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# IRAN DAILY



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Late comeback keeps Reds in tie 11



Iran's pavilion opens in BIBF 12

## Iran-EU bilateral trade rises by 94 percent in one year

### Economic Desk

The total value of bilateral trade between Iran and the European Union (EU) over the first half of 2017 has reached about 9.9 billion euros, according to data released by the European Commission. The total trade between Iran and the 28-nation bloc in the first six months of the current year amounted to €9.9 billion, showing a 94 percent increase compared to the same period last year, according to the report. The value of Iran-EU bilateral trade in the first half of 2016 had stood at €5.1 billion, the data showed, Tasnim News Agency reported. The EU imports from the Islamic Republic in the first half of 2017 has also risen to €5 billion, showing a 224 percent increase compared to a year earlier, in which the figure amounted to €1.54 billion, the report said.

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### Iran finishes runner-up in world Greco-Roman championships

### Sports Desk

Three bronze medals gave Iran's Greco-Roman team a runner-up finish in 2017 World Wrestling Championships in Paris, France. On Monday, Mohammad-Ali Gerayi grabbed the bronze in the men's 71kg after he edged his Moldavian counterpart Daniel Cataraga in the third-place bout 10-8. Also on the first day of the competitions, Gerayi's compatriot and 2016 Rio Olympics bronze medalist, Saied Abde-

vali, found his way through repechage rounds after he was beaten in the second round by Serbia's Viktor Nemes and eventually outmuscled Kazbek Klitou from Belarus 8-0 to settle for the men's 75kg bronze. Hossein Nouri bagged Iran's third bronze in the tournament, Nouri had to overcome Islam Abbasov from Azerbaijan 4-1 in the battle for the men's 85kg bronze after he suffered a defeat against German wrestler Denis Kudla in the semifinals. On Tuesday, having been beaten by his Turkish opponent 2-1 in the third-

round, Mohammad Elyasi finished fifth in the men's 66kg to add another six points to Iran's overall tally. A total of 36 points led Iran's team to a second place finish in the competitions followed by Turkey which gathered 34 points. Russia was crowned champion as the wrestling powerhouse topped the team ranking with 46 points. In medals table, however, Turkey finished on top with two golds and a sole bronze followed by Armenia and Germany.

## Turkish FM in Iraq to warn against Kurdish referendum

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu was in Iraq on Wednesday to warn Iraqi and Kurdish leaders against next month's independence referendum in the country's Kurdish region. Cavusoglu had already warned last week that the vote planned for September 25 could even bring Iraq "to civil war," AFP reported. After holding talks in Baghdad, the Turkish minister was due to meet Iraqi Kurdistan president Massud Barzani in Arbil, the capital of the autonomous region.



"The decision to hold this referendum is a mistake," Cavusoglu told a joint news conference with Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim al-Jaafari. "We have said it before [to Iraqi Kurdish leaders] and today, during my visit to Arbil, I will repeat that it is a mistake." The referendum is non-binding but goes against the Iraqi Constitution and has faced criticism from Turkey and Iran, which fear it could encourage secession in their own Kurdish regions. "We hope that all the problems between Baghdad and Arbil will be settled within the borders of Iraq and in the unity and security of Iraqi territory," said Cavusoglu. "I repeat to Arbil that (Kurdistan) can enjoy the rights it claims within the borders of a united Iraq," he said, adding that Turkey could "play a role" if the two sides wanted it. Cavusoglu said the presence in Iraq of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is outlawed in Turkey, "endangers the unity and security of Iraqi territory." The minister said Ankara would support Baghdad "by all means to rid Iraqi territory of the PKK." After meeting Jaafari, Cavusoglu was scheduled hold talks in Baghdad with Iraqi President Fuad Massum and Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi before travelling to Arbil.

## Iraqi forces advance toward heart of Daesh-held bastion

Iraqi forces advanced Wednesday toward central Tal Afar, one of Daesh's last strongholds in the country, as aid workers braced for an exodus of civilians fleeing the fighting. Armored personnel carriers full of soldiers and fighters of the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary coalition moved into Al-Nur district early in the morning as warplanes flew overhead, AFP reported. They encountered trucks parked across roads with earthen embankments aimed at stopping them, as well as sniper fire and mortar shelling. Six weeks after routing the terrorists from Iraq's second city Mosul, the Iraqi forces launched an assault Sunday on Tal Afar, where an estimated 1,000 terrorists are holed up. They retook three first districts of the city on Tuesday, but as with the grueling nine-month campaign to recapture Mosul, their convoys face an onslaught of suicide and car bomb attacks. On Wednesday they "entered the neighborhood of Al-Kifah North... and headed towards the center of the city," said Ahmed al-Assadi, spokesman for the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary coalition fighting Daesh alongside the army and police. "All the lines of Daesh defense outside

the city have been broken and the troops are advancing from all directions toward the inner quarters of the city," he added. As they advanced, troops said they discovered a network of underground tunnels used by the terrorists to launch attacks behind lines of already conquered territory, or to escape. In a bid to counter these surprise attacks, the Iraqis dropped leaflets overnight call-

ing on civilians to help by marking houses where the terrorists are located. The International Organization for Migration said "thousands of civilians" had fled Tal Afar since the offensive began. But around 30,000 civilians are trapped in the fighting, according to the United Nations. Caught between the two sides, those still inside the city have been pounded by Iraqi and US-led coalition aircraft for weeks, as well as intense artillery fire since Sunday. The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) fears they could be "used as human shields" and that "attempts to flee could result in executions and shootings," said the spokesman for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. The United Nations and aid agencies are working to establish shelters for the displaced. Tal Afar was once a key supply hub for Daesh between Mosul - which lies around 70 kilometers (45 miles) to the east - and the Syrian border. The Iraqi forces massed around Tal Afar on Tuesday before the terrorists responded with artillery fire. Army, police and of the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary coalition later took "full control" of the Al-Kifah, Al-Nur and Al-Askari districts, the Hashed said. The Iraqi forces had encircled the city despite what Hashed spokesman Assadi called "intense" fighting. He said the battle for the city would probably last weeks, in contrast to the months-long battle for Mosul.



AFP

## Exclusive Interview

### Trump's election, its effects on world



### International Desk

A conversation between Dr. Sajad Abedi, professor at Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth and Dr. Payam Mohseni, Dr. Payam Mohseni is Iran Project Director and Fellow for Iran Studies at the Belfer Center for Science & International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

### Are you surprised by the choice of Donald Trump?

The election of President Donald Trump was never out of the question and he clearly presented a strong electoral threat to the American political establishment - whether to the Democratic or Republican parties. His election, while surprising, was always in the realm of possibility, especially as popular disillusionment against the current state of affairs grew. While the election was shocking to the majority of political analysts in the United States and the world, a longer view of America's history reveals that anti-establishment candidates have been elected at critical junctures, perhaps, most prominently, Andrew Jackson who features on the \$20 bill and whose portrait Trump displayed in the Oval Office shortly after assuming the presidency. Trump was anti-establishment in both the primaries and the final elections. We have to remember that Trump was spurned by the Republican political elite and opposed by most of the top leadership, yet was able to sweep the primaries within his own party, defying the odds against him, before moving on to the general elections where he was financially and institutionally outmatched by Hillary Clinton by a wide margin. That being said, Trump did lose the popular vote by about three million votes and his election does reveal a serious divide within the American electorate and increasing polarization of world views in the country.

Finally, Trump also represents a unique blend of populism and capitalism which is specific to the American context. Historically, and even in contemporary times, populism and capitalism do not run hand in hand, but Trump was able to simultaneously show himself as champions of both. What is the meaning of this choice for America's role in the world? Trump strongly criticized American commitments abroad, including the war in Iraq as well as America's security subsidies provided through NATO. He also criticized global trade agreements such as NAFTA, passed under the Clinton administration, which he saw as betraying the American worker for cheaper labor abroad. He promised to put "America First," which means have other countries bear the costs and burdens of upholding global security. However, at the same time, he has surrounded himself with headline advisors and appointed officials to head the Defense Department and CIA who are known for their aggressive posture towards Iran and policy in the Middle East. In short, Trump's policies are partly contradictory and not fully cogent. His critique of American involvement in the sovereign affairs of other countries and anti-liberal cultural stance contradicts his privileging of a hawkish foreign policy team and much of his other bellicose rhetoric. These are currently competing elements that must find an uneasy equilibrium in his administration.

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Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said delegations from Iran and Saudi Arabia will exchange diplomatic visits after the Hajj pilgrimage ends in September.

### IRGC: No joint anti-PKK operation with Turkey on agenda

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) dismissed reports about plans for a joint operation with Turkey against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants outside the Iranian borders.

"We have not devised any operation plan outside the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the IRGC Ground Force's Hamzeh Seyed al-Shohada base said in a statement on Tuesday.

"But like in the past, we will strongly counter any group, team or individual seeking to infiltrate into the Iranian territory to carry out terrorist or anti-security measures," it added. Press TV reported.



It said some terrorist groups based in camps in northern Iraq have been seeking to cause insecurity in Iran in recent years with the logistical support of the enemies of the Islamic Republic; however, they have repeatedly failed to conduct any move and sustained heavy damage.

The IRGC base vowed a "crushing and harsh" response to these groups intending to carry out the slightest move to create insecurity in Iran's border areas.

Turkey's President Erdogan said on Monday that a joint Turkish-Iranian operation against Kurdish militants was "always on the agenda."

"It is always on the agenda to carry out a joint operation with Iran against those terror organizations which pose a threat," Erdogan told reporters in Istanbul before a visit to Jordan.

Turkey has been fighting against the outlawed PKK militants for decades.

Iran is also fighting PJAK, a PKK offshoot, in its northwestern border region with Turkey. Iranian forces killed five PJAK terrorists in an ambush there last June.

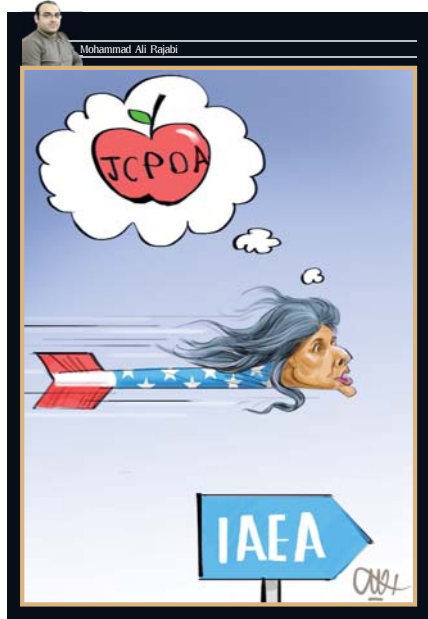
PJAK randomly carries out hit-and-run attacks on Iranian targets, after which they retreat to their lairs in Iraq and Turkey.

### Iran-EU bilateral trade...

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The report comes against the backdrop of a new wave of interest in ties with Iran after Tehran and the P5+1 group of countries - Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany - on July 14, 2015 reached an agreement over Iran's nuclear program.

The comprehensive nuclear deal, known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), terminated all nuclear-related sanctions imposed on Iran.



# Zarif cautions Amano against US envoy's talks on JCPOA



### Political Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, complained to head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that a visit by the US ambassador to the UN was intended to sow doubt about the nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The US envoy Nikki Haley was scheduled to visit Vienna on Wednesday for meetings with the IAEA officials, the UN nuclear watchdog overseeing the 2015 nuclear agreement, that she has said are meant to answer US questions about the scope and effectiveness of inspections and monitoring, the Washington Post reported.

"Even before the visit takes place, the way it is planned and publicized and the signal that it sends have notable detrimental consequences for the successful implementation of the JCPOA," Zarif wrote in a letter to the IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano.

