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## Iran FM urges Muslim unity against Israel's expansionism

By Sadeq Dehghan

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif slammed recent Israeli aggression and provocation in the Palestinian city of Beit-ul-Moqaddas and called for a united Muslim campaign against the

regime's expansionist policies.

He made the comments in an address to an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in the Turkish city of Istanbul on Tuesday.

"We should not allow any agenda or cause to compromise the main goal of this organi-

zation which is enhancing the unity of the Ummah against Zionist expansionism, and in support of the establishment of a viable independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital," the Iranian foreign minister said.

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## Iran's July oil exports up 45,000 bpd from June

Iran's oil exports in July increased by 45,000 barrels per day (bpd) against the figure for June.

Iran exported in July 2.2 million barrels of oil per day to Asian and European markets, it said, with exports to Asia up by 100,000 barrels per day, Reuters reported.

China, South Korea, India and Japan are Iran's main crude oil buyers in Asia.

Iran, which used to be OPEC's second-biggest oil exporter, has been raising output since 2016 to recoup market share lost to regional rivals including Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

India's imports of Iranian crude rose more than 30 percent in the first three months of the Indian financial year in April-June.

India's State Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan however has said India's state refiners will buy less Iranian oil in the upcoming months compared to the last fiscal year.

New Delhi wants Tehran to grant special rights to the development of a major gas field in the Persian Gulf to the Indians and its latest decision is apparently a response to Iran's refusal to submit to the demand.

Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh has said India's purchase of less Iranian oil is a non-issue since his country has enough customers elsewhere.

Continued on Page 4

## Armenia: Tehran-Yerevan-Moscow amity helps fight on extremism



Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said friendship among Armenia, Iran and Russia serves the fight against extremism in the region.

Sargsyan made the remark in an interview with IRNA in the Armenian capital of Yerevan, which the Iranian news agency published on Tuesday.

Armenia, Iran and Russia, he said, have friendly ties with one another both on bilateral and trilateral levels, he said, adding that the pacifist policy of the three countries contribute significantly to peace and stability in the region.

"Given the current circumstances in the region, it is of importance that Armenia, Iran and Russia — which is Armenia's strategic ally — combine their efforts to reinforce regional peace and security and form a strong barrier...against extremism," Sargsyan said.

'Islamophobia unacceptable'

On the attempts of some countries to spread Islamophobia in the region and the world, the president said, "Islamophobia is unacceptable, as is whatever phenomenon in which a feeling of hatred toward others is concealed."

Any such attitude deepens rifts among people who follow different faiths and who have different cultures and ideologies and can have "catastrophic and irreversible consequences," Sargsyan said.

As a case in point, he cited the 1915 mass killing of Armenians by the then Ottoman forces, and regretted that some parties continued to exercise a policy of "Armenophobia," which he said had turned into a main obstacle in the way of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute.

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## Venezuela arrests two opposition leaders

The Venezuelan intelligence service arrested two prominent opposition leaders early Tuesday, their relatives said, a day after a vote to choose an assembly that supersedes parliament.

Leopoldo Lopez and Antonio Ledezma were both already under house arrest when they were picked up by the intelligence service known by its acronym Sebin, the wife of Lopez and children of Ledezma said separately, AFP reported.

The two men are Venezuela's most high profile opposition leaders. Both had called for a boycott of Sunday's vote for a so-called and all-powerful constituent assembly tasked with rewriting the constitution.

Both of their families said they held President Nicolas Maduro, the driving force behind the vote, responsible for the leaders' lives.

Opposition leaders and local media posted cellphone footage of Ledezma being taken away from his home forcibly while still wearing pajamas.

Lopez, 46, was transferred to house arrest in July of this year after serving three years and five months in prison as part of a 14-year term. He had been convicted of instigating violence during protests against Maduro in 2014 that left 43 people dead.

Ledezma, 62, was arrested in February 2015 on charges of conspiracy and racketeering and was placed under house arrest three months later for health reasons.

Opposition lawmaker Freddy Guevara said the arrests were aimed at "frightening us and demoralizing us."

Four months of street demonstrations against Maduro have left 120 people dead, including 10 over the weekend that included the election.

The new constituent assembly is to start working on Wednesday. It is made up only of members of Maduro's Socialist party. The opposition has called a big rally for that day.

The United States hit Maduro with direct sanctions on Monday over the weekend vote, calling him a "dictator," while the leader refused to heed what he slammed as "imperial orders."

The measures were unusual in that they targeted a sitting head of state, but their reach was mostly symbolic, freezing any US assets Maduro might have and banning people under US jurisdiction from dealing with him.

Maduro lashed out at the move, saying it smacked of American imperialism.

"I will not obey imperial orders," he said.

## Hundreds on trial in Turkey's biggest coup case

Nearly 500 people appeared in court Tuesday in the biggest trial yet of suspects from Turkey's failed coup, facing charges of conspiring to oust the government from an air-base seen as the plotters' hub.

A total of 486 suspects have been indicted in the case and almost all the suspects — a total of 461 — are held in custody while seven are still on the run and the remainder charged but not in jail, AFP reported.

Some of those held were marched into the court outside Ankara one-by-one in a long line in front of the television cameras and public, with each suspect held by two members of the Turkish gendarmerie and flanked by an armed soldier.

The suspects are accused of running the coup bid from the Akinci Airbase northwest of the capital, which the authorities regard as the headquarters of the plotters where orders were sent out for fighter jets to bomb parliament.

They are charged with crimes ranging from murder, violating the constitution and attempting to kill President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. If convicted, they face life imprisonment.

Among the main suspects named in the indictment but still on the run is US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gu-

len, who is accused of ordering the attempted July 15 putsch. Gulen, who is based in a secluded compound in the US state of Pennsylvania, strongly denies the charges.



AFP

Those held in custody include former air force chief Akin Ozturk who, like several suspects, is also on trial in another case related to the coup bid.

The base was seen as the coup bid headquarters where commands were given for the F-16 fighter jets to attack and fly them above the capital.

The Turkish parliament was bombed three times by F-16s.

The trial is taking place in Turkey's largest courtroom established inside a prison complex in Sincan to hear coup-related trials and has space for 1,558 people.

The courtroom has previously hosted mass trials related to the coup bid including one which opened in February of 330 suspects accused of murder or attempted murder.

## Pakistan's MPs elect ex-oil minister Abbasi as new PM

Pakistani lawmakers on Tuesday elected former petroleum minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, an ally of ousted premier Nawaz Sharif, to replace him and the new prime minister immediately sought to project an image of stability.

Lawmakers of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) party banged on benches and chanted "Lion, lion Nawaz Sharif" after the vote, standing defiant in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to cut short his third stint in power, Reuters reported.

A quick transition may ease fears that the nuclear-armed nation will be plunged into another bout of political turmoil, which could erode economic and security gains since the last poll in 2013.

Sharif resigned on Friday after the Supreme Court disqualified him for not declaring a source of income — which the three-time premier disputes receiving. He nominated staunch ally Abbasi as interim leader until his brother, Shahbaz, becomes eligible to take over, probably within two months.

Abbasi was confirmed with 221 votes in the 342-seat National Assembly as the PML-N used its hefty majority to push through his

appointment. PML-N officials hugged each other and congratulated Abbasi even before the result was announced.

"Within four days the pro-

elsewhere in South Asia.

Khan, who agitated with street protests until the Supreme Court took up a corruption case against Sharif, has called the family a "mon-



REUTERS

cess of democracy is back on track," Abbasi told lawmakers after being voted in. "Above all, I'm thankful to Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the people's prime minister."

PML-N officials have privately spoken of plans for Sharif to wield huge influence in the party from behind the scenes.

But the plan to eventually install Shahbaz has also sparked anger among supporters of opposition leader Imran Khan, who has criticized another bout of dynastic politics, a trend with a long history in Pakistan and

archy" and accused it of trying to turn the country into a personal fiefdom.

Shahbaz, now chief minister of eastern Punjab province that is home to more than half of Pakistan's 190 million people, will have to resign and fight a parliamentary by-election before he can take over as prime minister.

Aides say he is likely to favor a new personal style of government, while probably continuing his brother's focus on huge infrastructure projects and policies favoring business.

### Iran says Tehran issued visas for Saudi team one month ago

Political Desk

Tehran issued visas for the Saudi delegation which intended to visit the kingdom's missions a month ago, said the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Bahram Qassemi dismissed as false claim by a Saudi foreign ministry official saying Tehran had rejected visa requests by a delegation from the Arab state, which intended to visit its diplomatic missions in Iran, adding such allegations are baseless and untrue, IRNA reported.



IRNA

A Saudi Arabian foreign ministry official claimed earlier that 18 months after the country's embassy and consulate were attacked in Tehran and Mashhad, the eastern Iranian province of Khorasan Razavi, Iranian officials have not yet allowed the Saudi side to continue and complete investigations on the issues.

He also said that since then, Iran has tried to obtain diplomatic concessions inside Saudi Arabia in light of the severed ties.

Qassemi added, "Apparently, the statements have been made in the absence of coordination with the related and informed officials of the Saudi Arabian foreign ministry."

He stressed that the agreement reached in this regard with Saudi Arabia was bilateral and reciprocal, adding after the Saudi Arabian foreign ministry agreed to reciprocate, the Iranian side issued the Saudi delegation's visas one month ago.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the permit for the Saudi team's exclusive flight to Tehran was issued in the shortest period of time.

"The delegation was scheduled to enter Tehran on July 30. However, they, themselves, requested to postpone their trip for one month to adequately prepare themselves [for the visit]."

He added, apparently, Saudi Arabia was taken aback after witnessing Iran's goodwill and speed in preparing the ground for the Saudi delegation's visit and as usual has begun to make excuses and launched a smear campaign as an act of psychological projection.

Nevertheless, given that the documents concerning visa issuance and processing for the team by Iran and the exclusive flight permit granted to them are available, there will be no more room for finding pretexts and justifying the reason for the delayed trip by the Saudi side.

## MP: Gov't constructive policy welcomed by world

Political Desk

An Iranian parliamentarian said on Tuesday that participation in president's swearing-in ceremony has been widely welcomed by different countries, which is the result of the government's constructive policy towards the world.

Ali Najafi Khoshroudi said that the government's constructive policy towards the world and development of relations with other countries have increased the presence of foreign officials in Iran, IRNA reported.

Alireza Rahimi, a member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of Iran's Parliament said on Monday delegations from over 100 countries will be taking part in the inauguration ceremony of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, stressing that the turnout by foreign dignitaries at the event will set a record in the country.

Rahimi said in a post on his Telegram channel the presence of eight presidents and 18 parliament speakers at the ceremony had been confirmed so far, Press TV reported.

He said the upcoming inauguration ceremony would be unprecedented in Iran's history in terms of the number and ranks of the foreign dignitaries taking part.

Rouhani, first elected Iran's president in 2013, re-ran for office in the May 2017 election. He garnered 57 percent of the votes in the election, which saw a turnout of 73 percent. He is now to be officially inaugurated for another four years as the country's chief executive at the Parliament on August 5.

Rahimi added that the high level of participation in Rouhani's second inauguration would be sending "an important message" to the world, especially at a time when the United States has sought to provoke world opinion against Iran.

He said Russia, Britain, and China would be represented at the levels of vice president, deputy foreign minister, and deputy prime minister, respectively, while France and Germany would be participating at the assistant foreign minister level. The Iranian MP said the planned presence of the European Union (EU)'s top diplomat, Federica Mogherini, at the event showed the bloc's resolve to preserve and strengthen its ties with Iran, including in the framework of a 2015 nuclear deal.

Earlier, Iran's deputy interior minister for security, Hossein Zolfaghari, said all necessary precautions, including security measures, had been taken for the upcoming event.

He said the level of security at the Iranian Parliament had been raised from "sensitive" to "critical" for the day of the inauguration given the high number of participating delegations.

Saturday August 5 has been declared a holiday in the Iranian capital.



### Gov't spokesman: Supervisory board approves Total agreement

Iran's Oil Contracts Supreme Supervisory Board on Monday overwhelmingly approved the \$4.8 billion gas deal recently signed between Iran and France's energy giant Total, government spokesman Mohammad Baqer Nobakht said on Tuesday.

The board, which reviewed the deal with Total and China's National Petroleum Company, comprises the representatives of the three branches of government and is tasked with monitoring the country's major oil and gas contracts, IRNA reported.

Iran's National Oil Company (NIOC) on July 3 signed a multi-billion-dollar agreement with an international consortium, headed by the French oil giant, to develop the phase 11 of the South Pars gas field.

The plan is aimed at reaching a maximum and sustainable production of 2 billion square feet of oil sour gas from the off-shore resources in the phase 11 of the South Pars gas field, and to transfer it to the mainland.



IRNA

After the deal was signed, some parliamentarians and figures in oil and gas industry voiced their strong opposition to the deal.

