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IRAN DAILY



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Iran secures €8b loan from South Korean Eximbank



Iran secured an €8-billion credit line from South Korea's Eximbank, the Islamic Republic's biggest loan deal since its 2015 nuclear accord, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced Thursday.

"The biggest contract since the atomic accord was signed with South Korea's Eximbank for the amount of €8 billion," reported IRNA quoting said CBI Governor Vahidollah Seif.

A spokesman for South Korea's export credit bank, contacted by AFP, said the deal would finance projects in Iran by companies from the Asian country.

"We started signing with Iranian banks a framework agreement today. We did it with three Iranian banks today and will do so with nine other Iran banks in the coming week to complete the agreement," he said on Thursday.

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Children among 14 dead in new airstrike on Yemen

Children were among at least 14 people killed in an airstrike that toppled residential blocks in Yemen's capital Sana'a on Friday, witnesses and medics said.

The attack was the latest in a wave of deadly raids on residential areas of Yemen by Saudi warplanes, drawing strong international condemnation.

The United Nations has slammed Saudi Arabia for killing 42 civilians in the week to Thursday, including many children, AFP reported.

Friday's air raid destroyed two buildings in the southern district of Faj Attan, leaving people buried under debris.

Medics at the site said at least 14 people including six children and two women had died in the strike at 3:15 a.m. (0015 GMT).

Al-Massira television channel run by the Shia Houthis who control the capital said those killed were all civilians.

Mohammed Ahmad, who lived in one of the buildings, said he was among those who had taken nine bodies to a hospital. "We extracted them one by one from under the rubble," he said. "Some of them were children from a single family."

"When the rocket hit, one of the buildings was immediately destroyed which caused the building next door to collapse, too. Some residents got out, but others were trapped."

Some of them died and others were wounded, he said.

Diggers were still working at the site hours after the raid as medics and residents searched for the missing. Survivors sat on the rubble and helped move the wounded to ambulances.

A man wearing a bloodied white gown walked among the torn and burnt pieces of clothing and bits of wooden furnishings.

The World Health Organization estimates nearly 8,400 civilians have been killed and 47,800 wounded.

Friday's raid came two days after at least 35 people died in a series of strikes on Sana'a and a nearby hotel.

Human rights groups have repeatedly criticized the Saudi-led coalition, which controls Yemen's airspace, over the civilian death toll from the bombing campaign.



AFP

Northern and southern Yemen have both come under aerial attack in recent months, and the coalition has come under massive pressure from international organizations including the United Nations over the raids.

The United Nations has said the coalition was responsible for a July attack on the southwestern Taiz Province that killed 20 people, including children.

"In the week from August 17 to August 24, 58 civilians have been killed, including 42 by the Saudi-led coalition," UN human rights office spokeswoman Liz Throssell told reporters in Geneva on Friday.

"In all these cases, in which civilians were killed and injured, witnesses said there had been no warnings that an attack was imminent," her agency said.

Yemen also faces a deadly cholera outbreak that has claimed nearly 2,000 lives and affected more than half a million people since late April.

A combination of war, disease and a coalition blockade have pushed Yemen, long the poorest in the Arab world, to the brink of famine.

Qatar resumes full diplomatic relations with Iran

Qatar's ambassador to return to Iran

Qatar restored full diplomatic relations with Iran and promised to send its ambassador back to Tehran soon.

"The state of Qatar expressed its aspiration to strengthen bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields," a short Foreign Ministry statement issued early on Thursday, said, AP reported.

The statement said that Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani spoke by phone to Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Qatar pulled its ambassador from Tehran in early 2016 after Saudi Arabia's execution of a prominent Shia cleric sparked attacks by radical demonstrators on two Saudi diplomatic posts in Iran, a move to show solidarity with the kingdom.

In announcing its decision, Qatar made no mention of the diplomatic crisis roiling Persian Gulf Arab nations since June, when Doha freed its land, sea and air routes cut off by four Arab states.

Iran, which welcomed Doha's decision, has sent food to Qatar and allowed its air-planes to increasingly use the Islamic Republic's airspace.

"We welcome the Qatari government measure to return the ambassador," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said, according to IRNA.

Despite recalling its ambassador in 2016, Qatar maintained its valuable commercial ties to Iran. Qatar and Iran share a massive

offshore natural gas field, called the South Pars Field by Tehran and the North Field by Doha.

Arab nations boycotting Qatar on its Iran decision.

In Washington, US State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert told reporters on Thursday that the US remains "very deeply concerned" with the status of the dispute "between Qatar and the Arab quartet."

"It's gone on for far too long. It really has," Nauert added. She declined to comment on the restoration of Doha-Tehran ties.

The diplomatic crisis began on June 5, when Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cut ties to Qatar over allegations it was funding extremists and being too close to Iran.

Qatar long has denied funding extremists.

The boycotting countries later issued a list of 13 demands to Qatar, including that Doha shut its diplomatic posts in Iran. Qatar ignored the demands and let a deadline to comply pass, creating an apparent stalemate in the crisis.

In recent days, however, Saudi Arabia announced it would allow Qataris to make the annual Hajj pilgrimage, which is required of all able-bodied Muslims once in their life. Saudi state media said that came in part due to an intervention by Qatari royal family member Sheikh Abdullah Al Thani, who met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and later a vacationing King Salman in Morocco.

Zarif said the final steps to allow the visits would likely be taken after the annual Hajj pilgrimage at the end of the month.

There was no immediate reaction from the



Mohammad Javad Zarif



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani

France: Poland 'goes against European interests'

French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday criticized Poland's conservative government for going against Europe's interests and warned Warsaw risked finding itself "on the margins" of the bloc in the future.

"Poland today is not a country that can show Europe the way, it's a country that has decided to go against European interests in many areas," Macron said at a press conference in the Bulgarian coastal city of Varna, AFP reported.

"The country is placing itself on the margins of Europe's future history," he added.

Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydlo on Friday accused Macron of lacking political experience and said his comments about Poland's international isolation were "arrogant".

Macron's remarks came after Poland reiterated its rejection to Macron's push to overhaul a controversial EU rule that lets firms send temporary workers from low-wage countries to rich economies without paying local social charges.

Wealthy nations like France, Germany and Austria say the rule leads to unfair competition on national labor markets and undercuts local workforces.

Backed by Vienna and Berlin, Paris now wants the duration of these job postings to be limited to 12 months, half the period proposed by the European Commission.

Samsung heir guilty of bribery, sentenced to five years jail

The heir to the Samsung empire was convicted of bribery and other offences Friday and jailed for five years in connection with the scandal that brought down South Korean president Park Geun-Hye.

Lee Jae-Yong's penalty could leave the vast conglomerate, which includes the world's biggest smartphone maker, rudderless and hamper its ability to make key investment decisions for years, AFP reported.

The vice-chairman of Samsung Electronics, 49, arrived at Seoul Central District Court on a justice Ministry bus handcuffed and bound with white rope around his dark jacket.

Lee was found guilty of bribery, perjury and other charges related to payments Samsung made to Park's secret confidante Choi Soon-sil.

In total 8.9 billion won (\$7.9 million) was paid in bribes in return for favors including government support for Lee's hereditary succession at the group after his father was left bedridden by a heart attack in 2014, the court found.



Lee had denied the charges, but presiding judge Kim Jin-dong said: "He offered bribes in response to strong demands by the president."

Four other top Samsung executives were also convicted, with

two jailed for up to four years, and the other pair given suspended terms.

Supporters demonstrating outside the court broke down in tears while Lee's lawyers said they would appeal "immediately", with lead attorney Song Wu-cheol saying he "cannot possibly accept" the court's "interpretation of law and finding of facts".

Samsung is by far the biggest of the chaebols, as the family-controlled conglomerates that dominate Asia's fourth-largest economy are known, with its revenues equivalent to around a fifth of the country's GDP.

But while the economy is still growing, frustrations have mounted over inequality and the demonstrators who mounted giant candlelit protests against Park last year also targeted Lee and other chaebol chiefs.

In a rare statement on a court case, the presidential Blue House said: "We hope that the ruling will serve to encourage the cutting of collusive ties between politicians and businesses, which have hampered social progress."

AEOI official: Considerable progress made in redesigning Arak reactor

A senior Iranian official said on Friday that considerable progress has been made in operations for redesigning Arak heavy water reactor – whose name has been changed to Khandab.

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said that the first phase of redesigning Arak heavy water reactor has already been finished and approved by the Chinese and American observers, adding that "We have entered the second phase", IRNA reported.



He said that Chinese experts had endorsed Iran's contribution to Khandab project – what he said marked a significant technical achievement for the Islamic Republic.

The AEOI spokesman predicted that the redesigning process of the reactor be completed before 2022 in a joint operation with Chinese companies.

Kamalvandi added that Iran expects to see a new nuclear power plant which it is building in cooperation with Russia to be launched before 2025, saying that a second plant would be made operational two years later than the first one.

Kamalvandi emphasized that the projects could generate a collective of 2,100 megawatts – 1,050 megawatts each – once fully operational.

Last September, Iran said it had started a 10-year project to construct a new nuclear power plant with Russia's help.

The Islamic Republic already runs one Russian-built nuclear reactor at Bushehr, which is the country's first nuclear energy project.

Russia signed a deal with Iran in 2014 to build up to eight more reactors in the country.

Kamalvandi further added that the construction of nuclear power plants required an investment of at least \$5 billion.

The figure, he said, is at least three times higher than that required for the construction of regular plants.

The official further said that Iran burns at least two million barrels of oil each year to produce enough electricity to answer its energy needs.

This, he added, would cost at least \$100 million if each barrel of oil is sold at \$50.

Using the nuclear technology, Kamalvandi stressed, would both preserve national resources and would also help prevent the annual release of around 7 million tons of pollutants into the environment.

IRGC arrests assailants in recent terrorist attack in Sistan-Baluchestan

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said on Friday it has arrested the perpetrators of an August 19 attack in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan that killed three people.

In a statement released on Friday, the Quds Base of the IRGC Ground Force said its forces have captured the assailants behind the August 19 attack in Pishin, a small town located in Sarbaz city in Sistan-Baluchestan province, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The terrorist attack resulted in the martyrdom of two soldiers and a local who was member of Basij, according to the statement.

The IRGC forces confiscated weapons and ammunition in the operation to arrest the terrorists, it added.

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

Several Iranian security forces and locals in the province have lost their lives in attacks by terrorists using Pakistani soil to attack Iran.

On April 26, 11 Iranian border guards were killed in clashes near Mirjaveh in the southeastern province. The so-called Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack, which was launched from the Pakistani soil. The assailants escaped into Pakistani territory immediately after the attack.

Tehran has repeatedly called on Islamabad to secure its borders and not allow the terrorists use its territory to launch attacks against Iran.

Iran warns of 'illegal' US pressure on IAEA

Iran warned about the consequences of any "illegal" pressure on the UN nuclear agency after US ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, visited Vienna for a possible review of the nuclear agreement with Tehran.

Iran's permanent mission to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) issued the warning in a statement on Thursday, a day after Haley met IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano in the Austrian capital, Press TV reported.

The statement said the objectives and the results of Haley's trip to Vienna "contradict" the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and Resolution 2231, which was adopted on July 20, 2015, to endorse the nuclear deal.

The Islamic Republic, it said, is fully aware of its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Additional Protocol and the JCPOA, and remains committed to their terms.

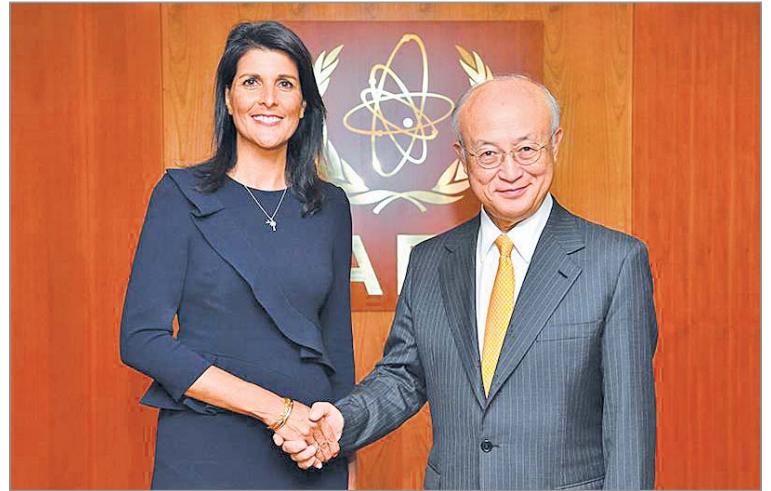
However, Iran will not allow a specific country to take advantage of the rules for its own political objectives, the statement added.

Iran, the statement said, expects the IAEA head and its inspectors to perform their tasks regarding the JCPOA with professionalism and honesty.

Prior to her trip to Vienna, Haley claimed that the visit was a fact-finding mission and part of President Donald Trump's review of the nuclear deal with Tehran.

Washington wants to know if the IAEA plans to inspect Iranian military sites during its verification of Tehran's compliance with the JCPOA.

The IAEA monitors the technical aspects of the nuclear agreement, which was inked between Iran and the P5+1 countries – namely the US, Russia, China, France, Britain, and Germany –



in July 2015 and took effect in January 2016.

Under the deal, limits were put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for the removal of all nuclear-related bans imposed on the Islamic Republic, but the JCPOA does not oblige Iran to open its military sites to inspection.