The Trump administration is not looking for a pretext to junk the international nuclear deal with Iran, Haley said Tuesday, despite the US president's sharp criticism of the agreement and reports that he has been reluctant to certify that Tehran is meeting its obligations.

"We have no decision made. The president doesn't have a decision made," Haley said in an interview. "What we are doing is trying to find out as much information as we can."

Tehran has repeatedly complained about the US violation of the JCPOA by imposing new

sanctions on Iran.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned last week that Iran could walk away "within hours" if the United States slaps more sanctions on his country.

A day later, Haley responded with a warning of her own.

"Iran cannot be allowed to use the nuclear deal to hold the world hostage," she said in a statement. "The nuclear deal must not become 'too big to fail.'"

Iran warned Tuesday that it 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 Ali Akbar Salehi said President Rouhani's recent warning had not been an "empty warning."

As a candidate, Trump called the agreement brokered with Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany "the dumbest deal perhaps I've ever seen in the history of deal-making."

He threatened to tear it up but was vague about whether he planned to renegotiate it.

The US administration has been claiming that Iran is violating the spirit of the JCPOA.

But the IAEA 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.

## Najafi elected Tehran mayor

New members of the City Council of Tehran elected Mohammad Ali Najafi as the mayor of the metropolis by a unanimous vote on Wednesday.

In the first formal session of the new City Council of Tehran, Najafi was chosen as the mayor by garnering the votes of all 21 councilors, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Najafi, 66, is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



Affiliated with the reformist political party, Najafi used to serve as the minister of education and the minister of culture in various administrations.

He also took the helm at Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization during President Rouhani's first term, but resigned after six months.

Najafi has succeeded Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf who was in office for 12 years.

Also on Wednesday, Mohsen Hashemi Rafsanjani was elected as the new chairman of Tehran's City Council by a unanimous vote.

Ebrahim Amini was elected as the vice-chairman of the council, an influential municipal body that elects the mayor of Tehran.

In the fifth City and Village Councils elections across Iran in May, reformist candidates gained all the 21 seats in Tehran's City Council.

The highest number of votes went to Hashemi, the son of Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a former president and chairman of the country's Expediency Council, who died in January.

According to Article 7 of Iran's Constitution, the local councils, together with the Parliament, are "decision-making and administrative organs of the state."

## Lebanon, Iran view Israel, terrorism as threats to regional stability

Lebanon's prime minister held talks with an Iranian deputy foreign minister on the threats posed by the Israeli regime and terrorism to the troubled Middle East region.

The meeting between Saad Hariri and Hossein Jaber Ansari, which took place in Beirut on Tuesday, focused on Tehran-Beirut ties as well as the latest developments in Lebanon and the broader Middle East region, Press TV reported.

During the meeting, Hariri referred to Israel and terrorism as the two primary threats facing Lebanon and the entire region.

Hariri described dialogue and co-operation among different Lebanese political parties as the reason behind the Beirut government's recent achievements, stressing that the country was determined to continue that approach.

Jaber Ansari said the two threats highlighted by the Lebanese premier provide a common ground for boosting Tehran-Beirut ties and regional cooperation.

He further voiced the Islamic Republic's readiness to bolster relations with Lebanon in all fields and termed the Arab country as a good example of national consensus and domestic coexistence.

In a press conference following the meeting, the Iranian official said he had held talks with Hariri on the need to resolve the Syria crisis through dialogue and to continue the counter-terrorism

fight there. Jaber Ansari expressed Iran's resolve to bolster cooperation with Lebanon, especially in the political and economic areas.

Asked about Lebanon's recent counter-terrorism operation near the Syrian frontier, he said that the Lebanese military, backed by the Hezbollah resistance movement and the nation's support, have managed to score major



victories against the terrorists.

The Lebanese military launched its anti-terror operation on Saturday. Hezbollah also started a simultaneous offensive against the Daesh terrorist group from the Syrian side of the frontier.

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

Jaber Ansari, who arrived in Lebanon on Monday for a three-day visit, has already held talks with President Michel Aoun, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.



# UN racism committee issues 'warning' over US tensions

A UN committee tasked with combating racism issued a formal "early warning" over conditions in the United States, a rare move often used to signal the potential of a looming civil conflict.

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination said it had invoked its "early warning and urgent action procedure" because of the proliferation of racist demonstrations in the US, AFP reported.

It specifically noted the unrest in Charlottesville, Virginia, in which a woman was killed after an avowed white supremacist ploughed his car into a group of anti-racism counter-protesters.

The racism committee, part of the UN human rights office, can issue a formal early warning to help prevent "existing problems from escalating into conflict" or "prevent a resumption of conflict where it has previously occurred," according to the rights office website.

President Donald Trump has been widely criticized for his response to the Charlottesville

clashes, after he said "both sides" were to blame for the violence.

The UN committee urged Washington "as well as high-level politicians and public officials, to unequivocally and unconditionally reject and condemn racist hate speech," without mentioning Trump by name.

"We are alarmed by the racist demonstrations, with overtly racist slogans, chants and salutes by white nationalists, neo-Nazis, and the Ku Klux Klan, promoting white supremacy and inciting racial discrimination and hatred," committee head Anastasia Crickley said in a statement.

The committee monitors compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which the US ratified in 1994.

The US warning marks the seventh such alert issued in the past decade.

They mainly concern countries gripped by ethnic and religious strife, including Burundi, Nigeria, Iraq and Ivory Coast.



atlantablackstar.com

## Thousands of Rohingya flee Myanmar for Bangladesh

Thousands of Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh since Myanmar announced a military build-up in Rakhine state earlier this month, community leaders said Wednesday.

Rakhine in northern Myanmar has been gripped by violence since October, when militants attacked police posts, AFP reported.

That sparked a bloody military crackdown that the UN believes may amount to ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya, a mainly Muslim minority living in Buddhist Myanmar.

On August 12 authorities in Myanmar said hundreds of troops had moved into Rakhine as it ramps up counterinsurgency efforts there.

past 11 days.

Many were sleeping in the open because there was no more space in the camps, he said.

Mohammad Omar, a 28-year-old Rohingya who had just arrived along with 40 relatives, said he had been attacked by local Buddhists who looted Rohingya homes in Rakhine.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar has long faced criticism for its treatment of the more than one million Rohingya who live in Rakhine, who are denied citizenship and access to basic rights.

Dhaka estimates that nearly 400,000 Rohingya refugees are living in squalid refugee camps and makeshift settlements in Cox's Bazar.



bangladeshchronicle.net

Rohingya leaders in Bangladesh said at least 3,500 had arrived since then, piling pressure onto already overcrowded refugee camps in the Cox's Bazaar area near the Naf River that divides the two countries.

That is despite stepped-up patrols by Bangladeshi border and coast guards, who said this week they had pushed back a boat carrying 31 Rohingya, including children.

"In the Balukhali camp alone, some 3,000 Rohingya arrived from their villages in Rakhine," said Abdul Khaleq, referring to the camp near the river, where most of the migrants stay when they first arrive.

Kamal Hossain, a Rohingya elder in another camp, said nearly 700 families had arrived in Bangladesh in the

They included more than 70,000 who arrived in the months that followed the crisis in October, many bringing stories of systematic rape, murder and arson at the hands of Myanmar soldiers.

On Wednesday the UN refugee agency said it was "deeply concerned" by the reports of a boat carrying Rohingya being turned back.

"UNHCR is deeply concerned by this incident, which as the coast guard reported, involved women and children who said they were fleeing violence," a UNHCR spokesman said.

"In the current security context, the majority, if not all, of these people crossing from Myanmar into Bangladesh are believed to be fleeing insecurity," he said.

## Pakistan says US must not make it a 'scapegoat' for Afghan failures

Pakistan rejected on Wednesday US criticism of its efforts to fight terrorism saying it should not be used as a scapegoat for the failure of the US military to win the war in Afghanistan.

estimates there have been 70,000 casualties in terror attacks, including 17,000 Pakistanis killed — since Pakistan joined the US "war on terrorism" after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.



Khawaja Asif

scoopwhoop.com

US President Donald Trump unveiled his policy for Afghanistan on Monday, committing to an open-ended conflict there and singling out Pakistan for harboring Afghan Taliban terror group and other terrorists, Reuters wrote.

US officials later warned that aid to Pakistan might be cut and Washington might downgrade nuclear-armed Pakistan's status as a major non-NATO ally to pressure it to do more to help bring about an end to America's longest-running war.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif added his voice to a chorus of indignation in Pakistan over the US criticism, reiterating Pakistan's denial that it harbors terrorists.

"They should not make Pakistan a scapegoat for their failures in Afghanistan," Asif said in an interview to Geo TV late on Tuesday.

"Our commitment to war against terrorism is unmatched and unshaken."

Pakistan has for years been battling militants who are seeking to overthrow the state with bomb attacks and assassinations.

But critics say the Pakistani military nurtures other terror groups, including the Afghan Taliban, which are seen as useful to Pakistan's core confrontation with old rival India.

Asif said Pakistan had suffered great losses from terrorism — the government

But he said Pakistan's efforts to fight terrorism were being taken for granted and dismissed the notion the United States could "win war against terror by threatening us or cornering us".

"Our contributions, sacrifices and our role as a coalition country have been disregarded and disrespected," Asif said.

The relationship between Pakistan and the United States has endured periods of extreme strain during the past decade, especially after al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was found and killed by US Special Forces in Pakistan in 2011.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who is due to meet Asif in coming days, on Tuesday outlined a range of options to change Pakistan's approach but conceded there were concerns about putting too much pressure on Pakistan.

Asif said Pakistan was also angered by Trump's appeal to India to do more in Afghanistan.

"Attempting to isolate Pakistan will not yield anything but a dangerous sharpening of strategic fault lines," said Sherry Rehman, a senior opposition politician and former Pakistani ambassador to the United States.

Former cricket star turned opposition politician Imran Khan said Pakistan should finally learn a valuable lesson: "Never to fight others wars for the lure of dollars," he said on Twitter.

## INTERVIEW

### Trump's election,...

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I suspect that his policies will be largely ad-hoc and shifting with a strong tilt towards brinkmanship in the Middle East, but with a simultaneous desire not to get bogged down in yet another expensive war in the region. His balancing act of these two sides will be determinative of his overall foreign policy.

**What is your biggest worry about global stability due to this choice?**

This is an important stage in global order and security and the long-term effects of Trump's policies will not be seen for a while. For the near future, global institutions are here to stay: The dollar is the world's reserve currency; institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and IMF are still supreme players; the world's largest economic powers (the US, China, the EU, Japan, etc.) have stable relations and capitalist-based economic systems; and American security umbrellas stretch across the entire world including in SE Asia, the Persian Gulf, and much of Europe.

Trump believes that America is subsidizing this system at far too steep a cost and wants his global partners to share more of the burden. Whether this fundamentally deters and undermines the current international order is yet to be seen but it seems unlikely that Trump's policies alone will contribute to the undermining of global stability as it is currently understood.

There are larger forces at play than Trump's election which will affect global stability in the near future. In addition to the structural implications the Trump presidency will have on global order, there is also the ideological implications in terms of US values. Trump has moved away from liberal discourse and has prioritized US interests over the spread of US values such as democracy and human rights. He is not restrained from working with autocratic partners as long as it serves US interests. This will have global implications as to the future of American values in the world and the rise of other political and cultural thought systems.