Total holds a 50.1 interest in the South Pars project with state-owned China National Petroleum Corporation owning 30 percent and Iran's Petropars 19.9 percent.

The vast offshore gas field is shared between Iran and Qatar, where Total is also a major player in gas production as well as in oil and refining. Tehran calls the giant field South Pars while Qatar calls it the North Dome.

### Iran FM urges Muslim unity against Israel's expansionism

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Zarif said the situation in Beit-ul-Moqaddas is inflamed as the occupying forces, in absolute contempt for international law, continue their expansionist agenda against the people of Palestine and Muslim holy sites.

"We strongly condemn this latest episode of Zionist aggression and provocation, which aims to alter the historical status in the compound, change the demography and assert control over the Islamic holy sites in the heart of occupied Al-Quds al-Sharif. It is but another tragic consequence of the illegal occupation of the Palestinian territory, and the persistent violation of the most fundamental inalienable rights of the Palestinian people," Zarif said.

He said the Palestinian city continues to suffocate because of a prolonged siege characterized by checkpoints, occupying forces, illegal settlements, armed and violent settlers, and humiliation, discrimination and oppression of its Palestinian inhabitants.

"We should not also forget the two million Palestinians in Gaza, who remain under illegal blockade, in an act of collective punishment, and are deprived of basic necessities even vital medicine, clean water and energy.

This deliberate humanitarian nightmare requires urgent remedy through ending the blockade immediately," the Iranian foreign minister added.

He said, "We need to engage with one voice with the international community, particularly the Security Council, to put an

end to the culture of impunity for the Israeli regime and compel it to cease and reverse its criminal policies and practices."

Tensions erupted in East Jerusalem after a deadly shootout on July 14 outside the Haram al-Sharif, which Jews call Temple Mount.

Using the gunfight as a pretext, Israel set up metal detectors and surveillance cameras at entrances to the al-Aqsa compound. The restrictive measures sparked criticism worldwide, with Palestinians saying that the bans were meant to expand the regime's control over the holy site and change its status quo.

On July 24, Tel Aviv backed down in the face of protests as well as violent clashes and removed all the restrictions at the al-Aqsa compound, but tensions still remain high there.

According to latest figures, more than a dozen Palestinians were killed and about 1,400 others were injured in the al-Aqsa clashes over the past few days.

US hostility

Earlier on Tuesday, Zarif said the Islamic Republic will reciprocate Washington's "non-compliance" and "hostile" approaches toward the Iran nuclear deal through adopting "legal" and "practical" measures.

He said a committee tasked with supervising the nuclear accord known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has decided to review and implement these measures against US decisions, IRNA reported.

He said Iran has also initiated plans to prevent policies aimed at depriving the country from benefiting the results of the JCPOA.

The top diplomat noted that the US is extremely worried that the agreement increases Iran's clout and undermines Washington's "maneuvering power".

Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani also said on Tuesday the Islamic Republic has lodged a complaint with the committee

over the new sanctions imposed by the United States on Tehran, according to Press TV. "With regard to the imposition of new sanctions by the US, in addition to diplomatic measures, which should be taken, a complaint had to be filed with the relevant commission (the Iran-PS-1 Joint Commission) and this has been done," Larijani said.

On Thursday, the US Senate approved new sanctions against the Islamic Republic, which Iranian officials said violated the JCPOA.

The accord was signed between Iran and the PS-1 group of countries in 2015.

The Senate backed the measure by a margin of 98-2 with strong support from President Donald Trump's fellow Republicans as well as Democrats. The bill will now be sent to the White House for the US president to sign into law or veto.

The US Department of the Treasury on Friday imposed more embargoes on Iranian companies after the country launched the Simorgh satellite carrier rocket.

### Armenia: Tehran-Yerevan-Moscow amity...

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\*Nagorno-Karabakh dispute

The Armenian president said relations between Armenia and Iran served as a model of good-neighborly ties and lauded the peaceful co-existence of Armenians and Muslims in Iran.

The Armenian head of state, who is to travel to Tehran to attend President Hassan Rouhani's inauguration ceremony for

a second term on Saturday, also thanked Iran for its principled policy on the disputed region.

"The Islamic Republic has always supported a peaceful resolution of all conflicts and differences between countries," he said.

Azerbaijan and Armenia have quarreled over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. A territorial war between the two sides claimed nearly 30,000 lives in the early 1990s.

The two neighbors, however, never signed a peace pact despite several ceasefire deals.





# Qatar takes complaint of 'illegal siege' to WTO

Compiled from Dispatches

Qatar lodged a formal complaint with the World Trade Organization against the "illegal siege" imposed by four Arab neighbors that have accused the Persian Gulf state of sponsoring terrorism.

The complaint, lodged with the WTO's dispute-settlement body, described the embargo as "unprecedented", accusing Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain of "violating the WTO's core laws and conventions on trade of goods and services, and trade-related aspects of intellectual property," the Ministry of Economy and Commerce said in a statement on late Monday, Financial Times reported.

On June 5, the quartet of Arab allies cut off air, sea and land links to their gas-rich neighbor, closing off airspace to Qatar-bound flights, refusing to handle goods bound for the gas-rich state and cutting diplomatic ties.

## New flight routes

Qatar Airways is expected to have access to three contingency routes over international waters in early August, after delegates at a UN-led meeting on Monday discussed air corridors for Doha, Al Jazeera reported.

The closed-door meeting with the UN aviation agency's governing council in Montreal discussed contingency routes that had been planned as part of a preliminary agreement reached earlier this month, but not yet opened to Qatar-registered planes.

Qatar had asked the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to intervene after its national carrier was denied access to the airspace of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates as part of economic



AP

sanctions.

According to Financial Times, while Qatar has shifted supply chains, bringing in food from Turkey and Iran and using Omani ports, its imports nonetheless slumped 40 percent in June as the embargo hit home.

"The arbitrary measures taken by the siege countries are a clear violation of the provisions and conventions of international trade law," said Sheikh Ahmed bin Jasssem bin Mohammed Al Thani, the Minister of Economy and Commerce.

"Furthermore, the illegal siege is unprecedented in the framework of economic blocs."

The crisis, the worst for years in the six member Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, is pitting close US allies

against one another and has caused business uncertainty for Qatar, the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas, which is scheduled to host the Fifa World Cup in 2022.

Qatar has requested formal consultations with the four countries, "detailing all of the violations committed by them against ... Qatar, in contravention of the various conventions overseen by the WTO".

The minister called on the quartet "to sit at the dialogue table and start holding such consultations".

The four Arab allies said on Sunday they were open to dialogue with Qatar as long as it made a commitment to cease terrorist financing and interference in other nations' affairs and responded to their list of 13 demands.

These demands include the closure of the Qatar-funded Al Jazeera news network, the departure of Turkish troops from Qatar, and the payment of reparations.

Qatar, which denies backing extremists, says it is open to discussions about regional security but will not countenance demands that impinge on its sovereignty.

Sheikh Ahmed said approaching the WTO to inform "the siege countries" of their violations was testament to Qatar's "transparency".

In the statement, the ministry said the closure of Qatar's land border with Saudi Arabia and the denial of access to their sea and airspace "violated the rights not only of ... Qatar, but also of its trading partners."

## Scaramucci out as Trump's new chief of staff takes reins

Foul-mouthed spin doctor Anthony Scaramucci was axed as White House communications director Monday, just 10 days after being named to the post and hours after Donald Trump installed a new chief of staff.

The 53-year-old New Yorker – whose profanity-laden rant against colleagues gained him global notoriety – was fired as four-star general John Kelly began his quest to impose order on an administration careening out of control, AFP reported.

During its first six months in office, Trump's White House has been beset by scandal, investigations, infighting, leaks, sackings, resignations, stinging legislative defeats and historically low approval ratings.



Anthony Scaramucci

JIM WATSON/AFP

Scaramucci was brought in a little over a week ago to get the White House back on message, but quickly prompted negative headlines of his own.

He publicly called then colleague and chief of staff Reince Priebus – who was forced out last week – a "paranoid schizophrenic" and denounced chief White House strategist Steve Bannon in lurid sexual terms.

The White House refused to say whether it was Trump or Kelly who precipitated Scaramucci's shock departure, but it seems clear that both were unhappy with his presence.

"The president firmly felt that Anthony's comments were inappropriate for a person in that position," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Sanders added that everyone in the West Wing – including Scaramucci – reported to Kelly, a return to tradition for a White House that has been anything but.

"General Kelly has the full authority to operate within the White House, and all staff will report to him," said Sanders. "That includes everybody at the White House."

Kelly inherits the day-to-day running of an administration that – far from marching in lockstep – looks like a regiment pinned down by heavy fire, getting conflicting orders from their commander and squabbling over the way forward.

In previous administrations, the chief of staff has acted as a chief operating officer: organizing staff, managing the president's schedule and deciding who gets access to him when.

## Bank of England staff begin first strike in 50 years

Staff at the Bank of England began their first strike in more than 50 years on Tuesday in a push for higher pay, highlighting growing pressure to end tight controls on public-sector wages in Britain. The three-day strike will overlap with an interest rate decision on Thursday and involves maintenance and security staff at the 323-year-old Bank, Reuters reported.

About 15 staff members, some wearing face masks of Governor Mark Carney, staged a picket outside the BoE's central London headquarters on Tuesday. About 150 people work in the departments affected by the stoppage.

The employees, who are part of the Unite trade union, said they were protesting the "derisory" pay settlement that the bank had imposed on staff without the union's agreement.



Peter Nicholls TPX/REUTERS

Protesters hold up Bank of England Governor Mark Carney masks outside the bank as it staff begins a three day strike over pay, in the City of London, Britain, on August 1, 2017.

John McDonnell, the main opposition Labour Party's top economic official, attended the protest and called for the BoE to set an example to employers by raising their wages.

Unite said that many of those who were balloted about the strike action earned less than 20,000 pounds a year.

Prime Minister Theresa May has come under increasing pressure from members of Parliament to end a below-inflation 1 percent cap on public sector pay rises that has been in place since 2013 as part of efforts to cut government spending.

Although it is operationally independent of the government, the BoE has also limited pay rises to 1 percent for most staff, in line with other public bodies. The BoE said Unite had balloted around 2 percent of the BoE's 3,600-strong workforce and that it had plans in place to operate effectively.

"The Bank has been in talks with Unite up to and including today and remains ready to continue those talks at any time," a Bank spokesperson said in a statement.

Unite said if the BoE fails to resolve the pay dispute, it would consult its members at the Bank in departments other than just maintenance and security on further action.

## Germany's immigrant population hit record high in 2016

The number of people with an immigrant background in Germany rose 8.5 percent to a record 18.6 million in 2016, largely due to an increase in refugees, the Federal Statistics Office said on Tuesday.

Just over a fifth of the population – 22.5 percent – were first or second generation immigrants with at least one parent born without German citizenship, the office said, Reuters reported.

The figures come in the build-up to national elections in September, with Chancellor Angela Merkel's Social Democrat challenger warning against a repeat of 2015 when she opened the borders to hundreds of thousands of migrants.

Around 2.3 million people in Ger-

many have family links to the Middle East, a rise of almost 51 percent since 2011, and around 740,000 people have African origins, an increase of 46 percent since 2011, the figures showed.

The vast majority of the immigrant population, though, had links to other European countries.

Germany took in more than a million migrants, many fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa in 2015 and 2016.

Merkel's decision to open borders initially hit her popularity and boosted the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) Party, though her conservatives have since recovered.

DPA  
A woman with both Turkish and German passports.



REUTERS

## 23 cities bid for London-based EU agencies after Brexit

Twenty-three European cities have put themselves forward as candidates to host two London-based EU agencies after they are forced to leave the British capital because of Brexit, the EU said Tuesday.

Nineteen cities have bid to host the European Medicines Agency (EMA) while eight have thrown their hats into the ring for the European Banking Authority (EBA), the European Council said in a statement, AFP reported.

"The two agencies will need to be relocated in the context of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The future locations need to be decided by common agreement of the EU27 member states," the council statement said.

The 27 remaining EU countries excluding Britain are due to decide on the locations in November after the European Commission, the executive arm of the bloc, assesses the different bids.

"We will now proceed in assessing all offers in an objective manner,"

European Commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva told reporters.

The deadline for applications to host the cities after Britain leaves the EU in March 2019 was Monday at midnight.

The cities seen as leading the race

for the EMA are Amsterdam, Barcelona and Lille in France, with Athens, Bonn, Bratislava, Brussels, Bucharest, Copenhagen, Dublin, Helsinki, Milan, Porto, Sofia, Stockholm, Malta, Vienna, Warsaw and Zagreb also in contention.

The German financial hub of Frankfurt is the frontrunner for the EBA, followed by Paris and Luxembourg and Prague, while Brussels, Dublin, Vienna and Warsaw have also bid.