The IAEA has invariably certified Iran's commitment to its obligations under the accord but the Trump administration, which took over in January 2017, one year after the JCPOA came into

force, has taken a hostile stance toward the deal, repeatedly threatening to tear it up.

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote in a letter to the IAEA that Haley's visit undermined "the independence and credibility" of the inspectors and warned the IAEA not to share extra information about the regime's nuclear program.

The trip is aimed at destroying the nuclear deal by raising doubts about the accord's stability and sustainability, Zarif

wrote.

"Any contribution to the destructive approach of the US administration to undermine the 'successful implementation' of [the nuclear deal], or sharing information on Iran and its nuclear activities, which is not included in regular updates that the director general provides to the IAEA Board of Governors, with any third party including the US government's envoy will not be in conformity with the above-mentioned provision," he added.

Iran rejects Bahrain's new claim of meddling as 'baseless, ridiculous'

Tehran dismissed Bahrain's fresh claim of Iranian interference in the kingdom's internal affairs, calling on the Manama regime to stop "playing a blame game" against the Islamic Republic.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi was responding on Friday to Manama's new claim a day earlier that it had arrested seven "suspected members of a terror cell backed by Iran," Press TV reported.

This is not the first time the regime comes up with such accusatory statements.

Qassemi denounced the latest allegation as "baseless and ridiculous," saying, "The Islamic Republic has never been a promoter of violence and destabilizing actions in neighboring countries, including Bahrain."

Human rights report

Manama's fabricated allegation coincides with revelations by human rights groups about the regime's widespread use of torture against political prisoners in its jails, Qassemi said.

He advised Bahraini rulers against resorting to "suppression and torture" in dealing with dissidents, urging the regime to return to dialogue and peaceful methods to end the political unrest in the kingdom.

The Iranian official also called on Manama to stop its attempts at misleading peaceful public protests in a crackdown backed by foreign forces and failed security tactics.

Since 2011, the Shia-majority grassroots have been holding peaceful rallies against the government's longtime discrimination against them.

Manama has killed scores of the protesters, while trying to violently confront the dissidents. It has also been integrating Saudi Arabian and Emirati troops into its forces to toughen the crackdown.

Iranian, Indonesian navy commanders discuss closer cooperation

Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari and his Indonesian counterpart, Ade Supandi, exchanged views on a range of issues, including ways to boost cooperation between the two countries' navies.

In their meeting held in the Indonesian island of Bali on Thursday, Admiral Sayyari called for closer cooperation between the two navies in various areas, including military training, joint war games, and radical overhaul of vessels, helicopters, and drones, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The commander also expressed his gratitude to the Indonesian government for inviting the Iranian delegation to attend the third International Maritime Security Symposium (IMSS) 2017 in Nusa Dua, Bali.

Admiral Sayyari further expressed the hope that coordi-



national and cooperation among all countries would develop by holding such symposiums and conferences.

Navy personnel from 43 countries have attended the two-day meeting in Nusa Dua to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation on maritime security among their respective countries.

Officially opened on Thursday, the IMSS 2017 aims to tackle various global and re-

gional maritime security issues, according to the Jakarta Post.

Supandi has said the symposium is important because many maritime security issues need to be discussed.

They included the rise of a new maritime power, the discovery of new oil fields, transnational maritime crime, maritime environmental destruction, maritime terrorism and sea piracy.

Commander: Hike in number of planes using Iran airspace proves security

Iran says at least 1,400 planes cross its skies everyday – an announcement that a top military official in Tehran says is a proof of the country's airspace security for regional and transregional airlines.

"Today, Iran has been chosen [by airliners] as the safest air corridor in the Middle East," Brigadier General Farzad Esmaili, the commander of Iran's Air Defense Force, was quoted as saying by the domestic media, Press TV reported.

The official added that over 700,000 international flights carrying a total of more than 50 million passengers had used Iran's skies over the past Iranian calendar that started 21 March 2016.

Official figures show around 450 planes crossed Iran's skies every day in 2014. However, the insurgency that Daesh terrorists waged in Iraq as well as the conflict in



Ukraine pushed the number up to as high as 900 planes per day the next year, marking an increase of 100 percent.

The diplomatic crisis between Qatar and Saudi Arabia and its allies forced the tiny Persian Gulf state to use Iran's airspace for its international flights.

Accordingly, officials said this introduced an increase of 20 percent in Iran's air traffic.

The rise in Qatar's use of Iran's airspace has also provided the Islamic Republic with extra air transportation fee revenues. To the same effect, the domestic media said Iran was entitled to at least \$13 million per month in air traffic fees.

In June, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE closed their airspace to the Qatari planes after they cut diplomatic ties with the country.

Suicide attack at Kabul mosque kills 'at least 14 civilians'

A suicide bomber detonated himself at the gate of a mosque in the Afghan capital as other attackers stormed the building, killing at least 14 people as worshippers gathered for Friday prayers, officials said.

An official at the Ministry of Interior said there were at least 14 civilian casualties, while at least two policemen had been killed and eight wounded, Reuters reported.

At least two bodies and 15 wounded people had been brought to city hospitals, with ambulances retrieving more casualties at the scene, said Ismail Kawosi, a spokesman for the Ministry of Public Health.

According to the Independent, Daesh terrorists have claimed responsibility for the attack.

The terrorist group's propaganda agency, Amaq, released a statement shortly after the attack saying its members were behind the killings.

Some witnesses at the scene said the attackers threw grenades, while police officials said a suicide bomber detonated himself at the gate.

One witness said an attacker wearing a vest packed with explosives shot and killed the guards at the gate.

"At first a suicide bomber opened fire



Afghan policemen try to rescue a child at the site of a suicide attack followed by a clash between Afghan forces and terrorists after an attack on a mosque in Kabul, Afghanistan, August 25, 2017. OMAR SOBHAN/REUTERS

and martyred two security guards at the entrance of the mosque and then they entered inside," Sayed Pacha told Reuters. "Some people escaped out of the mosque including women, but there were four attackers who managed to enter the

mosque." Later explosions rocked the area, but their source was unclear.

Turkey dismisses over 900 public sector workers

Turkey dismissed over 900 public sector officials in the latest wave of the purge that followed last year's failed coup, according to an emergency decree published Friday.

A second decree said Turkey's National Intelligence Organization (MIT), which was previously under the prime minister, would now report to the president, expanding President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's powers over public institutions, AFP reported.

In another example of his growing control over major institutions, the president has been able to choose university rectors since a controversial emergency decree last October.

More than 140,000 people have been sacked or suspended including judges and prosecutors since July 2016 over alleged links to US-based political figure Fethullah Gulen, who Turkey has accused of ordering the attempted coup. Gulen has denied the charges.



More than 50,000 people including journalists have been arrested under the state of emergency imposed last year in a crackdown that has triggered international concern.

Critics have accused the government of using the state of emergency to crack down on all forms of opposition. But Turkish authorities insist it is necessary to ensure Turkey's security from the multiple threats it faces from Gulen and Kurdish militants. A total of 928 people were sacked in the latest decree, including civil servants working in the defense, foreign and interior ministries as well as military personnel.

Turkish authorities also stripped 10 retired brigadier generals of their rank. But the decree said 57 civil servants and military personnel returned to their jobs, including 28 from the Justice Ministry and related institutions.

Another 734 security personnel returned to their jobs after being suspended over suspected links to Gulen, the national security directorate said in a statement on its website.

Six organizations, including three media outlets in the southeast, were shut down including Dicle Media News Agency, based in the Kurdish-majority city of Diyarbakir.

Dozens of media outlets including newspapers and broadcasters have been closed down since July last year.

The second decree also gave the Turkish intelligence agency the power to investigate the Defense Ministry and Turkish armed forces personnel.

Erdogan's authorization would be needed for the intelligence chief to be investigated under the new decree.

The president would also need to approve any request made for the MIT head, currently Hakan Fidan, to act as a witness in court.

The presidency will also head a new body called the National Intelligence Coordination Board (MIKK).

The move appears to be part of measures taken to implement changes approved in the April referendum on expanding Erdogan's powers to create an executive presidency.

Most of the measures are due to come into effect after the 2019 presidential and parliamentary elections.

The latest decree also created 32,014 roles in the national security directorate, including 22,000 police officers, as well as 4,000 judges and prosecutors.

Boris Johnson: Britain will not pay 'a penny more' than it thinks right to leave EU

Britain will pay "not a penny more, not a penny less" than what the government thinks its legal obligations are to the European Union as the country leaves the bloc, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Boris Johnson said on Friday.

Talking to BBC Radio Four, Johnson said his comment that the EU could "go whistle" on its demands for payment was in response to being asked whether Britain would pay "100 billion euros or pounds", and not a suggestion that the government would not pay, Reuters reported.

A financial settlement is set to be one of the most difficult issues to resolve in negotiations to unravel more than 40 years of union, and the EU has said it is one of three areas the two sides must make progress on before starting talks on a future relationship, including trading arrangements. "Some of the sums that I've seen seem to be very high. Of course, we will meet our obligations," Johnson said.



Britain's Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson TOBY MELVILLE - RTX3/BVED

talks on a future relationship, including trading arrangements. "Some of the sums that I've seen seem to be very high. Of course, we will meet our obligations," Johnson said.

Chinese Army mobilized as typhoon death toll rises in Macau

The Chinese Army on Friday joined relief efforts in Macau where at least nine people are now known to have died when a huge typhoon swept through the gambling hub.

Around 48 hours after Severe Typhoon Hato smashed into southern China, worst-hit Macau was still picking up the pieces, with the enclave's government facing recriminations over its lack of preparation, AFP reported.

The government sent a request to Chinese authorities asking for the assistance of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macau garrison to assist in relief efforts, the first such request since the city was handed over to China in 1999. "The PLA Macau Garrison have joined hands with the Macau Government and the Macau public for post-typhoon relief and construction work," a government statement said Friday.

Authorities said around 1,000 troops were mobilized in the morning. Residents volunteered to pick debris off the streets alongside troops who were seen clearing away items ranging from computer equipment to gas cylinders. The official tally in the city hit nine on Friday after a man's body was pulled from a car park. A further eight people are known to have died in parts of mainland southwestern China. In Hong Kong, Hato - whose name is Japanese for "pigeon" - sparked the most severe Typhoon 10 warning, only the third time a storm of this power has pounded the financial hub in the past 20 years. Although 120 people were hurt, there were no fatalities in the city, where careful planning and long experience with extreme weather is credited with limiting the devastation. Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Observatory was warning of another tropical cyclone heading towards the area and due to make landfall some time on Sunday.



Chinese Army mobilized as typhoon death toll rises in Macau AFP

Ex-intelligence chief: Trump's access to nuclear codes is 'pretty damn scary'

Donald Trump's access to the nuclear codes is "pretty damn scary", a former US intelligence chief has said, calling Trump's rally in Arizona on Tuesday night "disturbing".

James Clapper, director of national intelligence (DNI) for seven years under Barack Obama, questioned the US president's "fitness to be in this office" after his demagogic performance in Phoenix, and expressed anxiety about Trump's power to launch nuclear weapons without consulting Congress or any other official.



JAMES CLAPPER

Once a president has verified his identity with a code kept constantly on his person or nearby, the military chain of command has no power to block his launch orders.

"Having some understanding of the levers that a president can exercise, I worry about, frankly, the access to the nuclear codes," Clapper told CNN, pointing to the current stand-off with North Korea.

If "in a fit of pique he decides to do something about Kim Jong-un, there's actually very little to stop him. The whole system is built to ensure rapid response if necessary. So there's very little in the way of controls over exercising a nuclear option, which is pretty damn scary."

Clapper did not mention Richard Nixon, who was involved in a tense stand-off with North Korea in 1969, after the regime shot down a US spy plane. Nixon is reported to have gotten drunk and ordered a tactical nuclear strike, which was only averted by his national security adviser, Henry Kissinger.

Nixon's biographers Anthony Summers and Robbyn Swan quoted a top CIA official, George Carver, as saying: "The joint chiefs were alerted and asked to recommend targets, but Kissinger got on the phone to them. They agreed not to do anything until Nixon sobered up in the morning."

Clapper joined a growing chorus of alarm over Trump's erratic behavior. The Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Bob Corker, said last week that Trump "has not yet been able to demonstrate the stability nor some of the competence that he needs to lead in order to be successful".

On Capitol Hill, a Democratic congressman and senator have introduced a bill that would prohibit the president from launching a nuclear first strike without a declaration of war by Congress. In the wake of the Phoenix speech and Clapper's remarks, one of the bill's authors, Congressman Ted Lieu, tweeted "Freaked out yet?" and called Congress to support the bill.

Peter Westmacott, a former UK ambassador to Washington, said on Twitter that the rally showed "shades of 1933 Germany". Clapper, who stood down as DNI in January, pointed out that he had served the US under every US president from John Kennedy to Barack Obama, having joined the Air Force in 1963.

"I don't know when I've listened and watched something like this from a president that I found more disturbing," he said. "Having some understanding of the levers of power that are available to a president if he chooses to exercise them, I found this downright scary and disturbing."

"How much longer does the country have to, to borrow a phrase, endure this nightmare?" Clapper asked. He expressed hope that other Republicans would join Corker and "reach the point where enough is enough".