**Is the ISIS (Daesh) threat becoming more serious with regard to Trump's election?**

Irrespective of Trump's election, ISIS (Daesh) is on the decline and will be defeated in its current state. However, ISIS-like mutants could very well reemerge over the long run due to chronic state breakdown in large swaths of the Middle East, the funding of radical proxy groups by outside powers, and the incentive for the remnants of the Baathist regime in Iraq to create instability in the region. In the areas which have Iranian influence and partnership, Salafi extremism will be largely stifled as we have seen the trend in Iraq and Syria — however, its threat will remain in the short term. The larger question is what will happen to the future of the US-Saudi alliance and the stability of the Persian Gulf States. So far, Trump seems to have given a prominent signal of support to Saudi Arabia in his recent trip to the region. But how this will play out in Syria and in regional posturing and proxy warfare against Iran is still unclear.

**What will be Iran's response and reaction?**

Iran has paired with its local partners, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen, to turn back the tide against ISIS and other extremist Salafi groups. Under the umbrella of the "Axis of Resistance," an organic ground-up structure is being built to create order and stability in the Middle East and overcome the conditions that breed extremism and instability. The continuation of this policy will see Iran's power and influence grow in the region as it fills in the vacuum left by a defeated ISIS and the vacuum of state power in the Arab world. Due to the trend of increased instability and weak state power in the Arab world, the potential for conflict, as well as for Iran increasing its influence by supporting local popular armed movements is high.

**What is Trump's policy on Iran sanctions?**

Trump has been very vocal against the Iran nuclear deal and has routinely questioned it in public. He believes it should be renegotiated or scrapped. As such the Trump administration does not oppose the furthering of sanctions against Iran and in fact sees them as a necessity to constrain Iran and keep the country in check. In particular, sanctions will be increased under the pretext of Iran's ballistic missile program, regional activities, and human rights. Trump, however, is more anti-JCPOA than Clinton would have been, and may try to find ways to undermine the agreement. However, Trump has already more than once acknowledged Iranian compliance with the JCPOA.

The White House would like to increase pressure on Iran with the hopes that Iran will break out of the agreement and will thus be blamed for violating the JCPOA. Tehran has categorically said that it would not violate the JCPOA. Thus, the bigger question is how the Iranian elites will react to the continuing series of sanctions against the country, and to what extent they will tolerate such moves.



## SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

## North-South corridor's impact on Iranian tourism sector

A Norway-based commentator has suggested that the international North-South Transportation Corridor (NSTC), on which Iranian and Azerbaijani sides are working hard, could help boost the Islamic Republic's tourism sector.

Elaborating on the NSTC, Mehrdad Seyed Asgari, a Norway-based Iranian financial analyst, told Trend News Agency, "The corridor would play a key role in improving Iran's tourism industry as it is capable of facilitating inflow of tourists to the country."



IRNA

The NSTC is meant to connect Northern Europe with Southeast Asia. It will serve as a link connecting the railways of Azerbaijan, Iran and Russia.

Seyed Asgari also touched upon the new opportunities for cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan, adding that Azerbaijani entrepreneurs, who already possess international standards and know-how, could assist Iran in improving the quality of its tourism sector.

According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), Iran is the most inexpensive place to travel and invest. Nonetheless, the country ranked 93rd among 136 countries across 14 categories in the latest Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report by the WEF.

In a bid to improve the tourism infrastructure, Iran has launched several projects to build new hotels, but there is a need for bringing the quality of service to the international standards, the commentator said.

Over the current fiscal year (starting March 21), Iran has launched about 950 projects, worth \$9 billion, to develop its tourism infrastructure, including 500 hotels and serviced apartments, Asgari added.

Estimating the shortage of knowledge and experience for improving tourism services in Iran, he pointed to Azerbaijan's breakthrough in its tourism sector over the past years and suggested that Azerbaijani entrepreneurs would be capable of transferring their know-how to the Islamic Republic.

Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report indicated that Azerbaijan, at 71st position, was one of the most improved economies, rising 13 places in the global rankings.

The expert further predicted a bright future for the global tourism industry, and said the sharp slump in oil prices, which are unlikely to surge considerably in the near future, have left a positive impact on tourism sector.

According to the report, the travel and tourism industry contributed \$7.6 trillion to the global economy (10.2 percent of global GDP) and generated 292 million jobs (1 in 10 jobs on the planet) in 2016.

## Iran starts building South Pars gas sweetening unit

Construction of the first sweetening unit at the second refinery of the phases 2 and 3 of the giant South Pars Gas Field has started, said a senior official.

According to Fars News Agency, Project Manager of the Demercapitalization (DMC) Unit in Gas and Oil Pars Company Siroos Peykar said, "The project to construct the sweetening unit was assigned to the Khatam-ul Anbiya Construction Company with the aim of taking the sour Sulfur compounds from gas condensate in phases 2 and 3 of South Pars Gas Field."



SHANA

Noting that the unit's goal will be sweetening the gas condensate in South Pars refineries, he said, "The project to decrease the corrosion from harmful compounds in refineries, as well as improving the quality of gas condensate and raising the added value of the product is being implemented for the first time in the field."

South Pars field that Iran shares with Qatar, has 19 billion barrels of gas condensate in its Iranian part, 9 billion barrels of which is recoverable.

810,000 barrels of gas condensate are currently produced in 18 phases of the field, some 80,000 barrels are recovered from phases 2 and 3.

## Envoy: Germany eyeing broader cooperation with Iran

Germany is eager to broaden ties with Iran in the commercial sector, said Ambassador Michael Klor-Berchthold.

According to Fars News Agency, Klor-Berchthold said in a meeting with Governor General of East Azarbaijan Province Esmail Jabbarzadeh, "Germany likes to develop dynamic relations with Iran in different economic fields."

"We are ready to utilize all potentials in Iran's northwestern province to bolster ties in different sectors, including pharmaceutical and auto manufacturing."

He underlined that his country maintains dynamic and flexible ties with Iran. Jabbarzadeh hoped that the issuance of business visas will be eased for Iranian and German citizens.

He also said the two sides also discussed ways to develop ties in the fields of new and renewable energies, environmental issues as well as revival of Orumieh Lake.

In relevant remarks in early July, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in a meeting with Germany's Minister of State for Europe at the Federal Foreign Office Michael Roth in Tehran lauded Berlin for its constructive role in the nuclear talks between Iran and the world powers, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is of importance to Germany.

The German minister said that the nuclear deal between Iran and the major



German Ambassador to Iran Michael Klor-Berchthold (L) hold a meeting with Governor General of East Azarbaijan Province Esmail Jabbarzadeh (R) in Tabriz on August 23, 2017.

world powers, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is of importance to Germany. The German official also said that Ger-

many is committed to peace and stability, and said, "We are interested to maintain cooperation with Iran." Roth underlined that Germany will

continue high-profile talks with Iran. The two officials discussed regional developments and the need for regional cooperation as well as peace and stability.

## Iran's steelmaker targets Arab markets

Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) is focusing on Arab markets, which received the bulk of the company's exports in the four months from March 21.

MSC exported 476,000 tons of steel worth \$200 million in the period, mostly to Oman, the UAE, Jordan and Egypt, the company's Managing Director Ahmad Sadeqi said, reported Press TV.

Sadeqi predicted a bright prospect for the company which, he said, has boosted production, reduced debts, expanded exports and cut prices.

His company is the largest steel maker in the Middle East and Northern Africa. Steel was Iran's main export item after oil, gas and petrochemicals last year.

European media reports have said the EU was targeting MSC's hot-rolled steel, planning to hit imports from the country with punitive trade tariffs.

According to a document cited in the media, the European Commission is proposing duties of up to 23 percent for steel from Mobarakeh Steel Company.



mssc.ir

Iran has an advantage since production costs at the

majority of its steelworks are internationally competitive because of low energy prices.

Sadeqi said prices of Iranian steel products are still lower than those in the international market, adding the rates in Iran are controlled through various measures to avoid pressure on the consumer.

He added current import tariffs in the country are appropriate given the prevailing steel market is flat around the world, but a number of brokers with a long history in imports of low-quality ingots, were pushing for the removal of duties.

Iran exported four million tons of steel last year, according to director of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Mehdi Karbasian.

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

## Iran expects \$5b from petrochemical exports



IRNA

Export of Iran's petrochemical products is expected to reach 11.5 million tons in the six months to September 22 while the revenues will reach \$5.25 billion, according to figures released in an official document by Iran's National Petrochemical Company which was procured by Trend News Agency.

Petrochemical output for the one year period to August 21 is also expected to stand at 51.9 million tons, compared to 51.3 million tons in the year to August 21, 2016.

The document also listed 58 new petrochemical projects which are under development with nominal capacity of 58.4 million tons/year.

Iran plans to inaugurate seven petrochemical plants by March 2018 and a further 23 the following year. The country needs \$20 billion in additional investments to double its production capacity by 2022 and \$35 billion more to increase the figure to 150 million tons/year by 2025.

Iran's nominal petrochemical production capacity stands at 73 million tons per year.

Islamic Republic's petrochemical sector is one of the rapidly growing industrial sectors, which experienced a seven percent growth in nominal capacity during the last fiscal year.

Iran's actual production level during the previous year (2014-2015) was 46.41 million tons.

## Rosneft to pay Indian Essar's \$24b debt to Iran

Rosneft has undertaken to settle over €2 billion (\$2.4 billion) owed to Iran for past oil purchases by Essar Group after the biggest Russian oil producer bought the Indian refiner.

Iran's crude sales to India more than doubled in 2016 following the lifting of international sanctions, but New Delhi plans to cut purchases from Tehran by three million tons during the financial year that started April 1, Press TV reported.

Essar's debt to National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) is mostly related to the time when Iran was under sanctions and the country had problems repatriating funds.

The top Indian buyer of Iranian oil, which operates a 400,000-barrels-per-day oil refinery at Vadinar in Gujarat State, made its first repayment of a \$500-million debt owed to Tehran in June 2016.

While Indian refiners continued to lift Iranian oil under the sanctions, they did not do it without special incentives, including a credit period of 90 days granted by Tehran.

NIOC has cut this period to 60 days after the lifting of the sanctions, much to the chagrin of the Indians who want the arrange-

ment to remain intact.

Under the sanctions regime, the Indians had agreed to pay oil dues in dollars, but they finally forced Iran to agree to a settlement half in dollar and half in rupee.

According to Iranian MP Asadollah Qarekhan, the rapporteur of Majlis Energy Commission, Iran's revenues shrank 30 percent after the rupee depreciated. Ultimately, "instead of cash payments, India sold cheap commodities for Iran's crude", the lawmaker said.

## Future Iran dealings

On Monday, Rosneft completed its \$12.9 billion purchase of Essar Oil in the biggest foreign acquisition ever in India.

It is not immediately clear how the acquisition will affect dealings with Iran, but Rosneft has already held negotiations to develop Iranian oilfields.

Key Italian oil refiner Saras which is partly owned by Rosneft resumed purchases of Iranian oil in 2016.

Rosneft's other partner in the acquisition, Trafigura, is also a client of Iran's crude oil. Trafigura loaded two million barrels of Iranian heavy crude for the first

time in June 2016 and was reportedly in talks to supply Iran's heavy crude grade to independent processors in China.

Reuters, however, reported last year that Rosneft planned to supply Venezuelan oil to the Vadinar refinery. The biggest Russian oil producer has a stake in Venezuelan upstream assets and oil purchase contracts with state-owned PDVSA.

Russia's Gazprom and Zarubezhneft have signed agreements to develop a number of Iranian oilfields but Rosneft has yet to firm up its involvement in the country.

In June, Rosneft was one of the new entries along with Russia's Gazprom Neft and Tatneft which NIOC added to its list of international companies named as eligible to bid for projects in Iran's massive oil and gas sectors.

The Essar deal includes a 98.26 percent acquisition of the refiner by Rosneft, Trafigura and Russian fund UCP, with the rest of the stakes to be held by retail investors.

