

This issue of comprehensibility is compounded, of course, when the detainee is not a native speaker of English.

The difficulties in understanding legal language is typically

overcome by the hiring of legal representation. Peter Tiersma, in his seminal 1999 book *Legal Language*, noted that "the hope that every man can be his own lawyer, which has existed for centuries, is probably no more realistic than having people be their own doctor".

However, in the UK at least, cuts in legal aid mean that more people are representing themselves, removing the protection of a legal-language expert. Work by Tatiana Tkacukova has revealed the communicative struggles of these so-called 'litigants in person' as they step into the courtroom arena of seasoned legal professionals.

Trained lawyers have developed finely-tuned cross-examination techniques, and all witnesses who take the stand, including the alleged victim or plaintiff, are likely to be subjected to grueling cross-examination, characterized by coercive and controlling questioning. At best, witnesses might emerge from the courtroom feeling frustrated, and at worst victims may leave feeling victimized once again.

Elderly transport mobility

A new study has advised governments to do more to develop transport policies that allow those over the age of 65 to remain mobile and active.

World on course for one of warmest years on record

Last month was the warmest July in the 137 years since records began, NASA has revealed.

The average global temperature was 0.83°C higher than the average for July between 1951 and 1980, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York found, independent.co.uk wrote.

This was a statistical tie with the same last year, which was found to be 0.82°C warmer than the average.

"All previous months of July were more than a tenth of a degree cooler," NASA said in a statement.

Gavin Schmidt, director of the GISS, tweeted that there was a 77 percent chance that 2017 could be one of the two warmest years on record.

Each of the past three years have set successive record average temperatures, but last year's figure was boosted by the natural El Niño weather event. It had been thought 2017's temperature would be lower as this is no longer happening.

A map of temperature changes compared with the 1951 to 1980 average showed the Antarctic Peninsula was particularly warm in July, when a massive iceberg, about a quarter of the size of Wales, split off from the Larsen C ice shelf.

The average temperature is based on a vast number of readings in thousands of different locations, which anyone can view.

"The monthly analysis by the GISS team is assembled from publicly available data acquired by about 6,300 meteorological stations around the world, ship- and buoy-based instruments measuring sea surface temperature, and Antarctic research stations," NASA said.

"The modern global temperature record begins around 1880 because previous observations didn't cover enough of the planet."

"Monthly analyses are sometimes updated when additional data becomes available, and the results are subject to change."

Women slowly break barriers in Bangladesh

When one thinks of Bangladesh, its political leadership naturally comes to mind as the leaders of the country's major parties are women, including the Prime Minister, the Opposition Leader and the Speaker of the National Parliament.

When it comes to gender equality in daily life, the reality is still different, but many women in Bangladesh are breaking barriers by taking traditionally male jobs — once unthinkable, ipsnews.net wrote.

In a press statement, Naripokkho, a women's rights body, said, "The system is being affected due to the repeated incidents of violence against women and children. We're aggrieved and concerned in such a situation."

"Some 280 women and children fell victims to rape from January to June this year," Naripokkho said referring to a report of Ain o Shalish Kendro — a human rights body. It said 39 more were the victims of attempted rape during the period, while 16 were killed after rape, and five committed suicide after rape.

As elsewhere in the world, women account for almost half of Bangladesh's total population. Today, the country's total population is 165 million, including 49.40 percent women, according to the Bangladesh Election Commission.

However, a 2015

World Bank report said

women in Bangladesh

account for only 27

percent of the total labor

force. Nepal has the highest

female labor participation

rate of 80

percent.

"The labor market [in Bangladesh] remains divided along gender lines and progress towards gender equality seems to have stalled," the World Bank said.

According to a 2014 study by Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a civil society think tank of Bangladesh, "...the contribution of women to the national income has continued to remain insignificant when compared to men because of the under-representation of their contribution to the national income accounts."

Worldwide, women account for about one-third of the workforce in the unorganized sector. But the International Labor Organization said in Bangladesh, only 3.25 percent of employed women are working in the public sector and 8.25 percent in the private sector. The remaining 89.5 percent are employed in the informal sector with varying and often unpredictable earning patterns — or as it so often happens, work without any payment at all.