Trump is reported to have fallen out with the Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, whom he is said to have berated in a foul-mouthed telephone call for failing to protect the president from the investigation into his campaign's relationship with the Kremlin during the election campaign. The growing investigation, led by the former FBI chief Robert Mueller, is often cited privately by White House officials as driving Trump's wilder angry outbursts. Bruce Blair, a former missile launch officer, warned last week about the president's untrammelled power to start a nuclear war. He voiced concern over Trump's threats against North Korea, vowing the country would never be allowed to field a missile capable of striking the US mainland and declaring that "fire and fury like the world has never seen" would befall Pyongyang if it continued to threaten the US.

"Nuking another country just because it seeks to acquire nuclear weapons enjoys virtually zero support from US nuclear troops," Blair wrote in a Washington Post commentary. "Yet Trump indulges in issuing such threats, and he has unchecked authority to order a preventive nuclear strike against any nation he wants with a single verbal direction to the Pentagon war room."

Blair is now a research scholar in Princeton University's Program on Science and Global Security and a founder of Global Zero, a movement calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons. "Under the current nuclear strike protocol, [Trump] can consult any and all - or none - of his national security advisers, and no one can legally overrule his order," he wrote.

"If he gave the green light using his nuclear codes, a launch order the length of a tweet would be transmitted and carried out within a few minutes. I could fire my missiles 60 seconds after receiving an order. There would be no recalling missiles fired from silos and submarines."

The above article was taken from the Guardian.

OPINION

Billions in oil deals shield Iran from US sanctions

By Tsvetana Paraskova

Since many of the Western sanctions on Iran were lifted early last year, Tehran has been trying to restore its crude oil exports to a pre-sanction level and attract foreign investments in its energy sector.

Although some companies are still cautious and not rushing into deals with Iran, many European, Russian, and Asian firms have signed agreements or letters of intent with Iran that would turn into billions of dollars of investments.

The pledged and potential investments could help Iran cushion the impact of any move by US President Donald Trump to end the nuclear deal with Iran that the US had agreed together with China, France, Germany, Russia, and the UK.

While the US has imposed new sanctions on Iranian figures and President Trump has signed into law an act imposing new sanctions on Iran, some of the biggest European and Chinese oil companies have walked into preliminary deals with Iran's energy sector.

If the US does step up sanctions or if it were to revisit the nuclear deal, Iran has a cushion of the investments from companies from France, China, Russia, the UK, and Germany.

These countries are crucial to the nuclear accord, and their companies have signaled they want the access to Iran's market open, according to experts who talked to Bloomberg earlier this week.

"There is pressure coming from the business establishment in these countries to maintain access to the Iranian market," Saman Vakili, an associate fellow at Chatham House's Middle East & North Africa Program in London, told Bloomberg. Many of those governments "recognize that marginalizing and isolating Iran is not in their interest", Vakili noted.

Iran aims to sign US\$50 billion-US\$60 billion worth of oil and gas contracts by March 20, 2018 — the end of the current Iranian year, its Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said last weekend, as reported by Iran's Tasnim News Agency.

Last month, France's energy major Total signed a contract to develop phase 11 of the South Pars Gas Field in Iran — the world's biggest gas field — marking the first Iranian Petroleum Contract (IPC) with a Western major since most sanctions on Iran were lifted. Total has 50.1 percent and Chinese state-owned oil and gas company CNPC owns another 30 percent of the project worth a total of US\$5 billion in investments.

Apart from Total's deal, other European companies have signed provisional agreements to explore the potential of various Iranian oil and gas fields. According to Iran's Oil Ministry news service, Shell, Total, Petronas, and Inpex have submitted studies for the potential development of Iran's biggest oilfield Azadegan, which Tehran claims has 37 billion barrels of oil and which is shared with neighboring Iraq.

Italy's oil and gas major Eni signed last month a memorandum of understanding with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) to explore a potential investment in the Kish gas field in the Persian Gulf and the third phase of development of the Darkhovin oilfield. Earlier this month, Shell submitted to Iran the results of its feasibility studies for the potential development of the South Azadegan and Yadavaran oilfields.

From Asia, South Korea's SK Engineering and Construction has signed a US\$1.6-billion deal to revamp Tabriz Oil Refining Company's 110,000-bpd refinery northwest of Tehran.

Last week, Turkish energy company Unit International, Russia's Zarubezhneft, and Iran's non-governmental firm Ghadir Investment Company pledged to invest a combined US\$7 billion to drill at three oil fields and one natural gas field in Iran.

Iran has also signed deals with European firms in sectors other than energy.

Two of the biggest European carmakers, France's Renault and Germany's Volkswagen, are also committing presence and investments in Iran. In the past two months, Renault set up a joint venture, while Volkswagen said it was returning to the Iranian market after more than 17 years. While the US is stepping up Iran sanctions, Europe, Russia, and Asia are signing agreements to invest in Iran's energy and industry. This could provide Tehran with a buffer if the US further ramps up sanctions.

Caspian port development to draw Iranian investors to North Caucasus: Official

The development of Russia's seaports on the Caspian coast will attract investors from Iran to North Caucasus region, said an adviser to the head of North Caucasus Development Corporation (NCDC).

According to TASS, Nurali Rezvanov said on Thursday, "Iranian investors will be coming to the region as Caspian ports are developed and trade relations with Iran and Middle Eastern countries are deepened."

He pointed out that there are many joint Russian-Iranian enterprises in Russia's Astrakhan Region demonstrating the trend.

China is also taking interest in the direction with the development of the Silk Road, he said.

According to Rezvanov, it takes time and effort to get investors involved. "It is necessary to bring investors and convince them. Still, it is a fact that the foreign business is interested. I also think it is necessary to engage local (investors) as well," he said.

The strategy for the development of Russian seaports on the Caspian Sea and railroad and car links to them until 2030 was submitted for the government's consideration in July 2017. The project will be implemented once a respective road map is developed and adopted.

Seven-month crude steel production tops 11.5m tons



Domestic Economy Desk

Crude steel production in Iran stood at 11.522 million tons in the seven months from March 21, indicating a growth of 14 percent compared to the figure for the same period in 2016, which was 10.1 million tons.

According to statistics released by

World Steel Association (WSA) on Thursday, China topped the list of crude steel producers in the period with 491.553 million tons.

Japan, India and the United States with 60.913 million tons, 58.017 million tons and 47.748 million tons respectively were listed in second, third and fourth rankings, the report said.

In July, Iran produced 1.575 million tons of crude steel — a decline of 11.7 percent against the figure for June, which was 1.785 million tons.

Global steel production in July amounted to 143.245 million tons, which shows a 1.35-percent rise compared with the June output that reached 141.331 million tons.

WSA is the international trade body of the iron and steel industry. The association represents approximately 170 steel producers, including 17 of the world's 20 largest steel companies, national and regional steel industry associations and steel research institutes.

Its members account for around 85 percent of world steel production.

Iran secures €8b loan from South Korean Eximbank



From Page 1

"Under the agreement, Eximbank will provide an €8-billion credit line for those banks so that they can help finance various projects in Iran that are awarded to South Korean companies," said the bank spokesman.

Seif said the loan would facilitate "several development and production projects", and it showed the international community was ready to restore "long-term" banking ties with Iran.

Under the landmark July 2015 nuclear accord signed by Iran and world powers, Tehran has modified its atomic program in exchange for an easing of international sanctions from January 2016.

"One of the problems created by international sanctions was they put a halt to financial accords," said the CBI chief.

With the Eximbank agreement sealed, "I hope we will be able to announce more good news in the days and months ahead," said Seif.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani says the country — a major oil producer — needs massive foreign investment to revive its economy.

Second Announcement

Molybdenum Oxide Tender Notice

National Iranian Copper Industries Company

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

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

Packing: The cargo is packed in seaworthy steel drums of 220 liters capacity with lids secured by rings.
Delivery: FOB Bandar Abbas, Iran.
Price term: Price for Molybdenum oxide will be based on the Platt's metals week monthly average for molybdenum oxide, as published in monthly report of Platt's metals week under the heading "Dealer Oxide midpoint/mean" per pound of molybdenum.
Quotational Period: Quotational period for Molybdenum Oxide shall be the average of the first month following the month of actual shipment (MOASA+1) from the port of loading as evidenced by the B/L date.
Inspection & Weighing: Weighing will be carried out by weighbridge at loadport i.e. Bandar Abbas / Iran. The weight determined by AHK as an international inspection company shall be final and binding for buyer and seller for settlement purposes, the cost of which shall be shared 50/50 between seller and buyer. AHK will provide a weight certificate showing the weight for each drum and lot. The net weight to be determined for each lot at the load port shall be final for settlement of all parties concerned.
Sampling/analyzing: already carried out by AHK and AHK's analysis result (stated above) is final and shall be binding for settlement purposes. The cost of this procedure shall be shared 50/50 between seller and buyer which is already fully paid to AHK by seller and shall be settled with buyer in the first issued related invoice.
Payment Procedures:
Buyer shall pay 100 percent of proforma / provisional invoice value amount in Euro or AED, prompt net cash payable by telegraphic transfer or under an Irrevocable Letter of Credit at sight to a bank which is nominated by seller. Proforma / Provisional invoice amount calculated based on provisional price which is average of two weeks price (low and high prices) prior date of Proforma / Provisional invoice.
The exact payment procedure shall be negotiated at the time of contract settlement by buyer and seller.
The final balance, if any, between the provisional payment made by the buyer and the final value of the material shall be paid by the owing party by telegraphic transfer against seller's presentation of following documents within (5) working days from the date of the final invoice:
● Seller's final invoice issued based on final prices less the amount of provisional payment.

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

Important Note: The offers shall be definitely sent through company email addresses and the personal ones through which the offers are to be sent by participants such as gmail, yahoo, hotmail or any other personal or general email addresses are not accepted at all. **The following information of companies of attendees that shall be definitely provided as well:**
● 1- Full Company Name (Both Local and English dictation);
● 2- Company National ID;
● 3- Registered Number;
● 4- Registered Date;
● 5- Company Type: Private or State-owned
● 6- Registered Country;
● 7- Registered City;
● 8- Ownership Type: A) Public B) Joint Stock,
● 9- Company Field of Activity;
● 10- Company Address;
● 11- Tel;
● 12- Fax;
● 13- Company Website Address;

National Iranian Copper Industries Co.
Sales and Marketing department
Tel: +98 21 82136231

Frankfurt hopes to become 'little London' after Brexit



sprachcaffe.com

Frankfurt could become a miniature version of London after Brexit, a city official predicted, after a study said tens of thousands of jobs would be created, bolstering Germany's banking capital.

The research, commissioned by the city's chief promoter, is the first comprehensive tally on possible job creation in Frankfurt, as London, its dominant British rival, prepares for life outside the EU, Reuters wrote.

The analysts predicts there will 10,000 bankers and finance professionals in Frankfurt within four years and that their arrival could create more than 41,000 further jobs, from estate agents to taxi drivers and building workers.

"It's not the City of London but perhaps it can become a little London," said Oliver Schwebel, chief executive of Frankfurt Economic Development, the state agency that promotes the city known for skyscrapers that house Deutsche Bank (DBKG.DE) and others.

Britain's departure from the EU has prompted banks and investors in London to examine other cities to keep a

foothold in the bloc, allowing them to sell across the continent without additional costs or trade hurdles after Brexit.

Frankfurt and Dublin have emerged as the most popular centers and the Germany city's international schools have seen a deluge of calls as bankers anticipate a move.

Ambition to grow

The study, commissioned by city promoter Frankfurt Main Finance, comes as Frankfurt attempts to discard its small-town image. It is also an attempt to persuade skeptical locals of the economic benefits in welcoming London bankers.

Many residents are worried about being squeezed out of an already expensive property market in a city some have dubbed "Bankfurt".

At a press conference to outline the findings, Schwebel was forced to defend the city's record on providing affordable accommodation to locals.

The city's population has jumped by more than 10 percent since 2010, while a property boom across Germany has seen house prices and rents in cities such as Frankfurt rise sharply.

Although it remains small by international standards, with roughly 730,000 inhabitants, the supply of property is tight partly because the city wants to keep its large green belt of forests and parks.

Schwebel faced a series of critical questions from German journalists about whether attracting such high earners from London was desirable in what turned into an, at times, noisy debate. "They (local residents) won't be pushed out," he said.

Lutz Johanning, the author of the study, said Frankfurt was more likely, in any event, to attract risk and regulatory experts rather than investment bankers. The city is already home to the European Central Bank, which monitors lenders.

"Frankfurt won't have the glitter jobs," Johanning said.

Oil market

Oil prices rose on Friday as the US petroleum industry braced for Hurricane Harvey.

Saudis may seek funding in Chinese yuan

Saudi Arabia is willing to consider funding itself partly in Chinese yuan, a senior Saudi official said, raising the possibility of closer financial ties between the two countries.

The Saudi government has started borrowing tens of billions of dollars abroad in the past year to cover a big budget deficit caused by low oil prices, but its foreign bond issues and loans have been denominated entirely in US currency, Reuters reported.

Obtaining some funds in yuan could give Riyadh more financial flexibility and would mark a success for China, the biggest market for Saudi oil, in its drive to make the yuan a top international currency.

"One of our main objectives is to diversify the funding basis of Saudi Arabia," Vice Minister of Economy and Planning Mohammed al-Tuwaijri told a Saudi-Chinese conference in Jeddah.

Tuwaijri added, "We will be very willing to consider funding in renminbi and other Chinese products, and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and other divisions have shown interest for us to do that."



money.cnn.com

Panda bonds are yuan-denominated bonds from non-Chinese issuers which are sold within China. An Liyan, chief executive of ICBC International, an arm of ICBC, the biggest Chinese bank, told the conference that her bank was willing to sponsor Saudi issues of panda bonds.