Rosneft's Chief Executive Officer Igor Sechin was quoted as saying that the deal would enable Rosneft to improve the efficiency of fuel supplies to other nations in Asia.



# Quantitative easing for wealth redistribution



Following the 2007-2008 global financial crisis and the Great Recession in its wake, the 'new normal' in monetary policy has been abnormal.

At the heart of the unconventional monetary policies adopted have been 'asset purchase' or 'quantitative easing' (QE) programs. Ostensibly needed for economic revival, QE has redistributed wealth — regressively, in favor of the rich, IPS wrote.

As its failure to revive most economies becomes apparent, and opposition to growing inequality rises, QE may soon end, judging by recent announcements of some major central banks.

Already, the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England have been phasing out purchases of financial assets, while the European Central Bank (ECB) is publicly considering how quickly to do so from December. Meanwhile, these monetary authorities are considering raising interest rates again.

Evaluated by its own declared objectives, QE has been a failure.

Forbes magazine, the self-avowed 'capitalist tool', has acknowledged that QE has "largely failed in reviving economic growth".

By 'injecting' money into the economy, QE was supposed to induce banks to lend more, thus boosting investment and growth.

But in fact, overall bank lending fell after QE was introduced in the UK, with lending to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) — responsible for most employment — falling sharply.

Bank failure to finance productive investments was not because corporations were short of cash as they have considerable reserves.

Instead, the problem is due to under-consumption or overproduction, exacerbated by protracted stagnation and worsening inequality. After all, producing more when demand is soft or shrinking only leads to excess supply or glut.

But QE has transferred wealth and income to the rich in the guise of reviving the world economy. New money

created by QE was not invested in new productive activities, but instead mainly flowed into stock markets and real estate, pushing up share and property prices, without generating jobs or prosperity.

QE has enriched asset owners, increasing the wealth of the rich, while not generating real wealth.

By effectively devaluing currency, QE has diminished money's buying power, thus reducing real incomes. However, first-time or new asset purchasers lose, having to spend more to buy more expensive assets such as shares or real property.

While increased asset prices have to be paid by purchasers, the additional cost to existing asset owners is partially compensated for by higher prices received for assets sold.

Thus, the claim that QE would encourage investment as well as boost growth and employment has disguised the massive redistribution or wealth transfer to the rich. QE, especially in the US and UK, has seen real wages fall as profits rose. While output may have recovered, real wages have been generally lower.

## Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	82566.4	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	71532.0	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	90490.4	3826	4.27
First Market Index	57932.7	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	179537.2	2030.5	1.14

## Overall Index details on 20170823

First	82372.49	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	82570.1	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	82413.6	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	82566.4	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

## Industry Index details on 20170823

First	71349.3	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	71534.3	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	70278.2	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	71532.0	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

## Free Float Index details on 20170823

First	90159.3	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	90490.4	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

## Main Board Index details on 20170823

First	57745.6	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	57941.7	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	57932.7	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

## Secondary Index details on 20170823

First	179391.9	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	179541.2	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	179537.2	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2235.2		

## China relaunches world's fastest train

The top speed of the Fuxing or 'rejuvenation' bullet trains was capped at 300km/h (186mph) in 2011 following two crashes that killed 40 people.

From next week, some of the trains will once again be allowed to run at a higher speed of about 350 km/h.

The higher maximum speed should cut about an hour off the journey time between Beijing and Shanghai, according to BBC.

By September 21, seven of China's bullet trains will be permitted to travel at the increased maximum speed.

To mark the return of the higher-speed service, the trains have been named 'Fuxing' — Chinese for rejuvenation — in line with a national government slogan and development plan.

All the trains have been fitted with an improved monitoring system that will slow and stop the trains automatically in the event of an emergency.

The nation's rail operator is believed to be looking into ways to upgrade track to let the engines run



scmp.com

even faster — perhaps at speeds approaching 400km/h. China is believed to have about 19,960km (12,400 miles) of high-speed rail tracks.

The 2011 crashes of the high-speed trains led to a state investigation into the railways ministry which uncovered widespread corruption.

The probe meant many officials were charged with corruption and abuse of power. Two senior officials were given suspended death sentences.

## German ministry warns of rising income inequality

Income inequality is at a historical high in Germany, local newspapers Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung and Sueddeutsche Zeitung quoted a report by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy as saying.

According to Xinhua, Matthias Machnig, state secretary at the ministry, told Sueddeutsche Zeitung, "This circumstance is not fair and poses a threat to Germany's social cohesion."

Germany has a 'wage problem', the report said. Low and middle-income earners were not benefiting enough from economic growth.

The report said real gross wages of the lower 40 percent of income earners in 2015 were much lower than in 1995 because their income had less purchasing power.

The report said the upper 60 percent of wage earners, in contrast, have recorded strong rises in their income, noting that the wage gap has thus widened significantly.

Machnig said a large share of the



occupy.com

German population "was not able to advance", adding that "the children are suddenly worse off than their parents".

"The tax burden on lower incomes has to be reduced. The principle of equal pay for equal work must finally be achieved for women," he told Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

Wage is a hot topic in the lead-up to a federal parliament election in September, not least because household consumption accounted for 1.1 percent out of Germany's 1.9 percent gross domestic product growth in 2016.

## Employers worry about state of UK economy

UK employers are growing increasingly worried about the economy, new research found.

A survey of 601 employers by the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC) found 31 percent expect the economy to worsen, with only 28 percent expecting it to improve.

Employers' confidence has worsened since the last survey in July, BBC wrote.

REC Chief Kevin Green said the decline should 'raise a red flag' and called for greater clarity over Brexit.

"The jobs market continues to do well despite growing uncertainty," he said. "Businesses are continuing to hire to meet demand, but issues like access to labor, Brexit negotiations and political uncertainty are creating nervousness."

The REC's measure of confidence has turned negative in the space of a month. In July the number of those employers who felt confident about the economy outweighed the pessimists by six-percentage points.

The fall is matched by declining consumer confidence. In June the market research group GfK's

consumer confidence index fell to the level last seen in the immediate aftermath of the Brexit vote.

The REC's JobsOutlook survey showed that 40 percent of employers had no spare capacity and one in five planned to take on more permanent staff to meet additional demand.

However, their biggest problem was finding the right candidates, especially in the construction industry, for either temporary or permanent positions.

Green said: "Employers in the construction sector are especially concerned as they rely heavily on EU workers to meet the growing demand for housing and to support the government's infrastructure plans."

"The added factor of dropping consumer confidence is putting some businesses on edge. If people reduce their spending, businesses will be impacted."

"The government must do more to create an environment where businesses have clarity. That means clearly laying out what Brexit plans look like and how employers can keep recruiting the people they need from the EU."

Labour MP Mary Creagh, part of the Open Britain



GETTY IMAGES

campaign group, said the government's refusal to guarantee the rights of EU citizens living in the UK was damaging business confidence.

## Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2887	Chinese Yuan	0.1500
Euro	1.1754	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.2822	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3101
Australian Dollar	0.7887	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0091	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

## Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$47.69	Silver	\$17.01
Gold	\$1291.80	Platinum	\$980.90
Copper	\$2.98	Wheat	\$402.50



## Iran participates at int'l folklore festival in Greece

The 55th Lefkas International Folklore Festival began on Tuesday in Greece, with Iran participating in the event by holding various art and cultural programs.

Spiros Arvanitis, head of Cultural Center of the Greek island Lefkas, also known as Lefkadas, said, "Today's world is suffering from violence and prejudice, with extremist groups challenging global security and peace," underlining the need for acquaintance about different peoples with various cultures, IRNA reported.

He further described the goal of the international festival as contributing to peace and security in the world, highlighting the role of art in achieving the goal.

Iran's Cultural Attaché in Greece Ali Mohammad Helmi, who attended the inaugural ceremony, said, "Iranian people have always been on the path of global and regional peace."

Iran and the religion of Islam are great promoters of a peaceful life for all human beings, especially in the region, he added.

China, Vietnam, Peru, France, Georgia, Ireland, South Africa and Brazil are among the countries participating in the event.

The festival will run until August 27.

## Annual value of trees? \$500m per megacity

The value of trees' services can easily be doubled by simply planting more of them, said the study's lead author.

According to enr.com, Dr. Theodore Endreny of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) in Syracuse, New York, said, "Megacities can increase these benefits on average by 85 percent."

"If trees were to be established throughout their potential cover area, they would serve to filter air and water pollutants and reduce building energy use, and improve human well-being while providing habitat and resources for other species in the urban area."

The study estimated existing and potential tree cover, and its contribution to ecosystem services in 10 megacity metropolitan areas across five continents and biomes (a large, natural community of plants and animals that occupies a major habitat).

## Museum visitors damage 800-year-old coffin

An 800-year-old coffin was damaged when a family lifted a child over a museum barrier and into it for a photograph.

Part of the coffin, which was already in three pieces, fell from its stand and a chunk came off it, according to The Telegraph.

The people who caused the accidental damage were caught on CCTV at Prittlewell Priory Museum in Southend, Essex, but fled without reporting it.

The sandstone coffin was found in the grounds of the priory in 1921 and had a skeleton inside, which could have been a monk.

Conservator Claire Reed, who has been tasked with repairing the coffin, said: "The care of our collections is of paramount importance to us and this isolated incident has been upsetting for the museums service, whose staff strive to protect Southend's heritage for the benefit of our visitors and enrichment of their experience within our historic sites"

# Climate change could shrink fish size by 30%



sciencedaily.com

Fish are expected to shrink in size by 20 to 30 percent if ocean temperatures continue to climb due to climate change, a study warned.

The study by researchers at the University of British Columbia in Canada provides a deeper explanation of why fish are expected to decline in size, PTI wrote.

William Cheung, associate professor at the Institute for the Ocean and Fisheries, said, "Fish, as cold-blooded

animals, cannot regulate their own body temperatures. When their waters get warmer, their metabolism accelerates and they need more oxygen to sustain their body functions."

"There is a point where the gills cannot supply enough oxygen for a larger body, so the fish just stops growing larger."

According to Daniel Pauly, the study's lead author, as fish grow into adulthood their demand for oxygen increases

because their body mass becomes larger.

However, the surface area of the gills — where oxygen is obtained — does not grow at the same pace as the rest of the body.

He describes this set of principles that explains why fish are expected to shrink "gill-oxygen limitation theory."

For example, as a fish like cod increases its weight by 100 percent, its gills only grow by 80 percent or less.

When understood in the

context of climate change, this biological rule reinforces the prediction that fish will shrink and will be even smaller than thought in previous studies, researchers said.

Warmer waters increase fish's need for oxygen but climate change will result in less oxygen in the oceans.

This means that gills have less oxygen to supply to a body that already grows faster than them.

The researchers said this forces fish to stop growing

at a smaller size to be able to fulfil their needs with the little oxygen available to them.

Some species may be more affected by this combination of factors. Tuna, which are fast moving and require more energy and oxygen, may shrink even more when temperatures increase, researchers said.

Smaller fish will have an impact on fisheries production as well as the interaction between organisms in the ecosystems, they said.

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ویلاي شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر  
و مدیران شرکت های بین المللی  
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیاز مندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیرمبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا  
و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفار تخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیاز مندیم

مالکین محترم  
ساختمان دربیست در مناطق شمال تهران  
جهت اجاره به یک سفار تخانه  
و کمپانی های خارجی نیاز مندیم

Men, and especially male smokers, appear to be more likely to develop lung cancer if they take high doses of vitamins B<sub>6</sub> and B<sub>12</sub>, new research suggested.

# Need for caregiving doubles as end of life nears



imgur.com

**R**eliance on caregivers doubles as people near death, and half of those caregivers — typically unpaid family members — report having no time for themselves, a new study indicated.

