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Rouhani: Iran not afraid of foreign intrigues



No room for 'trial and error' in new term

President Hassan Rouhani said Iran is not afraid of foreign threats and intrigues, which have escalated under the belligerent government of US President Donald Trump.

Under Trump, Washington has imposed new sanctions on Tehran and is lately pushing for access to Iran's military sites. The US military is also constantly accusing Iranian naval patrols in the Persian Gulf of "harassing" American warships.

Iran produced about 7.062 million tons of crude steel in the four months to July 22. The figure shows a 17-percent growth compared to the amount for the same period last year, announced Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) in a statement, IRNA reported.

Iran produces 7m tons of steel in four months

Iran produced about 7.062 million tons of crude steel in the four months to July 22. The figure shows a 17-percent growth compared to the amount for the same period last year, announced Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) in a statement, IRNA reported.



Crude steel output stood at 1.75 million tons during June 22-July 22. Iran's privatized (state-run companies which were recently ceded to the private sector) steel companies produced 5.382 million tons of crude steel during the period while 1.68 million tons were produced by the private sector.

Iraqi forces retake most of Tal Afar from Daesh

Iraqi forces have recaptured almost all of Tal Afar, Daesh's stronghold in the country's northwest, the Iraqi military said on Sunday.

After just eight days of fighting, all 29 neighborhoods in Tal Afar city had been taken back from the terror group, the military said in a statement on Sunday, Reuters reported.



Iraqi forces were waiting to retake the area before declaring complete victory in the offensive, he said.

Tal Afar was the latest objective in the war on the terror group following the recapture in July of Mosul, where it declared its self-proclaimed caliphate over parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014.

The offensive on Tal Afar, which lies on the supply route between Syria and the former Daesh stronghold of Mosul, started on Aug. 20. Up to 2,000 terrorists were believed to be defending the city against around 50,000 attackers, according to Iraqi and western military sources.

Such a quick collapse of Daesh in the city, which has been a breeding ground for terror groups, would confirm Iraqi military reports that the terrorists lack command and control structures west of Mosul.

Residents who fled Tal Afar days before the start of the offensive said that the terrorists looked "exhausted" and "depleted".

Tens of thousands of people are believed to have fled in the weeks before the battle started. Remaining civilians were threatened with death by the terrorists, according to aid organizations and residents who managed to leave.

Tal Afar has experienced cycles of sectarian violence after the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, and has produced some of Daesh's most senior commanders.

Bangladesh sends back 90 Rohingya despite violence

Bangladesh detained and forcibly returned 90 Rohingya migrants to Myanmar, police said Sunday, just hours after Myanmar troops on the other side of the border had opened fire on people fleeing the country.

Police intercepted a group of 70 Rohingya late Saturday after they crossed the "zero line" border zone, where Myanmar soldiers earlier fired mortars and machine guns at villagers making the dangerous dash from the northern state of Rakhine into Bangladesh, AFP wrote.

The villagers were caught roughly four kilometers inside Bangladeshi territory en route to a refugee camp in Kutupalong, where thousands of Rohingya already live in squalid conditions, said local police chief Abul Khaer.



"All 70 were detained and later pushed back to Myanmar by the border guards," Khaer said.

Police said some of those detained had entered Bangladesh via the Ghumdhum border area — where the Myanmar forces unleashed the barrage of fire just hours earlier.

"They were pleading with us not to send them back to Myanmar," said one policeman on condition of anonymity.

Another 20 Rohingya were caught Sunday and sent back after crossing the Naf River, a natural border between Myanmar and Bangladesh, according to Ariful Islam, a commander with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Another border officer, Manzurul Hassan Khan, said Sunday that fresh gunfire could be heard in villages across the border in Rakhine.

More than 100 people have died since Friday as scores of men ambushed Myanmar police posts with knives, guns and homemade explosives, killing at least a dozen security force members. Myanmar's government brands the 1.1 million-strong Rohingya population in the country as "illegal immigrants" from Bangladesh.

Rohingya Muslims, however, have had roots in the country that go back centuries. They are considered by the UN as the "most persecuted minority group in the world."

