



Iranian diplomat, Hezbollah chief discuss Mideast developments 2

IRAN DAILY

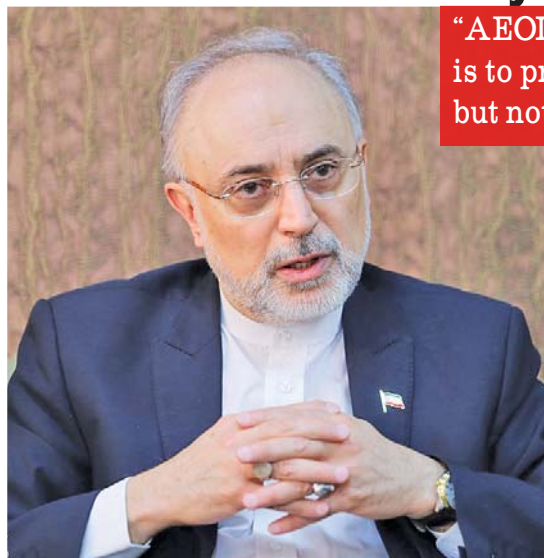


India asked to put Chababhar rail link on fast track 4

Number 5712 • Wednesday August 23, 2017 • Shahrivar 1, 1396 • Zihjijah 1, 1438 • Price 5,000 Rials • 12 Pages • www.irandailyonline.ir

Salehi: Iran can resume 20% enrichment in five days if needed

"AEOI's main priority is to preserve JCPOA, but not at any cost"



Iran is capable of resuming the enrichment of uranium to the 20-percent level at its Fordow facility within a maximum of five days if need be, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said. Ali Akbar Salehi made the comments in an exclusive interview with IRIB News Agency on Tuesday, IRNA reported. Salehi said President Hassan Rouhani's recent warning that Iran would accelerate its nuclear activities to an advanced level "within hours" if the US returned to a policy of sanctions had not been an "empty warning." Salehi said all high-ranking Iranian officials, including President Rouhani, had been briefed on the technical capabilities of the AEOI to be able to make informed decisions, Press TV reported. The warning made by the president, he said, had been based on data provided by the AEOI, including about the organization's preparedness for contingencies.

Continued on Page 2

Iran: World Bank approves €1b to electrify rail network

The World Bank has agreed to provide €1 billion (\$1.18 billion) to electrify the rail network in Iran, the head of the Iran's regional railway authority said on Tuesday.



ISNA

"The World Bank has approved to provide one billion euros as finance for the electrification of the railway ... that starts in Garmsar in Semnan Province and continues to the city of Gorgan in Golestan Province," Yusef Geranpasha was quoted as saying by IRNA.

Russia and Iran signed an agreement worth €1.2 billion in November 2015 to electrify the Garmsar to Inche Burun route in Iran.

Continued on Page 4

Spain attack suspects in court for questioning

Barcelona terror suspect shot dead

As the dust settled over five days of angst in Spain after deadly terror attacks, the four remaining alleged members of a terror cell that carried out the carnage arrived in a Madrid court on Tuesday for questioning.

Spanish police shot dead Barcelona terror suspect Younes Abouyaaqoub on Monday in a dramatic end to a massive manhunt for the Moroccan national, AFP reported.



EPA

The Moroccan was the last on-the-run member of a 12-man cell suspected of plotting last week's vehicle attacks in Barcelona and the seaside resort of Cambrils that left 15 dead and more than 100 injured.

Four men were detained, and the rest were killed, either by police or in an explosion believed to have been accidentally detonated by the suspects themselves in their bomb factory in the seaside town of Alcanar.

On Tuesday under heavy security, police was carrying the suspects entered the National Court, which deals with terrorism cases, where a judge was to decide whether they were charged to press against the four men who allegedly formed part of the cell. These include Driiss Oukarbi, 27, the older brother of Moussa who was killed by police in Cambrils on Friday morning after going on a car rampage with four others.

Mohamed Aallaa, Mohamed Houli Chemlail, who was injured in the explosion in Alcanar, and Salh El Karib were also in court. Police gave their ages as 21, 28 and 34 but did not say who was what age.

Four days after the van rampage on the tourist-packed Las Ramblas Boulevard, police on Monday gunned down the 22-year-old Abouyaaqoub in the village about 60 kilometers (40 miles) west of Barcelona, after receiving multiple tip-offs. In total, 15 people died in the attacks including Pau Perez, a 34-year-old man found stabbed to death outside Barcelona on Friday after Abouyaaqoub hijacked his car to make a getaway.

Investigators seeking to unravel the terror cell had homed in on the small border town of Ripoll at the foot of the Pyrenees Mountains in northeastern Spain.

The suspected terrorists had been preparing bombs for "one or more attacks in Barcelona," Catalan police chief Josep Lluís Trapero said Sunday, revealing that 120 gas canisters and traces of TATP components - a homemade explosive that is a Daesh terrorist group hallmark - had been found at their bomb factory.

The suspected terrorists used a vehicle to smash into crowds on Barcelona's Las Ramblas Boulevard, killing 13 people and injuring more than 100.



Dozens reported dead in US-led strikes on Raqqa 3



Iran thrashes Turkey in FIVB U23 world meet 11



Farhadi begins filming 'Everybody Knows' with Bardem, Cruz in Spain 12

Iraqi forces retake two districts of Daesh bastion

Iraqi forces on Tuesday recaptured from the Daesh group the first two districts of terrorist bastion Tal Afar, as the Pentagon chief visited Baghdad in a show of support.

The United Nations said thousands of civilians have fled Tal Afar in the two days since the start of the broad offensive against Daesh, AFP reported.

In remarks before meeting in Baghdad with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, US Defense Secretary James Mattis said he wanted to keep the spotlight on eradicating the terrorists.

"Right now our focus is on defeating ISIS (Daesh) inside Iraq, restoring Iraqi sovereignty and territorial integrity," said the Pentagon chief. Iraqi troops routed Daesh in Mosul in July after a grueling nine-month fight for Iraq's second city. They launched the offensive on Sunday to recapture Tal Afar, once a key Daesh supply hub between Mosul - around 70 kilometers (45 miles) to the east - and the Syrian border.

The terrorists inside Tal Afar, estimated to number around 1,000, responded with artillery fire Tuesday as the Iraqi forces massed outside the city.

Army, police and units of the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary coalition later took "full control" of Al-Kifah and Al-Nur districts in Tal Afar, the Hashed said.

The Iraqi forces had encircled the city despite what Hashed spokesman Ahmed al-Assadi described as "intense" fighting. He said the fighting for the city would likely last weeks.

The International Organization for Migration said its teams were "responding to thousands of civilians fleeing Tal Afar since the launch of the military campaign".

Since Friday, more than 3,000 people had arrived at two IOM emergency sites, many with just the clothes on their back, said the UN agency.

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said it had received some 9,000 people at the Hamman Al Ailil transit center in the past week, and it was preparing to accommodate nearly 30,000 more.

Mattis declined to make any predictions on the battle.

"ISIS's days are certainly numbered, but it's not over yet and it's not going to be over anytime soon," he said.

Iraqi forces had "fought like the dickens in Mosul, (it) cost them over 6,000 wounded, somewhere over 1,200 killed," he noted.

Yet that comeback restored the confidence of the Iraqi forces after their shock loss of Mosul to Daesh in 2014.

Trump vows continued fight in Afghanistan; reversing stance

President Donald Trump cleared the way for the deployment of thousands more US troops to Afghanistan Monday, backtracking from his promise to rapidly end America's longest war, while pillorying ally Pakistan for offering safe haven to "agents of chaos."

In his first formal address to the nation as commander-in-chief, Trump discarded his previous criticism of the 16-year-old war as a waste of time and money, admitting things looked different from "behind the desk in the Oval Office," AFP reported.

"My instinct was to pull out," Trump said as he spoke of his frustration with a war that has killed thousands of US troops and cost US taxpayers trillions of dollars. But following months of deliberation, Trump said he had concluded "the consequences of a rapid exit are both predictable and unacceptable" leaving a "vacuum" that terrorists "would instantly fill."

While Trump refused to offer detailed troop numbers, senior White House officials said he had already authorized his defense secretary to deploy up to 3,900 more troops to Afghanistan.

He warned that the approach would now be more pragmatic than idealistic. Security assistance to Afghanistan was "not a blank check" he said, warning he would not send the military to "construct democracies in faraway lands or create democracies in our own image."

"We are not nation building again. We are killing terrorists." The US has grown increasingly weary of the conflict that began in October 2001 as a hunt for the 9/11 attackers has turned into a vexed effort to keep Afghanistan's divided and corruption-hindered democracy alive amid a brutal Taliban insurgency.

The terrorist group later vowed it would make the country "a graveyard" for the

country, the Interfax News Agency cited an unnamed Russian Foreign Ministry source as saying on Tuesday.

Relations with Pakistan

Trump also indicated that single-minded approach would extend to US relations with troubled ally Pakistan, which consecutive US administrations have criticized for links with the Taliban and for harboring leading terrorists - like Osama bin Laden.

"We have been paying Pakistan billions and billions of dollars at the same time they are housing the very terrorists that we are fighting," he said, warning that vital aid could be cut. That will have to change and that will change immediately.

Ahead of the speech Pakistan's military brushed off speculation that Trump could signal a stronger line against Islamabad, insisting the country has done all it can to tackle militancy.

"Let it come," army spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor told reporters, referring to Trump's decision. "Even if it comes... Pakistan shall do whatever is best in the national interest."

Trump for the first time also left the door open to an eventual political deal with the Taliban.

"Someday, after an effective military effort, perhaps it will be possible to have a political settlement that includes elements of the Taliban in Afghanistan," he said.

"But nobody knows if or when that will ever happen," he added, before vowing that "America will continue its support for the Afghan government and military as they confront the Taliban in the field."

In 2010, the United States had upwards of 100,000 US military personnel deployed to Afghanistan. Today that figure is around 8,400 US troops and the situation is as deadly as ever.

More than 2,500 Afghan police and troops have been killed already this year.

Taliban's reaction

The terrorist group later vowed it would make the country "a graveyard" for the



AP Talks with Taliban

Soldier dies in armed attack on government office

Gunmen attacked a government building in a small town in southeastern Iran, killing a soldier serving in the police.

Two unknown gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire at the local county office building in Pishin, a small town located in Sarbaz County in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan on Tuesday morning, General Mohammad Qanbari, the provincial police commander, told Tasnim News Agency.



namshnews.ir

A soldier serving in the police was killed in the attack, the commander added, saying the assailants fled the scene.

Located in southeastern Iran, the large province of Sistan-Baluchestan borders Pakistan and Afghanistan, and has a long coastline by the Sea of Oman.

The desert province grapples with underdeveloped infrastructure and transit of illicit drugs.

Iran envoy: Tehran, Damascus standing together in all fields

Iran's envoy to Syria Javad Torkabadi said the Islamic Republic and Syria are standing together in all fields, including the economic sector.

Torkabadi made the remarks Monday night in a joint meeting of Iran-Syria investors and businessmen, IRNA wrote.

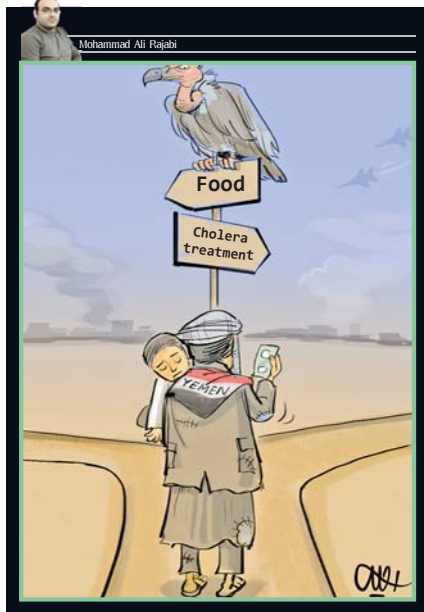


IRNA

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 59th International Exhibition of Damascus.

Iranian businessmen's participation in Damascus exhibition is a big step in activating economic relations between the two countries, Torkabadi said.

The 59th International Exhibition of Damascus was held with the attendance of over 1,500 companies from 43 countries.



Iranian diplomat, Hezbollah chief discuss Mideast developments

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari held talks with Secretary General of the Lebanese resistance movement, Hezbollah, Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah.

During a meeting in Beirut on Tuesday, Jaber Ansari and Nasrallah exchanged views about the latest political developments in the Middle East and the situation in the region, particularly the Syrian and Lebanese issues, Press TV reported.

Iranian Ambassador to Beirut Mohammad Fat'hali was also present in the meeting.

Jaber Ansari, who arrived in Beirut on Monday for a three-day visit, held talks with Lebanese President Michel Aoun, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil.

He said the trip aims to express Iran's support for national unity in Lebanon and the country's fight against the Israeli regime and Takfiri terrorists.