The research used a nationally representative sample of about 2,400 older adults in the US, UPI reported.

The study authors found that caregivers provided nearly twice the number of hours of help each week to dying individuals than to those not at the end of life.

Study author Dr. Katherine Orstein, an assistant professor of geriatrics and palliative medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City, said, "We were certainly aware when dealing with end-of-life care that families are mostly involved, but we couldn't quantify that prior to this [research]."

More than 34 million Americans provided unpaid care to an adult aged 50 or older in the past 12 months, according to 2015 figures from the National Alliance for Caregiving and American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Most caregivers are female.

Orstein and her team drew from two nationally representative surveys in which caregivers in the US reported their experiences caring for dying adults over the age of 65.

The researchers contrasted this data with that of other caregivers providing ongoing care.

Older adults were classified as being at the end of life if they died within 12 months of the surveys' completion.

The study found that dying adults had an average of 2.5 caregivers assisting them.

Those near the end of life received 61 hours of help per week compared to 35 hours of help per week for older adults who weren't at the end of life.

More than one-third of the end-of-life caregivers reported physical difficulty related to their duties.

Just over half reported having no time for themselves. These figures were 21 percent and 40 percent, respectively, for other caregivers.

Nearly nine in 10 caregivers are unpaid, according to the study. For end-of-life caregivers who were spouses, nearly two-thirds reported receiving no help from family or friends.

Orstein said, "What we see now is, on average, there are 2.5 people helping someone at the end of life. You can imagine if they don't have that, it's much more difficult."

"When spouses are serving as caregivers, the majority are reporting doing it alone and have the [most challenging] consequences."

Barbara Coombs Lee, an American activist, president of Compassion and Choices, pointed out that the caregivers surveyed in the new study didn't necessarily know ahead of time that the person they were caring for was at the end of life.

"This lack of awareness may have increased caregivers' stress levels."

"This told me the caregivers were probably struggling, not knowing this was an end-of-life situation."

"Our [organization's] research indicates that uncertainty about decision-making is an inherent and extremely powerful source of stress."

"I would guess that many of these people didn't know they were dying... so they pursued heroic, torturous, futile treatment."

"Often the default decision [to continue treatment] increases the

caregiver burden."

Orstein said she hopes greater awareness of the family burden of caregiving, especially at the end of life, comes from her research.

"We need to think about expanding access to palliative care services, which can help facilitate the delivery of supportive services to families earlier."

"And we can see how we need to provide more paid family leave so families can provide the support we're pretty much expecting them to provide."

Lee agreed with the need for expanded access to hospice and palliative care.

She said, "One of the big barriers to access to hospice is [an] information gap."

"People don't understand that hospice is appropriate to them in their journey in their illness."

"Palliative care utilization would go up if people had more candid conversations and were privy to information that physicians have but aren't sharing."

The study was published recently in the journal *Health Affairs*.

## Chest infection symptoms could be sign of potentially life-threatening condition

Bronchiectasis is a common lung disease that can develop when the airways become damaged.



health.harvard.edu

It can cause a cough and build up of mucus, which can lead to chest infections, according to [express.co.uk](http://express.co.uk).

Bronchiectasis is a long-term condition affecting over 200,000 people in the UK.

The numbers are rising — over the past ten years the number of people with bronchiectasis has increased by 40 percent.

Despite this, bronchiectasis has been described as one of the most neglected diseases in respiratory medicine, with few treatments that have been proven to work.

Patients can suffer from a persistent cough and breathlessness as well as persistent chest infections.

It can lead to a build-up of excess mucus that can make the lungs more vulnerable to infection.

Chest infection symptoms include a persistent cough, coughing up yellow or green phlegm — thick mucus, or even coughing up blood.

Rapid shallow breathing, wheezing, high temperatures, chest pain and tightness and a rapid heartbeat are also indicators of the condition.

The condition — which can be caused by a lung infection during childhood, such as pneumonia or whooping cough — is incurable but can be managed.

NHS Choices said, "Around 1,000 deaths reported in England and Wales each year are thought to be caused by bronchiectasis."

### Symptoms of the 100-day cough

However, now experts at Dundee University have been awarded a grant worth £400,000 to tackle the disease.

A team led by Professor James Chalmers, respiratory researcher, will work to tackle this problem by developing tests that will help find the right treatment for the right patient, known as personalized medicine.

The five-year project will see Professor Chalmers lead a team work to understand the different patterns of lung inflammation and infection in bronchiectasis patients.

The award was granted by the British Lung Foundation (BLF) and jointly funded by GSK and the University.

The study is set to be the largest and most detailed of its kind ever performed in bronchiectasis and will make a major contribution to improving our understanding of this disease and ultimately lead to better treatments for patients.

Professor Chalmers said, "We urgently need to develop new treatments for people with bronchiectasis, but we also need to target existing treatments better."

"There are many drugs already available which could improve lives but which aren't being used in the right patients."

"This research aims to develop the tests we need to give the right drug to the right patient at the right time."

He said the research will help all the people living with the disease.

Ian Jarrold, head of research at the British Lung Foundation, said, "Personalized medicine is good for patients and is good for doctors, allowing better treatment outcomes and reduced healthcare costs by avoiding use of drugs that won't benefit people living with this disease."

"This award recognizes Professor Chalmers as an outstanding and internationally recognized leader of lung research."

"We look forward to seeing him develop and train the next generation of breakthrough lung researchers — for everyone who has and will be given a diagnosis of bronchiectasis."

Professional footballers — like all elite athletes — need to pay as much attention to their diet as their training.

And whereas in the past, they might have come off pitch and scoffed a meal of steak and chips, there's now a much greater focus on nutrition and its effect on a player's game, according to [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk).

Sports scientist Armando Vinci, who worked alongside the Chelsea manager Antonio Conte for almost a decade, said, "Nutrition impacts everything from a player's endurance levels and speed to their recovery to their sleep patterns."

It's crucial that footballers get the right nutrients in the right quantities at the right times to ensure they perform their best on the pitch.

And there are certain secrets to their diets that we can all take away, whether you're running up and down a field for 90 minutes or smashing a high-intensity interval training (HIIT) workout in the gym.

## Secret rules of footballers' diets

### Beef jerky

It's no secret that consuming protein is crucial for muscle recovery and supermarket shelves are brimming with snacks that claim to offer protein boosts on the go.

But there's a new post-workout snack appearing on the scene that footballers have been eating for a long time: Beef jerky. It's predicted to become an alternative to protein bars, shakes and balls.

Nancy Rodriguez, professor of nutritional sciences at the University of Connecticut, said, "Beef jerky is a high-quality protein snack that provides your body with essential amino acids needed to build, maintain and

repair muscle."

### Blueberries, cherries, pomegranate seeds

Not just a supposed superfood, blueberries — along with cherries and pomegranate seeds — are anti-inflammatory and thus help with recovery — they're a big part of many footballers' diets.

Blueberries in particular are a great choice before a match as they boost the immune system.

Sports and exercise physiology consultant, Dr. Stewart Laing, said, "These antioxidants can neutralize the free radicals produced during metabolism and protect the body against the



independent.co.uk

damaging effects of these free radicals."

Blueberries are a source of carbs so help fuel players before exercising and they don't spike your insulin levels either.

### Managing carbs

Burning as many calories as they do, it's no surprise that footballers need carbs. But they don't 'carb-load', as many people think, and the timing

is crucial. Recent scientific research has found that it's essential to modify your carb intake based on whether you're working out or not.

Professional footballers need about seven grams of carbohydrate per kilogram of body weight on match days to optimize glycogen resynthesis, but on recovery days this drops to two grams per kilogram of body weight.

### Eating yoghurt before bed

Not only is yoghurt a great source of protein, probiotics and calcium, but it could also help your body recover while you sleep if you eat some half an hour before bed.

Vinci said, "The protein in yoghurt and other milk products is almost entirely casein, which digests slowly in the body and is ideal for rebuilding muscle following any intense training session, but particularly a gym workout using weights."

It's a trick that could be helpful for anyone who does weight-training or resistance work.



Earth's ancient crust

Scientists found that ancient Earth had a viscous mantle that was 200°C hotter than present day. The Earth's ancient crust was made up of a much denser, iron-enriched material than today's rocky mantle.

Even as robots become increasingly common across different parts of our world, they remain incredibly difficult to make.

From designing and modeling to fabricating and testing, the process is slow and costly: Even one small change can mean days or weeks of rethinking and revising important hardware, sciencedaily.com reported.

But what if there was a way to let non-experts craft different robotic designs — in one sitting?

Researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) are getting closer to doing exactly that.

In a new paper, they present a system called 'Interactive Robogami' that lets you design a robot in minutes, and then 3D print and assemble it in as little as four hours.

One of the key features of the system is that it allows designers to determine both the robot's movement 'gait' and shape 'geometry', a capability that's often separated in design systems.

PhD student and co-lead author Adriana Schulz said, "Designing robots usually requires expertise that only mechanical engineers and roboticists have."

"What's exciting here is that we've created a tool that allows a casual user to design their own robot by giving them this expert knowledge."

The paper, which was published in the newest issue of the International Journal of Robotics Research, was

# Designing custom robots in a matter of minutes



This is a full robot set.

sciencedaily.com

co-lead by PhD graduate Cynthia Sung alongside MIT professors Wojciech Matusik and Daniela Rus.

The other coauthors include PhD student Andrew Spielberg, former master's student Wei Zhao, former undergraduate Robin Cheng, and Columbia University professor Eitan Grinspun.

**How it works**

3D printing has transformed the way that people can turn ideas into real objects, allowing users to move away from more traditional manufacturing.

Despite these developments, current design tools still have space and motion limitations and there's a steep learning curve to understanding the various nuances.

Interactive Robogami aims to be

much more intuitive. It uses simulations and interactive feedback with algorithms for design composition, allowing users to focus on high-level conceptual design.

Users can choose from a library of over 50 different bodies, wheels, legs and 'peripherals', as well as a selection of different steps 'gaits'.

Importantly, the system is able to guarantee that a design is actually possible, analyzing factors such as speed and stability to make suggestions and ensure that, for example, the user doesn't create a robot so top-heavy that it can't move without tipping over.

Once designed, the robot is then fabricated. The team's origami-inspired 3D print and fold technique involves printing the design as flat faces connected at joints, and then folding the design into

the final shape, combining the most effective parts of 2D and 3D printing.

Sung said, "3D printing lets you print complex, rigid structures, while 2D fabrication gives you lightweight but strong structures that can be produced quickly."

"By 3D printing 2D patterns, we can leverage these advantages to develop strong, complex designs with lightweight materials."

**Results**

To test the system, the team used eight subjects who were given twenty minutes of training and asked to perform two tasks.

One task involved creating a mobile, stable car design in just ten minutes.

In a second task, users were given

a robot design and asked to create a trajectory to navigate the robot through an obstacle course in the least amount of travel time.

The team fabricated a total of six robots, each of which took 10 to 15 minutes to design, three to seven hours to print and 30 to 90 minutes to assemble.

The team found that their 3D print-and-fold method reduced printing time by 73 percent and the amount of material used by 70 percent.

The robots also demonstrated a wide range of movement, like using single legs to walk, using different step sequences, and using legs and wheels simultaneously.

Sung said, "You can quickly design a robot that you can print out, and that will help you do these tasks very quickly, easily and cheaply."

"It's lowering the barrier to have

everyone design and create their own robots."

Rus hopes people will be able to incorporate robots to help with everyday tasks and that similar systems with rapid printing technologies will enable large-scale customization and production of robots.

Rus said, "These tools enable new approaches to teaching computational thinking and creating."