Tuwaijri said Riyadh was interested in raising money abroad not just to cover its budget deficit but also, more importantly, to finance major investment projects that would expand its economy and create jobs.

Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said on the sidelines of the conference that Saudi Arabia and China planned to establish a \$20-billion investment fund on a 50:50 basis.

China has announced plans to establish such joint investment funds around the world in recent years as a way to cement bilateral economic ties. In December 2015 Beijing said it would establish a \$10 billion fund with the United Arab Emirates, and last October a plan for a fund with France was revealed.

The Jeddah conference followed a visit to China by Saudi Arabia's King Salman in March during which as much as \$65 billion of business deals were signed in sectors including oil refining, petrochemicals, light manufacturing and electronics.

Falih said he expected 11 business deals worth about \$20 billion to be signed with China this week. He did not give details, some of the deals may be more detailed versions of agreements reached on the Asian tour, and some may be memorandums of understanding rather than concrete projects.

Japanese minister: No plan to compile supplementary budget now

Japanese Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said on Friday the government has no plan now to submit a supplementary budget to an extraordinary parliament session set to convene this autumn.

"The economy is enjoying a domestic demand-driven recovery," Motegi told a news conference after a regular cabinet meeting, according to Reuters.

"It's true there are differences in the degree of recovery in regional economies, so we'll continue to conduct policy looking carefully at



REUTERS

economic developments. But under current economic circumstances, I don't expect the government to submit a supplementary budget at this autumn's extraordinary parliament session," he said.

UK migration figures underscore acute risk of labor shortage

Data showing that net migration into the UK has plummeted since the Brexit vote underscores the risk of an acute labor shortage and should be deeply troubling for everyone, leading business groups have warned.

Matthew Percival, head of employment at the Confederation of British Industry, said that EU nationals make a "crucial contribution to UK economic growth and job creation," The Independent wrote.

"This latest data reflects a trend many businesses have seen — an increase in the number of EU citizens leaving the country," he said.

"The loss of these vital skills should concern us all, underlining the importance of urgently providing certainty for millions of workers and their families."

The CBI, which represents around 190,000 businesses across the UK collectively employing around seven million people, has issued a slew of damning warnings about the possible impact of Brexit in recent months.

It has called for Britain to remain in the single market and customs union after withdrawal, fearful that tariffs and restrictions on the free movement of labor could damage some of its members irreparably.

The Institute of Directors (IoD) on Thursday echoed the CBI's concerns saying that the fall in immigration "should not be celebrated".

"Given unemployment is currently at its lowest level ever, without the three million EU citizens living here the UK would have an acute labor shortage. Signs that it is becoming a less attractive place to live and work are a concern," said Seamus Nevin, head of employment and skills policy at the Institute.

"The IoD has been warning for some time that the ongoing uncertainty over the status and rights of EU citizens already living here is leading to a brain drain of EU staff. We hope that an agreement can be reached as

soon as possible to provide reassurance to EU workers and enable the Brexit negotiations to progress to the next stage," Nevin added.

Gita Petkevica, managing director at Opal Transfer, a European money transfer service, said that the UK is no longer considered an attractive destination for talent from the EU and described this as "extremely concerning".

"The UK economy benefits from drawing in the most talented and hardest working EU nationals. It is a vital component of the UK's growth," she said.



thesun.co.uk

Petkevica said that her company had conducted research showing that 5.5 percent of all small and medium-sized business directors in the UK are from the EU.

"This means that there are over 35,740 entrepreneurial European business owners creating jobs, growth and tax revenues in the British economy."

"If they stop coming to the UK in favor of Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands then that is a problem for the UK," she said.

Separately, a survey compiled by several trade bodies

showed that 47 percent of companies in Britain's food supply chain — which includes farms, food processors, supermarkets and restaurants — said their EU workers are considering their future as a direct result of the Brexit vote.

Nearly a third of respondents to the survey, conducted between March and May, said some EU staff had already departed.

Laurence Olins, chairman of British Summer Fruits, which is the industry body representing soft fruit growers in the UK, said that the migration data underscores his organization's own figures that show that in some areas, up to 20 percent of seasonal workers are leaving farms and returning home due to the uncertainty of Brexit and the fall of the pound against the euro.

"Government has acknowledged the issue, but we need them to work faster. If we do not have the pickers, we do not have a soft fruit industry," he said.

"If we are going to be out of the single market by 2019 we will need a scheme agreed by September 2018 to allow us to hire people," he added.

"Without it, an incredibly successful soft fruit industry, which contributes millions of pounds to the UK economy, will be crushed."

In July, Prime Minister Theresa May committed to guaranteeing citizens of the EU the right to stay in the UK after Brexit, but details of future immigration agreements remain vague.

At the time, many business leaders also criticized the prime minister for taking so long to provide the guarantee.

"This offer could have been made loudly and clearly nearly a year ago in the immediate aftermath of the referendum, which would have spared individuals, communities and employers significant angst and worry," said Adam Marshall, director general of the British Chambers of Commerce.

US homes sales fall to 11-month low

US home resales unexpectedly fell in July to an 11-month low as a chronic shortage of properties boosted prices, the latest sign that the housing market recovery was slowing.

The cooling in housing activity reflects supply constraints rather than ebbing demand, which is being driven by a strong labor market. Other data showed a slight increase in the number of people filing for unemployment benefits last week.

"Housing is far from being the economy's growth star," said Michael Gregory, deputy chief economist at BMO Capital Markets in Toronto. "It's not even a major supporting actor."

The National Association of Realtors said existing home sales fell 1.3 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.44 million units last month. That was the lowest level since August 2016. Sales rose 2.1 percent on a year-on-year basis.

Economists had forecast sales gaining 0.9 percent to a rate of 5.57 million units last month. The NAR report followed data on Wednesday showing a 9.4 percent drop in sales of new single-family homes in July and the second weekly fall in applications for home purchase loans.

Data this month also showed a dive in homebuilding and permits in July. Taken together, the reports suggest

housing could remain a drag on economic growth in the third quarter. Housing subtracted nearly three-tenths of a percentage point from gross domestic product in the second quarter.

Despite the housing slowdown, economists expect the Federal Reserve to outline a plan to begin unwinding its \$4.2 trillion portfolio of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities at its September 19-20 policy meeting.

Fed officials are focused on the labor market and inflation. With inflation continuing to underperform its two percent target even as the labor market nears full employment, the US central bank is, however, likely to hold off raising interest rates again until December.

The Fed has increased borrowing costs twice this year. The PHILX index of housing stocks was little changed as were shares in the nation's largest homebuilder, D.R. Horton. Shares of Lennar Corp. fell 0.4 percent while those of PulteGroup advanced 0.4 percent. The overall US stock market was trading lower.

Prices of US Treasuries also fell. The dollar was slightly higher against a basket of currencies.

The housing market has experienced an acute shortage of homes for sale for about two years. Builders have been unable to fill the inventory gap, citing a lack of land and

skilled labor.

They have also complained of being constrained by expensive building materials. Last month, there were 1.92 million previously owned houses on the market, down 9.0 percent from a year ago.

Housing inventory has dropped for 26 straight months on a year-on-year basis. The median house price was \$258,300 in July, a 6.2 percent rise from a year ago. That marked the 65th straight month of year-on-year price increases.

In contrast, annual wage growth has struggled to break above 2.5 percent, locking out many first-time homebuyers from the market. They accounted for a third of transactions last month, well below the 40 percent share that economists and realtors say is needed for a robust housing market.

At July's sales pace, it would take 4.2 months to clear inventory, down from 4.8 months one year ago. Economists view a six-month supply as a healthy balance between supply and demand.

Sales fell in the Northeast and Midwest but rose in the West and South. Economists say builders have mostly focused on the high end of the market, but that may change if the strengthening labor market, as expected, keeps housing demand elevated.

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2865	Chinese Yuan	0.1500
Euro	1.1776	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.2800	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3101
Australian Dollar	0.7911	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0091	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$47.83	Silver	\$16.98
Gold	\$1291.90	Platinum	\$980.90
Copper	\$2.98	Wheat	\$436.75



2017 World Water Week: 'Water and waste: Reduce and reuse'

SIWI WORLD WATER WEEK

hswstatic.com

With a growing global population, a rise in energy and industrial production, the demand for water is reaching new levels.

By 2050, it is expected that approximately 6.4 billion people will live in cities, making urban water management an essential building block for resilience and sustainable growth, IPS reported.

Cities are increasingly recognized as critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. While wastewater isn't only an urban challenge, cities can serve as a hub for wastewater innovation.

Water supply, sanitation and storm water are integral components of the urban system. New

approaches to 'smart cities', with greater emphasis on integrated urban water and wastewater management, are required.

Success in urban water management relies on people, good governance and cross-sectoral collaboration.

When properly harnessed, wastewater is an affordable and sustainable source of water, energy, nutrients and other consumables. This is why the theme of this year's World Water Week is 'Water and waste: Reduce and reuse'.

A circular economy, in which water and waste are reused and managed as economic assets, is an important part of the solution to this challenge.

World Water Week, hosted

annually by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), will bring together scientists, policy makers, private sector and civil society actors to network, exchange ideas and foster new thinking.

Have your say at this year's World Water Week in Stockholm which will be observed from August 27 to September 1, 2017.

Visit the exhibit area where SIWI along with the Global Water Partnership and several stakeholders will share their knowledge and insights, bringing a diversity of perspectives to the World Water Week.

Water is key to our future prosperity, and together, we can achieve a water wise world.

Foreign tourists' arrival in Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad grows sevenfold in four years

Cultural Heritage Desk

The number of foreign tourists visiting Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad Province grew sevenfold since the eleventh government took office in August 2013, said director general of Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department.



dana.ir

Mahmoud Baqeri further said that 2,150 foreign tourists visited tourism regions of the province, while 2.9 million domestic tourists came to the province during the year to mid-March 2017.

Currently, there are eight two-star, two four-star hotels and one tourism complex in the province, he noted.

He further said a four-star hotel and Yasouj water park are under construction.

The province received over 110 billion rials

(approximately \$3.6 million) in August last year to develop tourism infrastructures, the official pointed out.

Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad Province is located in the southwest of Iran. The province, which has an area of 15,563 square kilometers, lies along the Zagros mountain range. The highest peak in the province is the 4,409-meter-high Mount Dena, which is 4,000 meters above the sea-level.



shamsekhoy.ac.ir

Zagros mountain range, of which Dena is a part, has more than 20 peaks and is known as a miniature Himalayas. It is covered with oak forests. Its natural springs and fresh air fascinate all nature lovers.

During the winter, the province's mountains are snow-covered thus making it suitable for winter sports.

India's dependence on coal to continue

Even as India has made a considerable push towards renewable sources of energy keeping in view its Paris Agreement goal, the country's dependence on coal as primary source of energy will continue as its 'social cost' is quite less as compared to that of solar and wind.

The government has brought in the 'social cost' element in its latest

Economic Survey which noted the importance of renewables but suggested a cautious approach, saying investments in renewable energy be made at a "calibrated pace" looking into the total cost accrued to the society, TNN wrote.

The 'social cost' is calculated while factoring in private costs of electricity generation, opportunity cost of

land, health costs as well as the costs of stranded assets of the conventional energy generation plants if it becomes idle due to shift to renewables.

The survey calculated the 'social cost' of renewables at Rs 11 per KWh which, it claimed, is three times that of the coal in 2017 and the gap would reduce only when the country progresses

towards the year 2030.

The government's chief economic advisor Arvind Subramanian, while delivering Darbari Seth Memorial lecture on last Thursday, too spoke about this scenario when he noted that the coal continues to be "a very cheap way of providing energy to hundreds of millions who are still energy-deprived".

He said though renewables were part of the energy answer, it came with 'hidden cost' which must not be overlooked in the country's headlong embrace of renewables.

Subramanian suggested to factor in the 'social costs' of both renewables and coal before taking any decision and said, "Current bids on renewables

are not especially revealing or informative about the true costs because of extensive subsidies (implicit and overt, awarded by center and states) and strategic behavior by producers."

The Economic Survey too noted that the low tariffs, witnessed recently, have been partly a result of government subsidies (tax holidays and other incentives).

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Several Apts in Garden Tower in Elahieh

New, from 150 sq.m to 250 sq.m Apts, 3 Bdrs., garden, Spj, equipped kitchen, could be fully furn and new brand lobby, opposite to French school, good access to Sadr highway,

Reasonable Price
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Mahmoodieh

5th floor, 320 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., lobby, spj, big balcony, fully furn, diplomatic, \$6000
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Kamranieh

15th floor, 250 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., furn & unfurn, nice view, nice balcony, lobby, spj, gym saloon, nice garden, diplomatic tower, \$4800
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Amazing Apt in Elahieh

300 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., fully furn peaceful area and amazing view, perfect location, \$6500
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Limited summer Offer in Jordan

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

Villa

Duplex Villa in Mahmoodieh

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

Villa in Darous

duplex, 1200 sq.m built up, 1800 land, 5 Bdrs., renovated, big saloon, semi furn, beautiful garden, pool, sauna, Jacuzzi \$20000

Suitable for Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Unbelievable Villa in North of Tehran

7000 sq.m land, 2200 sq.m built up, duplex, 7 Bdrs., big saloon green garden, renovated water fall

Suitable for Embassy or Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Palace in Tajrish/ Elahieh

duplex, 7000 sq.m land, 2200 sq.m Built up, 8 Bdrs., renovated, green & unbelievable garden, water fall spj, parking, completely renovated, big saloon, \$30000

Suitable for Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206



Holder of
ISO 9001 :2008
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در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه‌ها و شرکت‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

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

Lithium in tap water may cut dementia



verywell.com

People with higher levels of lithium in their drinking water appear to have a lower risk of developing dementia, said researchers in Denmark.