Harvey turns deadly, lashing Texas with torrential rain

Tropical Storm Harvey lashed central the US state of Texas with torrential rains on Sunday, unleashing "catastrophic" floods after the megastorm — the most powerful to hit the United States since 2005 — left a deadly trail of devastation along the Gulf Coast.

at was operating at limited capacity. Texas Governor Greg Abbott said at least 20 inches (50 centimeters) of rain had fallen in some areas — with another 20 or 30 inches possible. "Our primary concerns remains dramatic flooding," he told reporters.

managed to airlift at least 20 people and a dog to safety. President Donald Trump, aware of the damage to George W. Bush presidency's for his tardy response to Hurricane Katrina, said he was closely monitoring relief efforts from Camp David in Maryland.

The storm has caused at least two deaths since making landfall late Friday as a Category Four hurricane, pummeling the town of Rockport outside Corpus Christi with sustained winds of 130 miles (215 kilometers) per hour, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said, AFP reported.

One person was killed when their house caught fire in the Rockport area, local officials said.

And in Houston, a woman drowned when she left her car which had stalled in high water, local media reported citing police.

Harvey slowly weakened as it advanced, ripping off roofs, flipping mobile homes, and leaving hundreds of thousands of people in the dark on the Gulf Coast, home to some of the country's most important oil refineries.

The National Weather Service issued more than a dozen tornado warnings overnight for southeast Texas, including several in the Houston area.

Forecasts show Harvey hovering over the shore for the next days, dumping dangerous amounts of rain.

In Houston, a city of 2.3 million, the city streets turned into fast moving rivers with officials warning residents to stay home.

Hobby International, one of the city's two airports, announced that all flights were canceled "due to standing water on runways," while George Bush International



The Federal Emergency Management Agency said there should be no illusions about the long-term impact.

"This is going to be an unprecedented long and frustrating event for the state of Texas," FEMA director Brock Long told MSNBN.

"The recovery from this disaster is going to be years."

Emergency services were struggling to make headway as the rains continued to pour down, although the Coast Guard

"We are leaving nothing to chance. City, State and Federal Govs. working great together!" he tweeted after a teleconference meeting with his cabinet to discuss the emergency operations.

Harvey is the most powerful hurricane to hit the mainland since Wilma struck Florida 12 years ago.

2005 was a huge year for hurricanes — before Wilma, Hurricane Katrina pummeled New Orleans, leaving more than 1,800 dead.

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Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said that the recent US pressure on the Apple Company to eliminate applications in Iran is aimed at confronting Iran's achievements in the technological era.

Tehran City Council names caretaker mayor

The City Council of Tehran on Sunday picked a caretaker to perform mayoral duties at the municipality of Tehran until the credentials of the elected mayor, Mohammad Ali Najafi, will be endorsed by the administrative officials.

In a Sunday session, the new members of the Tehran City Council elected Mostafa Salimi as the caretaker mayor of capital, Tasnim News Agency reported.



IRNA

It came after the bureaucratic process for the endorsement of Najafi's decree took longer than usual.

Najafi, 66, was elected as Tehran mayor by garnering the votes of all 21 councilors on August 23.

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

Rouhani: Iran not afraid of foreign intrigues

From Page 1

Rouhani, however, said he is looking into the future on a more hopeful note than the past four years.

"What is of significance is that the people's hope in the future, their presence, and trust in the establishment and the government should remain in place," the president said.

"If the Leader's guidance is on our side and the support, encouragement and the spinal column of the nation remains on the scene, we will certainly bypass the problems," Rouhani added.

The president said Iran's power emanates from its people, where they are enjoying the privilege to hold free elections as manifested in the late Imam's famous sentence of "the measure is the people's vote."

Otherwise, "We would not be expecting now to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution," Rouhani said.

Rouhani won reelection back in May. He took the oath of office earlier this month after being formally endorsed as the chief executive by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Last Sunday, the Iranian Parliament cleared all but one of his choices for the new cabinet.

Rouhani said that after four years in office, there is no room for trial and error in his new administration.

"Today, more hopeful than in the past four years, and with a reserve of experience and a stronger will, we have prepared ourselves to fulfill the demands of the people," said Rouhani.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi



IRNA

Qassemi: No change in framework of Iran-IAEA cooperation

Iran's Foreign Ministry dismissed any change in the framework of the country's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), after the United States' UN envoy traveled to Vienna to press the UN agency on her reading of Iran's compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"The frameworks of interaction with the agency are unchanging," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Sunday, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Iran will keep working with the UN nuclear agency within the framework of its previous commitments, the IRIB quoted him as saying.

"We won't give in to the excessive demands of certain governments, and would

not allow others to meddle in the banned areas of the JCPOA," the spokesperson underscored.