"Students can not only learn by coding and making their own robots, but by bringing to life conceptual ideas about what their robots can actually do."

While the current version focuses on designs that can walk, the team hopes that in the future, the robots can take flight.

Another goal is to have the user be able to go into the system and define the behavior of the robot in terms of tasks it can perform.

Moritz Bächer, a research scientist at Disney Research, said, "This tool enables rapid exploration of dynamic robots at an early stage in the design process."

"The expert defines the building blocks, with constraints and composition rules, and paves the way for non-experts to make complex robotic systems."

"This system will likely inspire follow-up work targeting the computational design of even more intricate robots."

This research was supported by the National Science Foundation's Expeditions in Computing program.

## Astronaut urine could make supplies from nutrients to tools

Astronauts could find themselves eating nutrients and using plastics produced by yeast fed with their own urine, according to researchers exploring ways to harness human waste in space.

Urine is already recycled on board the International Space Station (ISS) to provide clean drinking water for US astro-

These algae are also part of the bid to recycle human waste, with the photosynthetic organisms producing their carbon-based substances using CO<sub>2</sub> which could come from sources that include the breath of the astronauts.

Crucially, previous research by various groups has shown the yeast can be

progress. "As far as products, we have demonstrated the proof of principle and can produce polyester plastics, but this work is still preliminary."

"We are not making large enough quantities for practical application yet. "At present a 1,000 liter tank would be needed to make a simple plastic spinner. And there are other challenges to tackle, from how best to extract the plastic from the yeast to whether the organisms could cope in a Martian environment."

"There is still a lot we don't know about how yeast grow in microgravity, in a lower pressure atmosphere, or with higher background radiation levels."

But the team are, with Blenner adding that other researchers are looking at the possibility of using human feces to produce organic material to aid the yeast's growth and production.

David Cullen, professor of astrobiochemistry and space biotechnology at Cranfield University who is not involved in the project, said it is one of a number of approaches to increase the level of recycling on space missions, with other projects including those looking deeper at using algae to remove CO<sub>2</sub> and replenish oxygen levels inside spacecraft through photosynthesis.

But he welcomed the new research. "The only times we [currently] have astronauts living for long periods of time away from the Earth is on the ISS and of course that is relatively easy because you can frequently resupply that with consumables," said Cullen, adding that in the future astronauts could be sent further afield, be that to the moon, Mars or beyond, where resupply would be difficult.

But Mark Hempzell, president of the British Interplanetary Society, was non-plussed, pointing out that the yeast technology was likely to take many years of development before such system would be small enough and lightweight enough to prove useful on a space mission.

He said, "I can't help feeling in most cases it is a lot lighter just to carry the spares than a giant piece of machinery that produces a rather crappy piece of plastic that might not be the best for the tool in the first place."



theguardian.com

nauts — although the system hasn't been embraced by the Russian side of the station, theguardian.com wrote.

But now a US-based team has taken the motto 'waste not, want not' to new heights, using human waste from breath to pee to produce a variety of materials for lengthy space journeys.

Mark Blenner, a synthetic biologist from Clemson University in South Carolina, said, "Astronauts will need to be able to produce nutrients and materials they need during Earth-independent long-term space travel."

"They simply don't have the space to transport all possible needs — and certain nutrients, drugs and materials can degrade over the course of three-plus year mission."

Presented at the annual conference of the American Chemical Society, the project is focused on using human urine to feed various strains of *Yarrowia lipolytica* — a yeast commonly found in cheese.

Urea within urine provides the yeast with nitrogen, while algae provide the yeast with a source of sugars, lipids and other nutrients.

genetically modified to produce all manner of substances, including omega-3 fatty acids — nutrients essential for health that the human body can't make — and even plastics, such as polyesters.

With the ISS already boasting a 3D printer, the idea is that one day it might be possible to use the yeast to produce plastics that could be used to print all manner of items, from small components to tools.

Saying that the yeast itself takes up very little space and is low-mass, Blenner added, "Capabilities in synthetic biology enable us to create different strains of yeast that can make a variety of different products."

While astronauts have previously grown lettuce on board the ISS, Blenner pointed out yeasts might have advantages.

He said, "They can make many of the vitamins and nutrients we often get from plant-based food, but grow at a much faster rate with less volume required."

Having won funding from NASA in 2015, the project is in its early stages, but Blenner said the team have been making

## Cyborg bacteria deliver green fuel source from sunlight

Scientists created bacteria covered in tiny semiconductors that generate a potential fuel source from sunlight, carbon dioxide and water.

The so-called 'cyborg' bugs produce acetic acid, a chemical that can then be turned into fuel and plastic, according to bbc.com.

In lab experiments, the bacteria proved much more efficient at harvesting sunlight than plants.

The work was presented at the American Chemical Society meeting in Washington. Researchers have been attempting to artificially replicate photosynthesis for many years.

**Solar panel bugs**

In nature, the green pigment chlorophyll is key to this process, helping plants to convert carbon dioxide and water, using sunlight, into oxygen and glucose.

But despite the fact that it works, scientists said the process is relatively inefficient. This has also been a big problem with most of the artificial systems developed to date.

This new approach seeks to improve that efficiency by essentially aiming to equip bacteria with solar panels.

After combing through old microbiology literature, researchers realized that some bugs have a natural defense to cadmium, mercury or lead that lets them turn the heavy metal into a sulphide which the bacteria express as a tiny, crystal semiconductor on their surfaces.

Dr. Kelsey Sakimoto from Harvard University in Massachusetts, the US, said, "It's shamefully simple, we've harnessed a natural ability of these bacteria that had never been looked at through this lens."

"We grow them and we introduce a small amount of cadmium, and naturally they produce cadmium sulphide crystals which then agglomerate on the outside of their bodies."

"You grow them in their liquid broth and you just add small aliquots of cadmium solution and you wait a couple of days and out pops these photosynthetic organisms."

"It's all very simple, mix-in-a-pot-chemistry." These newly boosted bacteria produce acetic acid, essentially vinegar, from CO<sub>2</sub>, water and light. They have an efficiency of around 80 percent, which

is four times the level of commercial solar panels and more than six times the level of chlorophyll.

Sakimoto added, "We prize these cyborg bacteria and their ability to make acetate because they produce a substrate that we can already use to produce more valuable and more interesting products."

"We have collaborators who have a number of strains of *E. coli* that are genetically engineered to take acetic acid as their food source and they can upgrade it into butanol and a polymer called polyhydroxybutyrate."

**Soaking in the Sun**

Sakimoto believes that these bacteria offer some advantages over other approaches to generating green energy from biological sources.

Other techniques for artificial photosynthesis require expensive solid electrodes.

The cyborg bug approach really only needs large vats of liquid to be kept out in the Sun — the bacteria are self-replicating and self-regenerating, making it potentially a low waste technology. It might work best in rural areas or in the developing world.

The research work was carried out at the University of California,

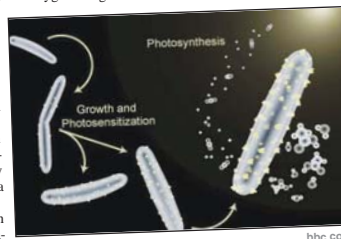
Berkeley in the lab of Dr. Peidong Yang. Yang said, "The thrust of research in my lab is to essentially 'supercharge' non-photosynthetic bacteria by providing them energy in the form of electrons from inorganic semiconductors, like cadmium sulphide, that are efficient light absorbers."

"We are now looking for more benign light absorbers than cadmium sulphide to provide bacteria with energy from light."

The researchers believe that while their approach has taken an important new step, it might not ultimately be the technology that prevails.

Sakimoto added, "There are so many different designs of these systems coming out and really we've only begun to explore the different ways we can combine chemistry and biology."

"And there's a real possibility that that there will be some upstart technology that will come out that will do better than our system."



The bacteria are said to be more efficient than plants at producing useful materials from sunlight.

bbc.com



Parents in the UK would find it 'much more difficult' to recover abducted children if Britain fails to persuade the EU to continue legal cooperation after Brexit.

## Use of children as 'human bombs' on the rise in Nigeria

The United Nations children agency expressed extreme concern at the appalling increase in the cruel and calculated use of children, especially girls, as 'human bombs' in northeast Nigeria.

According to un.org, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) spokesperson Marixie Mercado told reporters at regular press briefing in Geneva, "Since the beginning of January 2017, 83 children had been used as so-called human bombs, 55 being girls, most of them often under 15 years old.

"The 27 other children were boys and one was an infant strapped to a girl."

She pointed out that since 2014, children have been repeatedly used in this way, calling the number of children used so far this year alone was "already four times higher than what it was for all of 2016".

"Children used as human bombs are, above all, victims, not perpetrators," Mercado underscored.

She added that the use of children in such attacks has a further impact of creating suspicion and fear of children released, rescued, or escaped from Boko Haram.

"They face rejection when they tried to reintegrate their communities which compounds their suffering," she explained.

Mercado painted a dire picture, describing the situation as a massive displacement and malnutrition crisis — a deadly combination for children.

Northeast Nigeria is one of the four countries or regions facing the specter of famine, with up to 450,000 children at risk of severe acute malnutrition this year, according to UNICEF.

UNICEF is providing psychosocial support for children who had been held by Boko Haram and the agency is also working with families and communities to foster the acceptance of returned children — including through social and economic reintegration support.

As of July, UNICEF has supported more than 3,000 children and 1,200 women. It also backed reconciliation activities in north-east Nigeria led by communities,



unmultimedia.org

religious leaders and influential women to help promote tolerance, acceptance, and reintegration.

Noting that a \$1 billion appeal to minimally help sustain people in Nigeria is only 60 percent funded, Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, told reporters at the briefing that the situation for civilians in the area was extremely grave.

Humanitarian Coordinator Edward Kallon stressed that women and children in Borno state face grave human

rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence. He noted that, since the start of the conflict in 2009, more than 20,000 people had been killed with thousands of women and girls abducted and abused.

In total, 8.5 million people in the worst-affected states of Borno, namely Adamawa and Yobe, need of humanitarian assistance. In its eighth year, this crisis shows no sign of abating, said Laerke.

Food insecurity affects 5.2 million people, some of whom are on the brink of famine.

### Social media culture can encourage risky posting behavior

The use of social media is pervasive among young adults, but not all posted content is necessarily appropriate.

Now a new study by the University of Plymouth investigates why young adults might post content on social media that contains sexual or offensive material, reported phys.org.



phys.org

Led by Dr. Claire White from the University's School of Psychology, the study suggested that such risky social media posts are not just due to impulsivity, but might be a deliberate strategy to fit in with the wider social media culture that makes people believe "it's the right thing to do".

Existing studies show that impulsiveness is predictive of online risk taking behaviors, but this additional research with British and Italian young adults highlighted that high self-monitoring — or adapting behavior in line with perceived social norms — was equally predictive of posting risky content, which White said could mean young people think it's the best way to behave.

To measure risky online self-presentation the research team, which also included PhD student Clara Cutello, Dr. Michaela Gummerum and Professor Yaniv Hanoch from the School of Psychology, designed a risk exposure scale relating to potentially inappropriate images or texts, such as drug and alcohol use, personal information, and offensive material. They also evaluated people's level of self-monitoring and impulsivity.

"It's counterintuitive really because it would be easy to assume that a high self-monitor would question their actions and adapt accordingly. But the results show that high self-monitors are just as likely to post risky content as those in the study who are more impulsive, which suggests they think it's not only OK to be risky — and potentially offensive — but that it's actually the right thing to do."

"The only notable difference between the nationalities was that British students were more likely to post comments and images related to their drug use on social media, whereas their Italian counterparts were more likely to post offensive content and personal information."