Non-recognition of women's unpaid activity, the CPD study said, also leads to undervaluation of their economic contribution.

The situation is slowly changing as the government takes various projects with support from international partners. To give women's empowerment a boost, particularly in the country's impoverished north, the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) of Bangladesh in collaboration with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has launched a project on Climate Resilient Community Development (CRCD) Project with a greater focus on gender parity.

The project seeks to achieve at least 33 percent of women in the overall labor market, and 15 percent in construction-related areas with relevant actions like subsidized courses for women, inclusion of informal sectors and incentives to employers to employ females, functional literacy, and skill development training.

The project follows a gender sensitive design, noting that 10 percent of households in the project areas are headed by women, and most of these households are extremely poor.

As it does always, IFAD is promoting the active participation of 'Labour Contracting Society (LCS). Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (CCRIP) is one of them.

CCRIP Project Director A.K.M. Lutfur Rahman said poverty alleviation, education, irrigation, agriculture, women's empowerment and tree planting are the social aspects of the project apart from its engineering aspects, and women are participating.



ipsnews.net

During daylight, a person will not fall into a pit that he fell into during nighttime.

Real-life 'Iron Man' flies with jet engines

A real life Iron Man has taken to the skies with jet engines strapped to his boots.

Jarno Cordia has taken wingsuits to the next level by as he jumped out of a plane and jetted across the sky.

A heart stopping video shows how the daredevil was able to gain 80kg of extra thrust thanks to his comic book hero addition, mirror.co.uk reported.

The 39-year-old, who has more than 5,000 jumps to his name, opted for a stable freefall from a hot air balloon before slowly powering up his boots five seconds in to the dive.

Jarno, from De Haag, in the Netherlands, said: "The acceleration and power you feel on your feet is incredible, and

combined with the sound you really feel like a superhero.

"I have done a lot of incredible things in my years in the sport, but this definitely stands out as one of the most incredible experiences."

Initially flying level during the July 27 shoot, Jarno was then able to gain altitude over Baarlo, Netherlands, as a result of his boots.

Designing the boots, he said, required the work of an incredible team, consisting of two engineers and a programmer who designed a control system.

In the future, Jarno hopes to develop the boots to extend his roughly-three-minute flight time to about eight minutes.

By doing so — and with additional training — the fulltime



CATERS NEWS AGENCY

skydiver hopes to then display his boots at the likes of public airshows and demonstrations.

Jarno said: "So far the response has been amazing. From friends and family to complete

strangers just giving random compliments.

"I think any of these projects related to human flight tend to get people excited — myself included."

Brutal cockfights at five-year high in UK

The brutal practice of cockfighting is at a five-year high despite it being illegal for almost 200 years.

RSPCA statistics show that there were 60 recorded incidents or calls last year involving the savage pastime up from 45 in 2012. metro.co.uk wrote.

Animal welfare campaigners have called for more to be done to stamp down on the activity after raids discovered fights taking place in people's kitchens and garages.

Although it has been illegal since 1835 cockfighting has never gone away and the increase has sparked concern that it is undergoing a resurgence.

RSPCA Chief Inspector Mike Butcher, who works in the RSPCA's special operations unit, said the charity is taking the increase seriously.

He said: "The area with a growing number of incidents seems to be within the British-born Pakistani communities, it seems to be something growing among some groups in that community.

"I have no idea why that is but it is an activity that goes on in Pakistan, where it is not policed, and that seems to be reflected over here too, where it is policed.

He added: "It has never gone away, there are peaks and troughs with dogfighting, but cockfighting is ingrained in cultures and families.



Cockfights pit cockerels against each other in battles to the death. RSPCA

"Some groups within the traveling community can also be very much involved in cockfighting, they use imported Japanese birds and there's also a more country rural style, but that's dying off now."

The fights see owners pit cockerels against each other in battles to the death, with some contests lasting just seconds.

Some brawls even see trainers attach brutal knife-like spurs to the feet and cut off their rooster's distinctive comb and wattle to reduce their opponent's target.

An undercover RSPCA inspector, who targets the fights, said: "With birds after a fight if they are wounded they can just be necked, killed, and chucked into a bin.