On Wednesday, US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley traveled to Vienna for a possible review of the nuclear agreement with Iran.

Iran warned about the consequences of any "illegal" pressure on the UN nuclear agency after Haley's visit to Vienna.

Iran's permanent mission to the IAEA issued the warning in a statement on Thursday, a day after Haley met IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano in the Austrian capital.

The statement said the objectives and the results of Haley's trip to Vienna "contradict" the JCPOA and UN 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 expects the IAEA head and its inspectors to perform their tasks regarding the JCPOA with professionalism and honesty, it said.

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

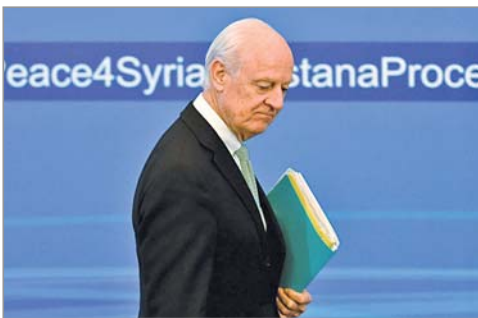
Washington wants to know if the IAEA plans to inspect Iranian military sites during its verification of Tehran's compliance with the JCPOA.

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.

UN special envoy in Tehran to discuss Syria crisis



AFF

United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura was scheduled to arrive in Tehran late on Sunday to discuss the Syrian crisis with senior Iranian officials.

De Mistura plans to hold talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari on the latest developments in Syria and the settlement of the crisis through political negotiations, Press TV reported.

The visit will come ahead of the next round of Syria peace talks in Kazakhstan's capital city of Astana, slated to be held in mid-September.

The Kazakh Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday the timing of the talks would be set at a meeting in late August between experts from Russia, Turkey and Iran and "provisionally, we could be talking about mid-September."

Astana has hosted five rounds of peace talks for Syria since January. Russia, Iran, and Turkey serve as guarantor states in the peace process. The negotiations are aimed at bringing an end to the foreign-backed militancy in Syria, which began in March 2011.

The Astana talks have so far resulted in an agreement on four de-escalation zones across Syria.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, three of the enclaves have been created to date, in the country's sprawling central province of Homs, in the Eastern Ghouta area of the southern Rif Dimashq Province, and a southwestern militant-controlled stretch along the border with Jordan.

Iran in talks with Euratom for cooperation in quantum technology

Iran is negotiating with the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for cooperation in quantum technology, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi said on Sunday.

The Islamic Republic is not far behind the leading countries in the field of quantum technology, Salehi said at the First National Conference on Quantum Technology in Tehran.

With the nuclear deal signed between Iran and six world powers in 2015, the Islamic Republic has joined the Euratom club, he said, adding that the AEOI has initiated talks with Europeans to boost cooperation in quantum technology.

Salehi also said a ministerial meeting between the Islamic Republic and

six world powers might be held in New York on the sidelines of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in September.

He said he thinks Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif would take action to initiate a meeting with his counterparts in the P5+1 - Russia, China, US, Britain, France, and Germany.

He further emphasized that the AEOI is confident about the Foreign Ministry's continuous pursuit of issues related to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The likely ministerial meeting of Iran and the P5+1 group would focus on the implementation process of the nuclear deal reached between the two sides in 2015.



IRNA

Merkel has no regrets over refugee policy despite political cost

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she has no regrets about her 2015 decision to open the country's borders to hundreds of thousands of refugees and added she will not be deterred from campaigning by angry hecklers.

In an interview with the Welt am Sonntag newspaper on Sunday, Merkel denied she had made any mistakes with her open-door policy even though the arrival of a million refugees over the last two years from Syria and Iraq opened deep rifts in her conservative party and depressed its support, Reuters wrote.

Four weeks before the September 24 election, an Emnid opinion poll on Sunday showed Merkel's conservatives would win 38 percent, or 15 points ahead of the center-left Social Democrats (SPD). That is up from 32 percent in February but well below the 41.5 percent her party won in the last election in 2013.

"I'd make all the important decisions of 2015 the same way again," Merkel said. "It was an extraordinary situation and I made my decision based on what I thought was right from a political and humanitarian standpoint."

"Those kinds of extraordinary situations happen every once in a while in a country's history," she added. "The head of government has to act and I did."

Her decision to open the borders contributed to a surge in support for the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, which pollsters

said could win up to 10 percent in the September election.