"This difference shows that culture as a whole seems to play a part in what type of content is shared. But the fact that the behaviors predicting risky online choices are the same for both nationalities suggests there's a wider social media culture that encourages this type of risk-taking behavior."

The full paper, titled "A Cross-Cultural Study of Risky Online Self-Presentation," is published in the journal *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*.

### Some immigrant children not enrolled in Washington schools

There are many children among a group of immigrants who have settled in Washington County, but none of them are going to school this fall.

There's a large group of Romanian immigrants who have moved to California Borough.



o0bg.com

The superintendent has spent his entire summer working with federal and state agencies trying to figure out how to help the Romanian children enroll in school. But with the language barrier and red tape, it's been a very difficult process, wxpi.com reported.

The small community of Romanian families moved to a small corner outside the university's campus last spring. That's when the California Area School District's superintendent noticed the Romanian children weren't in school.

Superintendent Michael Sears said, "We've heard 30, 50? We don't know. It's an issue I was working over the summer, but not having any luck as far as contacting anyone that can help with us make that connection with the Romanian families."

Just this month, the Department of Education connected Sears to an organization based in Edinboro that specializes in helping immigrant children. The organization's director told Channel 11 its representatives will be in town for the first time on September 5 and said this is the first time they've taken on something of this magnitude.

"I think these children are going to need immunizations before they can physically come into the schools and Intermediate Unit 5 will be able to help us with that," Sears said.

Channel 11 went to the Romanian community on Tuesday and found many children playing, but few adults who spoke any English. The superintendent is now hopeful a translator can help bridge the barrier.

"Things are starting to happen now, which I'm very grateful for," Sears said.

He also said he's confident that, with help from the state, they'll be able to get a translator into this community and get the ball rolling in the near future.

## Poverty in America by the numbers

By official definition of poverty in America, New Mexico has the nation's highest poverty rate, 21.8 percent, while New Hampshire has the lowest, 6.6 percent.

But a newer, more comprehensive measure of poverty by the US Census Bureau tells a different story, with California having the highest poverty rate among the states at 20.6 percent, forbes.com wrote.

Why do two government poverty yardsticks generate very different results?

Poverty defies simple explanation. We do not even have a common benchmark to measure poverty. The Official Poverty Measure, in use for a little more than 50 years, has its roots in a 62-year-old US Department of Agriculture food consumption survey.

That survey determined a subsistence diet and budget. The Official Poverty Measure builds off this, taking the cost of a subsistence diet and multiplying it by three with the rationale being that the provision of food uses about one-third of the poor's income.

Thus, in 2016, a family of four making less than \$24,250 was considered below the



forbes.com

poverty line in the 48 contiguous states, Alaska and Hawaii have different, higher, poverty thresholds, reflecting those states' higher cost of living.

Returning to New Mexico, the Official Poverty Measure calculates that state's poverty rate at 21.8 percent, as averaged over 2013 to 2015.

Using this measure, California has the nation's 17th-highest poverty rate, 14.9 percent, just above the national average of 14.4 percent.

However, the cost of living in California is about 20 percent higher than it is in New Mexico, according to the US Bureau of Economic Analysis' Regional

Price Parity calculation.

The Official Poverty Measure takes no account of this fact. In July, the average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Albuquerque, New Mexico was \$963.

In Los Angeles, a similar apartment rents for \$2,904. Clearly, the cost of living

matters, especially for the poor.

A practical example helped illuminate the Official Poverty Measure's cost-of-living shortcomings. The average annual wage for food preparers and servers was \$27,380 in California, \$3,130 above the poverty line.

But the cost of living in California is about 13 percent higher than the national average, according to the US Bureau of Economic Analysis. This means that the average food service worker makes an effective annual wage of \$24,145 in California — below the poverty line for a family of four.

The US Congress has been aware of the Official Poverty Measure's cost-of-living weaknesses since 1974. By 1995, specific improvements to the poverty threshold methodology were recommended and by 2010, 36 years later, the US Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics were charged with developing the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM).

Unlike the Official Poverty Measure, the SPM wasn't intended to determine eligibility for government benefits — it would be too controversial — rather, it was developed to advance our understanding of poverty.

## South Korean childbirths hit six-month low in June

The number of newborn babies in South Korea dropped to a six-month low in June, government data showed.

About 28,900 babies were born in the month, down 12.2 percent, or 4,000, from 32,900 tallied a year earlier, according to the data from Statistics Korea, Yonhap reported.

It is the second-lowest monthly figure after just 27,200 kids were born in December last year.

Childbirths have been on the decline since a 3.4 percent on-year gain in November 2015, logging a double-digit on-year

drop for seven straight months starting in December.

For the first six months of 2017, a total of 188,500 babies were newly born in the country, down 12.3 percent from a year ago, raising concerns that the annual number of babies born will fall below the 400,000 level for the first time in the country's history. Last year, an all-time low of 406,300 babies were delivered.

The low birthrate has been one of the most pressing issues for decades in South Korea, coupled with an increased aging population. Many are

worried that low births will drag down the workforce in Asia's fourth-largest economy and drive up welfare costs, undermining the growth potential of the economy.

The statistics data also showed that the number of marriages fell 8.2 percent on-year, or 2,000, to 22,300 in June.

At the same time, 9,000 couples divorced over the cited period, down 2.2 percent from a year earlier.

The number of deaths came to 22,000 for the month, up 2.8 percent from a year earlier, the data showed.



independent.co.uk

## Mutant goat with strange features

A mutant goat has left people flabbergasted after footage of the bizarre creature was posted online.

The goat was discovered in India and footage of the peculiar animal soon swept the Internet, stunning and shocking users in equal measure, mirror.co.uk reported.

The freakish animal appears to have the facial structure of a human — with the rest of its body resembling a goat.

The animal's lips appear to be bent upwards, forming a pout on its face.

And its nose also resembles that of a human's rather than the snout of a goat.

These pictures were uploaded onto social media by



ASIAWIRE

Samirra Aissa, who shared the weird snaps with her Facebook friends.

They were taken from a video which shows two people pulling

the animal around while trying to determine what it is.

The video has already had 37,000 views since it was uploaded online.

She wrote: "A strange creature has been discovered in India. The animal, whose shape resembles that of a human being, terrified a whole village."

## Lioness wraps her mouth around wildebeest's face before killing it

An incredible set of photographs show a lion wrapping her mouth around the face of a wildebeest in what looks like a kiss of death before dragging it to the ground and killing its prey.

With the wildebeest still upright, the lion can be seen hanging from the animal with its arms wrapped around the neck of its target, dailymail.co.uk wrote.

After a short struggle, and with its teeth gripping the wildebeest's face, the lioness' pride get their lunch onto the ground and devour it.

The pictures were taken in Ndutu, Tanzania, by Christophe Renous.

The photographer witnessed the ambush, which started with the deadly kiss.



CATERS NEWS AGENCY

Renous said: "I love nature and animals, and these pictures show the final kiss of death."

## Australian zoo welcomes rare white koala

Among a group of marsupials born at an Australian zoo in recent months, one has stood out. The female koala, as yet unnamed, is a rare white joey.

According to Queensland's Australia Zoo, the koala's fair coat is not due to albinism but most likely caused by a recessive gene it inherited from its mother, BBC reported.

Experts say it would be difficult for such a koala to survive if it lived in the wild.

Rosie Booth, the zoo's wildlife hospital director, said, "In veterinary science it is often referred to as the 'silvering gene' where animals are born with white or very pale fur and, just like baby teeth, they eventually shed their baby fur and the reg-

ular adult coloration comes through."

Central Queensland University ecologist Alistair Melzer said he had not seen a white koala in more than 20 years of observing the animals in the wild.

"It is something that would be selected against in the wild," he said, adding that koalas had predators such as eagles and owls. "The main issue would be a white animal like that would not have a lot of camouflage."

The zoo and Tourism Australia have asked for help with a name, in a Facebook post which has been shared thousands of times.

Suggestions so far include Snowflake, Diamond, Pearl and Djendaladi, meaning



AUSTRALIA ZOO

'white-haired' in the indigenous Noongar language.



## PICTURE OF THE DAY



A man performs a stomach churning BMX bicycle trick as he jumps into East Lake in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

CHINA STRINGER NETWORK/REUTERS

## The heifer and the ox



A heifer saw an ox hard at work harnessed to a plow, and tormented him with reflections on his unhappy fate in being compelled to labor.

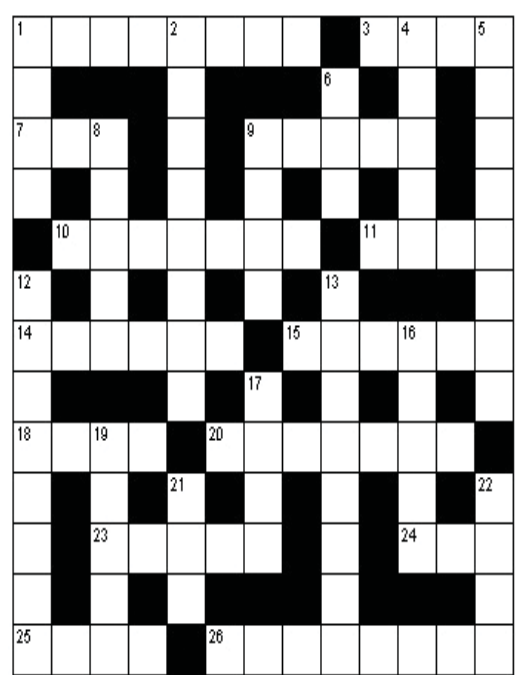
Shortly afterwards, at the harvest festival, the owner released the ox from his yoke, but bound the heifer with cords and led him away to the altar to be slain in honor of the

occasion.

The ox saw what was being done, and said with a smile to the heifer: "For this you were allowed to live in idleness, because you were presently to be sacrificed."

Be careful how you make fun of anyone.

## Themed Crossword



### ACROSS

1. Australian marsupial (8)
3. Oviparous creatures produce them (4)
7. Membrane connecting the toes of some aquatic birds and mammals (3)
9. Group of lions (5)
10. Relating to crows (7)
11. Abominable snowman (4)
14. Long-legged aquatic birds (6)
15. Hound dog (6)
18. Young sheep (4)
20. Mixed breed of dog (7)
23. Rodent (5)
24. Snakelike fish (3)
25. Cob or pen (4)
26. Viverrine mammal, preys on snakes and rodents (8)

### DOWN

1. Flightless bird of New Zealand (4)
2. Burrowing mammal of Africa, feeds on termites (8)
4. Small compact aquatic bird, builds floating nests (5)
5. Pilehards (8)
6. Hog (3)
8. Clutch of small animals (5)
9. Small horse (4)
12. Small long-winged songbirds (8)
13. Mammal covered in hair and protective spines (8)
16. Web-footed migratory aquatic birds (5)
17. Emblem of peace (4)
19. Arboreal snake of central and southern Africa (5)
21. Small breed of dog with wrinkled muzzle (3)
22. Largest mammal, \_\_\_ whale (4)

## Yesterday's solution



## Sudoku

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

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

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



# Late comeback keeps Reds in tie



Shoja Khalilzadeh (2nd L) heads the ball over Al Ahli's Leonardo da Silva in the AFC Champions League quarterfinal first leg in Muscat, Oman, on August 22, 2017. the-afc.com

A late equalizer by substitute Godwin Mensha saw Iran's Persepolis come from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli in the first leg of their 2017 AFC Champions League quarterfinal in Muscat, Oman, on Tuesday.

Al Ahli took the lead with just two minutes into the game at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex when Omar Al Soma slotted home the rebound after Persepolis keeper Alireza Beiranvand parried a shot from Saleh al-Jamaan into

the Syrian striker's path.