Competition is likely to be intense with the medicines agency employing 900 people and the banking agency having 159 staff.

The choice of new host cities will be made via a complicated points system that officials have compared to the Eurovision song contest.

The European Commission will evaluate the bids in September, considering criteria such as accessibility for current employees, work opportunities for their spouses and schools for their children.

It will also look at whether a country already hosts other EU agencies to ensure they are not monopolized.

The EU 27 will then hold a political discussion on the offers in October before a secret vote in November.



AFP

## SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

## Over 150,000 Iranian tourists may visit Russia in 2017

Visa-free travel for tour groups, established by Iran and Russia, will lead to a growth of tourist inflow, Iranian Consul General Ali Mohammadi told TASS. According to him, in 2017, more than 120,000 Iranians may visit Russia.

Moscow and Tehran signed a visa-free travel agreement concerning tour groups on March 28, 2017, during Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's visit to Russia. On June 25, the Iranian government adopted a relevant directive.

"Last year, more than 120,000 Iranian tourists visited Russia, so I believe that this year, the number will exceed 150,000," Mohammadi said.

"We hope that the Russian tourist inflow to our country will also grow," he added.

"This will happen when people know more about Iran's culture, its civilization, opportunities and safe environment.

However, at present, the number of Russians visiting Iran is less when compared to the number of Iranian tourists," the Iranian diplomat added.

According to him, Iran is on the top-10 list of the number of tourists visiting Russia. Iranians particularly like Moscow and St. Petersburg.

"In summer, it is too hot in Iran, while there [in Moscow and St. Petersburg] the weather is nice. Besides, Iranians take much interest in unique historic landmarks, including the Red Square in Moscow and the rivers of St. Petersburg," Mohammadi added.

"People in Iran always say they wish to see the white nights in St. Petersburg, they always ask questions about it," the Iranian consul general noted.

He was confident that in the near future, other Russian regions would also attract the attention of Iranian tourists.

## Cruise ship for Caspian Sea

Cruises in the Caspian Sea could provide an impetus to the development of tourism industry, the Iranian consul general said adding that this sphere looked promising not only for Iran and Russia but also for all other Caspian countries. However, such cruises will require special cruise ships that would be able of withstanding big waves.

"Experts say that waves in the Caspian Sea could rival ocean waves as far as their height goes," Mohammadi noted. "Today, the Caspian countries do not possess proper cruise liners. But, according to the governor of the [Russian] Astrakhan region, there are plans to start building such ships in Astrakhan. I hope that these plans will materialize," the Iranian diplomat added.

He pointed out that a modern terminal had been built for passenger cruise ships in the Iranian harbor town of Bandar Anzali.

A project PV300VD cruise ship, planned to be used for travels in the Caspian Sea, was laid down at the Astrakhan-based Lotus shipyard in 2016 in a ceremony attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The four-deck vessel capable of carrying 300 passengers will equal a five-star hotel.

There will be restaurants, gyms, spa salons and saunas on board. The project, initiated by the Moscow River Shipping company, is estimated at a total cost of 2.5 billion rubles (\$41.5 million). The cruise liner is expected to be launched in April 2018.

## Maersk sees up to 140,000 bpd potential for South Pars oilfield

Denmark's Maersk Oil has estimated the potential output for the second phase of Iran's South Pars oil deposit at 120,000-140,000 barrels of oil per day, said an official at National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

The estimate is part of Maersk Oil's development study for the second development phase of the offshore oilfield. NIOC's vice president for engineering and development Gholamreza Manouchehri said, reported Reuters.



SHANA

Maersk Oil, part of Denmark's A.P. Moller-Maersk, signed a memorandum of understanding with NIOC in 2016 "to explore opportunities for future collaboration".

South Pars stretches into Qatari waters where the oil-bearing layer is called Al-Shaheen and shares the same difficult geological characteristics.

Maersk Oil lost its long-standing agreement to operate Al-Shaheen in June last year to French rival Total, which has just taken up operation of the field.

## East Iran's first, biggest pelletizing unit becomes operational

Domestic Economy Desk

The first and biggest pelletizing unit in eastern Iran was inaugurated in Sangan Iron Ore Complex (SIOC) in Khorasan Razavi Province on Tuesday in a ceremony attended by Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammadreza Nematzadeh.

The pelletizing plant has an annual production capacity of five million tons and uses modern technologies which help optimize energy consumption, according to a report by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

The factory, which was built in 36 months, involved an investment of €103 billion.

The weight of the unit's equipment and metal structure is 23,450 tons. The construction of the factory created jobs for 2,000 people and, once operational, the unit will generate 1,300 job opportunities.

The project was among IMIDRO's abandoned projects whose implementation was resumed in late September 2013.

The unit's machinery were imported from Germany, Italy and Austria.

The project was implemented in an area of 75 hectare. The gross floor area of the factory stands at 25 hectares. Also a number of environmental measures have been employed in the construction of the unit such as developing a green belt around the site of the plant, applying venturi scrubber systems as well as using gas analyzers.



imidro.gov.ir

The pelletizing plant of Opal Parsian Sangan Industrial and Mining Company is yet another plan by the Iranian Industry, Mine and Trade Ministry which is next in line for production with an annual capacity of five million tons. SIOC is affiliated to IMIDRO. The company has other iron ore factories and pelletizing plants.

Earlier, Abdol-Majid Sharifi, the managing director of National Iranian Steel Company, said currently,

Iran ranks first in the world in direct-reduced iron (DRI), also known as sponge iron, production and 14th in steel production.

He added Iran is now the world's biggest producer of sponge iron, adding the country has produced 30 percent of the world's annual DRI since 2015.

The NISCO CEO put Iran's annual sponge iron production capacity at 19.5 million tons in 2013, adding the figure currently stands at 25.5 million tons.

He added that once new projects, currently under implementation, are completed by October, Iran's annual sponge iron output capacity is expected to reach 31.5 million tons by March 2018.

He said in 2013, Iran's annual steel production capacity stood at 22 million tons.

Currently, he added, the figure stands at 31 million tons thanks to efforts of the incumbent government which took office in 2013.

## Largest solar power plant in Iran opens

Mokran Solar Power Plants Complex, Iran's biggest solar plant was inaugurated in Kerman Province, marking Iran's ambitions in renewable energy sector.

The complex was constructed in six months and has a capacity to generate 20 MW of electricity, euronews.com reported.

Made up of two 10 MW photovoltaic units, the project was financed with \$27 million by Swiss company Durion AG, and supervised by a German company, Adore.

The complex was built with a total of 76,912 solar panels, each producing 260 watts over an area of 44 hectares.



IRINA

A number of countries including Switzerland, Germany, Spain, China and South Korea have shown interest in investing in renewable energies in Iran.

Iran's Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian, said there have been offers of over \$3.5 billion in foreign investment so far and it is the most attractive field since the nuclear deal.

President of the German Energy Watch Group, Hans Josef Fell, said "now solar and wind technologies are very, very cheap. Cheaper, than energy from gas, oil, coal or nuclear so, we can replace the conventional energy systems with 100 percent renewable in the future".

Mokran Solar Energy company has also started the construction of a 100 MW solar power plant, which will be Middle East's largest.

With over 300 sunny days and an average of 2,800 hours of sunshine, Iran is considered one of the best countries for producing and using solar energy.

This potential and the incentives offered by the government have provided worthy opportunities for investing in this field.

Iran planned to use renewable energies two decades ago. Out of the 76,000 MW capacity of Iran's power plants, only 12,000 MW come from renewable energies, with hydroelectric energy having the largest share.

However, solar, wind, biomass, geothermal and small hydro turbines have been on the rise recently.

## Official: French firms willing to invest in Iran's projects

A large number of French companies have shown interest in investing in Iran's economic development projects, announced a senior trade official.

According to Fars News Agency, Chairman of the French-Iranian Trade Promotion Center (CPCF) Mohsen Rashidi said, "French companies are eagerly looking for investment opportunities in the Iranian market, as the country today is in a position to choose from amongst an array of trade offers."

He recalled that representatives of a number of French companies have visited Iran since the implementation of the nuclear agreement between Iran and the major world powers, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"Under such circumstances, it is possible for Iran to establish effective relations with the world and take advantage of the available grounds to fully expand ties in every sector," Rashidi added.

"Before the nuclear deal, the French businessmen used to prefer Qatar to Iran," the chairman of the French-Iranian Trade Promotion Center added.

Iran and the six world powers (the US, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany) signed the



IRINA

nuclear agreement in Vienna in July 2015, based on which Iran agreed to curb its nuclear program in return for lifting the related sanctions.

In relevant remarks in late September, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani underlined the need for European governments to provide their banks and insurance companies with guarantees for cooperation with Tehran, adding that Iranian companies should also enjoy the benefits of the nuclear deal.

"The European leaders should provide banks and insurance companies with guarantees and assurance on financial

cooperation (with Iran) and our nations and companies as well as the region should enjoy the benefits of the nuclear deal," Rouhani said in a meeting with the then Italian prime minister Matteo Renzi on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

Renzi underscored that Rome seeks strengthening of all-out ties with Tehran, and said, "We are ready for any measure to bolster economic relations."

"On banking relations, the governmental Sace insurance company (Italian Export Credit Agency) is ready to provide the necessary assurances."

## Iran's July oil exports up...

## From Page 1

According to Iran's leading oil tanker operator NITC, shipments to Europe are increasing daily and the company plans to expand its fleet to cope with the situation.

The rise in July came after imports of Iranian crude by Asian buyers fell for a second month in a row to a 14-month low in June because of lower purchases by China and Japan.

China, India, South Korea and Japan together imported 1.46

mbd of Iranian crude in June, down 15.2 percent on a year ago and the lowest amount since 1.32 mbd in April last year. Reuters reported, quoting government and ship-tracking data.

Iran has been ramping up oil production since the removal of sanctions, aiming to hit pre-sanction levels of around 4 mbd by the end of the year from around 3.8 mbd in recent months.

The country has persuaded OPEC to exclude it from a deal

under which members are bound to reduce their output by 1.2 mbd.

Nevertheless, a Reuters study released on Monday showed that OPEC oil output rose by 90,000 bpd in July.

Compared with the levels from which they agreed to cut, the 11 members have reduced output by 978,000 bpd of the pledged 1.164 mbd, the news agency said. That equates to 84 percent compliance, from a downwardly revised 77 percent in June, it added.



## Eurozone unemployment falls to lowest level

Eurozone unemployment fell to its lowest level in eight years in June, while a key inflation figure picked up to its fastest pace since 2013 in July, underscoring the gathering momentum of the bloc's economic expansion.

Annual unemployment in the eurozone fell to 9.1 percent in June, down from 9.2 percent in May, according to data from Eurostat, FT reported.

The bloc's unemployment rate has declined from over 10 percent in June 2016 as growth in the continent has been spurred by low interest rates and a strengthening world economy.

This is reflected by buoyant eurozone economic sentiment, which climbed to a decade high according to a European Commission survey published last week, as well as an IMF upgrade of its growth forecasts, cementing the region's economic prospects as among the brightest globally.

Of the single currency's biggest economies, Germany boasted the lowest rate of joblessness at just 3.8 percent — a record in the post-reunification era.

But Greece's labor market continues to be scarred by its eight-year long depression, with unemployment rates still the highest in the EU at 21.7 percent.

Policymakers at the European Central Bank are keeping a close eye on the bloc's labor market for signs of upward wage pressures. Higher wages would underpin higher inflation but as of yet, wage growth has been notable by its absence in the eurozone.

France was the only EU country to record a rise in unemployment in June, with the number of jobless up 13,000 from



BLOOMBERG

May.

Christian Schulz, senior European economist at Citi, said. "At the current pace of decline, unemployment would be down to pre-crisis levels in the first half of 2019."

Eurozone inflation data for July presented a more ambiguous picture.

Core inflation in the eurozone, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, accelerated unexpectedly, picking up to a four-year high of 1.3 percent from 1.2 percent in June.

However, the headline inflation figure held steady at 1.3 percent in July. That is

comfortably below the central bank's target rate of two percent, and a joint low for 2017 after price growth surged to a four-year high of two percent in February.

Inflationary pressures in the continent have softened in recent months as crude prices have slipped. But although oil has recovered some lost ground in July, some economists suggest the strengthening euro could keep a lid on any further inflationary surges this year.

Jennifer McKeown, chief European economist at Capital Economics, said, "In all, while the latest data support ECB President Mario Draghi's recent

assertion that deflationary forces are gradually being replaced by inflationary ones, the Bank is unlikely to be convinced that its two percent goal is in sight."

She added, "We see inflation remaining around 1.5 percent over the next couple of years. So while the ECB seems set to taper its asset purchases next year, interest rate hikes still seem like a distant prospect."