The Iranian diplomat is visiting Beirut after the Lebanese army chief General Joseph Aoun announced the start of the operation, dubbed Jaroud Dawn, on Saturday against Daesh terrorists in eastern parts of the country along the border with Syria.

Separately on Saturday, the Hezbollah resistance movement said that it had started a joint operation with the Syrian army inside Syrian territory, according to al-Manar TV station.

Last month, Hezbollah concluded a joint counter-terrorism campaign with the Syrian army at Lebanon's highlands of Aarsal.

The terrorists of the al-Nusra Front group, recently renaming itself Fateh al-Sham, withdrew from Aarsal following a series of consecutive defeats that forced them to agree to a ceasefire deal.

'Lebanon, symbol of resistance against Zionists, terrorists'

Ayatollah Khamenei appoints new military commanders



MEHR NEWS AGENCY

New second-in-command for the Iranian Armed Forces' chief of staff, Major General Ataollah Salehi (R), and the new commander of Iran's Army Major General Abdoalrahim Mousavi

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei appointed a new commander for the Iranian Army and second-in-command for the Iranian Armed Forces' chief of staff.

In a decree on Monday, Ayatollah Khamenei appointed Major General Ataollah Salehi as new second-in-command for the Iranian Armed Forces' chief of staff upon a proposal by Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri, Press TV wrote.

The Leader said the appointment was made in view of Salehi's past record and valuable work experience.

Ayatollah Khamenei thanked great efforts by Major General Abdoalrahim Mousavi who previously held the post.

In another decree, the Leader named Mousavi, who was promoted from the rank of brigadier general to major general, as the new commander of Iran's Army given his commitment, competency and experience.

Ayatollah Khamenei thanked Salehi, who previously held the post, for his loyal services to the Islamic Republic during his tenure.

New second-in-command for the Iranian Armed Forces' chief of staff, Major General Ataollah Salehi (R), and the new commander of Iran's Army Major General Abdoalrahim Mousavi

From Page 1

Iran has applied certain limits to its nuclear program under a deal it reached with six other countries in 2015. Salehi said the changes made to the Fordow enrichment facility under that deal had been calculated so as to enable a return to the 20-percent enrichment within five days. That, he said, was one of the strengths of the deal, which is officially titled the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

He said the warning to quickly resume 20-percent enrichment "carries many messages in technical and professional terms, and the opposite side understands that message." The administration of US President Donald Trump has been claiming that Iran is violating the spirit of the JCPOA.

But the United Nations nuclear agency, which is in



IRNA

Meanwhile, Jaber Ansari also said on Tuesday that Lebanon is the symbol of resistance against the Israeli regime and Takfiri terrorism.

"Lebanon symbolizes coexistence among different Islamic and Christian sects and ethnicities... and the message of my trip to Lebanon and meetings with Lebanese political and religious leaders is that the Islamic Repub-

lic of Iran supports this coexistence," he said in a meeting with Sheikh Naem Hassan, the spiritual leader of the Druze community in Lebanon.

The Iranian diplomat hailed the consensus among Lebanese religious and political leaders and said the Druze played a positive role in forming national understanding and establishing political and social stability.

Navy commander: Iran to stage wargames in Makran

Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari announced that his forces will stage drills in the country's southeastern Makran seashore in the near future.

southern fleet and off Makran coasts in the next few days," Rear Admiral Sayyari said, addressing a ceremony in the northern port city of Bandar Anzali on Tuesday, Fars News Agency reported.

In July, the Iranian Navy staged naval exercises in the Caspian Sea.

The naval drills code-named 'Sustainable Security and Power' were held in five separate phases in an area covering 88,000 square kilometers in the Caspian Sea.

In relevant remarks in June, Rear Admiral Sayyari announced that over two dozen naval exercises have been planned to be held by the end of the current Iranian year (ending March 20, 2018).

"We will hold a total of 25 naval drills in the current year," he said.

Rear Admiral Sayyari emphasized that the naval exercises will be held in the Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea, and they will ultimately lead to the massive Velayat-96 naval drills.

Sayyari noted the navy's military equipment is state-of-the-art, manufactured by Iranian experts, saying, "For example, the domestically-built Damavand destroyer has come successfully on stream in northern Iran and is currently being used in the high seas. Our



Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari

"The strategic navy annually stages numerous specialized drills, over 25 wargames, in different fields, and therefore, the specialized electronic warfare drills will be held by the

objective is to train experts who can carry out the navy's critical missions, especially in the high seas, to bring the country great honor and security," he added.

Nuclear chief: Iran can resume 20% ...

charge of monitoring the technical implementation of the JCPOA, has invariably certified Iran's commitment to its obligations under the accord.

Therefore, the Trump administration claims of an Iranian violation are generally believed to merely stem from the administration's dissatisfaction with the deal, dressed to look like the detection of violations in Iran's contractual behavior.

The JCPOA was negotiated under Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, whose every major policy achievement the new US president has attempted to undo. Since before taking office, Trump has threatened to rip up the deal.

Iran has said that any US non-performance would be met with due counteraction.

In his most recent warning, the Iranian president said the US's return to the policy of sanctions and pressure

against Iran would be followed by Iran's upgrading of its nuclear activities to advanced levels "not within months and weeks, but in a matter of hours and days."

Iran warns that it can restore conditions that existed in its nuclear industry before the nuclear deal if Washington continues to violate the agreement.

Salehi said that the AEOI's main priority was to "preserve the JCPOA, but not at any cost."

He said Iran will remain committed to its end of the bargain as long as the opposite side lives up to its.

The JCPOA was concluded between Iran and the P5+1 countries — namely the US, Russia, China, France, Britain, and Germany. It took effect in January 2016.

The deal was later endorsed by a United Nations Security Council resolution. In return for the limits to the Iranian nuclear program, the Islamic Republic had all nuclear-related sanctions against it terminated.

Dozens reported dead in US-led strikes on Raqqa

Dozens of civilians have died in two days of intense US-led strikes on Raqqa, a monitor said Tuesday.

At least 250 US-led coalition strikes have hit the Syrian city and the surrounding area in the last week, a coalition spokesman told AFP, as the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces press an offensive in the Daesh-held city.

On Monday, US-led airstrikes killed at least 42 civilians in several neighborhoods in Raqqa under Daesh control, according to the Britain-based so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor.

Nineteen children and 12 women were among the dead.

That takes to 167 the number of civilians killed in coalition strikes since August 14, after the observatory said at least 27 were killed on Sunday.

The SDF has so far took just under 60 percent of Raqqa, monitors say, leaving terrorists from the Daesh group in control of about 10 square kilometers (four square miles) in the heart of the city.

But as clashes approach central Raqqa, monitors and activists have reported scores killed in intensifying coalition bombardment of the city. "The tolls are high because the airstrikes are hitting neighborhoods in the city center that are densely packed with civilians," Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said.



A US-led coalition has been hitting Raqqa with airstrikes.

DELIL SOULEIMAN/AFP

There are buildings full of civilians who are trying to get away from the front lines." The coalition says avoiding civilian casualties is its "highest priority."

Coalition spokesman Colonel Ryan Dillon told AFP that the latest allegations of civilian deaths would be taken seriously and

investigated.

He said the coalition had stepped up its strikes in Raqqa since a popular force successfully ousted Daesh from Mosul in neighboring Iraq.

The coalition, which operates in both countries, earlier this month acknowledged

the deaths of 624 civilians in its strikes in Syria and Iraq since 2014, but rights groups say the number is much higher.

The SDF's Arab and Kurdish armed groups broke into Raqqa in early June after spending months chipping away at Daesh-held territory in the surrounding province.

Asked about the escalating civilian tolls in recent days, SDF spokesman Talal Sello told AFP his forces were striving to avoid casualties.

"One of the major reasons for the slow progress in the Raqqa fight is the preserving of civilian lives and avoiding massive losses among them," Sello said.

He blamed Daesh for using civilians as "human shields."

"We have opened up safe routes for civilians to cross securely towards areas controlled by our forces, who are rescuing civilians almost daily and transferring them to safe places."

Tens of thousands of people have fled Raqqa city, with the United Nations estimating that up to 25,000 civilians remain trapped inside with dwindling food and fuel supplies. The UN's humanitarian pointman for Syria, Jan Egeland, has said Daesh-held territory in Raqqa city is now "the worst place" in the war-torn country.

Civilians, including women and children, must dodge sniper fire, Daesh-laid mines, and coalition bombardment to make it out alive.

Quake in Ischia Island

An earthquake on one of Italy's most scenic islands on Monday night left two people dead, injuring dozens, while three children, trapped for hours under rubble, have been rescued.

Remains of some US sailors found

The remains of a number US sailors have been found in sealed compartments aboard the USS John S. McCain, the commander of the US Pacific Fleet said.

Admiral Scott Swift also said at a news conference in Singapore on Tuesday that Malaysian officials have found one body that has not yet been identified, AAP reported.

The focus of the search for 10 US sailors missing after a collision between the USS John S. McCain and an oil tanker in Southeast Asian waters shifted on Tuesday to the damaged destroyer's flooded compartments.

The collision on Monday tore a gaping hole in the McCain's left rear hull and flooded adjacent compartments including crew berths and machinery and communication rooms. Five sailors were injured.



The damaged port aft hull of USS John S. McCain, left, is seen while docked next to USS America at Singapore's Changi naval base on Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017 in Singapore.

"The divers were able to locate some remains in those sealed compartments during their search today," Swift said.

"We will continue the search and rescue operations until the probability of discovering sailors is exhausted."

It was the second major collision in two months involving the Pacific-based 7th Fleet and the Navy has ordered a broad investigation into its performance and readiness. Seven sailors died in June when the USS Fitzgerald and a container ship collided in waters off Japan.

There were two lesser-known incidents in the first half of the year. In January, the USS Antietam guided missile cruiser ran aground near Yokosuka base, the home port of the 7th Fleet, and in May another cruiser, the USS Lake Champlain from the Navy's 3rd Fleet, had a minor collision with a South Korean fishing boat. "While each of these four incidents is unique, they cannot be viewed in isolation," Swift said.

He said the Navy would conduct an investigation "to find out if there is a common cause ... and if so, how do we solve that."

Earlier on Tuesday, the 7th Fleet said the sea search by aircraft and ships from the US, Singapore and Malaysian navies would continue east of Singapore where the McCain and the tanker collided.

Admiral John Richardson, the chief of naval operations, on Monday ordered a pause in 7th Fleet operations for the next few days to allow commanders to get together with leaders, sailors and command officials and identify any immediate steps that need to be taken to ensure safety.

Top US commander calls for diplomacy in North Korea tensions

The head of the US military's Pacific Command on Tuesday stressed the importance of diplomacy, rather than a preemptive military strike, to address North Korea's growing missile activities.

Tensions rose after the North last month tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) that appeared to bring much of the US within range, with President Donald Trump warning that Washington could rain "fire and fury" on Pyongyang, AFP reported.

The North's leader Kim Jong-un then threatened to fire a salvo of missiles towards the US Pacific territory of Guam.

He later backed away from the plan, but tens of thousands of South Korean and US troops this week began an annual war game hated by Pyongyang.

To tackle the North's menaces, "the most important starting point is the diplomatic starting point," said Admiral Harry Harris, who is in South Korea to inspect the Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) exercises.

The decades-old defense alliance between Seoul and Washington "represents a very strong military back-up to our diplomats who should take the front line," Harris told reporters at a US airbase at Osan, south of Seoul.

North Korea tested ballistic missiles at an unprecedented rate during 2016. The country has been under UN sanctions since 2006 over its nuclear and ballistic missile tests.

It says it needs such weapons to defend itself against US aggression.

The allies say the largely computer-simulated UFG drills are purely defensive in nature, but Pyongyang views them as a highly provocative rehearsal for invasion and every year threatens strong military counteraction.

In a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency Tuesday, a North Korean Army spokesman

described Harris and his colleagues as "brass hats of the US imperialist aggressor forces, who would be directly in charge of preemptive strike at the DPRK (North Korea) and war of aggression."

Any attempt to do so would have "catastrophic consequences," it added.

Solving the current tensions was ultimately up to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, said US Forces Korea commander Vincent Brooks, warning that an all-out military confrontation on the peninsula would be "beyond very dangerous and deadly" for both Koreas.

Angry Trump grilled his generals about troop increase, then gave in

President Trump's skepticism about America's involvement in Afghanistan was no secret to his staff. But his top national security officials were still taken aback at a meeting in the Situation Room on July 19, when an angry Mr. Trump began ripping apart their latest proposal to send thousands of additional American troops to the country.

"We're losing," the president declared, according to a person who was in the room. The plan, he complained, was vague and open-ended, with no definition of victory. "What does success look like?" he asked.

The day before that meeting, Mr. Trump had invited four soldiers who had served in Afghanistan to the White House for lunch. His exchanges with these enlisted men, an official said, left him sober about the prospects for turning around a war that has dragged on for nearly 16 years. He showed up the next day determined to ask hard questions.