"I've watched videos where during a fight one of the spectators said 'His eyes come out mate' and laugh.

"It is just a savage abhorrent activity."

The maximum sentence for cock fighting is six months.

Chris Luffingham, director of policy, communications and campaign at the League against Cruel Sports called for a national register of animal abusers and for urgent reform on the sale of fighting birds.

He said: "Some animals will be brought into the country for the sole purpose of fighting, with no current regulations in place it is far too easy to buy and sell animals online.

"If we are to stand any chance of cracking down on this and other cruel sports involving animals, this needs to change."



20 inspiring Michael Phelps quotes

Michael Phelps is a legendary swimmer, 22 times Olympic gold medal winner, and considered to be one of the greatest athletes in the history of sport.

Phelps still holds the all-time records in the 100 and 200 meter butterfly, and 400 meter individual medley. Having a dream, believing in yourself and doing what you love, is Phelps path to success.

You have to have a dream so that you can get up in the morning.

If you want to be the best, you have to do things that other people aren't willing to do.

You can't put a limit to anything. The more you dream, the farther you get.

I found something I love... and never gave up.

People say to me, you're so lucky. You get to see the world. But I don't. I go to the hotel and the pools and back again. That's it.

I learned how fast you can go from being an international hero to being a reference in a joke on a late night talk show.

I feel most at home in the water. I disappear. That's where I belong.

I knew I was not a failure in

any way, and so did those close to me. It doesn't matter if you fall short, it is never a failure to go after goals with everything you've got.

If I didn't swim my best, I'd think about it at school, at dinner, with my friends. It would drive me crazy.



There are always going to be obstacles that come in your way, stay positive.

So many people along the way, whatever it is you aspire to do, will tell you it can't be done. But all it takes is imagination.

You dream. You plan. You reach. There will be obstacles. There will be doubters. There will be mistakes. But with hard work, with belief, with confidence and trust in yourself and those around you, there are no

limits. When I feel tired, I just think about how great I will feel, once I finally reach my goal.

I wouldn't say anything is impossible. I think that everything is possible as long as you put your mind to it and put the work and time into it.

Swimming is more than a once-every-four-years sport. My goal is to bring attention to swimming — to give it some personality.

I won't predict anything historic. But nothing is impossible.

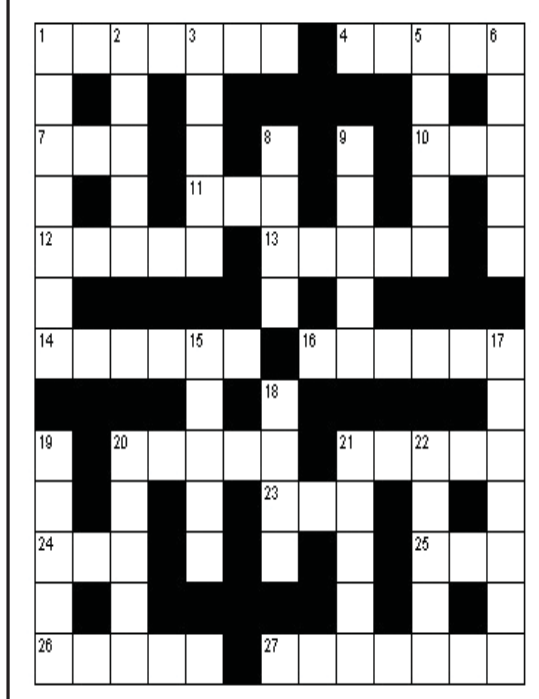
It doesn't matter what else is going on. When you walk into your arena or you — whatever you excel at. You're there to take care of the job that you have to do.

If you say 'can't' you're restricting what you can do or ever will do.

I want to be able to look back say, "I've done everything I can, and I was successful". I don't want to look back and say I should have done this or that. I'd like to change things for younger generation of swimmers coming along.

With so many people saying it couldn't be done, all it takes is an imagination.