Merkel, seeing a fourth term, has had to contend with loud and sustained heckling from demonstrators strongly opposed to her refugee policies so far on the campaign trail. The volume and intensity of the protests have been especially strong in her home region in formerly communist eastern Germany. But the 63-year-old chancellor said she would not be kept away from areas where animosity towards her runs high.

"We're a democracy and everyone can freely express themselves in public the way they want," she said. "It's important that we don't go out of our way to avoid certain areas only because there are a bunch of people screaming."

Support for Merkel and her party has recovered somewhat after the influx of refugees slowed in 2016 to 280,000 and fell even further to about 106,000 in the first seven months of this year.

Merkel said it was unfair that Greece and Italy were left on their own carrying the full burden of the refugee crisis "simply because of their geography". She added she would not stop pushing for the fair distribution of refugees across the European Union.

"That some countries refuse to accept any refugees is not on. That contradicts the spirit of Europe. We'll overcome that. It will take time and patience but we will succeed."



wikipedia.org

Poll: Majority in France now dissatisfied with Macron

French government: Dissatisfaction a price for pushing through reforms

Most French voters are now dissatisfied with Emmanuel Macron's performance, a poll showed on Sunday, a dramatic decline for a president who basked in a landslide election victory less than four months ago.



REUTERS

The poll, conducted by Ifof for newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche (JDD), showed Macron's "dissatisfaction rating" rising to 57 percent, from 43 percent in July, Reuters reported.

Forty percent expressed satisfaction with the centrist leader - down 14 points from July.

French government spokesman Christophe Castaner said the ruling party was going through a tricky time, but added that displeasing some people was a price worth paying if the government wanted to push through reforms.

"Yes, we are encountering difficulties, but you cannot just spend your time only looking at polls when you're in government. We are there to transform the country. Our country needs us to take risks, and we are taking risks," Castaner told BFM TV.

Macron, who is midway through a schedule of official visits to various European capitals, has suffered a number of setbacks since being elected, including tough debates in Parliament over labor reform, a standoff with the military, and cuts to housing assistance. Social media commentators and political opponents criticized the president after it emerged he spent 26,000 euros (\$31,000) on makeup during his first 100 days in office and his office also backed down on plans to give his wife a formal, paid role after a public backlash.

Bernard Sananes, head of French polling company, Elabe, said the latest survey could encourage Macron's political opponents, after his party won a commanding majority in Parliament.

"It could mean, for the government, that the opposition mobilizes itself again," Sananes told BFM TV.

The Ifof poll showed the cumulative drop in Macron's popularity ratings since May was bigger than that of previous Socialist president Francois Hollande over the same period. The poll also showed a drop in popularity for Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, with 47 percent expressing satisfaction with him - down nine points from last month. Macron, France's youngest leader since Napoleon, faces a big test next month when the far-left CGT trade union leads a rally to protest against plans to deregulate the jobs market.

UK warns EU not to 'drag its feet' on Brexit

The European Union should not "drag its feet" in negotiating Brexit, a British government source said on Sunday ahead of a fresh round of UK-EU divorce talks in Brussels this week.

"Both sides must be flexible and willing to compromise when it comes to solving areas where we disagree," the source said, AFP reported.

"As the EU itself has said, the clock is ticking so neither side should drag its feet."

The Brexit Ministry in a statement also called for the European Commission to be "more flexible," as British negotiators push for talks on future trade ties alongside the divorce.

"Conversations about our exit and the future deep and special partnership we want with the EU are inextricably linked," the ministry said.

But the EU says there must first be "sufficient progress" on three issues - the status of EU nationals in Britain, the bill for the divorce, and the future of Northern Ireland's border with the Irish Republic.

An EU official told a press briefing on Friday that there was "a very big gap" between "where we are and where we need to be," and there was a "lack of substance" in the negotiations so far.

The official said it was "unlikely" there would be "major steps" in the coming days of talks. The ministry said the negotiations between Brexit Minister David Davis and Michel Barnier, the EU's chief negotiator, would begin on Monday and wrap up on Thursday.

The precise date for the start had been in doubt, as Monday is a public holiday in Britain. Britain said it had shown a "pragmatic approach" in a series of position papers in recent weeks on future trade ties, the Irish border and post-Brexit dispute resolution mechanisms.

But EU officials have been highly critical of the negotiating proposals.

The British government source said this week's talks would be mostly technical and would be "a stepping stone to more substantial talks in September."