On Monday night, Mr. Trump finally put forward a broader strategy for Afghanistan, one that would require thousands more American troops but place more conditions on the Afghan government. His decision, several officials said, was less a change of heart than a weary acceptance of the case, made during three months of intense White House debate by the military leaders who dominate his war cabinet.

In the end, these officials said, Mr. Trump accepted the logic that a "big military" approach was needed to prevent Afghanistan from again becoming a launching pad for terrorism against the United States. Persuaded there were no other options, Mr. Trump became the third American president to send young men and women into the longest war in American history.

His journey to that decision was starkly different than that of his predecessor, President Barack Obama. Unlike Mr. Obama, who ran for office promising to turn around the war in

Afghanistan, Mr. Trump scarcely mentioned it on the campaign trail.

But he had long opposed the war, in keeping with his general aversion to American military entanglements. As a private citizen, he repeatedly called on Mr. Obama to withdraw the troops.

The Antiwar Tweets

"It is time to get out of Afghanistan," Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter on Feb. 27, 2012, a period when he was beginning to think about running for president. "We are building roads and schools for people that hate us. It is not in our national interests."

That summer, he ratcheted up his calls after a series of attacks by Afghan soldiers on American troops. "Why are we continuing to train these Afghans who then shoot our soldiers in the back?" he wrote on Aug. 21, 2012. "Afghanistan is a complete waste. Time to come home!"

The next year, Mr. Trump went so far as to embrace Mr. Obama in his decision to pull out American troops.

"I agree with Pres. Obama on Afghanistan," Mr. Trump wrote on Jan. 14, 2013. "We should have a speedy withdrawal. Why should we keep wasting our money — rebuild the U.S.!"

But once in the White House, Mr. Trump populated his cabinet with people who had a long history in Afghanistan. His defense secretary, Jim Mattis, is a retired Marine Corps general who lost troops in fierce combat there early in the war. His national security adviser, Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster, ran an anti-corruption task force that worked with the Afghan government.

This spring, Mr. Mattis and General McMaster began drafting a plan to send upward of 4,000 additional troops to Afghanistan, beyond

the 8,400 that were already there. They believed the influx would help the Afghan Army stabilize a fast-deteriorating security situation in the country.

The debate got little public attention, Afghanistan had faded from the headlines, and the White House was grappling with a cascade of other news, from the investigation of Mr. Trump's ties to Russia to the nuclear standoff with North Korea.

But there were already dissonant voices. Stephen K. Bannon, Mr. Trump's former chief strategist, worried that the generals were leading the president down the same path as Mr. Obama, who felt boxed in by his generals in 2009, his first year in office, when he agreed to send 30,000 additional troops. Mr. Bannon questioned why an additional 4,000 troops would fix the situation.

"For 16 years, from neocons to progressives to Obama's people, they all thought they were making great decisions," Mr. Bannon said, according to a person in the room. "Why are we any smarter than they are?"

At a meeting of the National Security Council's principals committee, he clashed with General McMaster, who had taken the lead in developing the policy. Their relationship deteriorated, and Mr. Bannon became General McMaster's biggest in-house nemesis.

A Truck Bomb in Kabul

In late May, a truck bomb exploded in the Afghan capital, Kabul, killing more than 150 people and raising doubts about the survival of the government of President Ashraf Ghani. Alarmed, Mr. Mattis and General McMaster intensified their push for Mr. Trump to sign off on a troop increase.

But the broader policy was still skeletal. It lacked any strategy for dealing with neighboring Pakistan, where many of the terrorist sanctuaries lay. Still, Mr. Trump authorized Mr. Mattis to send up to 4,000 additional troops — a decision the Pentagon announced in a cryptic late-afternoon news release on June 14 that played down its significance and suggested it was a stopgap measure. White House officials said nothing publicly about the decision, and Mr. Mattis said he would not send any troops

until there was a broader policy in place.

Mr. Bannon, meanwhile, continued to play disrupter. As the administration tried to flesh out the policy, he recruited two outside businessmen — Erik D. Prince, a founder of the private security firm Blackwater Worldwide, and Stephen A. Feinberg, co-founder of Cerberus Capital Management — who proposed plans to substitute private military contractors for American troops. Both men owned companies that supply contractors and would have profited from such a policy.

On a Saturday morning in early July, Mr. Bannon visited Mr. Mattis at his office in the Pentagon to lobby him on the unorthodox concept. Mr. Mattis listened politely, officials said, but dismissed it. Although Mr. Bannon continued to share his views privately with Mr. Trump, he became marginalized from the process even before he left the White House on Friday.

The Final Debates

But other new figures emerged after the contentious July 19 meeting. Vice President Mike Pence, not General McMaster, chaired a principals meeting on Afghanistan the following week. Mr. Pence's views were not sharply different than those of General McMaster. But the general's relationship with Mr. Trump had become difficult, with the president bridle at what some describe as his aide's didactic style.

Mr. Pence, officials said, understood where Mr. Trump was coming from and tried to interpret the president to the National Security Council staff.

Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson also became more vocal, having objected to the lack of a diplomatic component in the initial proposal from General McMaster. His position was complicated by the fact that the State Department had just dismantled the office of its special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

By early August, the White House chief of staff, Reince Priebus, had been forced out and replaced by John F. Kelly, another retired Marine general. As the secretary of homeland security, Mr. Kelly had attended National Security Council meetings where

Afghanistan was discussed. But now he became centrally involved, warning Mr. Trump's aides that they needed to develop solid answers to his questions about how to measure success there.

By then, the options for dealing with Afghanistan had narrowed to three: pull out, pour in more troops or shift to a covert counterterrorism strategy led by the C.I.A. Mr. Bannon had been a prime advocate of the covert approach. But the C.I.A. director, Mike Pompeo, was hesitant to throw the agency into the war full-scale, according to one official, because of its difficult history there.

The generals kept pushing for more troops, but Mr. Trump insisted on knowing why the other two options were deemed not feasible. On Aug. 10, the president summoned his team to his golf club in Bedminster, N.J., where he was on a less-than-tranquil vacation.

The generals told the president that a complete pullout would leave Afghanistan in danger of becoming another haven for the Islamic State, as happened in Iraq. And Mr. Pompeo's reservations about a major role for the C.I.A. undercut the counterterrorism strategy.

General McMaster continued tweaking the plan, which now had benchmarks for reducing corruption in the Afghan government and for pressing Pakistan to wipe out terrorist sanctuaries on its border with Afghanistan.

Last Friday, he and the rest of the national security team flew to Camp David for what turned out to be a decisive meeting. Mr. Trump signed off on the strategy, and the team posed for a grim-faced group portrait with the president. Back in Washington, Mr. Bannon had vacated his office and was returning to his old employer, the right-wing website Breitbart News.

On Monday, a few hours before Mr. Trump was to speak, Breitbart published an interview with Mr. Prince, in which he criticized the president for not being more receptive to his proposal for mercenaries. "The presidency by its nature lives in a bubble," Mr. Prince said. "When you fill it with former general officers, you're going to get that stream of advice."

The above article was taken from the New York Times.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Joint chambers of commerce planned with Italy, Switzerland, Tajikistan

The ground is paved for setting up joint chambers of commerce between Iran and three Asian and European countries, a trade official said.

Head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), Gholamhossein Shafiei, said that groundwork has been laid for establishing joint chambers of commerce between Iran and Italy, Switzerland and Tajikistan, Tasnim News Agency reported.

He added that forming joint commerce chambers is on TCCIMA's agenda to develop trade relations with other countries. "Those involved in domestic private sector are expected to play a significant role in the process."

The TCCIMA head expressed regret that currently, there is a turbulence in the demand and supply market, which highlights the need for special attention to exports and doubling efforts to improve the condition.

Official: Iran exporters eyeing Russian market

Iranian businessmen are considering ways to boost exports to Russia, said a deputy trade minister.

According to Fars News Agency, Mojtaba Khosrotaj told business representatives of state-run and private sectors, "To attain the goal, Iranian exporters should closely examine the Russian market to facilitate the exports of their products to that country."

During the meeting, Khosrotaj and the Iranian businessmen also examined ways to reach a preferential tariff deal with Eurasia comprising Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and Armenia, reduce tariffs as well as prepare the grounds for free trade with these countries.

In late July, Iran's Ambassador to Russia Mehdi Sanaei and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov underlined the need to increase trade between Tehran and Moscow.

In a meeting in Moscow, Sanaei and Morgulov also explored ways to bolster and reinvigorate Iran-Russia cooperation.

The two sides discussed a range of other issues, including implementation of agreements reached between Tehran and Moscow during President Hassan Rouhani's visit to Russia in late March.

Morgulov voiced his satisfaction with the development of all-out relations between Iran and Russia, and called for the implementing the letters of the agreements and defining new economic projects to broaden bilateral ties.

Sanaei pointed to the exchange of high-ranking delegations between the two countries in recent months, and said that the heads of states of the two countries are determined to develop relations in all areas.

He also referred to a statistical growth in bilateral economy and trade ties between Iran and Russia, and hoped to see a significant rise in trade between the two countries by yearend.

Moutheh four-month gold output tops 135 kilograms

Domestic Economy Desk

Production at Moutheh Gold Complex in Isfahan Province amounted to 136 kilograms in the four months from March 21 to July 22, reported Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

According to the report, production in this period indicated a growth of 48 percent compared to the figure for the same four-month period last year, which was 92 kilograms, imidro.gov.ir reported.

The gold complex produced 36 kilograms of gold during June 22-July 22, indicating a rise of 44 percent against the output for the previous year, which was 25 kilograms.

The complex is implementing gold extraction projects including enrichment of low-grade ores, treatment of tailings and renovation of technology to reduce power pollution as well as quality improvement.

Moutheh, located in the city of Barkhar-e Meimeh, is estimated to produce over 300 kilograms of gold each year.

Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade figures showed Iran has 15 gold mines, of which 12 are operational while three are inactive.

Gold exploration is underway in most provinces, including East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Kurdistan, Kerman, Khosran Razavi, South Khosran, Isfahan, Yazd, Markazi, Qom, Hamedan and Zanjan.

Iran's National Geology and Mineral Exploration Organization put Iran's total proven and probable gold reserves at 320 tons. The provinces of Tehran, Isfahan, Khosran Razavi and East Azarbaijan are top gold producing hubs.



imidro.gov.ir

India asked to put Chabahar rail link on fast track

Iran has sought a firm commitment from New Delhi that the construction of the \$1.6-billion rail link from Chabahar Port will be taken up expeditiously, two people aware of the development said.

India has promised to remove hurdles to fast track the project, which will connect the port on the southern coast of the Persian Gulf nation to the eastern city of Zahedan close to the border with Afghanistan, livemint.com reported.

The issue came up for discussion during a visit by India's Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari to Iran for the swearing-in ceremony of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the two people said, requesting anonymity.

"The minister has ordered to take up the matter with IRCON (IRCON International Ltd., the state-run company to which the contact was given) on priority and sort out the matter," an Indian government official, one of the two cited above said.

India plans to develop the Chabahar Port, which would give it access to landlocked Afghanistan and energy-rich Central Asia through its Jawaharlal Nehru and Kandla ports on the west coast, circumventing Pakistan.

But the agreement to build the 500-km rail link lapsed in April.

In May 2016, India and Iran inked 12 agreements including one for India's IRCON to build the 500-km railway line as part of a transit corridor to Afghanistan.

The agreements were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Iran.

"They complained that the agreement had lapsed and IRCON hasn't informed if it has managed to arrange for the funds for the rail project. The Indian delegation sought time and assured the Iranian government about India's commitment," the second official cited above said.

India has already built a 218-km road link connecting Delaram with Zaranj in Afghanistan, which is adjacent to the border with Iran.

The Chabahar Port, located in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, will also promote India's strategic interests in the Oman Sea and Strait of Hormuz.

Experts say procedural issues should be resolved fast by India to leverage the opportunity that Iran offers.

"There is a positive movement. The Indian government is very focused on its intent to move forward on Chabahar Port which is a strategic project and forms an integral part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)."

"We will have to sort out the procedural issues and sustain the momentum," said Meena Singh Roy, a research fellow at New Delhi-based Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses (IDSA).

Chabahar can be leveraged by India for the INSTC which will connect the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf with the Caspian Sea through Iran and then onwards to St. Petersburg in Russia and



IRINA

northern Europe. China on its part is pushing for its ambitious 'One Belt One Road' initiative aimed at connecting around 60 countries across Asia, Africa and Europe.

"There has to be fast movement on the commitments made. This time there is push from the top. If we don't sustain the momentum, the opportunity will not wait for us," Roy added.

China's ZPMC has won a contract to supply cranes to the Chabahar Port, The Hindu Business Line reported on.

Chabahar port, located in the Oman Sea near Iran's border with Pakistan, is less than 100km from Pakistan's Chinese-constructed port of Gwadar — part of a project to open up an energy and trade corridor from Oman Sea to western China.