Themed Crossword



DOWN

1. Largest anthropoid ape (7)
2. Striped African equine (5)
3. Bloodsucking worm (5)
5. Talons (5)
6. Woolly ruminant (5)
8. Male red deer (4)
9. Pertaining to or characteristic of birds (5)
15. European freshwater food fish (5)
17. Small gnawing animals (7)
18. Long-snouted freshwater fish with lean flesh (4)
19. Web-footed, broad-billed swimming birds (5)
20. Venomous elapid snake of Africa and Asia (5)
21. Small terrestrial viper (5)
22. Massive thick-skinned animal of Africa, in short (5)

ACROSS

1. Small African antelope, Thompson's (7)
4. Parasitic arachnids (5)
7. Bone forming part of a cage (3)
10. Simian (3)
11. Feline (3)
12. Freshwater fish, resembling catfish (5)
13. Sign of the zodiac aka The Ram (5)
14. Domestic breed of goat raised for its silky hair (6)
16. Deciduous horn of a member of the deer family (6)
20. Omnivorous mammal of Central America and South America (5)
21. Small plant-sucking insect (5)
23. Young goat (3)
24. Young bear (3)
25. Female swan (3)
26. Ophidian (5)
27. Tropical birds with short, hooked beaks (7)

Thursday'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.

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

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

Barcelona has been dealt another blow after its crushing defeat to Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup as Luis Suarez will be out for four weeks with a knee injury.

Iran to face S. Korea in FIBA Asia Cup semis



fiba.com

The last time South Korea beat Iran at the FIBA Asia Cup was way back in 2005, but the East Asians are hoping to break the Iranian curse in the FIBA Asia Cup 2017 semifinals tonight.

The Koreans may have started slow in this tournament, losing to Lebanon on Day 1, but since then they have showcased a kind of fast-paced basketball that is at once fast and fascinating, fiba.com reported.

Not to be outdone, however, Iran has been nothing short of indomitable. The Western Asian side is the fourth-best three-point shooting team in the tournament and actually scores more fastbreak points than S. Korea. It is clear Iran does not exclusively rely on man-mountain Hamed Haddadi, though Iranians will still need him to make his mark in this contest.

S. Korea killed the Philippines with its playmaking and outside shooting, and that means Iran will have to clamp down on Korea's speedy guards, namely veterans Kim Sun Hyung and Park Chan Hee as well as upstart Choi Jun Yong. That responsibility will fall on the trio of Sajjad Mashayekhi, Behnam Yakhchali and Mohammad Jamshidi, all of whom have been stellar so far. If they can slow down South Korea's vaunted pace and space style, Iran should be in terrific shape to win.

Korea was absolutely unguardable from the perimeter in its quarterfinal win over the Philippines. Coach Hur Jae's words shot an eye-popping 16-of-21 from beyond the arc, completing blowing up the Filipino defense to smithereens. Iran has to worry of that, and so its own defensive schemes have to be tight and well executed. South Korea, meanwhile, needs to keep in step with Iran's rebounding. Iran went +14 in rebounding against Lebanon, and if

that happens again, South Korea won't have a shot at winning.

Jamshidi, Yakhchali among finest shooters

With the semifinals set to be played tonight, fiba.com picked two Iranian players among best three-point shooters of the competition:

• Mohammad Jamshidi

Mohammad Jamshidi (3.5 triples per game, 66.7 percent 3pt) is known mostly for his daredevil drives and ability to finish on the break, but in this competition he has displayed a more potent perimeter game. He has hit at least two three-pointers in every game for the undefeated Iranians, who marched into the semifinals after a big win over host Lebanon in the quarterfinals. In that triumph, Jamshidi caught fire, hitting a jaw-dropping six threes on his way to 24 points.

• Behnam Yakhchali

Iran is not missing Samad Nikkhah Bahrami and Hamed Afagh mainly because of how this young stud has come into his own. The 22-year-old Behnam Yakhchali (4.0 triples per game, 57.1 percent 3pt) is the youngest guy on this list of best three-point shooters, and despite that, he is arguably also the best shooter of the lot. At 1.95m, he has good size for his position as well, and that helps him shoot over smaller guards who are attempting to close out. He sometimes struggles with his 2-point shooting, but nobody can touch him when it comes to drilling shots from rainbow country.



PHILIPP SCHMIDL/GETTY IMAGES

Ronaldo leads nominations for Best FIFA Men's Player award

Cristiano Ronaldo will be hoping to be named Best FIFA Men's Player for the second year running after being included among the nominations for the 2017 award.