Lithium is naturally found in tap water, although the amount varies, according to BBC.

The findings, based on a study of 800,000 people, are not clear-cut. The highest levels cut risk, but moderate levels were worse than low ones.

Experts said it was an intriguing and encouraging study that hinted at a way of preventing the disease.

The study, at the University of Copenhagen, looked at the medical records of 73,731 Danish people with dementia and 733,653 without the disease.

Tap water was then tested in 151 areas of the country.

The results, published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Psychiatry*, showed moderate lithium levels (between 5.1 and 10 micrograms per liter) increased the risk of dementia by 22 percent compared with low levels (below five micrograms per liter).

However, those drinking water with the highest lithium levels (above 15 micrograms per liter) had a 17 percent reduction in risk.

The researchers said, "This is the first study, to our knowledge, to investigate the association between

lithium in drinking water and the incidence of dementia.

"Higher long-term lithium exposure from drinking water may be associated with a lower incidence of dementia."

Brain-altering

Lithium is known to have an effect on the brain and is used as a treatment in bipolar disorder.

However, the lithium in tap water is at much lower levels than is used medicinally.

Experiments have shown the element alters a wide range of biological processes in the brain.

"This broad impact could explain the mixed pattern thrown up by the different doses, as only certain dosing sweet-spots change brain activity in a beneficial way."

Prof. Simon Lovestone, from the department of psychiatry at the University of Oxford, said, "This is a really intriguing study."

"In neurons in a dish and in mouse and fruit-fly models of Alzheimer's disease, lithium has been shown to be protective."

"Not only that, but lithium is used to treat people with bipolar disorder and some studies have suggested that people on lithium for this reason, often for life, might also be protected from Alzheimer's."

"There should now be studies to see if regular, small

doses of lithium could prevent the onset of dementia.

No therapy

At the moment, there is no drug that can stop, reverse or even slow the progression of the disease.

Dr. David Reynolds, from the charity Alzheimer's Research UK, said, "It is potentially exciting that low doses of a drug already available in the clinic could help limit the number of people who develop dementia."

"[Our analysis] suggested that a treatment that could delay dementia by just five years would mean that 666,000 fewer people develop dementia by 2050 [in the UK]."

The problem with this style of study — which looks for patterns in large amounts of data — is it cannot prove cause-and-effect.

Prof. Tara Spier-Jones, from the Center for Discovery Brain Sciences, at the University of Edinburgh, added, "This association does not necessarily mean that the lithium itself reduces dementia risk."

"There could be other environmental factors in the area that could be influencing dementia risk."

"Nonetheless, this is an interesting result that will prompt more research into whether lithium levels in the diet or drinking water may modify risk of dementia."

Postnatal depression symptoms: Five signs you could be suffering after giving birth

Postnatal depression is a common condition that will soon feature in ITV's *Victoria* when the show depicts how Queen Victoria felt after the birth of her second child.

Postnatal depression is a type of depression that some parents experience after the birth of their baby, express.co.uk wrote.

According to the National Health Service (NHS), it is a common problem affecting one in ten women within a year of becoming a mother.

A number of celebrities have spoken about suffering, including Adele.

The condition is soon to be featured in ITV's show *Victoria*, which charts the life of Queen Victoria.

She suffered after the birth of her second child and found motherhood difficult early on.

Postnatal depression can be mild or severe, and can come on gradually or suddenly, according to the NCT, the UK's largest charity for parents.

They have recently published research revealing that half of mothers experienced mental health problems at some time during pregnancy or within the first year of their child's birth.

This can include postnatal depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and postpartum psychosis.

Additionally, 42 percent of new mothers' mental health problems were not spotted by a doctor or another health professional, with only a fifth of women asked about their mental health.

Sarah McMullen, head of Knowledge at NCT, said, "It is shocking that so many new mothers aren't getting the help they need which can have a devastating impact on the women and their families."



express.co.uk

"Some mothers aren't being open about how they're feeling as they're terrified they're going to have their baby taken away and others are not being asked about their emotional wellbeing at all."

"A third of women said their six-week check was rushed and for some, it lasted only three minutes."

While women with postnatal depression experience the condition differently, there are some key symptoms.

These include feeling low or despondent, having an overpowering anxiety, feeling guilty about not coping or loving their baby enough.

Being unusually irritable and wanting to cry a lot.

Additional sufferers may have obsessive or irrational thoughts, disturbing thoughts about harming themselves or the baby, and even thoughts about death or suicide.

People might also experience loss of appetite, comfort eating, having difficulty sleeping, headaches, having panic attacks and having difficulty concentrating.

Parents' charity NCT is calling for an improvement to the six-week postnatal check-up to reduce the number of mothers who don't get diagnosed and treated properly.

NCT is urging people to sign up to the 'Hidden Half' campaign at www.nct.org.uk/hiddenhalf to make sure all women get the help they need. NCT's helpline offers practical and emotional support in all areas of pregnancy, birth and early parenthood.

Eyes can predict early signs of Alzheimer's

Dementia symptoms usually include memory loss and confusion, however studying the eyes could also reveal early signs of Alzheimer's disease.

Research has found that our eyes may provide early signs of Alzheimer's disease, express.co.uk reported.

A joint study by Cedars-Sinai and NeuroVision at the limited liability company (LLC) showed that retinal imaging could detect the condition.

Retinal imaging is where the retina — the layer at the back of the eye sensitive to light — is scanned for beta amyloid protein deposits that can also be found in the brain.

In the brain these deposits accumulate and are one of the hallmarks of Alzheimer's.

The new imaging system is non-invasive, unlike current screening options — such as positron emission tomography, or PET scans — which are invasive, as well as inconvenient and costly.

Maya Koronyo-Hamaoui, a research scientist at Cedars-Sinai, and a co-founder at NeuroVision, said, "This is the first study demonstrating the potential to image and quantify retinal findings related to beta-amyloid plaques non-invasively in living patients using a retinal scan with high resolution."

"This clinical trial is reinforced by an in-depth exploration of the accumulation of beta-amyloid in the retina of Alzheimer's patients versus matched controls and a comparison analysis between retina and brain pathologies."

"Findings from this study strongly suggested that retinal imaging can serve as a surrogate biomarker to investigate and monitor Alzheimer's disease."

Eyes are only beginning to be used as a way to detect or monitor the progression of Alzheimer's.

Keith L. Black, chairman of NeuroVision and researcher at Cedars-Sinai, said, "As a developmental outgrowth of the central nervous system that shares many of the brain's characteristics, the retina may offer a unique opportunity for us to easily and conveniently detect and monitor Alzheimer's disease."

"We know that Alzheimer's begins as early as 10 or 20 years before cognitive decline becomes evident and we believe that potential treatments may be more

effective if they can be started early in the process."

"Therefore, screening and early detection may be crucial to our efforts to turn the tide against the growing threat of this devastating disease."

The latest findings follow research by the same team in 2010 that discovered the existence of Alzheimer's-specific plaques in the human retina.

They confirmed this new knowledge in human clinical trials.

In the new study, the researchers found a 4.7-fold increase in retinal plaque in patients with Alzheimer's.

They hope that this could lead to a practical approach for large-scale identification and monitoring of Alzheimer's.

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How you think about your arthritis makes a difference

How well you cope with knee arthritis depends a lot on your mental outlook, a new study suggested.

Despite often-debilitating pain, people who remain confident in their ability to move about end up more active than their less confident peers, researchers found. UPI wrote.

Studies have shown that physical activity may be one of the best ways to reduce and manage symptoms of osteoarthritis.

The Pennsylvania State University study was based on 135 adults with knee arthritis.

Study lead author Ruixue Zhaoyang, said, "On days when patients felt more confident in their ability to be active, they indeed took more steps and spent more time in moderate-intensity activity, despite their level of pain that day."

"This positive effect of patients' confidence on their actual physical activity was found for patients with varying degrees of pain in the morning."

The researchers also observed that predicting individual activity levels was best done by focusing on someone's personal confidence, rather than comparing them to someone else.



timbaharris.com

Zhaoyang added, "It's all about what you think you're able to do."

"Suggested that future physical activity interventions for people with osteoarthritis should target patients' confidence in their ability to be active."

But the key, she said, will be to focus on boosting each individual's confidence patterns and not on some universal benchmark.

Arthritis is a major cause of chronic pain for many adults.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates more than one-third of American seniors have osteoarthritis, the wear-and-tear form of the disease.

Symptoms typically include joint pain, swelling and stiffness.

Such patients are often caught in a catch-22 situation. While research has shown that physical activity is effective for pain and overall function, the ongoing pain makes it hard to meet federal recommendations for at

least 2½ hours of moderate-intensity activity a week.

Not exercising leads to greater stiffness and deterioration in muscle strength, the researchers said.

For this study, the investigators wanted to see how someone's 'self-efficacy' in the morning affected their day-to-day living with arthritis.

This term refers to the degree to which people feel confident in their capacity to do or achieve something.

The researchers used accelerometers to track each participant's total number of steps and the physical intensity of their daily activities over roughly three weeks.

Each morning the patients also noted how confident they felt in their ability to keep active, their pain level and their overall mood.

The research team found that those who felt more confident in the morning about their ability to get around did actually move more throughout the day.

This was so despite shifting levels of pain, mood or support from a spouse.

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

How the tiger snake's venom beat evolution

With its exceedingly deadly venom unchanged over the past 10 million years, the Australian tiger snake has essentially defeated evolution.

Researcher Bryan Fry said in a press release it's "really unusual" for venom to remain unchanged over such a long period of time, foxnews.com wrote.



foxnews.com

Typically, predators and prey evolve as they find solutions to each other's evolutionary changes.

Not so with the tiger snake, which Fry said represents "a novel twist to the chemical arms race which most snake venoms evolve under" and "a new addition to the theory of venom evolution".

A study published in the current edition of *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology Part C* explains why.

Tiger snake venom targets a protein called prothrombin, which handles heavy blood clotting.

The venom's effect on prothrombin is what makes it so deadly, which means animals should be under a lot of evolutionary pressure to adjust.

However, prothrombin is so important in its current form that any possible mutations to it are just as deadly.

As Fry explained, animals with a prothrombin mutation "would not be able to stop bleeding".

All of which is a long way of saying tiger snakes "hit the jackpot" with their venom.

Surprisingly, tiger snake venom does possess one benefit to humans: Antivenom developed to combat it is effective against an unusually wide range of venomous snake bites.

Origami-inspired robot designed

New research from a team of University of Illinois Mechanical Science and engineering professors and students, published as an invited paper in *Smart Materials and Structures*, details how origami structures and bio-inspired design can be used to create a crawling robot.

Assistant professors Aimy Wissa and Sameh Tawfik, along with graduate student Alexander Pagano and undergraduates Tongxi Yan, and Brian Chien, used origami paper folding principles to construct and actuate mechanisms and machines for possible integration with small, scalable and cheap robots as well as deployable adaptive structures, sciencedaily.com reported.



sciencedaily.com
Assistant professors Aimy Wissa and Sameh Tawfik, along with graduate student Alexander Pagano and undergraduates Tongxi Yan, and Brian Chien helped on the project.

Tawfik said they were inspired by a common theme in the rapid movement of soft plants like the Venus Flytrap and the swimming of uni-flagellated bacteria, both of which use the flexibility of their bodies to quickly snap, allowing fast motion and saving energy.

Wissa said, "This paper presents the design of a bio-inspired crawling robot."

"The robot uses origami building blocks to mimic the gait and metameric properties of earthworms and directional material design to mimic the function of the setae on earthworms that prevents backward slipping."

The researchers investigated the concept of using the Kresling crease pattern of origami, which is a chiral tower with a polygonal base.

This origami tower couples its expansion and contraction to longitudinal and rotational motion, similar to a screw and they used buckling instabilities to accomplish a large-stroke snapping motion from small inputs.

Their design utilizes a skeleton made from the buckling origami tower as mechanisms to transform motor rotation to fast expansion and contraction of the worm robot, enabling a crawling gait.

It can go forward and turn left and right using repeated expansion and contraction.

They wrote, "The ability to produce a functional and geometrically complex 3D mechanical system from a flat sheet introduces exciting opportunities in the field of robotics for remote, autonomously deployable systems or low cost integrated locomotion."

Their mathematical analysis is thought to be the first of its kind to use the idea of virtual folds to analyze panel bending in snapping Kresling-like origami towers.

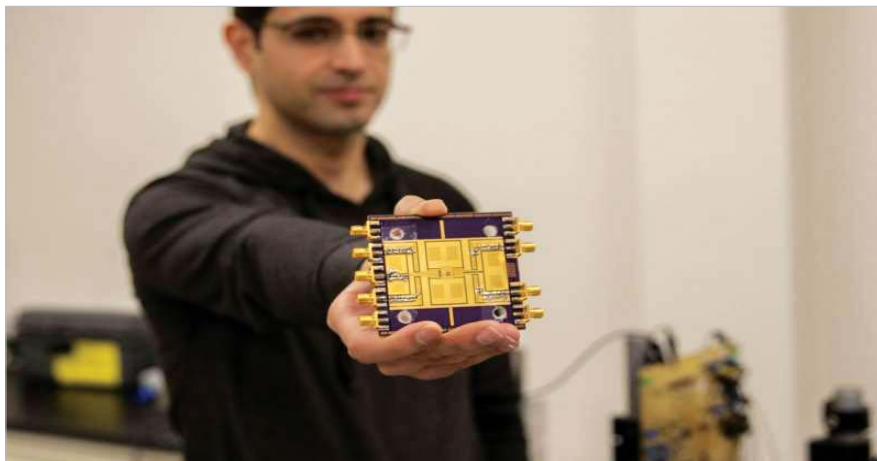
This configuration presents an advantage in energy consumption and makes the open loop locomotion control straight-forward.