First Announcement

Molybdenum Oxide Tender Notice

National Iranian Copper Industries Company

Quality: Molybdenum Oxide produced in Khatoon-Abad, Kerman Province, Islamic Republic of Iran.
Quantity: 320 mt +/-10% in Seller's Option.
Shipment: Cargo is load ready in Bandar Abbas/Iran. The least weight for each shipped lot shall be 100 mt and not less.
Analysis and Size Determination:

	Mo		Si		Cu		S		Pb		P		C		Sizing	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	5-10 mm	5-10 mm	
C-49	64.93	0.70	0.77	0.099	0.025	0.016	0.005	100.0	0.0							
C-51	64.87	0.85	0.74	0.068	0.026	0.016	0.009	100.0	0.0							
C-52	65.22	0.88	0.66	0.052	0.029	0.018	0.009	100.0	0.0							
D-05	64.78	0.90	0.74	0.065	0.025	0.020	0.011	100.0	0.0							
D-08	64.15	0.94	0.90	0.075	0.039	0.018	0.012	100.0	0.0							
D-09	63.97	0.94	0.90	0.064	0.052	0.017	0.011	100.0	0.0							
D-10	64.30	0.96	0.82	0.078	0.040	0.015	0.007	100.0	0.0							
D-11	63.95	0.96	0.82	0.074	0.045	0.016	0.010	100.0	0.0							
D-12	64.27	0.94	0.77	0.076	0.045	0.016	0.012	100.0	0.0							
D-13	64.40	0.90	0.74	0.104	0.055	0.017	0.010	100.0	0.0							
D-14	64.26	0.92	0.75	0.108	0.050	0.019	0.009	100.0	0.0							
D-15	64.19	0.87	0.75	0.110	0.020	0.018	0.008	100.0	0.0							
D-16	64.18	0.87	0.74	0.100	0.021	0.017	0.014	99.7	0.3							
D-17	63.68	0.96	0.79	0.096	0.021	0.016	0.014	99.8	0.2							
D-18	63.63	1.02	0.80	0.102	0.029	0.016	0.011	100.0	0.0							
D-19	63.21	1.07	0.79	0.089	0.021	0.017	0.010	100.0	0.0							

Packing: The cargo is packed in seaworthy steel drums of 220 liters capacity with lids secured by rings.

Delivery: FOB Bandar Abbas, Iran.

Price term: Price for Molybdenum oxide will be based on the Platt's metals week monthly average for molybdenum oxide, as published in monthly report of Platt's metals week under the heading "Dealer Oxide midpointmean" per pound of molybdenum.

Quotational Period: Quotational period for Molybdenum Oxide shall be the average of the first month following the month of actual shipment (MOAS+1) from the port of loading as evidenced by the B/L date.

Inspection & Weighing: Weighing will be carried out by weighbridge at loadport i.e. Bandar Abbas / Iran. The weight determined by AHK as an international inspection company shall be final and binding for buyer and seller for settlement purposes, the cost of which shall be shared 50/50 between seller and buyer. AHK will provide a weight certificate showing the weight for each drum and lot. The net weight to be determined for each lot at the load port shall be final for settlement of all parties concerned.

Sampling/analyzing is already carried out by AHK and AHK's analysis result (stated above) is final and shall be binding for settlement purposes. The cost of this procedure shall be shared 50/50 between seller and buyer which is already fully paid to AHK by seller and shall be settled with buyer in the first issued related invoice.

Payment Procedure:

- Buyer shall pay 100 percent of proforma / provisional invoice value amount in Euro or AED, prompt net cash payable by telegraphic transfer or under an Irrevocable Letter of Credit at sight to a bank which is nominated by seller. Proforma / Provisional invoice amount calculated based on provisional price which is average of two weeks price (low and high prices) prior date of Proforma / Provisional invoice.

The exact payment procedure shall be negotiated at the time of contract settlement by buyer and seller.

The final balance, if any, between the provisional payment made by buyer and the final value of the material shall be paid by the owing party by telegraphic transfer against seller's presentation of following documents within (5) working days from the date of the final invoice.

- Seller's final invoice issued based on final prices less the amount of provisional payment.

Important Notes:

- Offers must be presented to NICICO, Sales Dept. only through email to Sales-Tender@nicico.com till Monday, August 28, 2017. It is very important that the offers shall be definitely sent to the Sales-Tender@nicico.com and the ones sent to any other email addresses won't be regarded as the tender participants and won't be evaluated. (Offers which will be sent after the due date won't be considered as participants of our inquiry.)
- NICICO reserves the right to reject any one or all offers, cancel, renew or prolong the deadline.
- NICICO reserves the right to sell part or all of above mentioned material and tonnage to one or several potential buyers.
- Quotational period for any unknown price is also negotiable.
- In case your offer is accepted by NICICO, it will be advised to you via Email.

Important Note: The offers shall be definitely sent through company email addresses and the personal ones through which the offers are to be sent by participants such as gmail, yahoo, hotmail or any other personal or general email addresses are not accepted at all. **The following information of companies of attendees that shall be definitely provided as well:**

- 1- Full Company Name (Both Local and English dictation);
- 2- Company national ID;
- 3- Registered Number;
- 4- Registered Date;
- 5- Company Type: Private or State-owned
- 6- Registered Country;
- 7- Registered City;
- 8- Ownership Type: A) Public B) Joint Stock,
- 9- Company Field of Activity;
- 10- Company Address;
- 11- Tel;
- 12- Fax;
- 13- Company Website Address;

National Iranian Copper Industries Co.
Sales and Marketing department
Tel: +98 21 82138231

Iran: World Bank approves £1b to electrify rail network

From Page 1

Geranpasha said implementation of the Iranian-Russian contract will start soon after the World Bank's decision, and may take three years to finish.

The train line would connect north-central Iran to the northeastern border with Turkmenistan.

The agreement between Russian Railways and the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI) envisages constructing power stations and overhead power lines along the Gamsar-Sari-Gorgan-Inche Burun route in Iran.

The train line, among the first in Iran with a history of 80 years, extends to Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan and links the Central Asia to the Persian Gulf and beyond.

The project will cover 32 stations and 95 tunnels, 7 traction substations, 11 section pillars, 6 duty posts of the contact station and power supply administration building. According to preliminary estimates, the project will be implemented in 36 months.

China has more room to tackle debt

Rising corporate profits are providing Chinese policymakers with room to do more to tackle the country's growing debt problems without inflicting major damage on the economy.

Profits are increasing even though financial conditions are tightening in some significant areas of the economy; lending rates have inched higher, regulators have clamped down against risky lending and have moved to take the heat out of the property sector, according to Reuters.

The economy is also comfortably on course to meet the government's GDP growth target this year of around 6.5 percent.

Although it is far from certain the government will tighten credit conditions further, some economists expect policymakers to move that way once President Xi Jinping consolidates power at a key five-yearly Communist Party Congress later this year.

Andrew Fennell, the main sovereign analyst for China at Fitch Ratings, said, "There's more room to experiment (with tightening credit). It is the right timing and moment to do so against this backdrop of a strong growth momentum."

The government has made reducing China's debt burden a priority this year after credit soared following the global financial crisis.

The International Monetary Fund warned last week that China's credit growth was on a "dangerous trajectory" and called for "decisive action." The bank for International Settlements said in September excessive credit growth was signaling a banking crisis in the next three years.

But a few things are falling into place to ease worries that further moves to curb debt would prompt an economic and financial crisis.

Thomson Reuters data of almost 1,000 Shanghai-listed non-financial companies showed net profits rose almost 70 percent



in the first quarter from the same period of 2016.

Results so far from the second-quarter earnings season suggest continued momentum on a pick-up in global trade and economic activity. Gansu Jiu Steel expects a 54-percent first-half net profit rise, while China Coal Energy expects net profit of 1.5-1.8 billion yuan (£384.05 million) from 616 million a year earlier.

For the 104 companies for which 2017 estimates are available, analysts predict a 38.25-percent overall increase in net profits, compared with 10.6 percent growth in 2016.

Annual profits either shrank or barely grew over 2011-2015, which contributed to the rapid accumulation of debt.

Benchmark policy rates have been on hold for almost two years. But average lending rates edged up to 5.67 percent in June, the highest since September 2015, from 5.53 percent in March, the second-quarter policy report from the People's Bank of China showed earlier this month.

Total social financing (TSF), a broad measure of credit and liquidity, fell to 1.22 trillion yuan in July from 1.78 trillion in June. Still, TSF grew 13.2 percent from a year earlier, suggesting authorities do not want to hit the brakes too hard.

Rising bankruptcies

The government appears more tolerant of company failures as well. A Fitch

analysis of files from the Supreme People's Court showed there were 4,700 bankruptcy cases between January and July this year, compared with 5,665 for all of 2016 and 3,684 in 2015.

Even if this signals Chinese policymakers are more tolerant of companies being pushed into bankruptcy, analysts said it also suggested they are moving slowly so as not to destabilize the economy.

Still, only 12 percent of the bankruptcies were in the indebted state sector and the figures pale in comparison with bankruptcies in developed economies; they were 10 times lower than in France and four times lower than in the United States last year.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	82372.4	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	71349.3	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	90159.3	3826	4.27
First Market Index	57745.6	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	179391.9	2030.5	1.14

Overall Index details on 20170822

First	81696.3	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	82428.6	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	82119.7	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	82372.49	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

Industry Index details on 20170822

First	70641.7	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	71404.6	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	70278.2	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	71349.3	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

Free Float Index details on 20170822

First	89747.2	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	90159.3	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

Main Board Index details on 20170822

First	57174.4	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	57785.3	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	57745.6	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

Secondary Index details on 20170822

First	178720.2	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	179531.9	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	179391.9	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2235.2		

Thailand tipped to score economic growth

Thailand is forecast to register a 3.5 to 4.0 percent growth in gross domestic product throughout this year, according to a report issued by the National Economic and Social Development Board.

That may compare to a 3.2-percent growth in Thailand's GDP last year and an earlier prediction of a 3.3 to 3.8 percent economic growth announced last May, Xinhua reported.

Thailand has registered a 3.5-percent economic growth during this year's first six months or a 3.7-percent growth during the second quarter alone, reported the NESDB, the highest in four years since the first quarter of 2013.

The 3.7 economic growth during this year's second quarter accounted for a 1.3 percent increase from the first quarter which registered a 3.3 percent, reported the NESDB.

Domestic consumption registered a three percent growth during the second quarter of this year, compared to 3.2 percent growth during the first quarter, reported the NESDB.

The household incomes in agricultural sector as well as revenues in export sector and tourist sector have increased



accordingly during the second quarter of this year.

Government expenditures have risen by 2.7 percent during the second quarter, compared to 0.3 percent during the first quarter while private investments have

risen by 3.2 percent during the second quarter, compared to 1.1 percent increase during the first quarter.

Compared to the 3.2 percent increase in the private investments, the government investments dropped by 7.0 percent

during the second quarter of this year, according to the NESDB report.

Nevertheless, state firms' investments increased by 20.5 percent during the second quarter, compared to 17.0 percent during the first quarter.

The export sector earned some \$56.1 billion in combined value and registered a 8.0-percent increase during the second quarter, compared to 6.8-percent rise during the first quarter, according to the NESDB report.

Thailand's export products which secured higher values included rice, rubber, rubber products, automotive parts and accessories, machinery, mechanical equipment and petroleum products whereas the export products which brought lower values included automobiles, air conditioners and tapiaoca.

The Thai exports to China, the European Union, the United States, Japan and ASEAN have increased but those to the Middle East and Australia have dropped.

Meanwhile, the import sector accounted for \$49.5 billion in combine value and registered a 4.5-percent increase in value and 8.9-percent increase in volume during the second quarter.

Lebanon hikes corporation tax, VAT

Lebanese President Michel Aoun signed off on public sector wage increases and related tax hikes, the National News Agency (NNA) said.

Aoun had held off ratifying the two laws since parliament approved them last month, amid concerns from businesses about the impact of more taxes on Lebanon's fragile economy, Reuters wrote.

The public sector pay scale law has been under discussion for years. The government had estimated that it would cost around \$800 million, or \$1.2

billion if it included certain pension increases.

The tax law raises value-added tax by one percentage point to 11 percent and hikes corporation tax to 17 percent from 15 percent.

Several protests have broken out this year over the proposed tax hikes, which are intended to fund public sector pay rises.

In recent weeks, some public sector workers have also gathered in the streets calling for Aoun to finally sign the laws.

South Korean consumer sentiment hits 22-year high

South Korea's consumer confidence has hit a 22-year high for the second half of the year on expectations for the country's newly inaugurated government, a survey showed on Tuesday.

South Korea's overall consumer confidence for the July-December period stands at an average 78 on a full scale of 100, up 46.7 points from the first half, according to the Mastercard Index of Consumer Confidence, Yonhap wrote.

The latest Mastercard index is based on a survey of 9,153 people (407 South Koreans) in 18 markets in the

Asia-Pacific region. It covers five categories — economy, stock market, employment, quality of life and fixed income.

The number for Asia's fourth-largest economy marks the highest level since the 78.6 recorded in 1995 and is higher than the regional average of 66.9.