Real Madrid star Ronaldo, who won the inaugural award last year, is one of 24 players to have been nominated for the accolade, ESPN reported.

The award, which covers the period of November 20, 2016, to July 2, 2017, is voted for by national team coaches, captains, selected media and fans and will be handed out at the Best FIFA Football Awards ceremony on October 23 in London.

Ronaldo's nomination comes after a year that saw him help Real Madrid to a third

Champions League crown in four seasons and a first La Liga title in five years, as well as the FIFA Club World Cup.

Ronaldo scored twice as Madrid beat Juventus 4-1 in the Champions League final, while also finishing top scorer in the competition with 12 goals.

Ronaldo faces competition from long-time rival Lionel Messi, who finished up as La Liga's top scorer with 37 goals – 12 ahead of Ronaldo – and helped Barcelona to Copa del Rey success in what was a largely disappointing season for the club.

Juventus captain Gianluigi Buffon will also be vying for the award after guiding his club to a Serie A and Coppa Italia double as well as a

place in the Champions League final.

Madrid dominate the list of nominees given its successful 2016-17 campaign, boasting seven players in total. Alongside Ronaldo sit Toni Kroos, Luka Modric, Sergio Ramos, Marcelo, Dani Carvajal and Keylor Navas.

Barcelona is next in line with four nominees, with Neymar – now of Paris Saint-Germain – Luis Suarez and Andres Iniesta joining Messi on the list.

The Best FIFA Women's Player award will also be handed out on the same night, with 2016 winner Carli Lloyd named among the 10 nominees, while Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane is the leading contender to win the award for Best FIFA Men's Coach.

Durant won't go to White House to visit Trump

If the Golden State Warriors are invited to White House, Kevin Durant said he will not visit with President Donald Trump to celebrate the team's 2017 championship.

Durant was honored in his hometown of Seatonsport, Md., and the 2017 Finals MVP told ESPN he will not attend any possible ceremony with Trump, Reuters reported.

"Nah, I won't do that," Durant told ESPN. "I don't respect who's in office right now."

Durant and the Warriors are scheduled to visit the Washington Wizards on February 28. The Warriors have been officially invited by the Trump administration.

"I don't agree with what he agrees with, so my voice is going to be heard by not doing that," Durant told ESPN. "That's just me personally, but if I know my guys well enough, they'll all agree with me."

Durant's comments occurred as Trump is dealing with the fallout over what transpired in Charlottesville, Va., last Saturday, which has caused many sports figures to vent

their frustrations. Last Saturday, 32-year-old Heather Heyer was protesting a white supremacist rally and was killed when a car plowed into the crowd of protesters.

Durant said he thinks Trump is playing a role in the increased public visibility of white supremacists.

"He's definitely driving it," Durant told ESPN. "I feel ever since he's got into office, or since he ran for the presidency, our country has been so divided and it's not a coincidence."

Durant is not the only NBA star to speak out against Trump.

On Tuesday, Cleveland Cavaliers superstar LeBron James called out Trump on Twitter by saying, "Hate has always existed in America. Yes we know that but Donald Trump just made it fashionable again! Status has nothing to do with us now!"

During the regular season, Golden State's Steve Kerr and San Antonio's Gregg Popovich were among the more vocal coaches in publicly criticizing Trump.



SUE OGROCKI/AP

Mourinho: We are not the dream team

Jose Mourinho insisted Manchester United is not the Premier League's "dream team" – despite its 4-0 win over West Ham on the opening weekend of the new season.

United stormed to the top of the table with its emphatic win, but Mourinho claimed the manner of the victory does not make his side the best team in the country or favorite for the title, the Daily Mirror reported.

"I'm too experienced and stable to lose my discipline, my stability and to think a 4-0 really makes us the best team in the country, the favorites or the dream team," said Mourinho.

"We're not favorites, we're not the dream team, we're just a team with more confidence than last season, with more time of work together, but I'm calm."

"When I look to the last match, I like many, many things, but the challenge is not to repeat the result, because a 4-0 win is difficult to repeat in the Premier League, but to repeat the same kind of performance."