Moving forward, this design can also be used in manipulators, booms, and active structures.

Wissa said, "The work presented in this paper leverages the team's expertise in the design of architected materials and bio-inspired robotics."

"We plan to continue to build on our findings to design, model and test bio-inspired modular robots capable of multiple modes of locomotion."

High-frequency chip brings researchers closer to next generation technology



A new high-frequency chip uses a phased array to transmit and receive millimeter waves. The technology could increase data transfer rates. In this photo, a prototype chip is held by graduate student Hossein Jalili.

Novel, high-frequency electronic chip potentially capable of transmitting tens of gigabits of data per second — a rate that is orders of magnitude above the fastest internet speeds available today — has been developed by engineers at the University of California, Davis.

Omid Momeni, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of California (UC) Davis, and doctoral student Hossein Jalili designed the chip using a phased array antenna system, according to phys.org.

Phased array systems funnel the energy from multiple sources into a single beam that can be narrowly steered and directed to a specific location.

Momeni said, "Phased arrays are

pretty difficult to create, especially at higher frequencies.

"We are the first to achieve this much bandwidth at this frequency."

The chip prototyped by Momeni and Jalili successfully operates at 370 GHz with 52 GHz of bandwidth.

For comparison, FM radio waves broadcast between 87.5 and 108 MHz; 4G and LTE cellular networks generally function between 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz with up to 20 MHz of bandwidth.

Most modern electronics are designed to operate at lower frequencies.

However, the growing demand for faster communication and new and emerging applications of sensing and imaging are driving the creation of technologies that function at higher frequencies.

Reaching speed limit of 4G networks

Momeni said, "Theoretically, 4G cellular networks have reached their data rate limit."

"As we continue to migrate to systems like cloud computing and next generation cellular networks, the need for speed is growing."

"Higher frequencies mean more bandwidth and more bandwidth means higher data rate."

The tiny piece of hardware designed by Momeni and Jalili is evidence that it is possible to harness the large available bandwidth at millimeter-wave and terahertz bands on a single, compact chip.

This is an important step toward the development of scalable systems

that can be used to sharpen technologies like spectroscopy, sensing, radar, medical imaging and high-speed communication.

In future work, Momeni plans to integrate the chip into imaging and communication systems.

The research was supported by a five-year National Science Foundation CAREER grant awarded to Momeni.

The ongoing project is titled "Scalable Traveling and Standing Wave Structures for High-Power and High-Efficiency Terahertz and mm-Wave Radiator and Phased Array Systems".

Momeni and Jalili presented the chip and related research at the IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conference earlier this year. A journal article is forthcoming.

Study sheds new light on ecology of the dodo

Researchers in a new study at the Natural History Museum in London were able to map out the long-extinct dodo's reproductive and growth cycle, shedding light on its ecology.

The dodo, *Raphus cucullatus*, was a flightless pigeon endemic to Mauritius that became extinct in the 17th century in 1680 due to human and invasive species activity, UPI wrote.

During the one century it cohabitated with humans, very little was done to document the creatures.

Researchers were able to shed light on the elusive dodo by conducting an analysis of its bone histology in a study published today in *Scientific Reports*.

The study found that female dodos ovulated in August during the southern hemisphere winter, laying eggs that would hatch in September.

Delphine Angst, a biologist at the University of Cape

Town, South Africa, said, "The chicks grew very quickly to be strong enough to endure the austral summer, which is the season of cyclones and storms on Mauritius."

Researchers found that by March, young dodos would molt and grow adult feathers.

"By the end of July, all the feathers would have been renewed and the period of reproduction could start."

Angst estimated dodos probably weighed 22 to 30 pounds by analyzing the microscopic structure of crushed dodo bones.

She added, "Histology has been around for decades, but the method is a destructive and could not-up to now-be applied to dodo fossils."

The team of researchers obtained 22 bones from 22 different dodos donated by museum curators around the world for their research study.



newdinosaurs.com

Observations suggest black hole formation scenarios

Scientists at the University of Birmingham have identified formation scenarios of black holes by observing gravitational waves.

The study, published in *Nature*, utilized the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) gravitational wave detector in 2015 and 2017 to make landmark observations of gravitational waves, UPI reported.

Physicists found that the first detected gravitational waves observed in 2015 were produced during the final fraction of a second of the merger of two black holes to produce a single, massive spinning black hole.

The first formation scenario researchers found was that black holes are spinning slowly leading to something different happening to stars that form black holes than those in Earth's galaxy.

The second scenario was that black holes spin rapidly, similar to those in Earth's galaxy, but that they tumble during formation and are no longer aligned with orbit. This would result in a more dynamic formation.



UPI
Artist's conception released on June 1, 2017, shows two merging black holes similar to those detected by LIGO.

Will Farr, of the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Birmingham, said, "By presenting these two explanations for the observed behavior and ruling out other scenarios, we are providing those who

study and try to explain the formation of black holes a target to hit.

"In our field, knowing the question to ask is almost as important as getting the answer itself."

Researchers believe that there is a chance that both scenarios could be true, meaning there are instances of black holes spinning slowly in the field and rapidly in a dense environment.

Professor Ilya Mandel, of the University of Birmingham, said, "We will know which explanation is right within the next few years."

"This is something that has only been made possible by the LIGO detections of gravitational waves in the last couple of years."

"This field is in its infancy; I'm confident that in the near future we will look back on these first few detections and rudimentary models with nostalgia and a much better understanding of how these exotic binary systems form."

How stress in your brain could lead to stress in your body

The patterns in your brain may predict how your body physically reacts to stressful situations, a new study found.

That's important, because some people have stronger physical reactions to stress than others: Their hearts beat faster, and their blood pressure rises more, than you'd see in less 'reactive' individuals, according to the study, livescience.com reported.

And this "exaggerated" stress response can have negative consequences in the long run.

People whose blood pressure shoots up in stressful situations are more likely to develop high blood pressure in the future, and they may also have an increased risk of death from heart disease, according to the study, published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*.

"It's the people who show the largest stress-related cardiovascular response who are at the greatest risk for poor cardiovascular health, and understanding the brain mechanisms for this may help to reduce their risk," senior study author Peter Gianaros, a professor of psychology at the University of Pittsburgh, said in a statement.

To study this 'brain-body' relationship, the researchers performed brain scans on more than 300 adults while also monitoring their physical responses, such as blood pressure and heart rate.

During the scans, the participants were asked complete mental tests that were designed to create a stressful experience. For example, the people in the study had to answer questions under strict time constraints.

Next, the researchers used artificial intelligence to analyze the results.

They found that the people who reacted more strongly to stress physically — in other words, the people whose blood pressure and heart rates rose higher — showed specific patterns of activity in their brains.

Indeed, the AI reliably predicted how a person's blood pressure and heart rate would change based on the person's



theodysseyonline.com

brain activity during the stress test, the researchers said. In addition, activity in certain areas of the brain was linked to greater stress responses in the body, the researchers found. For example, heightened activity in areas of the brain that determine whether information from the world around you is threatening was linked to a greater physical response.

The study had several limitations, the researchers said. For example, the people included in the study were healthy, middle-aged adults who were at low risk for heart disease, so the findings may not apply to less-healthy individuals.

In addition, the study didn't prove that increased

activity in certain parts of the brain in response to stress causes physical changes in the body; rather, the research found an association between the two.

Gianaros noted that more research is needed to explore the connections between brain activity and stress responses in the body.

"This kind of work is proof-of-concept, but it does suggest that, in the future, brain imaging might be a useful tool to identify people who are at risk for heart disease or who might be more or less suited for different kinds of interventions, specifically those that might be aimed at reducing levels of stress," Gianaros said.

Can India stop its children from dying?

Two children younger than five die every minute in India. Even by India's easy acceptance of child mortality, the death of 70 children within five days at a hospital in the northern city of Gorakhpur was hard to accept.

A majority of the children who died had been struck by Japanese encephalitis, a mosquito-borne, potentially fatal viral brain infection that periodically ravages the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, nytimes.com reported.

But the immediate reason for at least half the deaths appeared to be the cessation of piped oxygen into the intensive care ward. Japanese encephalitis has no known cure, and as it progresses, patients require oxygen to survive.

Despite 11 reminders over six months, the Uttar Pradesh government did not pay the company that supplied oxygen to the Baba Raghav Das Medical College hospital. The company acknowledged it had threatened to stop supplies but denied it had actually done so. The state administration, with its own role in question, vaguely promised "stringent action against the guilty".

In a country chronically short of medical facilities, the Baba Raghav Das hospital is the largest and most important referral hospital in a poor, populous region,



A child receiving care in the encephalitis ward at the Baba Raghav Das Medical College hospital in Gorakhpur, India, this month. Credit Sanjay Kanojia/AFP

servicing a population of more than 50 million in hundreds of nearby towns and villages. Stunned parents — carpenters, construction workers, security guards, homemakers and others from poor families — streamed out of the hospital with the bodies of their dead children.

Many said the police had removed them from the hospital after their children died. Some who sought autopsies were told to bring masks and gloves for coroners, suggesting the breadth and depth of the state's healthcare crisis.

Although disregard for human life is common in India, the images of dead children from the Gorakhpur hospital were followed by intense criticism.

"This is not just a tragedy, it is a massacre," Kailash Satyarthi, an Indian Nobel laureate, tweeted.

Several leaders from India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party played down the tragedy. Amit Shah, the powerful BJP president and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's confidante, said, "In such a big country, many incidents happen; this

isn't the first time an incident like this has happened."

India's crumbling healthcare system heaps repeated indignities on its people. A husband walked for miles with his wife's body slung over his shoulder because ambulances refused help. Patients gawped at a newborn in a hospital. Patients traveled across the country to seek healthcare in big cities, living on sidewalks for weeks, waiting — and sometimes dying — before they got an appointment.

Indians rarely debate health policy, and the attitude may have something to do with an Indian fatalism in matters of life and death. It allows the government to get away with repeated public-health scandals. A major reason for India's healthcare crisis is that it spends about 1.3 percent of its gross domestic product on health (the global average is 5.99 percent), and while an extensive annual survey meticulously analyzes economic progress, its health data are released only once a decade.

India's infant mortality rate has fallen 76 percent over the past half-century, but it is still higher than 150 middle- and low-income countries, many poorer than India, including neighbors Nepal and Bangladesh.

Report accuses UK government of stoking anti-immigrant sentiment

A damning report accused the British government of fueling "overt" anti-immigrant feeling just as it emerged that ministers have for years vastly overestimated the number of foreign students staying in the UK.

The inquiry from a cross-party group of politicians said Theresa May's discredited target of cutting net migration to under 100,000 was particularly to blame for "stoking anxiety" that has accompanied unprecedented hate crime following the Brexit vote, according to *The Independent*.

It also came as new official immigration data showed the number of European Union citizens wanting to come to the UK collapsing, raising fears of a pending crisis in the labor market.

With the government under pressure from business and civil groups as it prepares to reshape the UK's immigration policy, Home Secretary Amber Rudd announced a commission to explore the economic benefits of people coming into the country.

In their report, Integration Not Demonization, the politicians were damning about the government's controversial target to bring annual net migration down to tens of thousands.

They said: "By setting targets for the reduction of immigration which were never achievable and which they inevitably went on to miss repeatedly, ministers undermined public confidence in the ability of the government to manage immigration."

"Rather than defusing public concerns regarding demographic and cultural change, then, officials have unnecessarily stoked anxiety over immigration and encouraged the growth of populist anti-immigrant sentiment."

Calling on fellow politicians to tone down their language, the group warned that rhetoric used during the EU referendum led some people to feel "they could act on racist attitudes which had previously gone unexpressed".

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Integration pointed to a marked increase in incidents of racist abuse directed at migrants and an unprecedented spike in racially or religiously aggravated hate crime in the months following the Brexit vote.

They called for a major drive to integrate immigrants, warning that they increasingly lead "parallel lives" in Britain and proposed compulsory English classes for newly arrived migrants who cannot speak it, funded by loans to be repaid once they reach a salary threshold like student loans.



Independent.co.uk

Chuka Umunna, the Labour MP who chairs the group, is also a leading supporter of Open Britain, which is running the 'Drop the Target' campaign.

He said: "The demonization of immigrants, exacerbated by the poisonous tone of the debate during the EU referendum campaign and after, shames us all and is a huge obstacle to creating a socially integrated nation."

"We must act now to safeguard our diverse communities from the peddlers of hatred and division while addressing valid concerns about the impact of immigration on public services, some of which can contribute to local tensions."

The report urged the government to allow the UK's nations and regions to set their own immigration policy including the ability to issue time-limited "regional worker visas", while having a legal duty to promote integration.

Calling for "fair movement" after Brexit, the group said the UK could attach conditions to the EU's free movement scheme like some other EU countries, which would allow continued access to the single market.