South Korea's score is the eighth-highest among the nations, up seven notches from the first half.

It also dwarfs numbers for major economies in the region — 49.2 for Australia, 45.4 for Singapore and 44.4 for Japan, the world's third-largest economy.

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2855	Chinese Yuan	0.1502
Euro	1.1782	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.2848	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3068
Australian Dollar	0.7919	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0091	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$47.69	Silver	\$16.93
Gold	\$1289.60	Platinum	\$980.00
Copper	\$2.96	Wheat	\$410.50

Historical sites discovered along Persian Gulf

Operations to determine the limits and demarcate the precincts of the historic Tall-e Pir site on the shores of the Persian Gulf led to the identification of 12 areas within a radius of 3km, most of which belong to the historic era.

The Research Institute of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) quoted head of the exploration team Ahmad Sarkhosh, as saying in addition to the plan to determine the limits of Tall-e Pir site, intensive archeological investigations were conducted in an area of 3km around the site, IRNA reported.

He pointed to the old aerial photos taken by the Armed Forces, noting that in addition to the old photos which were taken in 1956, the entire area under study was photographed by a drone and the old and new images were compared and evaluated to provide a better understanding of the area.

In the first round of the probe, wells were created within 15 meters from each other and by obtaining archeological deposits from the exploratory wells, the second round was conducted with gaps of 10 to 15 meters from the first row, he added.

During the operation, archeological materials such as clay artifacts and stone tools were obtained, Sarkhosh said.

He added that the obtained clay artifacts were comparable with the clay works of Tall-e Bakun in Marvdasht and Tall-e Rigi in Firuzabad.

World has missed chance to avoid dangerous global warming



PLANET EARTH NASA

The world has missed the chance to avoid dangerous global warming — unless we start geo-engineering the atmosphere by removing greenhouse gases, according to new research.

Scientists used computer models to assess what needs to be done to restrict global warming to between 1.5°C and 2°C, the limits adopted by the Paris Agreement on climate change, wrote the Independent.

They found that the world was likely to overshoot this temperature but could bring it back down to 1.2°C by the end of this century by using techniques to remove carbon

dioxide from the air. Giant biological machines could be created to do this by growing vegetation which absorbs carbon, then burning the resulting biomass in power stations that capture the emissions.

The researchers also said other techniques to remove carbon from the atmosphere would need to be developed.

Another team of researchers reached similar conclusions last month, finding that geo-engineering would be required to restrict warming to 1.5°C but 2°C could be achieved without it.

Scientists previously thought limiting global

warming to 2°C would avoid the most dangerous effects, but there is increasing evidence that allowing it to go much above 1.5°C could lock in considerable sea level rise for the next few centuries.

So far the world has warmed by just under 1°C in little over a century.

Writing in the journal *Climatic Change*, researchers from Switzerland said: "We find that, with our modelling assumptions, limiting global temperature to 1.5°C is only possible when using direct air capture (DAC)."

"In our model, attaining this Paris target depends on

the immediate reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and negative emissions after 2060, which require the use of additional mitigation technologies such as BECCS and direct air capture.

"A deep decarbonization of the energy system and a strong reduction of final energy demands without complementary carbon dioxide removal are not enough to realize this Paris target."

The world would have to bring about a 'complete shift' to an energy system based on renewables, nuclear, hydrogen, and bio-energy with carbon capture and storage.

Blue dogs

Authorities in Mumbai have shut down a manufacturing company after it was accused of dumping untreated industrial waste and dyes into a local river that resulted in 11 dogs turning blue.

2.7-million-year-old ice core pulled from Antarctica

A team of researchers from Princeton University, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the University of Maine and Oregon State University has drilled and retrieved a 2.7-million-year-old ice core from a spot in Antarctica. The team presented their findings at this year's Goldschmidt Conference in Paris.



CCO PUBLIC DOMAIN

Until recently, scientists believed that ice core samples taken from either pole had an age limit of approximately 800,000 years — this was because ice at the bottom melted due to heat from inside the Earth, according to phys.org.

But a team at Princeton discovered a few years ago that another type of ice could hold much older ice known as blue ice. It forms on glaciers due to snowfall which, over time, becomes compressed, squeezing out air bubbles, making the ice look blue.

But it also has another characteristic — over time, the ice at the bottom is pushed upwards, protecting it from melting. In this new effort, the team drilled at a site called the Allan Hills, near McMurdo Station.

Ice cores taken from glaciers present problems because they are more difficult to date — cores from other places are dated by counting their layers.

The older ice, it was found, could be dated by studying trace amounts of potassium and argon — though not as precise as layer counting, the researchers believe it is accurate to within 100,000 years.

One of the first teams to take a core sample from the older ice drilled to a depth of 128 meters. In this latest effort, the team drilled to 205 meters and found ice that was nearly twice as old.

Ice cores are important because they contain very small air bubbles that are samples of atmospheric conditions. Air bubbles from 2.7 million years ago offer evidence of climatic conditions during the time before the ice ages began, perhaps offering clues as to why they occurred. Already, the team has found that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels were at approximately 300ppm, which is considerably lower than today's 400ppm.

But the team noted that the core sample represents something perhaps even more exciting — the possibility of finding core samples that are much older, perhaps as old as five million years.

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

New Apt in Elahieh
7th floor, each floor one Apt,
329 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., big balcony,
lobby, spj, quit & cozy,
equipped kitchen, furn/unfurn
Price negotiable
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Several Apts in Garden Tower
in Elahieh
new, from 150 sq.m to 250
sq.m Apts, 3 Bdrs., garden,
spj, equipped kitchen, could
be fully furn and new brand,
lobby, opposite to French
school, good access to Sadr
highway
Reasonable Price
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Aqdasiyeh
120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., nice view
pkg.good access
Suitable for
Residency of Ambassadors
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Limited summer Offer
in Jordan
140 sq.m flat Apt, 3 Bdrs., 4th
floor peaceful residency
\$1400
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Villa

Unbelievable Villa in
North of Tehran
7000 sq.m land, 2200 sq.m
built up, duplex, 7 Bdrs.,
big saloon, green garden,
renovated, waterfall
Suitable for Embassy or
Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Villa in Mahmoodeh
550 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., parking &
sauna, with convenient access
to Valiasr and Palladium
\$7000
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Superlux villa in
Zafaranieh
2 Bdrs., fully furn, green
garden, outdoor pool, parking
\$4500
Suitable for Foreigners
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Zafaranieh
600 sq.m, 5 Bdrs., fully furn,
renovated, outdoor pool
\$8000
Suitable for
Embassy & Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206



Holder of
ISO 9001 :2008
ISO 10004 :2012
ISO 10002 :2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation,
Best Services, Best Result**

Section Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141

info@parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

Very nice Office
In Jordan
80 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., furn/ unfurn
Only \$12000
Available for Rent
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Legal registered Offices in
North & North-West
available from 1400 sq.m each
floor up to 800 sq.m, flat, open
space
Suitable for International
Companies
Ms.Sara 09128103207

New Whole Building in
Jordan Elahieh
2 block, 10 Apts total, 25 rooms,
Tehran view, roof garden,
outdoor pool located in roof,
cozy place, parking, lobby
Suitable for
Embassy & Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

New Commercial Building in
Saadat Abad
unbelievable building, each
floor 1500 sq.m, flat, 180
parking
Suitable for foreign companies
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Ideal offers

Apt in Elahieh
150 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., fully furn,
cozy and quit, **\$2000**
Suitable for Diplomatic
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Zafaranieh
260 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., nice furn,
quit & cozy, parking, **\$3300**
Suitable for Foreigners
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Office in Jordan
110 sq.m to 240 sq.m, full of
foreign companies , could be
flat, Parking lot with extra
visitors parking, lobby, security,
renovated, almost new
Price per each sq \$40
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Limited Offer in Aqdasiyeh
120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., fully furn,
very clean & nice, **\$4200**
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Apt in Gheytrah
120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., view of park,
parking, full furn, diplomatic
building, **\$1200**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیرمبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا
و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه‌ها و شرکت‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

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

Zika virus thrives in pregnant women by suppressing their already dampened immune systems and running roughshod over their body's natural defenses, which allows the virus to directly attack the fetus.

Lower blood pressure best for seniors' minds

For seniors and particularly blacks with high blood pressure, lowering it may help keep their minds sharp, a new study suggested.

The association between high blood pressure and the risk for mental decline is well-documented, according to UPI.

But the ideal systolic blood pressure for older adults has been less clear-cut, with recommended targets ranging from 150 mm/Hg to 120 mm/Hg.

Systolic blood pressure, the amount of pressure exerted by the heart as it pumps blood throughout the body, is the top or first number in a blood pressure reading.

Recent evidence suggested that while people in general benefit from a systolic blood pressure of 120 mm/Hg or less, older adults might fare better with a higher systolic pressure. But this latest study found that lower systolic pressure was best for seniors.

Lead researcher Dr. Inah Hajjar, an associate professor of medicine at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, said, "Lower blood pressure levels are safe and probably better in treating hypertensive older adults."

His team found that participants whose systolic blood pressure was 150 mm/Hg or higher were more likely to have declining mental abilities during the 10-year study period than those whose systolic blood pressure was 120 mm/Hg or lower.

Hajjar added, "The effect was even



main.pollquingroup.com

more pronounced in black seniors."

From 1997 to 2007 Hajjar and colleagues collected data on nearly 1,700 adults aged between 70 and 79 who were being treated for high blood pressure and showed no signs of mental decline.

During the study period, participants took tests of mental ability. The researchers found that scores on these tests were linked with the patient's systolic blood pressure.

The higher the systolic number, the more test scores declined.

Moreover, the declines in test scores were greater in blacks with high systolic blood pressures than they were

among whites with similar blood pressure readings, the researchers found.

Hajjar said, "The negative health effects of higher blood pressure are more prevalent in blacks, especially related to kidney disease, stroke and cardiovascular health."

"Therefore, it is conceivable that lowering blood pressure in this population would have a far greater impact than other groups for the cognitive effects as well."

The report was published online in the journal JAMA Neurology.

Dr. Rebecca Gottesman is a professor of neurology and epidemiology in the division of cerebrovascular

neurology at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

"Blood pressure control is very important, both for reducing stroke and heart risk, but also for reducing the risk of dementia and cognitive impairment, but we don't yet know whether initiating antihypertensive therapy in older adults, with the primary purpose of reducing cognitive decline, is actually effective and safe."

"And because it was an observational study, the findings do not prove that lower blood pressure levels in older adults slow thinking declines."

"Blood pressure control in general is beneficial."

Another specialist agreed that the study isn't the final word on what is the best systolic blood pressure for protecting mental health in older adults.

Dr. Byron Lee, director of the electrophysiology laboratories and clinics at the University of California, San Francisco, said, "We have to be very careful not to read too much into this study."

"This is observational research and there are many other observational studies that suggest it is better to have a higher systolic blood pressure target of 150 mm/Hg to 140 mm/Hg in older adults."

"This study does remind us, however, that race may be an important factor, which could alter how we treat different patients in the future."

Protein powders in smoothies don't make you bloated

A nutritionist and juice shop owner made waves by claiming protein powders should never be mixed with fruits or vegetables in smoothies because it will upset your digestion, however top Harley Street nutritionist Rhianon Lambert refuted the claim, explaining that everyone is different.

Many people go for a protein shake as a post-workout snack, mixing protein powder with fruit, veggies, oats, nut butters, seeds and dairy to make a delicious healthy way to re-energize, according to independent.co.uk.



independent.co.uk

But nutritionist and juice shop owner Corina Crysler claims this leaves people bloated, gassy and suffering from heartburn.

She said it's down to the combination of protein with fruit and vegetables — the former is broken down by acidic digestive juices, whereas the latter two require alkaline.

Crysler added, "So when you mix them together, your stomach has to produce both and they essentially knock each other out."

It's important to note, however, that Crysler's logic isn't actually based on any scientific evidence.

Harley Street nutritionist Rhianon Lambert explained to The Independent, "Whilst fruit can cause some digestive discomfort for some individuals owing to our gut bacteria loving fruit and the fermentation process, this does not apply to everyone."

Some people may be left bloated whereas others aren't and there are several factors at play:

How much fruit?

What type of fruit?

What else is in the smoothie?

What protein powder are you using?

Lifestyle/stress/sleep

Lambert said, "It is not right to say one rule fits all and I often advise a ratio of one piece of fruit to veg in smoothies but not because of bloating, simply as one piece can often be all you need for sweetness to offset the rest."

So if drinking a smoothie with a protein boost leaves you feeling fine, you keep enjoying that delicious, nutritious treat.

Parents still failing to put babies to sleep on their backs

Fewer than half of US infants always sleep on their backs, the position doctors recommend to avoid sleep-related injuries and deaths, a study suggested.

Researchers examined survey data from a nationally representative sample of US mothers, according to Reuters.com.

"While families may intend to place infants on the back to sleep and may eventually do so, they do not always follow these recommendations."