"We had good tactical discipline in the team, a really good clean sheet, played good football, had a good dynamic in attack, we were scoring goals, winning 1-0 and we kept playing to try to score more goals and to try to play well."

"I liked a lot. I liked the fact the three subs, who are normally disappointed people to be on the bench, even five min-



OLIVIERO TOSCANI/AFAP

utes like Jesse Lingard, 10 like Anthony Martial or 15 like Marouane Fellaini, they performed at same level."

"But this is just the beginning. Last season we played three matches, had nine points and finished sixth."

United remains in the hunt for Inter Milan winger Ivan Perisic, but Mourinho said he would be happy to go with the squad he currently has if he cannot add a fourth summer signing before the August 31 transfer deadline.

"I don't think we are [in the market] unless something happened that put us in market again," said Mourinho.

"I'm happy with the squad we have. I am ready to go without a fourth player. If we are out of the market I am fine. I am okay."

On plans to close the transfer window before the start of next season, Mourinho said, "My opinion is that we have to adapt to the situation, no matter what."

"As a football manager and not a marketing man, just as someone who wants to work with the team and with players, I would prefer the window to close as soon as possible, so everyone knows the players we have, and the deals will be done earlier and nobody will be waiting for the last week and we wouldn't have a situation we sometimes have with players playing game No.1 for one team and game No.2 for another."

Next for Manchester United is a trip to Liberty Stadium as the Red Devils take on Swansea City today in their second fixture of the new Premier League season.

Oscar Wilde:

Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead.

Iran proposes conference of Persian language professors in Pakistan

Art & Culture Desk

Iran's cultural attaché in Pakistan proposed a nationwide conference in Islamabad to be attended by Pakistani professors of Persian language and literature.

Shahabeddin Daraei, who was speaking in a meeting with Chairman of Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC) Mukhtar Ahmed in Islamabad on Friday further underlined the need for expanding scientific and university cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, IRNA reported.

He proposed that a Pakistani university host the nationwide conference of Pakistani professors of Persian language and literature.

The meeting was also attended by Isa Karimi, the head of the Persian Language Research Center in Islamabad.

Daraei added Iran's cultural office in Pakistan is keen to foster relations between Iranian and Pakistani scientific and university centers and is willing to hold scientific conferences in cooperation with the HEC to this end.



IRNA
Shahabeddin Daraei, Iran's cultural attaché in Pakistan (C), and Isa Karimi, the head of the Persian Language Research Center in Islamabad (R) meet with Chairman of Pakistan's Higher Education Commission in the Pakistani capital on August 18, 2017.

He also called for awarding a medal titled 'Sa'di and Iqbal' to the creators of top works in the field of Persian language and literature in the conference of Pakistani professors of Persian language and literature.

Sa'di Shirazi was one of the major Iranian poets and literary men of the medieval period. Muhammad Iqbal (November 9, 1877-April 21, 1938), widely known as Allama Iqbal, was a poet, philosopher and politician as well as a barrister and scholar in British India who is widely regarded as having inspired the Pakistan Movement.

Speaking in the same meeting, Ahmed welcomed the Iranian official's proposal and said Sa'di and Iqbal are symbols of the two countries' literary character.

Iqbal and Sa'di are, respectively, the national poets of Pakistan and Iran, he added.

"We were also seeking to make such a move. However, to see that the Iranian side has put forward the proposal first makes us happy. We are willing to cooperate in this project."

He added the friendly relations between Iran and Pakistan indicate cultural, historical and religious connections between the two neighboring Muslim countries.

"We are optimistic that the two states can expand ties in the future."

In the meeting, Daraei extended an invitation to Ahmed to go to Iran in the near future and visit the country's universities.

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INCC: Over 700 Iranian firms to attend world's largest handmade carpet expo

The head of Iran National Carpet Center (INCC) said a total of 730 domestic companies are expected to take part in the 26th edition of the world's largest handmade carpet expo which is scheduled to open in Tehran on August 23.

Hamid Kargar added the Iranian capital will play host to the 26th Iran Handmade Carpet Exhibition — the biggest of its kind worldwide — during August 23-29, IFP News reported.

He said the expo will be held in Tehran International Fairground.