But Clemente De Lucia, eurozone economist at BNP Paribas, said "Although some volatility may persist, we see core inflation remaining on a gentle upward trend over the coming months."

## UK proposes new start-up fund as EU finance risks drying up

Britain's Finance Ministry proposed a new fund on Tuesday to help promising start-up companies that risk losing access to European Union finance after Brexit.

Last year British companies received around £800 million (\$1.05 billion) of equity finance and £400 million of other assistance such as loan guarantees from the European Investment Fund, part of the EU-backed European Investment Bank, according to Reuters.

While the EIB does fund some projects outside the EU, it is unclear if British companies will have easy access to this finance after they are no longer part of the bloc.

And money from the European Investment Fund often plays an important role in unlocking private-sector finance.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond said in a statement of the proposed National Investment Fund, "It's vital that we make sure our cutting-edge firms have the funding they need to meet their potential."

Key details such as the size of the fund and how it will be financed are yet to be decided, and will be part of a government consultation with industry.

The ministry said the fund could either be a public-private partnership or start off as wholly public funded and then sold off after it had developed a track record.

It added that there was a general shortage of funding for British start-ups compared to their American competitors.

Just one in 10 British start-ups which receive initial funding progress to receive a fourth round of finance, compared with nearly a quarter in the United States, it said.

"The National Investment Fund will help address this gap," the ministry said.

The United States accounts for more than half of start-ups globally which have reached a valuation of more than \$1 billion, while four percent of the global total have come from Britain, the highest share in Europe.

## IMF to enhance collaboration with regional financing arrangements



imf.org

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is going to enhance its collaboration with regional financing arrangements (RFAs) in order to strengthen the Global Financial Safety Net (GFSN) and ensure effective crisis mitigation.

"As the GFSN expanded and became more multi-layered, stronger collaboration between its various elements has become increasingly important to ensure timely and effective crisis mitigation," said the IMF in a statement, according to Xinhua.

"Improved collaboration between the Fund and the RFAs, including in co-financing, would significantly reduce the

risk of contagion," the IMF said. The IMF executive board discussed principles to guide its future collaboration with the RFAs on July 26, said the statement.

IMF executive directors supported the IMF to collaborate with the RFAs in areas such as capacity development, surveillance, and non-financial support and lending, according to the statement.

In 2016, the IMF conducted a test run of co-financing with the currency swap arrangement Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization, one of its efforts to explore ways to enhance its collaboration with the RFAs.



dailysabah.com

## Turkey's foreign trade deficit down in June

Turkey's foreign trade deficit fell by 9.1 percent in June over the same period last year, the Turkish Statistics Institute reported.

The Turkish deficit in June stood at \$6.01 billion, down from \$6.61 billion a year earlier, according to the data released by the agency, Xinhua wrote.

The data show that Turkey's exports in June grew by 2.3 percent to \$13.17 billion, while the imports dropped by 1.5 percent to \$19.18 billion.

The European Union became Turkey's largest exporter with a volume of \$6.25 billion, accounting for 47.5 percent of Ankara's total exports, with Germany taking the largest share at \$1.3 billion.

The United Arab Emirates and the United States were the second and third largest exporters of Turkish goods, accounting for \$896 million and \$886 million respectively.

Manufactured goods made up 94.6 percent of Turkey's exports in June, followed by agriculture and forestry-related items.

China was Turkey's largest importer (\$1.9 billion), followed by Germany (\$1.6 billion) and Russia (\$1.4 billion).

Intermediary goods constituted the largest share of Turkish imports, making up 74 percent of the total.

### Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	81415.8	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	70278.2	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	89895.4	3826	4.27
First Market Index	57110.3	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	177116.3	2030.5	1.14

### Overall Index details on 20170801

First	81533.5	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	81565.8	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	81415.8	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	81415.8	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

### Industry Index details on 20170801

First	70390.9	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	70417.6	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	69718.1	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	70278.2	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

### Free Float Index details on 20170801

First	89741.1	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	89895.4	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

### Main Board Index details on 20170801

First	57203.9	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	57219.5	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	57110.3	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

### Secondary Index details on 20170801

First	177312.3	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	177435.2	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	177116.3	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2030.5		

### Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2841	Chinese Yuan	0.1488
Euro	1.1814	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.3229	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3139
Australian Dollar	0.8001	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0090	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

### Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$50.38	Silver	\$16.78
Gold	\$1273.40	Platinum	\$944.20
Copper	\$2.88	Wheat	\$475.20



Studies have shown that as ice sheets in Antarctica melt, trapped methane gasses will be released. But new research suggests methane-eating microbes will limit gaseous emissions.

# Seas rise, trees die: Climate change before your eyes

They're called 'ghost forests' — dead trees along vast swaths of coastline invaded by rising seas, something scientists call one of the most visible markers of climate change.

The process has occurred naturally for thousands of years, but it has accelerated in recent decades as polar ice melts and raises sea levels, scientists say, pushing salt water farther inland and killing trees in what used to be thriving freshwater plains, abcnews.go.com wrote.

Efforts are underway worldwide to determine exactly how quickly the creation of ghost forests is increasing. But scientists agree the startling sight of dead trees in once-healthy areas is an easy-to-grasp example of the consequences of climate change.

Matthew Kirwan, a professor at Virginia Institute of Marine Science who is studying ghost forests in his state and Maryland, said, "I think ghost forests are the most obvious indicator of climate change anywhere on the Eastern coast of the US."

"It was dry, usable land 50 years ago; now it's marshes with dead stumps and dead trees."

It is happening around the world, but researchers say new ghost forests are particularly apparent in North America, with hundreds of thousands of acres of salt-killed



static.seattletimes.com

trees stretching from Canada down the East Coast, around Florida and over to Texas.

The intruding salt water changes coastal ecosystems, creating marshes where forests used to be. This has numerous effects on the environment, though many scientists caution against viewing them in terms of 'good' or 'bad.' What benefits one species or ecosystem might harm another one, they say.

For instance, migratory birds that rely on coastal forests have less habitat. And the death of the trees makes

soil microbes release nitrogen, which adds to nitrogen already occurring from other sources, including agricultural runoff, to contribute to algae blooms and reduced oxygen that can sicken or kill fish.

But the conversion of forest into marshland produces "extremely productive" wetlands that feed and shelter fish and shellfish.

The Atlantic croaker fish, for instance, was rare 15 years ago in southern New Jersey waters but now is abundant, said Kan Able, a Rutgers University professor.

Greg Noe, a research ecologist with the US Geological Survey, said, "There is a lot of change going on. It's dramatic and it's changing faster than it has before in human history."

Quantifying the rate of increase in ghost forests is a major focus of Able's research. Some scientists say the increase began around the time of the Industrial Revolution, while others say the speedup began more recently than that.

In the past 100 years, Kirwan said, 100,000 acres of forest in the

Chesapeake Bay has converted to marshland. Photographs show the rate of coastal forest loss is four times greater now than it was during the 1930s, he said.

Seas off the East Coast have risen by 1.3 feet over the last 100 years, said Ben Horton, a Rutgers University professor and expert on sea level rise. That is a faster pace than for the past 2,000 years combined, he said.

Some of the most dramatic anecdotal evidence of the acceleration in ghost forest creation is along the Savannah River between Georgia and South Carolina, Noe said.

When his team first got there 10 years ago, "it looked like the trees were under a little stress, but they were all alive", he said.

"But five years later, the vast majority of them were dead. That happened right in front of our eyes, much faster than we expected."

Marcelo Ardon, a biology professor at North Carolina State University, studied one site called the Palmetto Pear Tree Preserve on Albemarle Sound in North Carolina from 2006 to 2009.

When he returned in 2016, he said, "What used to look like a healthy cypress swamp, now the trees are dead and the water level is a lot higher. The place has completely changed. I've checked overhead satellite photos and you can see the trees dying."

## Archeologists at Angkor Wat find large buried statue

Archeologists at Cambodia's Angkor Wat temple complex studying the site of a hospital from eight to nine centuries ago say they have found a large statue in their excavations.



sunstar.com

The government agency that oversees the complex, the Apsara Authority, said on its website that the 1.9-meter tall, 58-centimeter wide statue was discovered by its team, working with experts from Singapore's Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. It is one of the largest statues from the era to be unearthed in recent years, phys.org wrote.

The agency said the statue, believed to have been from the 12th or 13th century, is thought to have been a symbolic guardian of the entrance of the hospital.

It was found buried 40 centimeters (16 inches) under the ground, and will be put on public exhibition in the museum in the northwestern province of Siem Reap, where Angkor is located.

In late 2011, archeologists at the temple complex unearthed the two largest Buddhist statues found there in eight decades.

Angkor was the capital of the Khmer Empire, which flourished from approximately the 9th to 15th centuries.

Large numbers of architectural and religious artifacts have been looted from there and sold overseas, while others were buried for safekeeping during a civil war in the 1970s.

# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

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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 دربست در مناطق شمال تهران  
جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه  
و کمپانی‌های خارجی نیازمندیم



Stroke can arise as a complication of suffering from atrial fibrillation — a type of irregular heartbeat. Eating chocolate could reduce your risk of the most common irregular heartbeat.

# Health benefits of apples

**P**acked with vitamins, antioxidants and fiber, apples are one of our favorite healthy fruits. Discover what else makes apples so good for you.

Cheap and readily available in the UK, apples come in an array of colors depending on the variety (of which there are around 2,000) from pale yellows and greens through to deep reds, bbcgoodfood.com wrote.

Their taste and texture vary too, from juicy to firm and sweet to tangy. Due to the large variety of apples available, you can buy British apples pretty much all year round, but traditionally apples are in season in the UK from September to February.

## Nutritional values

Apples are extremely rich in antioxidants that help to protect our cells from free radical damage caused by factors such as pollution, cigarette smoke, UV rays and even inflammation within the body, often as a result of a poor diet or some medications.

Apples also contain dietary fiber needed to support a healthy digestive system, as well as vitamins A and C that support the immune system, vitamin K needed for blood clotting, biotin (vitamin B7) that helps to break down fat, and iodine which is involved in healthy thyroid function.

You may be familiar with the old proverb, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away," but is there really a link between eating apples and general good health?

## Can apples be good for lowering cholesterol?

Apples contain pectin, a natural fiber found in most plants and some recent research by the European Journal of Nutrition found that eating pectin-rich whole apples had a cholesterol-lowering effect in healthy volunteers,



bbcgoodfood.com

compared to apple juice which did not.

A study by the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics also showed how consuming around 75g of dried apple (approximately two apples) helped to reduce cholesterol in postmenopausal women.

## Can apples help protect against diabetes?

Apples are low on the glycemic index thanks to their fiber content. This, together with their high flavonoid content, may help to improve insulin sensitivity, which is important both for

weight management and preventing diabetes.

## Can apples prevent obesity?

Animal studies have shown that pectin extracted from apples may help to regulate the gut microbiome (gut bacteria), which in turn may help to prevent



bbcgoodfood.com

obesity and other inflammatory disorders. However, more research is required before the same claim can be demonstrated in human populations.

## Can apples help protect against heart disease?

Apples contain protective compounds such as quercetin, an antioxidant. Research by the American Journal for Clinical Nutrition found that those with higher quercetin levels (mainly through eating apples) had a lower risk of several chronic diseases including heart disease.

## Best way to buy, store and cook apples?

Where possible, it may be a good idea to buy organic apples as research has shown they may be higher in antioxidants compared to non-organic varieties.

Keeping them in the fridge will keep them fresher for longer, but they naturally have a long shelf life, lasting for several weeks on average, so if you don't keep them in the fridge, store them away somewhere dark and cool.

## How do different varieties compare nutritionally?

All apples have nutritional benefits and can be consumed as part of a healthy, balanced diet. However, there is some evidence to suggest that Granny Smith apples may be at the top of the list!

## What about apple juice?

A 150ml glass of unsweetened apple juice does count towards one of your five-a-day but can only ever count as a maximum of one portion, no matter how much you drink.

It is worth bearing in mind that the sugar from apple juice is quickly absorbed into the blood stream, as the juicing process releases the sugars and removes the fiber.

The British Dental Association recommend you drink apple juice at mealtimes to reduce the risk of tooth decay.

## Stem cells may help aid corneal wound healing

A new study has found the use and transplantation of stem cells in corneal wound healing to improve the healing process and benefit patients, researchers reported.

Researchers at Cedars Sinai Medical Center found that by using corneal stem cells they could more effectively treat corneal injuries from burns, abrasions, contact lens problems, insufficient tear production, infections and other conditions, UPI wrote.

Corneal wound healing often can be delayed, incomplete or excessive and is a significant clinical concern for physicians.

The cornea, the outermost surface of the eye, has three main types of cells — the stratified surface epithelium, the stromal keratocytes, and the innermost single-layered endothelial cells.