In 1992, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) announced that babies should be placed on their backs to sleep, in order

breastfeeding, pacifier use and firm crib mattresses while advising against blankets, pillows and bed sharing.

For the new study, researchers examined survey data collected from 3,297 mothers of infants from two to six months old.

Overall, 77 percent of

through each time their baby went to sleep.

When doctors explained safe sleep practices, women were 40 percent less likely to report putting babies to sleep on their stomachs, and 50 percent less likely to put infants to sleep on their sides, the study also found.

The study wasn't a controlled experiment designed to show whether or how educating women about infant sleep safety might influence how babies actually went to sleep or their odds of dying during the night.

Michael Gradisar, a psychology researcher at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia, who wasn't involved in the study, said, "It also doesn't explain why some parents didn't always put babies to sleep on their backs."

"If we can get parents to explain their decision in their own words, then we can begin to understand what factors are more important in their decision making than following recommended safe sleeping practices."

"Still, the results underscore a need for better education. We still have a lot of work to do, and lives are at stake."

"If we can't find ways to work with families to achieve behavior change, so that parents want to keep their babies supine and believe that it makes a difference, then we are not going to see further gains in terms of reducing sleep-related deaths and our postnatal infant mortality rate in the US."

the women said they usually put babies to sleep on their backs, while about 14 percent said they typically put babies to sleep on their sides and roughly eight percent routinely put babies down on their stomachs.

Mothers who were African-American or didn't complete high school were more likely to put babies to sleep on their stomachs.

While 58 percent of the mothers said they intended to put infants down on their backs all the time, only 44 percent said they followed



can1love.com

More than three in four mothers said they usually placed their infants on their backs to sleep, the survey found.

But just 44 percent of the mothers said they planned to place babies to sleep on their backs and then actually did this every time, researchers reported in Pediatrics.

Lead study author Dr. Eve Colson of the Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, said, "Intention does not always match practice.

to lower their risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Despite a dramatic decrease in frequency, SIDS still remains a leading cause of infant mortality.

Nationwide, SIDS kills about four babies out of every 10,000 live births, down from about 130 in 10,000 in 1990, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To prevent SIDS, along with putting young infants to sleep on their backs, the AAP also encourages

What is hepatitis E?

Hepatitis E is caused by the hepatitis E virus — which can infect both animals and humans.

Infection with the virus can cause a range of symptoms and even lead to liver failure, express.co.uk wrote.

The condition can be fatal, especially in pregnant women and in older people.

It also causes complications in people with suppressed immune systems, causing infection which can cause chronic inflammation of the liver.

However, usually the infection is mild and short-term and people don't usually require treatment.

Symptoms of hepatitis E include the yellowing of the skin and eyes, darkening of the urine and pale, or grey colored stools.

Other signs including tiredness, fever, vomiting,



express.co.uk

nausea, abdominal pain and loss of appetite.

How you can detect symptomless liver disease?

People with symptoms of hepatitis E are advised to contact their GP.

The National Health Service (NHS) Choices said, "The number of cases in Europe has increased in recent years and it's now the most common cause of short-term (acute) hepatitis in the UK."

The virus has been mainly associated with the consumption of raw or undercooked pork meat or offal, but also with the wild boar meat, venison and shellfish.

There's no vaccine for hepatitis E

NHS explained, "When traveling to parts of the world with poor sanitation, where epidemic hepatitis E may be common, you can reduce your risk by

practicing good food and water hygiene measures."

In 2016, there were 1,243 cases of hepatitis E reported, an increase on the previous year, with 1,213 cases reported.

Hepatitis E can be prevented by cooking meat and meat products, avoiding eating raw or undercooked meat and shellfish and washing hands before preparing and serving food.

The British Liver Trust said direct person to person transmission is uncommon. Hepatitis is the phrase to describe inflammation of the liver.

It can be caused by a number of reasons, including the hepatitis A virus, the hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C which is spread in the blood and alcoholic hepatitis, which is caused by drinking too much alcohol over many years.

Sitting could be big health risk for frail folks

After years of being told that sitting too much is deadly, a new study suggested that being sedentary for long periods of time may not be an equal-opportunity health risk.

For inactive middle-aged and older people with multiple health problems, being sedentary does appear to be linked to an increased risk of early death, UPI reported.

The researchers said, but sitting a lot doesn't seem to affect active people the same way.

Olga Theou, an assistant professor with Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, said, "We found that in people who scored low on the frailty index, sitting time was not linked to risk of death."

"Physicians should stress the harms of inactivity with patients, similar to the harms of smoking, to encourage movement."

"Even something as simple as getting up and walking around the house with a walker or cane can benefit frail people."

The study included data from more than 3,100 adults who participated in a US health survey.

All of the participants were aged 50 and over, and were followed from the mid-2000s until 2011.

The study participants' movements were monitored with the help of activity trackers.

The researchers also used a questionnaire to figure out how frail the participants were based on the number of medical problems they had.

The report was published in the CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal).

Theou said, "Prolonged sitting was associated with a higher risk of death only in vulnerable or frail people who did not meet the weekly recommendation for 2½ hours of moderate physical activity."

And while the study found an association between inactivity and increased risk of early death in frail people, it couldn't prove a cause-and-effect relationship.



medicalxpress.com

Smart label could detect food, cosmetics spoilage

Scientists have developed a low-cost, portable, paper-based sensor that can perform a variety of functions with easy-to-read results.

The sensor can not only detect spoilage or contamination in food and cosmetic products, but also identify new medicinal plants or authentic wine or tea, UPI wrote.



UPI

Dr. Silvana Andreescu, a researcher with the American Chemical Society, said, "I've always been interested in developing technologies that are accessible to both industry and the general population. My lab has built a versatile sensing platform that incorporates all the needed reagents for detection in a piece of paper."

"At the same time, it is adaptable to different targets, including food contaminants, antioxidants and free radicals that indicate spoilage."

The new technology was presented at the 254th National Meeting and Exposition of the American Chemical Society.

The sensors are different than other types of sensors in that they use nanostructures to catch and bind to compounds.

Andreescu added, "Most people working on similar sensors use solutions that migrate on channels."

"We use stable, inorganic particles that are redox active. When they interact with the substances we want to detect, they change color and the intensity of the change tells us how concentrated the analyte is."

For example, one sensor prototype was able to identify ochratoxin A, a fungal toxin found in a variety of products including cereal and coffee.

Andreescu added, "The technology could be expanded to identify salmonella or E. coli."

Postnatal identification of Zika virus peptides from saliva

For the first time, researchers are using proteomics to examine proteins and peptides in saliva in order to accurately detect exposure to Zika virus.

With 70 countries and territories reporting evidence of mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission, there is an increased need for a rapid and effective test for the virus, sciencedaily.com wrote.

This study, published online in the Journal of Dental Research (JDR), offers a new, quicker and more cost-effective way to test for the virus.

By analyzing the saliva of a pregnant mother infected with Zika and her twins — one born with microcephaly and one without — the researchers were able to pinpoint the specific protein signature for Zika that is present in saliva, creating potential to use this signature as an effective way to screen for exposure.

Walter Siqueira, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western University, Canada and a team of international researchers also discovered important clues about how the virus passes from mother to

baby and its role in the development of microcephaly, a birth defect in which a baby's head and brain is smaller than expected.

The research suggested a vertical transmission of the virus between mother and baby.

The mutations in the amino acid sequence of the peptides that were different for each twin, suggesting that these mutations may play a role in whether or not a baby will develop microcephaly.

JDR Editor-in-Chief William Giannobile said, "We are very excited to publish findings that shed light on the transmission of Zika virus and present an innovative approach to assessing the presence of Zika virus."

"This research has the potential to positively impact global health. By detecting the virus, the infected individuals can have their symptoms and the virus progression properly monitored, as well as take action to stop the spread of the virus which causes these devastating craniofacial defects in newborns."

Currently, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention uses blood tests to look for changes to RNA in order to diagnose Zika.

The drawback to this method is that it is only able to detect the virus up to five to seven days after exposure.

Siqueira pointed out that because the proteins and the peptides that come directly from the virus are more stable than RNA, saliva proteomics can detect the virus far longer after exposure than with the traditional method.

In this case, the window of detection was extended to nine months post-infection.

The findings also open new doors for the development of antibody-based diagnostic tests for point-of-care detection.

The researchers have received a provisional US patent to develop a simple device that can be used to identify the Zika virus peptides in saliva outside of the laboratory.

Artificial intelligence beats doctors at diagnosing certain diseases

After listening to the patient's symptoms, 'he' provides checklists for the patient and medical advice based on the results. Then the therapy will be verified by human doctors.

A China-made AI (artificial intelligence)-based software made its debut Saturday at a seminar held in Hengyang City, central China's Hunan Province, news.xinhuanet.com reported.

The software consists of diagnostic models involving more than 30 diseases, such as Tuberculosis and depression, which are likely to be misdiagnosed.

Based on trial tests in several hospitals, the AI doctor's successful diagnosis rate is 20 percent higher than human doctors.

The self-learning AI doctor can constantly learn medical knowledge, experience and diagnosis process. It has a big database consisting of tens of millions of clinical cases.

Peng Shaoliang, deputy director with National Supercomputing Center in Changsha, said, "It is designed to be a general practitioner. Every one or two weeks, it can learn diagnosing a new disease."

Kang Xixiong, director with clinical laboratory diagnostics department, Capital Medical University, said, "The



futures.armyscitech.com

AI doctor will assist human doctors rather than replace them.

"For China's medical institutions especially those in poor areas, AI would

be a good assistant."

The software was developed by a group of Chinese institutes, universities and enterprises.

In recent years, many companies in the world such as Google, Microsoft and Alibaba also started to tap into the AI-powered medical care market.

Researchers accelerate airflow in mid-air

When a fan blows air across a room, the airflow typically decelerates and spreads out.

Now in a new study, scientists have demonstrated the opposite: An airflow created by a carefully controlled ultrasound array can maintain its narrow shape and accelerate as it moves away from the source, according to phys.org.

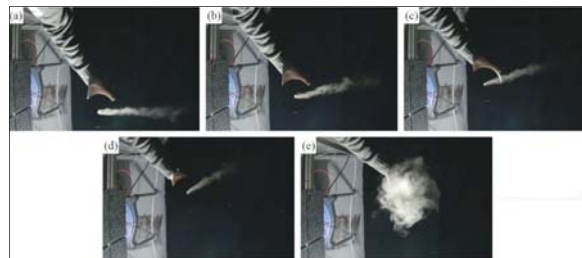
The researchers explain that it's as if the airflow is being pushed along by a sequence of invisible fans floating in mid-air.

They expect that the accelerating air stream could have unprecedented applications, such as the ability to perform and control chemical reactions in mid-air.

The physicists, Keisuke Hasegawa et al., from The University of Tokyo, RIKEN, and Nanzan University, have published a paper on the steerable, ultrasound-driven air streams in a recent issue of Applied Physics Letters.

As the researchers explain, self-accelerating acoustic beams have been demonstrated several times before in water and in air.

An important aspect of the new study is that the beams can be controlled, marking



Water vapor can be electronically steered through open air at different angles, without tilting the beam source [Pictures: (a) to (d)]. Conventional water vapor spreading, for comparison (e).

phys.org

the first demonstration of an electronically steerable macroscopic self-accelerating beam in free space.

The researchers used a type of beam called a Bessel beam, which has the unusual property of not spreading out as it propagates, but rather maintaining a narrow, tightly focused shape.

The scientists generated these beams using a phased array of approximately 1,000 ultrasound transducers.

Each transducer converts

an electrical signal into an ultrasound wave, and tuning the wavefronts of these emitted waves controls the direction of the airflow.

The ultrasound field also produces kinetic energy, which accelerates the air stream as it propagates forward.

In experiments, the researchers demonstrated that the spot with the highest velocity can be located a foot or more away from the sound source.

One of the most interesting

features of the beam is that tilting the ultrasound array is not required to control the beam direction. Instead, the beam is electronically steerable by tuning the wavefronts, which forms a tilted beam without tilting the array.

The researchers also showed that the airflow is powerful enough to be felt by the hand and to guide water vapor in a desired direction.

The scientists expect that the ability to generate an air flow

with these unique properties will lead to new applications, such as performing mid-air chemical reactions, sampling a gas concentration and in studies of ethology, such as investigating how animals respond to pheromones in the air.

Hasegawa added, "Animals react to physiological substances in the air such as pheromone."

"We expect that such substances can be conveyed to target animals and observe their reaction."

"Our method does not need to constrain their movement or require them to wear specific instruments. So it would offer an opportunity to observe the natural reaction of animals."

In the future, the researchers plan to further explore methods for controlling the air flow.

Hasegawa said, "Currently, we are planning to create more preferable flows for conveying airborne substances."

"For example, current flows entail turbulence, which deteriorates the spatial localization of the conveyed substances."

"We think it possible to make the flow more similar to a laminar flow by designing the ultrasound field in a refined fashion."