Newcomers applying to be British citizens should contribute to their community by doing voluntary work, the group proposed, and the government should set up an "integration impact fund" for projects in immigration hotspots, financed partly by a levy on businesses which depend on migrant labor.

It has emerged that data on the number of overseas students entering and leaving the country — used to justify a harsh approach to foreign students — has given a skewed picture of the number of individuals remaining in the country after studies suggested it could have been as high as 100,000 a year.

But new data collected by the Home Office and released suggested only around 4,600 students overstayed the period allowed by their visa each year, casting a different light on the debate.

The new information has accompanied a fresh drive from those within government who think student numbers should not be counted in net migration data, with the home secretary's new commission set to focus on exploring the economic benefits of students to the UK economy.

But just as universities applauded that move, the private sector sounded the alarm about other immigration statistics released yesterday suggesting Brexit has deterred much needed talent from coming to the UK.

EU net migration was estimated at 127,000 in the 12 months to March, down 51,000 on the previous year, leading the ONS to herald a "statistically significant change".

May will likely stick to her target of lowering immigration to the tens of thousands at least until she announces how she will reshape post-Brexit immigration policy, which she has promised will reflect employers' needs.

The prime minister's allies argued that the fall in annual net migration showed progress towards the target. They also said the government was fully committed to integration, pointing to its Controlling Migration Fund to help local authorities facing pressures from immigration.

Your breath may show if you have lung cancer

Scientists have developed a test for early-stage lung cancer similar to the breathalyzers used to estimate blood alcohol content in motorists.

The test is the brainchild of scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research (MPI-HLR) in Bad Nauheim, Germany, star2.com wrote.

While not ready for the market just yet, it has shown promise in initial trials.

"The breath test could make detection of early-stage lung cancer easier and more reliable, but it won't completely supplant conventional techniques," said Guillermo Barreto, a working-group leader at MPI-HLR.

Certain molecules of RNA — a nucleic acid in all living cells whose main role is to carry the genetic code from DNA needed to synthesize proteins — are altered by cancer growth.

Scientists isolated the extremely low concentrations of RNA molecules released from lung tissue into exhaled breath, noted the RNA profile in subjects with and without lung cancer, and used the data to devise a model for diagnosing the disease.

In a trial involving 138 people whose health status was known, the breath test was able to identify 98 percent of

those with lung cancer.

Barreto said another trial is planned on more than 2,000 patients in five lung clinics.

The scientists also aim to expand the number of tumor markers so that different types of lung cancer can be identified.

According to the latest statistics from World Health Organization, cancer accounted for 8.8 million deaths in 2015. Lung cancer is the most deadly cancer of all, and killed an estimated 1.69 million people during the same period.

People with early-stage lung cancer usually have no symptoms. When clear symptoms appear, the disease is often too advanced to cure.

When a tumor is detected early, it's almost always by chance. That's why an early test for high-risk groups — primarily older smokers, but also people with a family history of the disease would be a huge boon.

"If detection were possible at an early stage, as many as 70 percent of the patients could live another five years and more," said the German Cancer Society (DKG).

Dr Juergen Wolf, an expert on lung cancer diagnostics at Cologne University Hospital, describes the breath test as "super exciting" but cautions that "there's still a long way to

go before it's usable".

A breath test that works only in cases of advanced lung cancer "wouldn't be so valuable", he said, while one identifying patients with smaller tumors "would be great".

In any event, he added, "the approach is worth pursuing". Regular cancer screening using low-dose computed tomography scans — similar to mammograms for breast cancer — is controversial in some countries.

They're recommended for smokers over 50 years of age in the US, but not in Germany, for example.

The DKG points to a high number of false positive diagnoses.

Research is also underway on other methods to detect lung cancer early. "A lot is happening at the moment," Wolf said.

Blood tests have been promising, he said, but analysis of sputum — matter expectorated from the respiratory system — has proven to be useless and "can be shelved". It's still preferable to not get the disease in the first place, of course. And the prime preventative measure — recommended by the DKG, Wolf and countless other experts — is: "Don't smoke".

Veteran selling war medals to pay for a little girl's treatment

A former Royal Marine who served in the Iraq War is selling his war medals to help pay for a little girl's £200,000 (\$256K) cancer treatment.

Lottie Woods-John was diagnosed with Stage 4 Neuroblastoma on June 30, 2016. She was just two years old, sunnyskyz.com wrote.

Despite never meeting Lottie, 35-year-old veteran Matthew Goodman read about Lottie's battle with the rare cancer and listed his three service medals on eBay.

"As a father myself, I couldn't imagine seeing my baby daughter, Freya, suffering like that and I knew I had to help in some way," Goodman told The Sun.

"My medals were just sitting in the drawer doing nothing, and



I thought they could be used for something worthwhile.

"They were awarded for the sacrifices I made, but I'm happy to forgo that honor if it means helping a little girl in desperate need."

After being diagnosed, Lottie immediately underwent chemotherapy and, in October last

year, had a 13-hour operation to remove 95 percent of the tumor. Now the four-year-old is undergoing immunotherapy to zap the rest of the cancerous cells in her body, but desperately needs an innovative vaccine treatment only available in the US.

"Lottie has been given 20 percent chance of surviving the next five years and there's an 85

percent chance of the cancer returning," Lottie's mother Charlotte Woods told The Sun.

"The vaccine treatment prevents the cancer from returning, so Lottie needs the cutting-edge treatment straight away, meaning we need the £200,000 imminently."

Charlotte, who has two other children, added: "When Matt contacted me to tell me he wanted to sell his medals to help towards treatment costs I was speechless."

Goodman, who served in Afghanistan, Iraq and Northern Ireland, said: "If people stand up and support families like Lottie's, then it makes all the difference."

"Once they're sold, in the place of my medals I'll be wearing a childhood cancer awareness ribbon. For me, nothing is worth a child's life."

HOTSPOT MEDIA

Florida firefighter catches massive grouper

A Florida firefighter blew the competition at a local spearfishing competition out of the water after catching a massive grouper.

The Suncoast Spearfishing Challenge shared a photo of James Taylor and his teammates Tom Mitchell, Mike Jeanes, Chris Williams alongside the enormous 409-pound (185.519kg) Warsaw Grouper, according to UPI.

A post on the challenge's Facebook page stated, "Congrats to Team Trident and Suncoast Underwater Club members on ruining the Grouper category in the St. Pete Open. I guess a little 100 pound carbo won't do it anymore!"

While the humongous Warsaw Grouper was not actually eligible to win the competition, Taylor is awaiting confirmation that the fish is the largest



SUNCOAST SPEARFISHING CHALLENGE

Warsaw Grouper ever speared. Taylor, a firefighter in Bradenton, speared the fish 85 miles off shore at a depth of about 250 feet.

Sport Fishing magazine stated the largest Warsaw Grouper ever caught with a rod and reel was caught in 1985 and weighed 436 pounds.

In addition to the potentially record-breaking grouper, Taylor and his team also managed to win first and second place for Hog fish and fourth and fifth place for grouper, in what would be his last tournament before becoming a father. His wife Michelle said, "He sure did make it an epic one."

Couple forced to sacrifice conjoined twins

A couple who were expecting triplets were forced to sacrifice their conjoined twins in order to save their other baby.

Jemma Haig, 20, and her husband Murray McKirdy were over the moon when a routine scan revealed that they were expecting not one but three babies last year via natural conception, dailymail.co.uk reported.

But the couple's joy soon became heart-break as doctors told the pair from Tranent, East Lothian, that not all of their babies would survive.

Staff at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary gave the couple two options: Have a selective reduction to remove the twins or lose all three babies. Jemma and Murray decided to remove the twins because she didn't want them to suffer.

A scan revealed that Jemma was carrying two amniotic sacs — one contained the embryo of her son Thomas and the other contained conjoined twins.

The conjoined twins were joined at the chest so shared a heart, respiratory system and digestive system. However doctors told them that the odds of twins joined in this way surviving was 'one in half a million'.

Jemma said that she did not want them to suffer, explaining: "We came to the



SWNS

informed decision to have a selective reduction of our conjoined twins as we couldn't bear to make them suffer.

"We knew that procedure carried risks of miscarriage of all fetuses and premature birth but we just hoped and prayed for the best."

After the procedure, Jemma made it to 32 weeks before any further complications arose. Following a bleed, Jemma was admitted to hospital. As the days went on, the bleeding worsened and the doctors feared that it was placental abruption because her blood count was dropping considerably.

Thomas was born via emergency C-section, weighing 4lb 10oz. He was immediately admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary where he was treated for suspected sepsis and mild breathing difficulties.

He spent three weeks on the unit before going home.

Jemma and Murray, along with their three-year-old Abigail and 17-week old Thomas, will take on a 27-mile "Go the distance" challenge for premature baby charity Bliss.

The family have chosen to take part in the fundraiser to highlight the long distance traveled by parents to visit their premature or sick babies in hospital.

Parents of premature and sick babies travel an average of 27 miles a day to visit their little one on the neonatal unit — some even face a commute of 100 miles or more.

The family will complete the challenge over two days by hiking the Pencaitland Railway Walk among other local walks.

Jemma added: "We had a 20-mile round trip to visit our son, but some parents often have to travel much further."

"Thomas only spent three weeks in hospital but during that time, Bliss helped us get through it."

"As a neonatal unit isn't a place any new mother wants to be, Bliss made me comfortable and made sure I knew what was going on with my baby and I cannot thank them enough for all they do for myself and other parents."

Can you spot snake in this photo?



The reptile was pictured hidden among the plants in the corner of the garden.

At first glance, this picture appears to show a typical back garden, complete with lawn equipment, fencing and a clothes drying rack.

But take a much closer look and you'll see something terrifying — for a snake is actually hidden among the plants in the corner of the garden, mirror.co.uk wrote.

A team of snake catchers was called in after the reptile was spotted lurking amid the shrubs, with a part of its body hanging over the fence. The experts took a picture of the scene, before inviting their Facebook followers to try to spot the creature — a task that proved tricky for many. They told their followers: "Top points for the species, too!"

One woman, Jacki Day, commented: "I can never find the snakes."

"I once walked straight past the most massive carpet snake in Noosa National Park and didn't see it until my friend pointed it out to me."

Another user, Steve Connaughton, guessed: "In the blue tub."



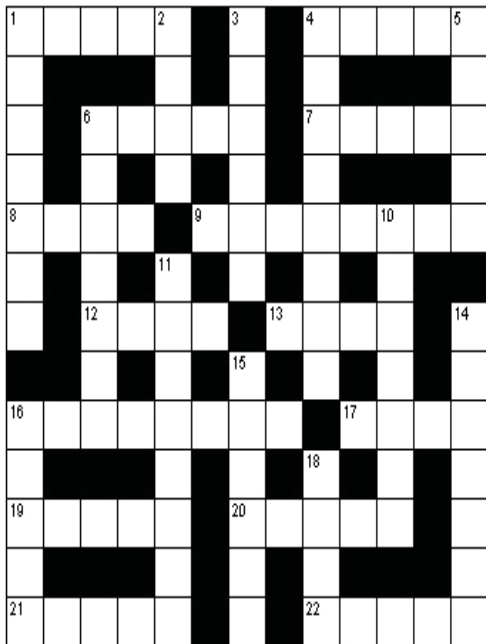
The picture was taken in Queensland.

And a third, Martin McAvaney, posted: "To the right of the catcher's bag and gear at the bottom of picture."

However, John Greydanus identified the location of the snake correctly, posting a close-up image of the reptile hidden in the plants.

He remarked: "Has to be a python of some sort."

Themed Crossword



ACROSS

1. Khartoum is the capital (5)
4. Popular vacation spot in the Canadian Rockies (5)
6. African mountain range (5)
7. Asian country (5)
8. Country on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula (4)
9. Bridgetown is the capital (8)
12. Capital of Samoa (4)
13. Ancient Peruvian empire (4)
16. City in China on the Pacific (8)
17. Continent (4)
19. Capital of Morocco (5)
20. Mediterranean island (5)
21. Capital of Jordan (5)
22. State capital of Oregon (5)

DOWN

1. Capital of Costa Rica (3,4)
2. World's longest river (4)
3. 8 Across is the capital (6)
4. Capital of the Australian state of Queensland (8)
5. National emblems (5)
6. Montgomery is the state capital (7)
10. Saltwater lake bordered by Jordan (4,3)
11. Capital of Jamaica (8)
14. City in California, site of Disneyland (7)
15. Sea between New Zealand and Australia (6)
16. Damascus is the capital (5)
18. Large European mountain system (4)

Thursday's solution



Sudoku

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

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

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



Van Persie back in Dutch team for World Cup qualifiers

Netherlands coach Dick Advocaat recalled veteran striker Robin van Persie on Friday to his squad for crucial World Cup qualifiers against France and Bulgaria.

Fenerbahce forward Van Persie played the last of his 101 internationals in October 2015. The 34-year-old former Arsenal and Manchester United star is the Netherlands' all-time top scorer with 50 goals, AP reported.

"I still think he is one of the best strikers we have," Advocaat said as he announced his squad.

It remains to be seen if Van Persie is fit enough to play a full match, or if Advocaat will use him off the bench.

"He can make a very important contribution to the Dutch team," the coach said.

Van Persie was one of six forwards included in the squad, with Memphis Depay of Olympique Lyon and Tottenham striker Vincent Janssen.