Kargar added the exhibition will be held in 14 halls spanning over an area of more than 30,000 square meters.

A hall will be allocated to specialized entrepreneurs, he said, adding they will be provided with free pavilions in Hall No. 5. "[A number of] foreign traders who are among the customers of handwoven Iranian carpets, particularly those from Iran's export targets, have been identified and invited to visit the expo."

He put the number of foreign traders at 91, of which 38 are Iranian carpet merchants living abroad and 14 are from the US.

Kargar said concurrent with the exhibition, the Seventh Top Carpet Exhibition and Festival will be held in Tehran with the aim of creating new intricate carpet patterns and improving the process of carpet production.

He added the fest's slogan is 'Modernization and Maintaining the Market, While Focusing on Originality of Iranian Carpet'.

Kargar said rugs made by Iran's nomads as well as antique and modern carpets will be featured in the festival, adding those judged as top works will be put on display in a hall.

"A carpet is currently being woven in Iran based on a speech by [Iranian President] Hassan Rouhani in the United Nations which will be unveiled at the expo. The carpet will be presented as a gift to one of the international institutes after its weaving is completed."

He said different methods for decorating spaces with handwoven Iranian carpets will also be presented to the visitors in the exhibition in cooperation with INCC and the National Council of Furniture and Decoration and Correlated Industries.

Kargar noted that to increase the adaptability of handwoven Iranian carpet, a book titled 'Fارش Man — The Aesthetics of Persian Carpet' will be unveiled in hall No. 5.



In addition, he said, a number of workshops will be held during the six-day exhibition, in the morning and afternoon, to familiarize visitors with the designing and production processes of Iranian carpets in different parts of the country.

The INCC head added moreover, the processes involved in the making of a handwoven carpet such as designing, restoration and washing will be demonstrated to visitors in this expo.

"Following the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on January 16, 2016, Iran resumed carpet exports to the US. During 2010-2016, Iran failed to directly export any carpet to the US due to [Western] sanctions. This was while in 2009, the US was the target of over 16 percent, or more than \$80 million, of Iran's carpet exports. After the implementation of the JCPOA, Iran exported its first carpet collection to the US from Germany."

He added in 2016, Iran's overseas sales of carpet amounted to \$365 million, of which \$95 million were sold to the US.

"We expect that Iran's carpet exports to the US would

increase again after a six-year hiatus. This, however, calls for continuous monitoring of the activities of our rivals, particularly India and Pakistan, in international carpet markets. It is also important to screen the background of our present-day customers in the market. We are also required to make optimum use of means of advertisement and establish connection with foreign traders."

He said according to the figures released by Iran's Customs Administration, the country's carpet exports reached \$89 million during March 21-July 22, 2017, indicating an increase of more than 3.7 percent compared to the figure for the same period last year.

Kargar added establishing a carpet start-up is also on INCC's agenda.

"According to INCC statistics, there are one million carpet weavers in Iran, of whom 700,000 are full-time workers and the rest are part-time employees."

He dismissed allegations that handwoven Iranian carpets are expensive, noting such carpets have considerable price diversity.

Handwoven carpets made by Iran's nomads are both very beautiful and precious and sold at reasonable prices.



ASGHAR KHAMSEH/mehnews.com
Well-known veteran Iranian actor Jamshid Mashayekhi (L) addresses the 11th edition of the celebration of Iranian cinema critics and writers which was held at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran on August 17, 2017.



ASGHAR KHAMSEH/mehnews.com
The 11th edition of the celebration of Iranian cinema critics and writers was held at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran on August 17, 2017, and attended by a number of artists and cineastes.

IRNA chief calls for proper information dissemination

Production of proper information is the paramount need of the media if the goal is to reach the highest level of effectiveness, said the chief of Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) in the western Iranian province of Kurdistan.

"That media which recognizes people as its partners will be successful," Mohammad Khoddadi said while underlining the importance of people's role in the areas of media, information and communications, IRNA reported.

Addressing a local meeting in the western Iranian city of Sanandaj, Khoddadi stressed that 'information' is human's second basic need after oxy-



IRNA
Managing director of IRNA attended a ceremony in Sanandaj to introduce the new head of IRNA office in the province.

Weather