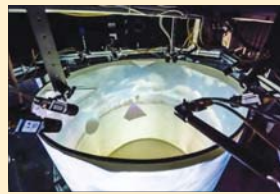
Scientists create holodeck to study animal brain function

Scientists at the University of Freiburg have developed the FreemoVR system that immerses a freely-moving animal in a 3D world to study its brain function.

The research, published today in Nature Methods, shows how FreemoVR enables researchers to control an animal's visual experience, while maintaining the natural feedback for its tactile senses, UPI reported.

The technology allows scientists to study the neuronal basis underlying animal behavior without partial or full immobilization of the animal.

Andrew Straw, who is leading development of FreemoVR, said, "We wanted to create a holodeck for animals so that they would experience a reactive,



UPI

immersive environment under computer control so that we could perform experiments that would reveal how

they see objects, the environment, and other animals."

Researchers used FreemoVR to test the reaction of freely swimming zebrafish and freely flying flies to a virtual upright post and tested freely walking mice in a virtual and real elevated maze.

The experiments revealed previously unnoticed behavioral differences between a wildtype and mutant zebrafish strain.

MFPL scientist Kristin Tessmar-Raible said, "I am particularly excited about the possibility to mimic more complex, naturalistic environments and to test more advanced brain functions in medaka and zebrafish."

"It will help us to better understand brain functions and to what extent we can use these diurnal vertebrates as models for neuropsychological malfunctions."

Hypertension among teenagers and children appears to be on the rise. New guidelines encourage doctors to be on the lookout for signs of the condition in their young patients.

Climate migrants might reach one billion by 2050



wordpress.com

Imagine a world with as many as one billion people facing harsh climate change impacts resulting in devastating droughts and/or floods, extreme weather, destruction of natural resources, in particular lands, soils and water, and the consequence of severe livelihoods conditions, famine and starvation.

Although not yet based on definite scientific projections, the proven speed with which the process of climate change has been taking place, might lead to such a scenario by 2050. If so, one in nine human beings would be on the move by then, Ipsnews reported.

Currently, forecasts vary from 25 million to one billion environmental migrants by 2050, moving either within their countries or across borders, on a permanent or temporary basis, with 200 million being the most widely cited estimate, according to a 2015 study carried out by the Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University.

"This figure equals the current estimate of international migrants worldwide."

Other specialized sources estimate that "every second, one person is displaced by disaster". On this, the Oslo-based Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) reported that in 2015 only, more than 19.2 million people fled disasters in 113 countries.

"Disasters displace three to ten times more people than conflict and war worldwide."

As climate change continues, added NRC, it will likely lead to more frequent and severe natural hazards; the impact will be heavy, warns this independent humanitarian organization providing aid and assistance to people forced to flee.

"On average, 26 million people are displaced by disasters such as floods and storms every year. That's one person forced to flee every second."

For its part, the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) also forecasts 200 million environmental migrants by 2050, moving either within their countries or across borders, on a permanent or temporary basis. Many of them would be coastal population.

In an interview to IPS, the IOM Director General William Lacy Swing explained that political crises and natural

disasters are the other major drivers of migration today.

"We have never had so many complex and protracted humanitarian emergencies now happening simultaneously from West Africa all the way to Asia, with very few spots in between which do not have some issue."

The UN specialized body's chief added, "We have today 40 million forcibly displaced people and 20 million refugees, the greatest number of uprooted people since the Second World War."

Another warning comes from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which estimated that some 135 million people may be displaced by 2045 as a result of desertification. Up to 12 million hectares of productive land become barren every year due to desertification and drought alone, which is a lost opportunity to produce 20 million tons of grain, added the Bonn-based Convention secretariat.

Meantime, the increase in droughts and flash floods that are stronger, more frequent and widespread is destroying the land — the Earth's main fresh water store, according to

UNCCD.

"Droughts kill more people than any other single weather-related catastrophe and conflicts among communities over water scarcity are gathering pace. Over 1 billion people today have no access to water, and demand will increase by 30 percent by 2030."

On the other hand, getting sustainable energy to all represents one of the biggest development challenges of the 21st century, it continued.

"Research suggests that 1.4 billion people — over 20 percent of the global population — lack access to electricity, and that at least 2.7 billion people — some 40 percent of the global population — rely on the traditional use of biomass for cooking."

In short, land, water and energy as resources are all pillars of our survival and of sustainable development.

"They stand or fall together. To be sustainable and in particular to reach poor rural populations, we need to enhance supply, access and security across all three pillars, at the same time, while supporting global climate ambitions."

UK considers Internet ombudsman to deal with abuse complaints

Ministers in the UK are considering creating an Internet ombudsman to deal with complaints about hate crimes and are pressing ahead with proposals for a levy on social media companies to help pay for the policing of online offences.

The ideas are being examined by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) before the release of an autumn green paper, which may be more radical than expected, the Guardian reported.

An Internet ombudsman would deal with complaints about illegal online material, such as abuse and violent threats made on social media, while a levy, first proposed in the Conservative party's election manifesto, would raise funds to help with the rising costs of online enforcement.

The initiative followed a pledge by Alison Saunders, the director of public prosecutions, to crack down on illegal abuse and threats spread via the Internet. She said hate crimes committed online should be treated on a par with threats made face to face.



theguardian.com

The DCMS Internet safety strategy could be published as early as September. Final recommendations are being drafted by Matt Hancock, the minister of state for digital and culture.

The idea of an Internet ombudsman is already being developed in France and Australia. Each country is creating an agency to act as an independent body that will mediate between members of the public and social media firms.

In January the children's commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, recommended establishing a children's digital ombudsman to handle requests from teenagers for social media companies to remove illegal posts.

Longfield's report, Growing Up Digital, is one of the documents being carefully considered by DCMS officials, although it appears ministers want to extend the approach to all age groups.

A DCMS spokesperson said: "We are determined to make Britain the safest place in the world to be online, and to help people protect children from the risks they might face. Later this year we will publish the government's Internet safety strategy, and a levy on social media companies is one of a series of measures that we are considering as part of our work."

The spokesperson confirmed that the department was looking at setting up an Internet ombudsman.

Yvette Cooper, a Labour MP and chair of the home affairs select committee, said: "Social media companies are still far too slow to act on

dangerous extremism, illegal content, threats or intimidation online, and it is affecting all our lives. These are the biggest and richest companies in the world — they should be able to get their act together, but they are still failing. So government needs to get on with this."

The home affairs select committee called in February for social media companies to be fined if they fail to act and to make financial contributions out of their massive profits towards the police who are having to deal with the online extremism, crime and threats that social media companies are giving a platform to. This is too important to ignore."

John Carr, secretary of the Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety and a member of the executive board of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety, said the funding of an Internet ombudsman agency could be modelled on the way the advertising industry pays a levy to support the Advertising Standards Authority.

"These companies are like public utilities," he added. "The idea that they should be outside the scope of the law is unacceptable."

Parents on low incomes 'can't afford basics'

Higher inflation and a freeze on state benefits mean low-income parents cannot meet the basic costs of raising a child, according to the Child Poverty Action Group.

In its 'Cost of a Child' in 2017 report, the charity said the cost of raising a child to the age of 18 for a two-parent family, excluding housing, childcare and council tax has risen to £75,436, BBC reported.

A couple earning the National Living Wage falls 13 percent short of that, it said.

Costs are up four percent compared with 2016.

The figures for 2017 reflect rising prices — especially of public and private transport — but it is cuts to some welfare benefits and the failure to up-rate others that is causing the pinch to be so severe for low income families, the report said.

Donald Hirsch, director of the Center for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University said, "For the first time in post-war history, these cost increases are not



BBC

being matched by increases in support given to families from the state."

He predicted the problem would become steadily worse.

Two parents earning the National Living Wage of £7.50 an hour would fall 13 percent short of the income needed to provide a child with a 'no-frills living standard', said the CPAG.

The total includes food, clothing, heating as well as buying birthday presents and a week's self-catering holiday in the UK the charity said.

A lone parent working full-time on the National Living Wage would fall short by 18 percent, according to the report.

- Summer childcare costs at record level
- Is the wages puzzle less puzzling?

"Families unable to cover their costs on benefits must either undergo serious hardship, fall back on the help of their families or go into debt," the report concludes.

Child benefit and child tax credit rates have not increased since 2015 and other cuts to welfare, including the benefit cap and the limiting of child tax credit entitlement to two children per family, are affecting the income of some families.

The CPAG provides an annual assessment of the cost of raising a child based on the 'minimum income standard' or a very basic level of provision. This is determined through in-depth discussions with members of the public, asking them what it is essential for a child to have.

Children play outdoors more likely to protect nature as adults

Want to protect nature, curb pollution, and slow climate change? It is as easy as telling your children to go play outdoors according to a study from the University of British Columbia.

The study, published in February 2017, demonstrates that children who play outside are more likely to cherish and protect nature when they become young adults. This may seem ever more difficult to do as kids get drawn into sitting on the sofa in front of the TV or playing on an iPad, forbes.com wrote.

However, as the Harvard University professor Edward O. Wilson once proposed, humans are instinctively drawn to nature and a natural environment. Why then, are American children on average spending 30 minutes in unstructured outdoor play compared to over seven hours a day sitting in front of a digital screen?

While the trend in America is clearly tilted toward indoor digital play time, there are a vast number of benefits in motivating your children to play



pinimg.com

outdoors.

Many of the benefits have been touched upon thousands of times, including building confidence, promoting creativity, learning responsibility, varied stimulation, exercise, reducing stress, etc.

However, parents may not realize that motivating your children to go outside to play is a great way to instill a passion for the outdoors and a sense to protect the environment in which they live.

The study found that 87 percent of those surveyed who played outside

when they were young still held a love of nature into adulthood. In addition, 84 percent of those young adults said taking care of the natural environment is a priority to them.

Hence, young adults who played outdoors as children are more likely to have positive views of nature and take action to protect it.

The study found no significant differences in respondents coming from different social classes. However, there were differences in rural versus urban respondents.

The study found that people living in urban settings stated they love nature more often than those that live in rural settings. This is interesting, as one would assume rural children play outdoors more often than urban children.

This assumption appears to be true based on a study of urban versus rural daytime activities. In the study, they found that rural children spend on average 0.7 hours per day more outdoors than urban children.

Iranians grab three more universiade medals

Sports Desk

Iranian athletes clinched three more medals, including one gold, at the 2017 Summer Universiade in Taipei City, Chinese Taipei, to take Iran's overall tally to seven in the competitions.

On Tuesday, Armin Hadipour sealed Iran's first taekwondo gold after overpowering his South Korean rival in the final bout of the men's -54kg by a 13-10 score line.

Hadipour had to overcome opponents from Chinese Taipei, Russia and Australia to reach the final.

Earlier on Monday, Iranian Poomsae teams had won two bronze medals in taekwondo contests.

Iran's mixed Poomsae team comprising Mahsa Sadeqi and Amir-Reza Mehrban finished third in the competitions jointly with Vietnamese team as the host's team and South Koreans took the gold and silver, respectively.

Mehrban, along with Mahdi Jamali and Mohammad-Javad Kheiri, was also in the lineup of Iran men's Poomsae team which won the bronze medal. The squad finished third next to champion South Korea and Chinese Taipei which finished second.

Jamali had already won a bronze in the men's Individual Freestyle Poomsae on the first day of the competitions as his compatriot, Fatemeh Hesam had also finished third in the Women's Individual Freestyle Poomsae.

Iran had also won two bronze medals in fencing competitions through Mohammad Fotouhi and Mohammad Rahbari.

More than 7,500 athletes represent 144 countries at the 29th edition of the Summer Universiade which will continue until August 30.

The Universiade is an international multi-sport event, organized for university athletes by the International University Sports Federation (FISU).

Coutinho to clear the air with Liverpool

Philippe Coutinho is ready to hold clear-the-air talks with Liverpool as he looks to return to the fold with Jurgen Klopp's side.

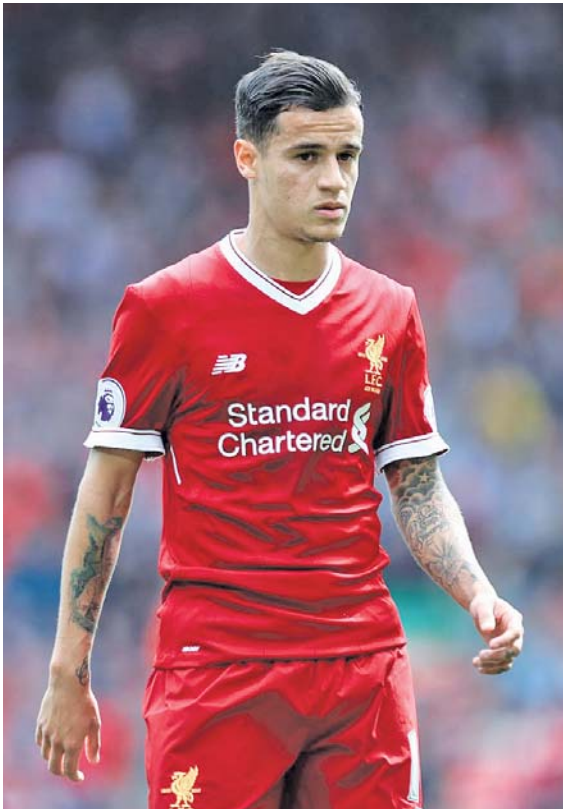
The Brazilian international emailed a transfer request to the club earlier this month, a request rejected by Liverpool, after interest from Barcelona turned his head. The Independent reported.