UPI

All have similarities and differences in the way they heal wounds. The study, published in the July edition of Stem Cells, found that stem cells are vital in corneal epithelial, stromal, and endothelial wound healing in disease, injury and postsurgical corneal wound healing.

Corneal epithelial stem cell transplantation is successful at ensuring healing of serious injuries to the cornea including burns and stromal and endothelial stem cells can produce similar results.

"The advances in transplant techniques and the range of available cell sources that can be used to optimize the treatment of aberrant corneal wound healing can give reassurance to patients with corneal injuries that preserving vision may be possible in the near future," the researchers wrote in the study.

## Aspirin safe for heart failure patients

Some research has raised concerns about the safety of aspirin for heart failure patients. But a new study appears to offer some reassurance.

The study, of over 2,300 patients, found that those on daily aspirin were not at heightened risk of being hospitalized for, or dying from, heart failure, webmd.com wrote.

Dr. Shunichi Homma, the senior researcher on the study, said, "Has been a concern because, in theory, aspirin could interfere with the benefits of certain heart failure drugs."

Plus, two past studies have linked aspirin use to an increased risk of heart failure complications.

But the new study, which compared aspirin to warfarin, a blood thinner, was larger and longer-term — following patients in 168 centers in 11 countries over 10 years.

Homma said, "I think this should allay fears that there might be a detrimental effect of prescribing aspirin."

He is deputy chief of cardiology at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, in New York City.

Homma and his colleagues reported the findings in the July 31 online issue of JACC: Heart Failure.

Dr. Christopher O'Connor is a cardiologist and editor-in-chief of the journal.

He agreed that the findings are reassuring. Compared with the earlier, smaller studies, O'Connor said, "This one is probably closer to the truth."

O'Connor said he thinks the results have "immediate implications" for heart failure care.

Close to six million Americans have heart failure, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It's a chronic condition in which the heart muscle can no longer pump blood efficiently enough to meet the body's needs.

That causes symptoms such as fatigue, breathlessness and swelling in the limbs.

Often, heart failure is caused by damage to the heart muscle from a heart attack or coronary artery disease.

And, in general, those patients should be on aspirin to limit the risk of a first-time or repeat heart attack, O'Connor said.

The trouble is, there have been concerns that aspirin could interfere with ACE inhibitors or angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) — two drug classes that are key in managing heart failure. Those drugs boost compounds called prostaglandins in the blood, whereas aspirin reduces them.

O'Connor said he thinks the results have "immediate implications" for heart failure care.

Over 10 years, just over 19 percent of aspirin patients were hospitalized for heart failure, or died of the disease. That compared with just under 23 percent of warfarin users, the findings showed.

Homma's team also accounted for other factors, including patients' age and heart disease severity.

In the end, there was no statistical difference between the two groups in their risk of heart failure complications.

To O'Connor, the bottom line for heart failure patients is straightforward: "If you're on aspirin for a guideline-recommended indication," he said, "keep taking it."

Of course, aspirin is not without risks. It can cause bleeding in the digestive tract, or even contribute to a hemorrhagic (bleeding) stroke.

Homma said, "So patients should never take aspirin on their own, without a doctor's guidance."

Dr. Susan Graham, a cardiologist who also worked on the study, made a broader point: Heart patients — and older adults, in general — are often taking many prescription drugs at any given time.

Graham, a professor of medicine at the University at Buffalo, in New York, said, "That speaks to the importance of studying potential drug interactions."

She said, "We have to stay on our toes to make sure that we're doing the right thing."

Homma and some of his colleagues on the study reported receiving research funding or fees from the pharmaceutical industry.

## Do this to avoid deadly lung infection

Holiday blues commonly greet you when you return home from a trip away, but so can a lung infection.

Avoid the potentially fatal Legionnaire's disease — caused by Legionella bacteria — by running your taps for five minutes before using them, express.co.uk reported.

The serious lung infection can be fatal in up to ten percent of cases.

According to the National Health Service (NHS), symptoms include mild headaches, muscle pain, high temperature, chills, tiredness and confusion. It can also trigger a persistent cough, shortness of breath and chest pains — similar to pneumonia.

Breathing in small droplets of contaminated water is how the Legionella bacteria infect your lungs. Those most at risk include people over 50, smokers, those having an underlying condition such as kidney disease, and also having a weakened immune system.

It's already infected 200 people this year alone.

The bacteria is naturally present in water and soil, but increased levels can be harmful.

This can happen when water is recirculated, there is rust, sludge or slime present or water temperature is between 20°C and 45°C.

Places of particular risk include swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

Paul Abbott, a Legionella consultant at the HydroChem Group to raise awareness of the dangers, said, "There is such a big risk especially to older people, children and those with impaired immune systems due to the lack of awareness and knowledge about Legionella."

"We want to make people across the UK and beyond aware that Legionella can kill, and that there are simple precautions you can take in order to keep safe."

He recommends running your bath, sinks and shower regularly, and if you've been away, running them for a minimum of five minutes before using them.

Additionally, he suggested making sure your hot water is hot and cold water is cold — if hot water is above 60°C this kills Legionella bacteria, and below 20°C it discourages it from growing. Being careful about glasses of water that have been sitting for days.

Keeping water systems like tanks and water coolers covered is also recommended.

Finally, wear gloves while gardening since Legionella grows in soil.



**Iranian Islamic Republic Railways (RAI)**  
General Department of Procurement and Logistics  
Foreign Orders Department

## International Tender Notice No. 19-94-1 Request for Qualification (RFQ) Qualitative Evaluation of Bidders

### Subject: Procurement, installation and implementation of signaling systems along Isfahan-Yazd-Bafq double-track line

Iranian Islamic Republic Railways (RAI) intends to entrust the supplying, installing and commissioning works of the signaling systems along Isfahan-Yazd-Bafq double-track line to the competent companies in form of utilizing mid-term foreign financing (Finance) and within framework of Tender-holding Law approved by Iranian Parliament on 08.10.2006 as well as by observing the law of "maximum utilization of production and service capability of local Iranian companies for supply of internal requirements and their promotion for export" approved by Islamic Republic Parliament under Decree No. 22/26060 dated 02.06.1381. Hence, all qualified companies with related records, are invited to obtain the documents of qualitative evaluation of the bidders.

#### 1- General specifications of tender subject:

Procuring, installing and commissioning of signaling systems along Isfahan-Yazd-Bafq double-track line

#### 2- Project implementation place:

The Railways of Islamic Republic of Iran

#### 3- Deadline for purchasing qualitative evaluation documents:

Bidders should hold a letter of introduction for receiving a version of qualitative evaluation documents utmost by 4:00 p.m. local time on Wednesday 02.08.2017 corresponding to 1396/05/11 from the Procurement and Logistics General Department (Foreign Orders Department) located at 2nd Floor, Iranian Railways Central Building ; Argentina Sq., Africa Blvd., Tehran- Iran, P.O. Box 15197-13111.

#### 4- Deadline for submitting completed qualitative evaluation documents:

Bidders should submit the completed qualitative evaluation documents not later than 4:00 p.m. local time on Saturday 02.09.2017 corresponding to 1396/06/11, to the Procurement and Logistics General Department (Foreign Orders Department) located in 2nd Floor, Iranian Railways Central Building; Argentina Sq., Africa Blvd., Tehran- Iran, P.O. Box 15197-13111.

#### 5- Price of qualitative evaluation documents and method of payment:

RLS 400,000 should be remitted to Account No. 4001064004005747 of the Iranian Railways opened with the Central Bank of Iran (payable at all branches of Bank Melli Iran).

Note: Receipt of documents through http://iets.mporg.ir site is free of charges.

## Iran's envoy in Oman underlines consolidating educational, cultural relations

Iran's Ambassador to Oman Mohammadreza Nouri Shahroudi accompanied by Iran's cultural attaché in Muscat visited 'Gulf University' in the Sultanate of Oman on Monday.

During the visit, Shahroudi underlined the need to consolidate educational and cultural relations between Tehran and Muscat, IRNA reported.

Chancellor of Gulf University Professor Taqi al-Abdevani also pointed to firm ties between the two countries and underlined development of infrastructures in the fields of science, education, culture and economy.

Al-Abdevani announced the opening of Persian language course in the university, adding that after confirmation of the Oman Higher Education Ministry this course will be offered as an optional (elective) course.

The two sides also discussed the exchange of students and instructors, establishment of University Cultural Club for activities of students, creation of Persian language course in the university and studies on trade opportunities between the two countries.

The university — founded in 1990 — now has more than 5,000 students from 22 countries.

The university has capabilities for the deaf wishing to major in commerce and computer science.

## 90% chance Earth warms by more than two degrees

New research suggested the chance of limiting global warming to less than 2°C is highly unlikely.

According to the latest analysis, there is a 90 percent chance Earth will warm by 2°C to 5°C by the end of the century, according to UPI.



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has previously offered warming projections based on different scenarios related to the global effort to curb carbon emissions.

The panel set a goal of curbing global warming to 2°C.

Scientists warn warming above such a threshold is likely to trigger catastrophic sea level rise, as well as extreme droughts, heat waves and weather.

Speculating about the consequences of various policy scenarios may be a good way to communicate what's at stake in the fight to curb global warming, but it's not ideal for scientific modeling.

Adrian Raftery, a professor of statistics and sociology at the University of Washington, said, "The IPCC was clear that these scenarios were not forecasts."

"The big problem with scenarios is that you don't know how likely they are and whether they span the full range of possibilities or are just a few examples. Scientifically, this type of storytelling approach was not fully satisfying."

Raftery and his colleagues developed a model based not on scenarios, but on measurable inputs.

The researchers analyzed the trajectory and impact on global warming of three factors: Total world population, GDP per person and carbon intensity, or carbon emitted per dollar of economic activity.

To postulate forward, scientists analyzed the three inputs' effect on global warming over the last 50 years.

Their analysis — published in the journal *Nature Climate Change* — suggested there is only a five percent chance Earth warms by less than 2°C.

Researchers found carbon intensity was the most important factor in predicting future warming.

As technologies improve and governments curb emissions, carbon intensity has been dropping in many advanced economies over the past few decades.

But at the current rate, carbon intensity is unlikely to fall fast enough to prevent significant warming.

Raftery said, "Overall, the goals expressed in the Paris Agreement are ambitious but realistic."

"The bad news is they are unlikely to be enough to achieve the target of keeping warming at or below 1.5°C."

# Researchers develop technology to make aged cells younger

**A**ging. We all face it. Nobody's immune and we've long tried to reverse it, stop it or just even slow it down.

While advances have been made, true age-reversal at a cellular level remains difficult to achieve, medicalxpress.com reported.

By taking a different approach, however, researchers at Houston Methodist made a surprising discovery leading to the development of technology with the ability to rejuvenate human cells.

And that couldn't be more important for the small population of children who are aging too quickly — children with progeria.

John P. Cooke, PhD, department chair of cardiovascular sciences at Houston Methodist Research Institute and his colleagues, describe their findings in a Research Letter titled "Telomerase mRNA Reverses Senescence in Progeria Cells", appearing in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, a leading medical journal in the field of cardiovascular disease.

Cooke studied cells from children with progeria — a rare condition marked by rapid aging that usually robs them of the chance to live beyond their early teens.

They focused on progeria, because the condition tells them a lot about aging in general that's ultimately relevant to all of us.

He said, "These kids are dying of heart attack and stroke at 13, 14 and 15 years old."

"Although current therapies are useful, they only add a year or two, on average, to the child's life."

"We wanted to do something that would improve the children's quality of life and potentially allow them to live longer, so we set about studying their cells and seeing if we could improve the cell function."

Cooke and his team focused on something called telomeres, which are the timekeepers of cells and very important for the function of our chromosomes.

They are found at the tip of each chromosome, like the tip of a shoelace, holding the chromosome together. As we get older, the telomere gets shorter, ticking off the time we have left.

They did this by delivering RNA to the cells that encodes this protein.

Essentially, they gave the cells the information they needed to extend the telomere via an RNA delivery system and let the cells do the rest.

Having that protein expressed in a cell for just a few days was enough to have a substantial physiologically relevant and meaningful effect on the

"Our approach had a much greater effect on all the markers of cellular aging."

"We markedly improved the ability of cells to multiply and reversed the production of inflammatory proteins."

Those markers of cell aging we looked at were all reversed with the treatment in our study."

Cooke wanted to see this approach turned into something useful and said they're going to do it quicker than expected within a few years.

"As a physician, many of the diseases I see are due to aging. It's a major risk factor for heart and vascular diseases."

"About a third of the people in this country succumb to strokes and heart attacks. If we can fix that, we'll fix a lot of diseases."

Cooke's work is different from what others are doing in the progeria field, because most everyone else is focusing on the genetic mutation of progeria and the abnormal protein that results from that mutation.