Shortly before the hour mark, recent signing Leonardo da Silva made it 2-0 for the Jeddah-based side by finishing off a pass from al-Jamaan to put the Saudi team in the driving seat.

Persepolis looked to be all over the place mid-way through the second half but the introduction of Godwin Mensha, Kamal Kamyabinia and the Iraqi newcomer Bashar Resan in for Mehdi Taremi, Mohsen Mosalman and Farshad Ahmadzadeh proved to change things

around for Branko Ivankovic's side.

Persepolis pulled one back in the 72nd minute after Shoja Khalilzadeh headed home in the six-yard box through Resan's free-kick and Mohammad Ali-pour's deflection.

With just six minutes remaining, Nigerian Mensha fired past Mohammed al-Owais in the Al Ahli goal to cap an excellent comeback for Persepolis and leave the tie firmly in the balance ahead of the second leg in Abu Dhabi in three weeks' time.

# Neymar to contest Barca lawsuit over record move



SID

Paris St.-Germain forward Neymar will contest the legal action brought against him by former club Barcelona.

Barcelona wants an €8.5 million (£7.8 million) renewal bonus Neymar received for signing a five-year deal – just nine months before his move – returned, BBC reported.

The Brazil international made a record €22 million (£200 million) move to PSG in August after buying out his contract.

"The player's formal defense will be filed in due course," read a statement from the 25-year-old and his lawyers.

Neymar also seemed to suggest Barcelona owes him money following his Nou Camp exit, rather than the other way round.

His statement added, "Regarding the

bonuses owed for the execution of the contract of 2016, it is also necessary to inform that the player has already initiated the formal procedures of collection before the competent courts."

On Tuesday, Barcelona had demanded the return of the "already paid" renewal bonus, plus an additional 10 percent for delayed payment. "The club demands the player return the already paid sum as he has not completed his contract," it said.

"The club also requests Paris St.-Germain take on responsibility for the payment of these fees if the player cannot do so himself," the Catalan club added.

Paris St.-Germain later responded to say the club was "surprised" by Barcelona's statement, adding, "The club repeats that, along with Neymar Jr., it

strictly respected all applicable laws and rules and can only regret, once again, the attitude of FC Barcelona."

The lawsuit was submitted on August 11 to the Labor Tribunal in Barcelona.

Following the transfer, Barcelona announced the club was withholding a further €26 million (£23m) loyalty bonus from the player.

Neymar criticized the directors of his old club on Sunday after scoring twice on his home debut for PSG in a 6-2 win over Toulouse.

"I spent four beautiful years there and parted happy," said the 25-year-old. "But with [the board], no."

"For me, they are not the people who should be there, for the direction of Barca. Barca deserve much better."

# Iran cruises to round of 16 in world U19 meet



Iran's Amirhossein Esfandiar is in action against the Czech Republic in the final Pool D fixture in 2017 FIVB Volleyball Boy's U19 World Championship in Riffa, Bahrain, on August 22, 2017. fivb.com

Iran raced to a straight-sets win against Czech Republic (25-22, 25-12, 25-19) to claim top spot in Pool D of the 2017 FIVB Volleyball Boy's U19 World Championship on Tuesday at Isa City Sports Hall. Having outpowered Italy, Mexico and China, the Asian side concludes the Preliminary Round with a record of four wins in as many matches, fivb.com reported.

Iran's Porya Yali chipped in a total of 17 points, scoring off purely on attacks, while Amir-Hossein Toukhteh contributed another 11 points.

Iran completely dominated in offence, posting 38 attacks, while Czech Repub-

lic managed to connect with 23 spikes.

The Asian side made much difficulty for the opponent to pass the ball successfully. The usual hitters of the Czech side did not seem to find their known tempo. Every Czech player needed to work hard on defense, leaving minimal momentum to run the offence precisely. The European side saved several match points from opponent errors, but Iran's lead proved difficult to surmount.

"I would say I am about 80 per cent satisfied with the performance of the team so far, Iran's coach, Reza Vakili said after his team made its way

through to the round of 16 of the competition.

"I think it has something to do with the age, that they can be prone to too many mistakes. We do not have any solution for this except time itself. We need experience," Vakili added.

"This is the second time I have played in the World Championship. Two years ago, I was mostly staying on the bench, and now I can play on the court. I have great motivation to perform well each time. I am hungry for every win." Yali said after he played a key role in Iran's achievement in the group phase.

# Tae-yong: Iran similar to European teams



YONHAP

South Korea football coach Shin Tae-yong said Wednesday he thinks Iran is similar to European teams as his squad is gearing up for the World Cup qualifier at home later this month.

Shin's side has been training at the National Football Center (NFC) in Paju, north of Seoul, since Monday for South Korea's last two matches in the final Asian qualifying round for the 2018 FIFA World Cup. The Taeguk Warriors, currently second in Group A, the last automatic qualification spot, is scheduled to host already-qualified Iran on August 31, and will take on third-placed Uzbekistan five days later, Yonhap reported.

For their first opponents Iran, currently the top-ranked Asian team in FIFA rankings at No. 24, Shin

said he doesn't think Iran is a typical Middle Eastern team.

"I must say Iran is not the same as other teams in the Middle East," Shin said to reporters at the NFC. "They have their unique power and speed. They're much more like European teams."

South Korea, ranked No. 49 in the world, has not beaten Iran since 2011, suffering 1-0 losses to Iran in their last four meetings. The national team also has an inferior overall head-to-head record with nine wins, seven draws and 13 losses.

"We can't allow an opening goal to Iran," he said. "We must score first, so that we can prevent the opponents from messing with our mind."

Iran is scheduled to land in Seoul

on Saturday, which is earlier than the usual arrival time for international matches. Shin said he doesn't care about Iran's early arrival and said he has been analyzing Iran since he took the helm of the national team last month.

"I've already finished setting up my defense plan against Iran," he said. "I just have to work with my players [to execute the plan] when our full squad gets assembled next week. And, of course, I could change my plan depending on the players' fitness."

With the arrival of Guangzhou Evergrande defender Kim Young-gwon, there are now 17 players at the NFC. Nine other players, including Europe-based Son Heung-min and Hwang Hee-chan, will join training next week.

**Thomas A. Edison:**

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

## Art & Culture

### Serbia lifts visa requirements for Iranian, Indian tourists

Art & Culture Desk

Serbia has lifted visa requirements for Iranian and Indian nationals.

According to the press office of the Serbian government, henceforth, Iranian and Indian nationals can visit the southeastern European country without a visa, ISNA reported.



The decision, made in a Tuesday meeting of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, was aimed at attracting more tourists from the two Asian states and raising their tourism revenues.

The Serbian government has announced that the entry of Iranian and Indian visitors and potential investors to the country will create a favorable economic atmosphere in the European state which will help it develop relations with the two Asian states.

Annual trade between Iran and Serbia stands \$20 million while the figure for Belgrade-New Delhi transactions amounts to \$150 million.

Serbia has a population of 10 million.

### Over 48 countries to take part in IIGFF6's visual arts section

More than 48 countries will take part in the visual arts section of the 6th Iran International Green Film Festival (IIGFF6) scheduled to be held in September.

So far, a large number of artworks by domestic and foreign artists have been submitted to the visual arts section of Iran's largest environmental cinematic event, of which 1,248 are from Iranians, according to organizers of IIGFF6, mehnews.com reported.

In addition, a large number of works have been sent to the Iranian fest's visual arts section by artists from China, the US, Mexico, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Ecuador, Poland, South Korea and Russia.



Following assessment of the artworks, the fest's panel of juries will select the works that can compete in the event's different sections including photography, posters, illustrations, cartoons, conceptual arts as well as the video arts.

The festival, which will be held from September 9 to 15, aims to identify, screen and award top national and international films and works in the field of visual arts produced with the goal of protecting the environment and natural resources, increasing public awareness and promoting the culture of environmental preservation.

The international competition section of IIGFF6 consists of categories such as feature fiction films (more than 50 minutes), short fiction films (less than 30 minutes), long documentaries (more than 30 minutes), short documentaries (less than 30 minutes), animation films and experimental films.

### Weather



34 24  
Amol



41 26  
Jiroft



31 24  
Ramsar



39 22  
Shahriar



36 19  
Shiraz

38^  
v25  
Tehran



34 18  
Dushanbe



41 31  
Mecca



18 11  
Saint Petersburg



33 27  
Tokyo



19 12  
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MEHDI MOTAMEDISNA  
 The 26th Iran Handmade Carpet Exhibition opened at Tehran International Fairground on Wednesday in a ceremony attended by Iran's Industry, Mine and Trade Minister Mohammad Shariatmadari and First Deputy Speaker of Parliament Masoud Pezeshkian. More than 730 production units nationwide are taking part in the expo, which is being held in an area of over 30,000 square meters. The event will continue until August 29.

## Iran's pavilion opens in BIBF

Art & Culture Desk

Iran's pavilion in the 24th Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF) officially began its activities on Wednesday concurrent with the opening of the expo.

The inauguration ceremony of the Iranian pavilion was attended by Deputy head of China's State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, Wu Shangzhi, President of Islamic Culture and Relations Organization Abouzar Ebrahimi-Torkan, Managing Director of Iran Cultural Fairs Institute Amir-Masoud Shahrām-Nia, Iran's Cultural Attaché in China Mohammad Rasoul Almaschi as well as a number of the owners of other pavilions in the fair, ISNA reported.

Speaking at the ceremony, Shahrām-Nia expressed satisfaction with Iran's participation in BIBF describing it as a blessed event which would provide a favorable opportunity for holding cultural dialogues.

He added, "Close to 100 representatives of Iranian groups will accompany us in this expo. They include 14 top publishers from Iran, 13 literary agencies active in the country, nine contemporary Iranian authors and 10 artists involved in publishing industries. In addition, four artistic ensembles will perform in Iran's pavilion."

Shahrām-Nia said during the expo, more than 40 joint meetings and programs will be organized between Iranian and Chinese writers and publishers, expressing hope that these programs will mark a beginning of the expansion of cooperation between the two Asian states.

Also at the same ceremony, Ebrahimi-Torkan said Iran



is a nation which attaches great importance to culture and cultural affairs.

He added the evidence of Iranians' profound love for culture will be witnessed by visitors and participants in the present book fair.

Ebrahimi-Torkan noted that violence and extremism are strictly and explicitly prohibited in Iranian books.

"We are a nation which detests warring."

Addressing the audience, Shangzhi said Iran's presence as the Guest of Honor in the Chinese expo will help the two countries gain a better understanding of each other, which is very important.

### Two Iranian flicks to go on screen in US university

Art & Culture Desk

Two Iranian films titled 'Daughter', directed by Reza Mirkarimi, and 'Life+1Day', directed by Saeed Roustaei, will be screened at the University of California, Irvine in the US.

The two flicks will be shown in Irvine during August 25-27, ISNA reported.

The movies will be screened at Crystal Cover hall of the university. Students of the university as well as those interested in Persian cinema will be among the audience.

'Daughter' is a 2016 Iranian drama film. It was screened in the competition sections of the Moscow International

Film Festival 2016 and International Film Festival of India 2016. It won the Golden Peacock Award for the Best Film at International Film Festival of Australia, Irvine in the US.

At the Russian filmfest it won the best movie award and the award for the best leading actor (Farhad Aslani).

Produced by Saeed Malekan, 'Life+1Day' also managed to win awards at international film festivals held in Australia, Switzerland and Bangladesh.

The cast of the flick include Peyman Moadi, Navid Mohammadzadeh, Parinaz Izadyar, Rima Raminfar and Shabnam Moqaddami.



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