The Dutch need Van Persie to start finding the net again. After six matches, the Netherlands is third in Group A, three points behind Sweden, which leads the group on goal difference from France. Only the winner is guaranteed a place at next year's World Cup in Russia.

Van Persie is part of a core of senior players in the 24-man squad that also includes captain Arjen Robben and midfielder Wesley Sneijder.

Ajax midfielder Donny van de Beek earned his first call-up for the national team a day after his club team was knocked out of the Europa League by Norwegian team Rosenborg. Van de Beek's inclusion in the squad came as his former Ajax teammate, Everton midfielder Davy Klaassen, was forced to miss the internationals through injury.

The Netherlands plays France on Thursday in Saint-Denis and returns to Amsterdam to take on Bulgaria on Sept. 3. Failure to reach Russia would mean the three-time World Cup runner-up missing its second straight major tournament after it also did not qualify for last year's European Championship in France.

Al Ahli let a two-goal lead slip late in its clash with Persepolis in their 2017 AFC Champions League quarterfinal first leg on Tuesday evening, with the removal of attacking talents Leonardo and Omar Al Soma in favor of more defensive options eventually proving costly.

Persepolis enjoyed over 60 percent of possession overall, but as its opponent removed its leading counter-attack threats the Iranian side's pressure eventually told with two goals in the space of 12 second-half minutes, the-afc.com reported.

New signing Leonardo made an instant impact for Al Ahli with what had appeared to be a match-winning performance upon his 66th minute substitution.

The increased attacking pressure saw cracks begin to appear in the Ahli defense with both goals conceded in the final half hour coming from individual defensive errors.

Between the 72nd and 84th minute, Persepolis managed six of its 12 shots on target as Al Ahli's removal

man presence his side required.

Despite playing 82 minutes of the clash, the target forward touched the ball just 33 times and was successful with a disappointing 44.4 percent of the 18 passes he attempted. Too often, he lost the ball rather than hold up

Analysis: Removal of Al Ahli's attacking talents led to Persepolis' comeback

The Brazilian may have flitted in and out of the action, but in scoring on his AFC Champions League debut besides creating three opportunities for his teammates he proved to be a major influence on the tie.

Cutting in from his role on the left-flank, Leonardo proved a menace throughout. Two efforts from outside the area flew close while he ghosted beyond fullback Saeed Al Muwallad to finish for his goal to make the score 2-0.

With Al Ahli 2-0 up in the second half of the encounter, Persepolis ramped up the pressure on the visitor with its share of possession rising to a high of 72.6 percent between the 60th and 75th minute.



LAGARDERE SPORTS

of attacking players in favor of extra defensive options failed to pay dividends.

Syrian forward Omar Al Soma began the night with a bang, scoring Al Ahli's opener after just two minutes of the clash. However, he was unable to provide the target

play for his side.

Yet, for all that, Al Soma remained a major threat when given the ball in the final third – with four shots on goal and two chances created on a night of few clear opportunities.

Barcelona close to signing Dembele



GETTY IMAGES

Barcelona is close to making Borussia Dortmund's Ousmane Dembele the second most expensive player in history in a deal worth up to €150 million (£138 million).

German side Dortmund rejected a bid from Barca for the France forward, 20, earlier in August, with the player then suspended for missing training, BBC reported.

Dembele's fee will place him second behind the €222 million (£200 million) Paris St-Germain paid Barca for Neymar in August.

The £89 million Manchester United paid Juventus for Paul Pogba is second.

Dortmund chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke said, "We are on the way, but the way is not yet at an end."

Dembele has not featured for Dortmund since the German Super Cup on August 5.

He joined the Bundesliga side from Rennes for €5 million (£13.8 million) 12 months ago, having only made his professional debut in 2015.

Dembele has already made seven appearances for the France, scoring his first goal in a 3-2 win over England in June.

Last season, he scored 10 goals and provided 21 assists as Dortmund finished third in the league, won the German Cup and also reached the Champions League quarter-finals.

Iran finishes in seventh place at FIVB World U-23 World Championship

Iran stood seventh at the end of 2017 Men's U-23 World Championship on Friday.

Juan Cichello's boys defeated China 4-1 (17-15, 15-5, 15-11, 17-19, 20-18) in their second playoff match for 5 to 8 positions at Cairo Stadium Complex in Egypt, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Iran had finished in the same place in the previous edition of the tournament in 2015.

China stood eighth in its first participation in this tournament.

All matches in Cairo are played under a new scoring system currently being tested: A best-of-seven, 15-point set format.

Outside hitter Saeed Javaheri of Iran led the match scorers with 17 points. Chinese middle blocker Hongbin Jiang was scored the most for his side with 14 points.

On Thursday, Iran had lost to Japan 4-3 (16-14, 10-15, 13-15,

15-11, 12-15, 15-13, 15-7) in its first 5 to 8 positions playoff. Following the win Japan qualified to play for the fifth position against the winner of the other playoff for 5 to 8 places between Egypt and China.



tasnimnews.com

Mourinho:

Ibrahimovic Manchester United's 'extra man'

Zlatan Ibrahimovic will be the "extra man" for Manchester United after Christmas after re-signing for the club, said manager Jose Mourinho.

The former Sweden striker, who scored 28 goals in 48 games for United last season, has signed a one-year deal, BBC reported.

Ibrahimovic, 35, was released in June after his season was ended prematurely by a knee injury.

"Let him do his work, step by step and come back when he is ready," said Mourinho.

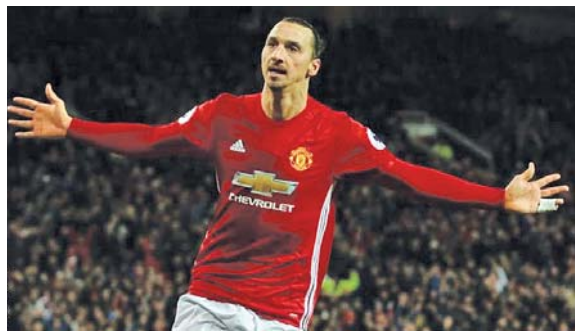
"He won't be ready for the group phase of the Champions League. No chance of that."

"I just think he will be the extra man for us in the second part of season. The second part of the season is normally January, after Christmas, when the transfer window reopens."

Ibrahimovic, who initially joined the Red Devils on

a free transfer in July 2016, had been recuperating at United's training ground after knee surgery.

"A club like Manchester United has to show how big



GETTY IMAGES

it is in details," added Mourinho.

"This is a big detail. A player that gets injured with a Manchester United shirt, fighting for Manchester United, the club has to be there for him."

"I am really happy with both the club and player."

Art & Culture



The 28th National Crafts Exhibition is currently underway at Tehran International Fairground in the Iranian capital. The fair will continue until August 29, 2017.



ASGHAR KHAMSEH/mehrnews.com

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More Western tourists visiting Iran

Official statistics show that the number of tourists from Iraq and the Persian Gulf littoral states visiting Iran has decreased in 2016 and 2017, while that of European and American visitors to the country has witnessed a remarkable growth since August 2015.

Although, compared to last year's figure, the overall number of foreign tourists to Iran has declined 6.9 percent since the beginning of the year to mid-March 2018, statistics indicate that the decrease pertains to the number of visitors from Persian Gulf littoral states, and not those from Europe and the US, IIPNews reported.

Director General of Iran's Office for Planning and Expansion of Tourism Industry Abdolreza Mohajeri-Nejad said over 1.14 million foreign tourists traveled to Iran during March 21-June 21, 2017.

This comes as, in the same period last year, the figure stood at more than 1.18 million, indicating a 6.9-percent growth, he added.

Mohajeri-Nejad said the decline in the number of tourists from the Persian Gulf littoral states and Iraq is the main reason for the drop in the average number of foreign visitors to the country during the three-month period.

"The number of visitors from these states to Iran was subject to a nine-percent decrease, year-on-year, in the said timespan, under the impact of the country's weakened ties with the Persian Gulf littoral states — following the attacks on Saudi Arabia's Embassy and diplomatic mission in Tehran and Mashhad (eastern Iran) in early 2016 — insecurities in the regional states and unfavorable economic condition in

Iraq and Syria."

The downward trend has continued in the past two years, he added.

Mohajeri-Nejad said from March 2016 to March 2017, the average total number of foreign tourists to Iran (over 4.91 million) was also 5.2 percent less than that of the same 12-month period ending mid-March 2016.

However, he said, despite the decrease in the number of tourists from regional countries to Iran during the 15-month period to June 21, 2017, that of European and US visitors to the country has grown 56.6 percent in the same duration.

"The increase has occurred as a result of the going into effect of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) [signed in July 2015 between Tehran and the P5+1]."

Mohajeri-Nejad added from August 2015 to March 2017, a total of 478,826 tourists from Western states, particularly Europe, traveled to Iran. This is while, prior to the signing of the JCPOA, from December 2013 to June 2015, the figure was 35,852, he said.

He hoped that in case the upward trend in the number of European and US tourists to Iran would continue, the country will definitely manage to achieve the targets stipulated in Iran's Vision 2025.

As per the Vision 2025, Iran's annual income from tourism sector is required to reach \$25 billion (20 billion tourists per year) in eight years from now. To achieve the target, the country needs to be a destination for 5.1 percent of the total global number of tourists per annum.

Hollywood honors French singing legend Charles Aznavour

French icon Charles Aznavour, one of the 20th century's most prolific entertainers who continues to write and perform at 93, was honored Thursday with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

With a career spanning eight decades, the crooner has recorded 1,400 songs — 1,300 of which he wrote — and produced over 390 albums in multiple languages, AFP wrote.



FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP

The star, who is also credited in more than 60 movies, defied detractors who pointed to his unconventional look to become one of France's most iconic singers, dubbed the country's Frank Sinatra.

"Sinatra once said every song is a one-act play with one character, and Charles is an extraordinary actor as well as an extraordinary singer," film director Peter Bogdanovich, a friend of the star, said at the unveiling ceremony.

Aznavour delivered a brief message thanking well-wishers, explaining that he rarely speaks publicly in English as he does not feel his command of the language is good enough.

"French is my working language but my family language is always Armenian," he said, in front of hundreds of fans from both countries, as well as supporters from across the world gathered outside the historic Pantages Theater.

"After today, after that star there, I can be somebody that can say I'm also now a little bit Californian because I have my daughter here and my grandchildren."

Bogdanovich — whose movies include 'What's Up, Doc?' and 'The Last Picture Show' — went through some of Aznavour's most popular hits, including 'She', which he described as the greatest ever song about women, and paid tribute to Aznavour's energy and dedication.

"That he does what he does at 93 is an inspiration to all of us. He doesn't lack anything. He's the best," he added.

'An actor who sings'

Born Shahnour Varinag Aznavourian in Paris to Armenian immigrants on May 22, 1924, Aznavour had sold more than 100 million records.

He said in a recent interview with BBC radio he always saw himself "more as an actor who sings than a singer who acts".

Aznavour left school early — and said he was always uncomfortable about his lack of higher education — but after World War II he teamed up with fellow French icon Edith Piaf, who took him to America and a solo career.

Iranian authors meet CWA representatives in Beijing

Art & Culture Desk

A team of Iranian authors met representatives of China Writers Association (CWA) on Friday on the sidelines of the 24th Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF) currently underway in the Chinese capital.

The Iranian team comprised Hooshang Moradi-Kermani, Tahereh Eybod, Marziyeh Soleimani, Jafar Shir-Alinia, Hossein Payandeh and Ali-Asghar Seyyed-Abadi, ISNA reported.

Held at CWA's office, the Chinese side was presented by the CWA chairman and a number of vice-chairmen.



ISNA

Speaking at the meeting, CWA chairman expressed satisfaction with Iran's participation in BIBF as the Guest of Honor.

He added two months ago, writers from China visited Iran.

"China has entered its golden era in the fields of literature and writing books. The country is where the Silk Road begins. China and Iran had favorable relations with each other at the time the road was in its heydays and that is why, at present, they have close cooperation. The two countries can increase collaboration and exchange opinions in the field of children and young adults literature."

Addressing the same session, Seyyed Abadi said compared to other goods of the country, few Chinese books are exported to Iran.

He hoped that holding similar meetings in the future would lead to initiation of new forms of cooperation between Iran and China in the field of literature and culture.

Street art flourishing in Bangkok

Once rejected, street art is now appearing throughout the city, communicating Thai humor, beauty and social issues to its people. Jason Lai takes a closer look.

Underground — and specifically street art — has emerged in Bangkok as a new and vibrant way for artists to share creativity that often contains social or humorous messages, BBC wrote.

Alex Face is a prominent street art-

ist whose signature is the 'baby face', which was inspired by his daughter as a newborn. Face uses the baby-face symbol as a way of communicating messages about the future.

"I want to represent humans' next generation. I make them look worried — they worry about the future," Face explains to Jason Lai.

Street art is moving from the underground to the mainstream in Bangkok, which has just hosted its first street art

festival. But not everyone is convinced.

"There is still this image of coarse work, and art work done by uncommitted artists," explained Fawalai Siri-somphol, an emerging street artist. "For me, I want to do my best so people will understand that street art is beautiful."

Lai is a musician and conductor with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra who is exploring the arts and culture of Thailand for this series on BBC World News.



ASIA WEB DIRECT

Weather



35 19

Tabriz



29 12

Kerman



34 22

Behshahr



38 17

Kermanshah



33 18

Karaj

33[^]
v 21

Tehran



26 13

Kiev



46 33

Medina



29 22

Barcelona



22 12

Addis Ababa



15 7

Melbourne