Cooke's team chose to focus instead on developing a method to extend the telomere in these children.

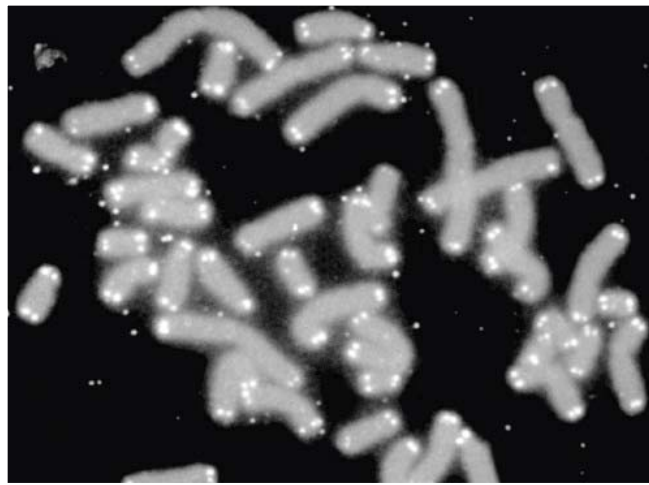
Cooke added, "When you see these kids, they're like every other kid. They want to play, they want to dream. They want to grow up and be something great."

"But they can't do that. They don't have the chance. That, alone, is reason enough to pursue this approach."

While Cooke said aging is not irreversible, it is something their work can have a beneficial effect on.

"We can at least stall or slow down accelerated aging, and that's what we're working toward."

"Our next steps are to start moving this therapy toward clinical use. We plan to do so by improving existing cell therapies. I want to develop a therapy for these children. It's an unmet need."



Human chromosomes (grey) capped by telomeres (white).

medicalxpress.com

He and his colleagues saw the telomeres were shorter in children with progeria and thought if they could restore the telomere length, then perhaps they could improve the cell function and its ability to divide and respond to stress.

Cooke said, "We all have telomere erosion over time and many of the things that happen to these children at an accelerated pace occur in all of us."

"What we've shown is that when we reverse the process of the telomere shortening in the cells from these children and lengthen them, it can reverse a lot of the problems associated with aging."

To do this, the researchers used a technology called RNA therapeutics. They were able to get the cells to produce a protein, called telomerase that can extend and lengthen the telomere.

lifespan and function of the cells.

Cooke said it was a surprise to have such an effect with one exposure to the RNA telomerase.

He said, "What was most unexpected about our work was the dramatic effect the telomere-extending technology had on the cells."

"We were not expecting to see such a dramatic effect on the ability of the cells to proliferate."

"They could function and divide more normally, and we gave them extra lifespan, as well as better function."

The research team also compared their approach at the cellular level to the current therapies available, and Cooke said it was night and day.

"We looked at many cellular markers of aging and weren't expecting to see such a dramatic effect on them."

## Diamond joins the realm of 2D thin films

Diamonds are going 2D. The superhard form of carbon can be forged in thin films known as diamondene, new evidence suggested.

While graphite, the form of carbon found in pencils, can be made into atom-thick sheets known as graphene, scientists have struggled to create two-dimensional films of its relative, diamond, sciencenews.org wrote.



sciencenews.org

Scientists report evidence that they have created 2D sheets of diamond by squeezing a pair of graphene sheets together.

When a pair of graphene sheets are squeezed to pressures around tens of thousands of times that of Earth's atmosphere, the crystal structure

appears to change, hinting that it has morphed from graphite to diamond.

Physicist Luiz Gustavo Cançado of the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil and colleagues report the new finding in *Nature Communications*.

Theoretical physicist Pavel Sorokin of the National University of Science and Technology MI-SiS in Moscow, said, "It's the thinnest possible diamond."

"Diamond is known for being extremely hard and stiff and now we can use the exciting properties of diamond in the nanoworld."

Diamondene is also predicted to be magnetic and may be useful for spintronics, a technique that uses the spin of electrons to store data.

The scientists monitored the structure of the carbon crystal using a technique called Raman spectroscopy, shining laser light on the material to observe how the atoms' vibrations changed under pressure.

This method provides indirect evidence that diamondene has formed. A next step is to scatter X-rays or electrons off the material to be sure of its structure.

Scientists have found a surprise algae species growing in Wisconsin lakes in US, a species most thought was extinct from the Americas.

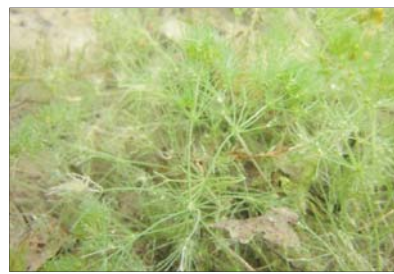
*Lychnothamnus barbatus* is a tall algae species. It has previously been found in Europe and Australasia, UPI wrote.

Cretaceous-era fossils unearthed in Australia offer the only evidence of the species in the Americas.

Having disappeared from the scientific record, most assumed it had died out with the dinosaurs. But now, researchers have found the unique algae species living in the Midwest.

Richard McCourt, a professor of botany at Drexel University, said, "This means mainly that we don't know as much about what's out there as we could."

"*Lychnothamnus barbatus*' survival isn't, per se, ecologically earth-shaking, but it changes our view of what the algal flora of North America is composed



The newly discovered algae species, *Lychnothamnus barbatus*, has a distinct structure and is significantly taller than most freshwater algae.

UPI

## Dinosaur-era plant found growing in Wisconsin lakes

of and inspires us to keep hunting for more new finds."

Researchers collected the algae from 14 lakes across

Wisconsin. After combing the scientific record for a match, researchers confirmed the species identify using DNA analysis.

It's possible the species is invasive, having snuck across the globe in the ballast of a cargo ship.

McCourt said, "Other species like it have probably been brought in in ballast water on ships and released into the St. Lawrence Seaway or other lakes."

"But it's not inconceivable that the algae species has been hiding out undetected for centuries."

"If it went unnoticed, it is probably due to the fact that much of what is in lakes and streams is not thoroughly examined, despite centuries of collecting."

"We need more feet on the ground, hands in the water, collecting."

Researchers described the discovery of the surprise species in the *American Journal of Botany*.





## Suicides of 60,000 Indian farmers linked to climate change

econeews.com.au

Climate change may have contributed to the suicides of nearly 60,000 Indian farmers and farm workers over the past three decades, according to new research that examines the toll rising temperatures are already taking on vulnerable societies.

Illustrating the extreme sensitivity of the Indian agricultural industry to spikes in temperature, the study from the University of California, Berkeley, found an increase of just 1°C on an average day during the growing season was associated with 67 more suicides, The Guardian wrote.

An increase of 5°C on any one day was associated with an additional 335 deaths, the study published in the journal PNAS found.

In total, it estimates that 59,300 agricultural sector suicides over the past 30 years could be attributed to warming.

Temperature increases outside the growing season showed no significant impact on suicide rates, suggesting stress on the agriculture industry was the source of the increase in suicides.

Also, supporting the theory was that rainfall increases of as little as 1cm each year were associated with an average seven percent drop in the suicide rate. So beneficial was the strong rainfall that suicide rates were lower for the two years that followed, researcher Tamma Carleton found.

Farm sector suicides in India decreased last year, but remain at epidemic levels in some states and are a source of immense pressure on legislators.

One drought-hit state, Maharashtra, reported 852 farmer suicides in the first four months of this year, while in 2015 — one of the worst years on record — about 12,602 farmers killed

themselves across India. Overall, more than 300,000 farmers and farm workers have killed themselves in the country since 1995.

In recent months, a site in central Delhi has been strewn with evidence of the despair felt by the Indian agricultural sector.

Skulls and bones said to belong to farmers who killed themselves have been piled at Jantar Mantar, within walking distance of the Indian parliament.

They were brought to Delhi by farmers from Tamil Nadu, a state suffering its worst drought in 140 years, which the protesters claim has triggered hundreds of suicides in the past months.

Worse than the parched crops were the bank loans that loomed over many farming families, said Rani Radhakrishnan, one of the protesters.

In February, owing 80,000 rupees (€945), her husband stood outside his bank branch in the

city of Trichy, and consumed a toxic concoction. He died on the spot.

Tamil Nadu is suffering its worst drought in 140. Protestors claim it has triggered hundreds of suicides.

"He had talked about things like this [suicide] happening with others, but never about doing it himself," she said.

The next week, Radhakrishnan and her daughter-in-law stood outside the bank brandishing wads of rupees. "We told them, we have repaid your money, now will you give us back my husband's life?" she said.

Last year, the Indian government launched a £1-billion insurance scheme to protect against crop failures and try to halve farmer and farm worker suicides.

Maharashtra, Punjab and the country's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, have all passed

farm-debt waivers at enormous cost to the public purse to appease the demands of the agricultural sector, which commands strong political sway.

Carleton said her research showed little evidence Indian farmers were changing their practices to accommodate rising temperatures.

"Without interventions that help families adapt to a warmer climate, it's likely we will see a rising number of lives lost to suicide as climate change worsens in India," Carleton said.

The true suicide rate was probably higher, she added, because deaths are generally underreported in India and, until 2014, suicide was considered a criminal offense, discouraging honest reports.

"The tragedy is unfolding today," she said. "This is not a problem for future generations. This is our problem, right now."

## Citizen science volunteers driven by desire to learn

People who give up their time for online volunteering are mainly motivated by a desire to learn, a new study has found.

The research surveyed volunteers on 'citizen science' projects and suggested that this type of volunteering could be used to increase general knowledge of science within society, phys.org wrote.

The research, led by the University of Portsmouth, discovered that an appetite to learn more about the subject was the number one driver for online volunteers, followed by being part of a community. It also revealed that many volunteers are motivated by a desire for escapism.

Online volunteering and crowdsourcing projects typically involve input from large numbers of contributors working individually but towards a common goal.

This study surveyed 2,000 people who volunteered for 'citizen science' projects hosted by Zooniverse, a collection of research projects that rely on volunteers to help scientists with the challenge of interpreting massive amounts of data.

Dr. Joe Cox, who led the research, said that while the projects don't require specialist knowledge, volunteer effort and retention seems to be most strongly driven by a desire to enhance knowledge and understanding. He said: "We also found that those whose motivation was to learn were also more active over longer periods and undertook the most amount of work."

"What was interesting was that characteristics such as age, gender and level of education had no correlation with the amount of time people give up and the length of time they stay on a project. These participants were relatively highly educated compared with the rest of the population, but those with the highest levels of education do not appear to contribute the most effort and information towards these projects."



the-ies.org

The study noticed pronounced changes in how people are motivated at different stages of the volunteer process. While a desire to learn is the most important motivation among contributors at the early stages, the opportunities for social interaction and escapism become more important motivations at later stages.

Cox said that it is important to understand the motivations of citizen scientists due to the possibility of increased competition to recruit and retain such volunteers in the future.

"We know that citizen science projects place huge value on volunteers because the combined 'wisdom of crowds' achieves so much. For example, Galaxy Zoo, which asks volunteers to analyze galaxies and the data helps astrophysicists develop a better understanding of the evolution of the universe. Their work contributes the amount of information that it would take a professional researcher 34 years working alone to complete and it will be just as accurate if not more."

He suggested that online volunteering and citizen science projects could incentivize participation by offering clearly defined opportunities for learning, while representing an effective way of increasing scientific literacy and knowledge within society.

## Going to beach good for you

A recent study — possibly more of a scientific exercise in judging the obvious — has winningly claimed that time spent on a beach at the edge of a salt-water ocean has a positive effect on one's physical and psychological health.

Recent studies in the US and the UK claim that spending time at the beach improves happiness, well-being and even mental acuity, possibly explaining why Hawaiian residents have consistently been ranked by six consecutive Gallup polls as the happiest people in America by state, according to news.com.au.

To add weight to a claim that probably needs no proving, research by Japan's Kobe University observed that those who live in a place with a view of the ocean are more relaxed than those who do not.

These ever-so-evident research results are mirrored by additional evidence posted to sciencedirect.com, claiming that UK citizens who live by an ocean claim to have a higher quality of physical and mental health than those who live inland, particularly in deep urban enclaves.



sputniknews.com

Decades of scientific research has shown that seawater helps the physical body to fight infection, as it contains magnesium, potassium and iodine — just three of a large number of minerals that are beneficial to the human organism in moderate external doses.

As if the saltwater's balm is not enough, the sea air has long been known to provide benefits to the respiratory

system that improve sleep, according to the post.

During a conversation about the positive mental and physical effects of a body's proximity to the sea, clinical psychologist Richard Shuster remarked that the relaxed calm kindled by several hours on a beach is not just due to all that sunlight-induced vitamin D, cited by NBC.

"The color blue has been found by an overwhelming amount of people to be associated with feelings of calm and peace," Shuster said, suggesting that staring at the ever-changing ocean causes a meditative state, shifting brain wave frequency.