Barca has had a number of bids rejected for the playmaker and has been surprised by the Anfield club's resolve. The Spanish side has ended its interest in order to analyze other options and sounded out Christian Eriksen's interest in a move as well as talking to the representatives of Nice midfielder

Liverpool figures to smooth over the summer's events.

People within the 25-year-old midfielder's entourage are pointing the finger at Barcelona for manipulating their client and have suggested the Nou Camp club used family members to provide additional pressure. They insist the ill-conceived email was Barca's idea. Jurgen Klopp has been clear throughout this saga that the player was not for sale and that, had it not been for a back injury, he would have been playing.

When Coutinho is fit again he is now expected to return to the Liverpool team but not before some uncomfortable conversa-



GETTY IMAGES

Jean-Michel Seri – with whom Barca has outlined personal terms agreed – which all leaves Coutinho in an awkward position on Merseyside, where he has asked to leave the club but looks certain to still be a Liverpool player on September 1.

The Independent understands that the player and his representatives are ready to admit defeat and will look to talk to key

figures with Liverpool. The players are expected to welcome back their teammate with open arms.

The Reds managed to bring in just one of their top targets this summer, succeeding in recruiting Mohamed Salah but finding Southampton and RB Leipzig absolutely unwilling to deal Virgil van Dijk or Naby Keita respectively.

Iran thrashes Turkey in FIVB U23 world meet



Iranian players celebrate a point in the 4-0 victory over Turkey in 2017 FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship in Cairo, Egypt, on August 21, 2017.

Iran virtually confirmed its place in the second round of the 2017 FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship with a surprisingly comfortable straight-sets victory (15-12, 15-9, 17-15, 15-10) over Turkey in competition's Pool B at Cairo Stadium in Egypt on Monday.

Having been beaten by Argentina in its opener, the victory improved Iran's record to three victories against a lone defeat as Iran had overcome China and Algeria before defeating the European side while Turkey remained winless in four matches with a 0-4 record, fivb.com reported.

After Iran comfortably won the first and second sets the Turkish team played its best in the third set and went three points ahead at 13-10 but the Asian team was more consistent to win the set and eventually went on to win the fourth 15-10 and the match in straight

sets.

Iran's big gun Sahand Allah-Verdian was the one behind the great victory chipping in 11 points which was the game's best tally, while Melih Siratca led the loser's scorers with 10 points.

Iran's coach, Juan Cichillo, was full of praise for his players after the game, saying, "We played very well today and achieved an important win so I congratulate my players. It was not an easy match even we won in straight sets but the score was narrow."

"Mathematically we have a chance for the semifinal but we must wait for the match against Russia on Wednesday," Cichillo added.

Iran's captain, Rahman Taghi, also was delighted with how the match went Iran's way, saying, "Turkey was a strong team and we managed to dominate the match and win the

match in straight sets. We look for the match between Russia and Argentina and our match against Russia to know our situation."

Iran currently sits third in the Pool B table with nine points as Russia and Argentina lead the group with eleven and ten points, respectively.

The competition will be a testing ground for a new scoring scheme currently under review by the FIVB, which, if successful, could mark a historical turning point for volleyball – much as the introduction of the rally scoring system did in the late 90s.

Matches in Cairo will be played in best-of-seven sets with each set up to 15 points (with at least a two-point difference needed). Three ranking points will be awarded to teams winning 4-0, 4-1 or 4-2. Two points go the winner of a 4-3 match with one point for the loser.

Win over Iran, more important than retribution, says South Korea's Shin

South Korea's new coach Shin Tae-yong said securing three points against Iran in the World Cup qualifier next week is more important than avenging a string of four defeats with a big win over the Asian rival.

Iran has already qualified for next year's World Cup finals and a win for South Korea in Seoul on August 31 would probably leave the Koreans needing only to avoid defeat in Uzbekistan the following week to claim the second direct ticket to Russia from Group A, Reuters reported.

Shin, who took over from German Uli Stielike last month after embarrassing losses to China and Qatar, said he would be focusing on bolstering South Korea's defense ahead of his first match in charge.

"If we were meeting Iran in a friendly, I would make the team play attacking football," he told Yonhap news agency at the team training camp in Paju.

South Korea's coach has called up English Premier League stars Son Heung-Min and Ki Sung-Yeung in his first squad. Games in the K-League have been cancelled on the weekend of August 27 and 28 to give Shin more time with his players.

"Of course, I want to pay back for the humiliation that we've suffered, but these matches are important. My goal is not to beat Iran by a big score, but to go to the World Cup with a win."

"Even though we called up the players early, we don't have the full squad, so we won't be able to see the big work. But we will build up our chemistry and organize our defense."

South Korea has not beaten Iran since



GETTY IMAGES

the 2011 Asian Cup, the last of five successive quarterfinal clashes at the continental championship that have contributed to their fierce rivalry.

The 'Red Devils', who are bidding for a ninth straight appearance at the World Cup

finals, lead Uzbekistan by a single point with two matches remaining in the third round of Asian qualifying.

Uzbekistan faces China in Wuhan next Thursday before hosting South Korea in Tashkent on September 5.



IRAN DAILY

Add.: Iran Cultural & Press Institute, #208 Khorramshahr Avenue Tehran/Iran

Iran Daily has no responsibility whatsoever for the advertisements and promotional material printed in the newspaper.

» License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
 » Managing Director: Sadreddin Mousavi
 » Editor-in-Chief: Kambakhsh Khalaji
 » Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 8875761-2
 » Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88761869
 » Subscription Dept. Tel: +98 21 88521954, +98 21 88748900
 » ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548992, 8
 » Advertising Dept. Tel & Email: +98 21 8850067- irandaily@iranagahiha.com
 » Website: http://www.irandailyonline.ir
 » Email: irandaily@icpi.ir
 » Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute



Millions of Americans armed with protective glasses took up positions along a slender ribbon of land cutting diagonally across the US and marveled at the first total solar eclipse which unfolded on Monday from coast to coast in nearly a century.

Farhadi begins filming 'Everybody Knows' with Bardem, Cruz in Spain

Asghar Farhadi, the Oscar-winning Iranian director of 'A Separation' and 'The Salesman', kicked off principal photography on 'Everybody Knows' ('Todos Lo Saben'), his psychological thriller starring Javier Bardem, Penelope Cruz and Ricardo Darin.

Budgeted at €10 million euros (\$11.8 million), the Spanish-language film is being produced by Alexandre Mallet-Guy at Paris-based Memento Films Production and Alvaro Longoria at Spanish outfit Morena Films, variety.com wrote.

Written by Farhadi, 'Everybody Knows' follows the journey of Carolina as she travels with her family from Buenos Aires to her hometown in Spain for a celebration. Meant to be a brief visit, the trip is disturbed by unforeseen events that will completely change the lives of Carolina and her family.



TERESA ISASI-variety.com

The shooting of 'Everybody Knows' has started near Madrid and the flick will be sold worldwide by Memento Films International. 'Everybody Knows' marks the third collaboration between

Farhadi and Mallet-Guy after 'The Salesman' and 'The Past', which Memento Films produced and distributed in France. Before winning a foreign-language Oscar, 'The Salesman' scooped two awards at last year's Cannes for best script

for Farhadi and best actor for Shahab Hosseini, while 'The Past' earned Benerice Bejo a best actress award at Cannes in 2013.

The key crew of 'Everybody Knows' includes Jose-Luis Alcaide, a cinematographer who has worked with Carlos Saura, Bigas Luna and Pedro Almodovar, Sonia Grande, the costume designer of Woody Allen's 'Midnight in Paris' and Alejandro Amenabar's 'The Others', and Hayedeh Safiyari, the editor who worked with Farhadi on 'A Separation' and 'The Salesman'.

France 3 Cinema, Lucky Red, Untitled Films Aie and Ashar Farhadi Production are coproducing 'Everybody Knows' in association with Memento Films Distribution, Cofinova and Indefinibles. 'Everybody Knows' is being backed by Canal Plus, Eurimages, France Televisions, Movistar, Cine + and ICAA.

Iranian officials, cultural figures attend BIBF inauguration

Art & Culture Desk

A number of Iranian officials and cultural figures attended the inauguration ceremony of the 24th Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF) on Tuesday at the Great Hall of the People in the Chinese capital.

Chinese cultural officials were also present in the ceremony, IRNA reported.

The exhibition opens today and will continue until August 27. Iran is taking part in the present edition of the fair as the Guest of Honor. The expo is being attended by more than 2,000 publishers from 86 countries.

China International Exhibition Center in Beijing will be the venue of the cultural event.

identity.

He added promoting the culture of book reading and paying greater attention to printing influential and high quality books are among the ways to foster a country's culture.

The time spent on reading books and the amount of information and cultural commodities produced and consumed are among the most important indices of a developed society, he added.

"Unfortunately, despite all the progress and advancement made by human, societies have not yet managed to get rid of war and violence."

Iran has dispatched an 80-member delegation to the exhibition. The team includes



President of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization Abouzar Ebrahimi Torkan addressing the inauguration ceremony of the 24th Beijing International Book Fair at the Great Hall of the People in the Chinese capital on August 22, 2017.

Deputy head of China's State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, Wu Shangzhi, delivered a speech at the ceremony and announced Iran's participation in the expo as the Guest of Honor.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, President of Islamic Culture and Relations Organization Abouzar Ebrahimi Torkan said culture is the most important aspect of a nation's

senior officials including Torkan, Managing Director of Iran Cultural Fairs Institute Amir-Masoud Shahram-Nia, Iran's Ambassador to China Ebrahim Khaji and Iran's Cultural Attaché in China Mohammad Rasoul Almasheh, who were all present at the opening ceremony.

Iran's slogan in this edition of the expo is: 'Iran — the Colorful Dream of Silk Road'.

Iran's 'Malaria' up for screening in Russian filmfest



hollywoodreporter.com

Iranian film 'Malaria', directed by Parviz Shahbazi, will be screened in the competition section of the 10th West and East Eurasian Film Festival in Orenburg, Russia.

Produced by Masoud Radaei, the film will compete with rivals from France, Armenia, Belgium, Australia, Kyrgyzstan, Italy, Kazakhstan, Russia, Latvia, Lithuania and Macedonia in the festival which is scheduled to be held from August 25 to 31, according to IRNA.

Radaei and Azarakhsh Farahani, one of the actors starring in the flick, will take part in the upcoming event.

'Malaria' made its first international presence in the Horizons section in 73rd Venice Film Festival held from August 31 to September 10, 2016. Following that, the movie was awarded the Grand Prix at the 32nd Warsaw International Film Festival in the Polish capital in October.

In 2017, 'Malaria' also garnered two awards one for the best director from Dhaka International Film Festival and the other for the best film from the Switzerland's Geneva International Film Festival.

'Malaria' recounts the story of a girl and a boy who encounter a man while traveling across the Iranian capital of Tehran. The man has a problem and they want to find a way to solve it.

Russia detains top director over alleged fraud

Russia's Investigative Committee said Tuesday that it had detained the theater and film director Kirill Serebrennikov on suspicion of fraud — a move that critics denounced as the latest sign of increasing censorship of the arts.

Serebrennikov, 47, is the artistic director of Moscow's Gogol Center theater and has staged productions at the legendary Bolshoi Theater. His films have been shown at the Cannes and Venice film festivals, AFP reported.

However, in recent years Serebrennikov has fallen out of favor with the authorities and has criticized a government clampdown on artistic works, warning last year that "everything is returning to the most pathetic Soviet practices".

The Investigative Committee, which probes serious crimes, said in a statement he was being held on suspicion of defrauding the state of at least 68 million rubles (\$1.15 million, €77,000) in arts funding over three years from 2011 to 2014.



LOIC VENANCE/AFP

Russian film director Kirill Serebrennikov

Serebrennikov has denied any fraud, insisting that the charges are 'absurd' and that the money went into stage productions.

Investigators began questioning the director on Tuesday and a court was expected to rule later in the day on whether to keep him in custody, the TASS state news agency reported, quoting a person familiar with the case.

Serebrennikov's lawyer Dmitry Kharitonov told Kommersant FM radio that his detention was 'a complete surprise'. He said Serebrennikov had been shooting a film in Saint Petersburg.

Weather



47 30

Ahvaz



37 18

Borujerd



35 26

Rasht



37 22

Semnan



35 17

Arak

37 ^

v 24

Tehran



28 12

Bishkek



27 19

Istanbul



33 21

Amman



16 11

Minsk



26 13

Moscow