The sound of ocean waves 'de-stimulates our brains', Shuster offered, cited by news.com.au.

As even the feeling of sand between one's toes is well-known to be pleasurable and healthy, Shuster asserted that the oceanic calm one gains at the beach can be recreated in a meditative practice — one that only gains in value by actually being there.

"Focus on how your body feels warm from the rays of the Sun," he said, "focus on what it feels like to have your feet in the sand, breathe deep and smell the ocean air."

How far are you from an ocean? Probably not so far that the benefits of being there are outweighed by the hassle of preparation, travel and putting on all that sunscreen.

But you don't need to pay a clinical psychologist to tell you that.

## South Korean wealthy on the rise



businessinsider.com

The number of people in South Korea with financial assets worth more than one billion won (\$892.295) rose 14.8 percent on year to 242,000 last year, thanks to the robust stock market, a report showed on Tuesday.

According to the annual survey by KB Financial Group Inc.'s research institute, people classified as wealthy held a total of 552 trillion won worth of financial assets in 2016, accounting for 16.3 percent of total financial assets owned by all households, according to Yonhap.

Compared with a year ago, the ratio was up one percentage point, highlighting a growing gap between haves and have-nots.

Since 2012, when the research institute began conducting the survey, the number of people with financial assets worth more than one billion won has risen at an annual average growth rate of 10 percent, it said.

Property accounted for 52.2 percent of assets owned by the wealthy people last year, followed by financial assets with 44.2 percent, according to the survey.

Wealthy people had property valued at an average 2.8 billion won last year — about 11 times higher than assets held by all households.

The survey found that 14.8 percent of the wealthy people had property assets worth more than five billion won.

## One out of three Americans took opioid in 2015

More than one out of three average Americans used a prescription opioid painkiller in 2015, despite growing concerns these medicines are promoting widespread addiction and overdose deaths, a new federal study showed.

Nearly 92 million US adults, or about 38 percent of the population, took a legitimately prescribed opioid like OxyContin or Percocet in 2015, according to results from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, UPI wrote.

Study coauthor Dr. Wilson Compton, deputy director of the US National Institute on Drug Abuse, said.

"The proportion of adults who receive these medications in any year seemed startling to me. It's an awful lot of people who take these, mostly for medical purposes, but within that a significant percentage end up misusing them," he added.

The survey found that 11.5 million people — or nearly five percent of the population — misused prescription opioids they'd obtained through illicit means.

About 1.9 million Americans (0.8 percent) reported full-fledged opioid addiction.

Overall, the results indicate that the medical profession is doing a poor job of appropriately prescribing opioid painkillers, Compton said.

Previous studies have found "there's still four times the rate of prescribing there was 15 years ago", Compton said.

"Even though the rates have leveled off, we have a long way to go in improving medical care so these are not as overprescribed as they are currently."

Many people receive opioids they don't need and pass them on to relatives who aren't getting the treatment they need for chronic pain, the researchers noted.

These painkillers are highly addictive and potentially deadly. The number of overdose deaths involving opioids has quadrupled since 1999, concurrent with the quadrupling of opioid prescriptions, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The survey defined prescription opioid misuse as people taking the painkillers without a prescription, taking larger doses than prescribed, or using the drugs to get high, Compton said.

Of those who misused prescription opioids, more than 50 percent got the medications as hand-me-downs from family or friends. Overall, nearly 60 percent of misuse involved taking opioids without a prescription.

## Chinese woman undergoes plastic surgery to evade \$3.7m debt

A 59-year-old woman from the central Chinese city of Wuhan transformed her appearance through plastic surgery in order to avoid 25 million yuan (\$3.71 million) of personal debts, state news agency Xinhua said.

In a case highlighting the challenges facing China as it tries to establish a 'credit society', police officers were reported to be 'astounded' after apprehending the woman, who fled to the southeastern Chinese city of Shenzhen after a court in Wuhan ordered her to pay off her debt, Reuters wrote.

"We were very surprised at the scene," Xinhua quoted a policeman as saying. "She looked in her thirties and was different from the photos we had."

The woman, identified as Zhu Najuan, also confessed to using other people's identity cards to travel across the country by train. She financed her plastic surgery using borrowed bank cards.

Representatives from more than 300 Chinese cities released a declaration earlier in July promising to make more credit available for consumer spending, part of the country's efforts to find new sources of economic

growth and reduce its dependence on heavy industry and state-driven infrastructure investment.

But as the country strives to make more credit available to individuals, it is also facing a surge in household debt, which is estimated to have reached around 50 percent of gross domestic product last year, more than doubling in less than a decade.

As regulators try to establish a reliable nationwide credit rating system, authorities across the country are also exploring new ways to crack down on those who do not pay debts.

## Baby boy born 'pregnant' with his twin brother

Doctors were astonished when they discovered a newborn boy was 'pregnant' — with his own twin brother.

They discovered the half-formed baby — complete with a brain, arm and legs — behind the otherwise-healthy new baby boy's stomach after he was born, metro.co.uk wrote.

They successfully operated to remove the 7cm mass which they now suspect was a rare 'fetus in fetu' twin pregnancy — one of less than 200 ever recorded in the world.

The 19-year-old mother and her son from Mumbai, in Thane city near Mumbai in India, are now both healthy and doing well.

Gynecologist Dr. Neena Nichlani said: "It is a case of monozygotic twin pregnancy sharing single placenta, where one fetus wraps itself around



Baby Mumbra after the operation to remove the fetus that was found inside his stomach.

SWNS

and envelops the other and robs the host of its nutrition.

"It can be implanted in skull, abdomen or tail bone of the host."

"Sometimes, it can also lead to the death of the host because both get nutrition from a single cord."

"The parasitic baby was

lying behind the stomach deriving its nutrition from the host."

"The parasitic baby has been sent for further testing, reports are awaited."

"The parasitic baby is a male of about 6-7cm in length, weighing around 150g and of abnormal development."

Radiologist Dr. Bhavna Thorat spotted the abnormality during a routine scan of the pregnant mother at Bilal Hospital in Mumbra in early July.

When the baby was born nine days later on July 20, he scanned the baby and found 'another small baby' inside the newborn's abdomen.

Thorat added: "It was inside a fetal sac of the newborn. I could see bones of the upper and lower limbs of the fetus."

"The unique thing about it was I could see a tiny head with the brain inside. However, this parasitic twin didn't have a skull bone."

The new born was moved to Titan Hospital in Thane for successful surgery.

Nichlani added: "The baby is now doing extremely well, and the mother will begin feeding him soon."

## Bikes banned from Jakarta road over selfie risk

Jakarta's administrators have banned motorbikes from a new overpass that opened in the city this weekend, over fears that its potential popularity as a spot for taking selfies could cause accidents.

The Semanggi Interchange is named after a common plant which resembles a four-leaf clover and the roads it passes over are shaped the same way, BBC reported.

They have also been lit with thousands of diodes that change color every few seconds.

A Jakarta Transportation Agency official said the ban was aimed at keeping motorcyclists safe, as the area was already known to attract selfie-takers, the Jakarta Post wrote.

"We are concerned about their safety because instead of crossing the interchange, they may just go there to take pictures," the official said.

Jakarta's governor, Djarot



GETTY IMAGES

Saiful Hidayat, has also ruled out the idea of declaring a car-free day on the overpass for the same reason.

"We have to secure the place. People could fall while taking selfies. We have to make sure that no accident would happen here," the Tempo website quoted him saying.

Researchers from Carnegie Mellon University in the US in 2016 found that 127 people had been reported killed in

selfie-related incidents since 2014, and that the most likely cause of death was falling from a great height.

But selfies are not the only danger to life on the road in Indonesia.

Traffic there, particularly in Jakarta, can be extraordinarily bad. In the month of Ramadan last year, at least 12 people were reported to have died of dehydration and exhaustion while sitting in it.

## PICTURE OF THE DAY



Subway carriages in Taipei have been decorated to celebrate the Universiade 2017. They are turned into swimming pools in Taiwan with incredible 3D floors. The international university version of the Olympics is set to be held next month.

CNN

## Mini Cooper cake zips around with remote-controlled engine



UPI

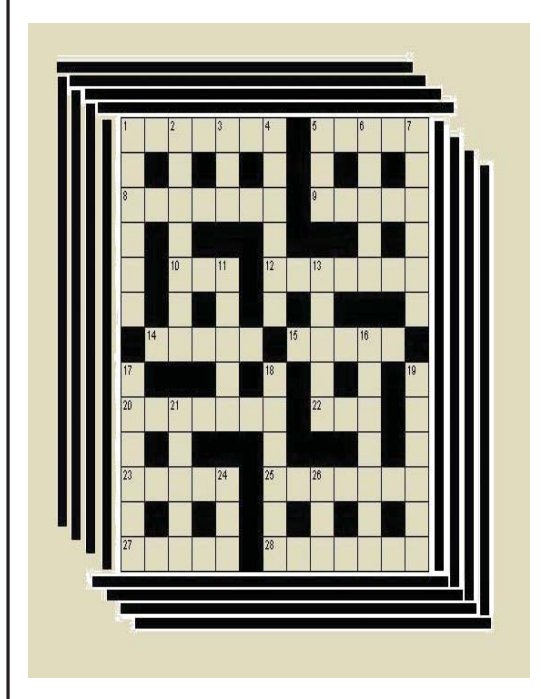
A British baker put a new spin on 'fast food' by creating a cake shaped like a Mini Cooper with a radio-controlled engine.

The video, recorded at a Mini Cooper dealership in Penzance, England, showed the car cake zipping around the building before being eaten, UPI reported.

The baker wrote online, "This is our foray into the world of fast food — our remote-controlled BMW Mini cake."

"Such fun to make and amazing to see it zipping around a car dealership next to the real thing," they wrote.

## Catch-Words



## ACROSS

- \_\_\_ speak louder than words
- Pieces of \_\_\_
- Trade \_\_\_
- The Holy \_\_\_
- \_\_\_ the lion
- Lead by \_\_\_
- A little rough around the \_\_\_
- Last but not \_\_\_
- Time is of the \_\_\_
- Tic-Tac-\_\_\_
- A \_\_\_ playing field
- Sorely \_\_\_
- \_\_\_ trimmer
- Many happy \_\_\_

## DOWN

- Question and \_\_\_
- \_\_\_ pink
- The \_\_\_ and only
- You can't beat the \_\_\_
- Chicken and \_\_\_
- \_\_\_ the nettle
- Fortune \_\_\_
- A drop in the \_\_\_
- Secret \_\_\_
- Helter \_\_\_
- Health, \_\_\_ and happiness
- \_\_\_ late than never
- Jack of all \_\_\_
- \_\_\_ by the bell
- Let sleeping dogs \_\_\_
- \_\_\_ his match

## Yesterday's solution



## Sudoku

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

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

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



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger is planning to raise funds to add the Monaco winger Thomas Lemar to his squad this summer.

# Iran U-23 side finishes fifth in Asian senior's meet

**Sports Desk**

Iran's U-23 team outpowered China 3-1 (15-25, 25-17, 25-23, 25-21) to claim the fifth spot at the 2017 Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship in Indonesia. On Tuesday, the two teams squared off in the city of Surabaya in a repeat of their Pool F encounter earlier in the tournament which had seen the Far Eastern side emerge victorious in straight sets. Having clinched the first set 25-15, China seemed to be on course to taste another victory over Iran.

Iranian volleyballers, however, bounced back in the second set and won it 25-17, after they had headed into the technical timeouts leading 8-6 and 16-12. The third set turned out to be a point-for-point thriller which eventually finished 25-23 in Iran's favor. In the fourth set, Chinese players put their last-ditch efforts to take the game into the tie-break as the Iranians had to overcome a three-point deficit to get back on the level terms at 14-14. Juan Manuel Cichello's team was the better team through the end of the set and managed to pull off a 25-21 victory.

After the game, Cichello hailed his team's performance at the competition, saying, "We should be proud of these players because they are improving every day. "We underestimated them in the first set but, thank god, we came back in the game and won it. From now on, we should only be concentrating on our main goal, which is capturing U-23 [world] championship," added the Argentinian. Next in line for Iran is the 2017 FIVB Volleyball Men's U23 World Championship which will start in the Egyptian capital of Cairo on August 18.



Iranian players celebrate a point during the 3-1 victory over China at the 2017 Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship in Surabaya, Indonesia, on August 1, 2017.

Los Angeles officially declared its candidature to host the 2028 Olympic Games, leaving Paris to stage the 2024 edition. In June, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted to name hosts for successive Games – with just Paris and Los Angeles bidding – but it was unclear which would host in which year, BBC reported. Both had wanted to host the 2024 event. The IOC welcomed Los Angeles' move, pledging to contribute \$1.8 billion (£1.4 billion) to the organizing committee. A source close to the negotiations told BBC Sport that Los Angeles to have accepted the 2028 Games there would have had to have been significant financial benefits that outweighed the benefit of hosting in 2024. The funds will include money to pay for the extended planning period and to support youth sports programs leading up to the games. Los Angeles bid committee chairman Casey Wasserman earlier said "both cities now stand together ready to serve the Olympic and Paralympic movements". Meanwhile, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said "we're bringing the games back" in 2028, adding that "this deal was too good to pass up". Los Angeles has staged the Olympics twice – in 1932 and 1984. Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said, "Paris and Los Angeles are two amazing global cities that are united in their support of the Olympic cause and we stand together now to



## Los Angeles agrees to host 2028 Olympics

Los Angeles last hosted the Olympic Games in 1984.

ROBERT RIGER/GETTY IMAGES

help the Games thrive in 2024 and 2028. "As today's announcement shows, dialogue between the IOC and the two cities is progressing well. We are confident that a 'win-win-win' agreement can be finalized ahead of the IOC session in Lima." The IOC wanted L.A. and Paris to reach an agreement before the session in September and had they not, a vote to select the 2024 host would have been held. IOC president Thomas Bach welcomed L.A.'s decision, describing the bid as "strong and enthusiastic". He added, "We are very confident that we can reach a tripartite agreement under the leadership of the IOC with L.A. and Paris in August, creating a win-win-win situation for all three partners. "This agreement will be put forward to the IOC session in Lima in September for ratification." In June, Wasserman appeared to concede to Paris when he said, "We have never been only about 2024." However, a spokesman later told BBC Sport, "L.A. is the ideal host city for 2024 and is not conceding anything in the race for the 2024 Games." Paris has said it has to go first as the site it has earmarked for the Olympic Village will not be available for redevelopment after 2024. Los Angeles had argued that it could host a low-cost Olympics given that it already has all the necessary infrastructure in place, while Paris would need to build several expensive structures. The two cities were the only ones left in the race for 2024 after Budapest, Hamburg and Rome withdrew.



## Ronaldo: Only because it is me

Cristiano Ronaldo complained to a judge that he was being picked on because of his star status during his court appearance for failing to properly pay his taxes. Ronaldo denied he evaded tax or hid details of his income from the authorities in a pretrial hearing lasting 90 minutes, the Independent reported. And the Spanish media reported that Ronaldo argued with the judge during the behind-closed-doors hearing, saying, "If I wasn't called Cristiano Ronaldo, I wouldn't be sat here." But the judge, Mónica Gómez Ferrer, denied that claim saying, "You are mistaken. Plenty of anonymous people have sat where you are. "You are under investigation for an alleged financial crime based on the evidence provided and upon which it is my duty to make a ruling." The Portugal international appeared at magistrate's court in Pozuelo de Alarcón, a suburb of the capital, on Monday to answer charges relating to his tax returns between 2011 and 2014. Prosecutors allege Ronaldo evaded €4.7 million (£13.1 million) in tax. "The Spanish treasury knows every detail about

my income, because it's been given to them; I never concealed anything and I never tried to evade taxes," the player told the court, according to a statement released by his management company Gestifute. "I always make my tax returns on a voluntary basis because I think we all have to declare and pay taxes based on our income. "Those who know me know what I ask my advisers to do: have everything up date and paid promptly, because I do not want any problems." Ronaldo claimed that, contrary to the argument of the Public Prosecutor, the transfer of his image rights to a company he owned took place in 2004 and not in 2010 just after he joined Real. "I kept the structure that managed them when I was in England... the lawyers that Manchester United recommended to me set it up in 2004, long before I thought about coming to Spain. "The structure was a normal one in England; it was verified by the English treasury and ratified as legal and legitimate." Since 2015 the player said his image rights have been granted to an independent third party, registered in Spain that pays tax for him. The Public Prosecutor's charge is limited exclusively to tax on the amounts earned by the player in 2014 for granting his image rights for the years from 2011 to 2020. "This is the time to let justice run its course. I believe in justice and I hope that, in this case, once, again, there will be a fair decision," Ronaldo said. "In order to avoid any unnecessary pressure, or any contribution to a parallel trial, I've decided I won't make any more statements on this subject until the decision is made."

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## United signs Chelsea's Matic

Manchester United completed the signing of Chelsea midfielder Nemanja Matic. The Serbian left Stamford Bridge after four successful seasons with the Blues to pen a three-year contract at Old Trafford. my part in creating more history for this great club." Jose Mourinho has now spent over £150 million this summer as he looks to shape his United squad. The Special One said, "Nemanja is a



Nemanja Matic reunites with José Mourinho after completing his move from Chelsea.

The 28-year-old joined the Red Devils for £40 million and became United's third major signing of the summer following the deals for Romelu Lukaku and Victor Lindelof. Matic said, "I am delighted to have joined Manchester United. To work with Jose Mourinho once again was an opportunity I couldn't turn down. "I have enjoyed my time at Chelsea and would like to thank the club and the fans for their support. I cannot wait to meet my new team-mates and to start training with them. "This is a very exciting time for the club and I am looking forward to playing Manchester United player and a Jose Mourinho player. "He represents everything we want in a footballer – loyalty, consistency, ambition, team player. "I would like to thank him for his desire to join us because without that, it would be impossible to have him here. The move ends Matic's second spell at Chelsea. He first joined the Blues in 2009 but left the following year. After making his name at Benfica, he was brought back to Stamford Bridge by Mourinho in a £21 million deal in 2014.



## Art & Culture

### Pre-historic clay works discovered in Alamout

Archaeological excavations at Hassanabad mausoleum in Alamout on the western edge of the Alborz range led to the discovery of clay works dating back to the Iron Age as well as the Parthian, Sassanid and early Islamic periods.

Based on evidence obtained from the studies, the monument most probably belongs to the early Islamic era and was owned by the local rulers of Al-e Jostan, reported Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization quoting the head of the excavation team involved in the preservation and restoration works at Hassanabad Alamout building.



ISNA

Kambiz Kabiri added grey clay works from the Iron Age, red clay works of the Parthians and non-glazed clay works of the Sassanid-early Islamic period were found during the removal of rubbles from the site.

The stone monument, known as Chahar Taqi Hassanabad in the west of Alamout, is a mausoleum on top of a mound overlooking a village by the same name, he noted.

Despite numerous excavation operations, no crypt or burial pit could be identified inside the monument, Kabiri said.

He stated that the monument is of rectangular shape with a dome on an elliptical base while its entrance is 140cm high on the southwest side.

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 Managing Director: Sadroddin Moosavi  
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IRNA  
 Directed by Mohammadreza Shahmardi, 'Countercharm' went on stage as part of the National Razavi Theater Festival.

### Medieval manuscripts are a DNA smorgasbord

In 2010, bio-archaeologist Matthew Collins of the University of Copenhagen and his colleagues realized that the parchment used in medieval manuscripts, which is made of scraped and stretched animal skins, was actually a repository of information about the history of domestic animals in Europe.

Chris Baramiuk at New Scientist reported that Collins and his team have since begun collecting the dry eraser waste of skins left when conservators gently cleaned the manuscripts. Using these scraps, they've been able to draw out the DNA and proteins of the animal that sourced the parchment as well as that of any bookworms and humans that had come in contact with the page since, smithsonianmag.com reported.

At a recent symposium on bio-archaeology at Oxford's Bodleian Library, the researchers presented an unpublished paper where they applied DNA techniques as well as traditional techniques to the 1,000-year-old York Gospels, an Anglo-Saxon manuscript, which is one of the few manuscripts to survive the Norman Conquest and the Protestant Reformation.

Ann Gibbons at Science reported that analysis of the parchment led to several surprises. For instance, the 167 folio pages of the York Gospels were made mainly from female calves, which is unusual since it's believed they would normally be allowed to grow up and reproduce. But documents report that a cattle disease struck the region around the time the manuscript was produced, meaning there may have been many stillborn or sick calves around to provide the material.

Gibbons also reported that 20 percent of the DNA extracted from the York Gospels was human — most of it from the bacteria that lived on the skin and noses of priests who took an oath by kissing certain pages. That and other bacteria could give some insight into the health of people in Middle Ages York.

A similar analysis of a Gospel of Luke manuscript by Collins and his colleagues revealed the book was made from the skins of eight-and-a-half calves, ten-and-a-half sheep, and half a goat, as well as a cover from roe deer and a strap from fallow or red deer. Such mixed parchment suggests that scribes had to carefully manage their resources since their favored skin was not always available.

There are so many possibilities raised by the developing techniques that Gibbons reports researchers don't even know what questions to ask. Bookworm DNA could help determine what region a book was produced or traveled to; parchment DNA could help trace the changes in livestock types and breeds over time; it's even possible to find the DNA of specific historical individuals who handled a book during their lifetime.

While scholars have long mined medieval manuscripts to learn about the development of language and writing styles from the texts and glean information about daily life from the illustrations (and paw prints), this new lens into the manuscripts offers a whole new way to mine information from manuscripts and bring lost chapters of history to life.

## 'Release from Heaven' receives Best Animation at SICAF

### Art & Culture Desk

Iranian animated piece 'Release from Heaven', directed by Ali Noori-Oskoui and Sahar, who has to accompany two of her students on a life-changing mission to find their fathers, ISNA wrote.

The 76-minute animated film is written by Majid Asoudegan, and produced

by Ali Noori-Oskoui and Sahar Olyaei.

The Iranian animation competed with three other nominees for the Best Animation Award at the 21st Seoul International Cartoon and Animation Festival (SICAF). Three other Iranian short and feature animations were also screened in the festival's competition section.

Established in 1995, SICAF is an international event that specializes in animation representing Asia. According to its official website, the SICAF program introduces a variety of works expand-

ing the territory of animation from the classical masterpieces to the latest hits, focusing on the changing environment and paradigms.

The 2017 edition of the festival took place on July 26-30 in Seoul, South Korea.

'Release from Heaven' recently won the Best Feature Animation Award at the summer edition of Hong Kong International Film Festival.

The animation had its market premier on May 22 as the opening film of Animation Day in Cannes film festival.



filmfestivals.com

Playwright, actor, author, screenwriter, and director Sam Shepard, who had been ill with ALS for some time, died peacefully on July 27 at his home in Kentucky, surrounded by his children and sisters. He was 73 years old.

Survivors include his children, Jesse, Hannah and Walker Shepard, and his sisters, Sandy and Roxanne Rogers, broadwayworld.com reported.

"The family requests privacy at this difficult time," said the spokesman for the family, Chris Boneau.

Shepard is the author of 44 plays as well as several books of short stories, essays and memoirs. Shepard received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1979 for his play 'Buried Child'. He was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of pilot



theistar.com

Chuck Yeager in 'The Right Stuff' (1983).

Shepard received the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater Award as a master American dramatist in 2009. New York described him as "the greatest American playwright of his generation".

### Playwright, director and actor Sam Shepard passes away at 73

Among his many plays are: 'Cowboys', 'The Rock Garden', 'Chicago', 'Icarus's Mother', '4-H Club', 'Red Cross', 'La Turista', 'Cowboys #2', 'Forensic and the Navigators', 'The Unseen Hand' and 'Oh! Calcutta!' (contributed sketches).

Shepard's plays are chiefly known for their bleak, poetic, often surrealistic elements, black humor and rootless characters living on the outskirts of American society. His style has evolved over the years, from the absurdism of his early Off-Off-Broadway work to the realism

of 'Buried Child' and 'Curse of the Starving Class' (both 1978).

Shepard began his acting career when he was cast as the handsome land baron in Terrence Malick's 'Days of Heaven' (1978), opposite Richard Gere and Brooke Adams. This led to other important film roles, including that of Cal. Ellen Burstyn's love interest, in the film 'Resurrection' (1980), and most notably his portrayal of Chuck Yeager in 'The Right Stuff' (1983). The latter performance earned Shepard an Academy Award nomination for Best

Supporting Actor. By 1986, his play 'Fool for Love' was getting a film adaptation directed by Robert Altman, in which Shepard played the lead role; his play 'A Lie of the Mind' was being performed Off-Broadway with an all-star cast (including Harvey Keitel and Geraldine Page); and Shepard was subsequently working steadily as a film actor — all of these achievements put him on the cover of Newsweek.

Throughout the years, Shepard has done a considerable amount of teaching on writing plays and other aspects of theatre. His classes and seminars have occurred at various theatre workshops, festivals, and universities. Shepard was elected to The American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1986. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1986.

### Weather



32 16  
Arak



30 26  
Astara



33 19  
Birjand



33 17  
Qazvin



34 23  
Mashhad



34^ 23  
v23  
Tehran



34 21  
Kabul



32 14  
Minsk



22 11  
Stockholm



38 23  
Tashkent



33 24  
Tripoli