Britain voted to leave the EU in a referendum last year and Prime Minister Theresa May issued a formal notification in March, starting a two-year negotiating timetable to exit.

Venezuelan Army holds exercises and trains civilians after Trump threat

The Venezuelan government held military exercises, teaching thousands of civilians how to use rifles and engage in hand-to-hand combat, after US President Donald Trump warned that a "military option" was on the table for the crisis-hit country.

The Venezuelan government said 200,000 troops and 700,000 civilians and reservists had taken part in a first day of military exercises, r.t.e./news reported.

The exercises were held nationwide, and called on civilians to join reserve units to defend against a possible attack after Trump warned that a "military option" was on the table for the country.

Trump made the threat two weeks ago and on Friday signed an order prohibiting dealings in new debt from the Venezuelan government or its oil company, a move to hobble financing that Trump says is fueling Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's "dictatorship".

"Against the belligerent threats of the United States, all Venezuelans between the ages of 18 and



REUTERS

60 are required to contribute to the integral defense of the nation," said an announcement broadcast on state television.

Maduro used Trump's threat to try to energize his political base, broadcasting images of rifle-carrying civilians negotiating obstacle courses

and learning hand-to-hand combat. TV images showed Venezuelans, young and old, entering military reserve registration centers.

Scenes were aired of camouflaged sharpshooters firing their weapons while military commanders gave fiery speeches at "anti-imperialist" rallies.

Opposition figure and former presidential candidate Henrique Capriles sent a tweet dismissing the weekend training program as an expensive farce. He said Maduro should focus instead on bringing down Venezuela's high crime rate.

Diplomatic tensions increased last month when a legislative super body, called the Constituent Assembly, was elected at Maduro's behest. It has the power to legislate, bypassing the opposition-controlled Congress.

Maduro says the new assembly is Venezuela's only hope of restoring peace after months of deadly anti-government protests.

Lebanon, Syria declare cease-fires in fight against Daesh

Lebanon's army announced a cease-fire in its offensive against Daesh terrorists at the country's northeast border with Syria.

The cease-fire took effect at 7am local time (04:00 GMT) on Sunday in order to determine the fate of Lebanese soldiers who are in Daesh captivity, the military statement said.

According to Al Jazeera, the cease-fire was a significant development in Lebanon, given that "the army seemed very confident just a couple of days ago that they were going to rid those areas of the last remnants of Daesh terrorists".

The fate of nine soldiers that Daesh took captive then remains unknown.



hloghsaladi.com

Shortly after, the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah and the Syrian army, which are engaged in another offensive against Daesh on the other side of the frontier in Syria along the border with Lebanon, announced a cease-fire that took effect at the same time.

A Hezbollah media unit said the cease-fire took place "under a full agreement to end the battle in west Qalamoun against Daesh".

Hezbollah's Al Manar TV reported that the resistance movement has received the bodies of five of its fighters who were held by Daesh. The bodies will be identified by DNA testing later.

The Lebanese army has been battling Daesh in their last border foothold, near the town of Ras Baalbek.

The assault began last week, coinciding with the Hezbollah and the Syrian army offensive in Syria's western Qalamoun region.

Northeast Lebanon saw one of the worst spillovers of Syria's war into Lebanon in 2014, when Daesh and other terror groups briefly overran the border town of Arsal.

Last week, Lebanon and Hezbollah announced they had made significant gains against Daesh terrorists, driving them back into a smaller part of the arid hills on the border.

Ryan: Trump was wrong to pardon controversial sheriff

President Donald Trump should not have pardoned a former Arizona sheriff who was convicted of criminal contempt in a case of racial profiling, the Republican speaker of the House of Representatives, Paul Ryan, said on Saturday.

Trump announced on Friday he was pardoning Joe Arpaio, an anti-immigration hardliner found guilty last month for flouting a 2011 court order that barred officers from detaining Latino motorists solely on the suspicion they were illegal immigrants, Reuters reported.

"Law-enforcement officials have a special responsibility to respect the rights of everyone in the United States. We should not allow anyone to believe that responsibility is diminished by this pardon," Ryan said in a statement.

"The speaker does not agree with the decision," Ryan's spokesman Doug Andres said.

Some other prominent Republicans, including Arizona Senator John McCain and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, have also criticized Trump for the controversial pardon.

Arpaio, 85, was an outspoken supporter of Trump's presidential campaign and both men have argued for tougher policies against illegal immigration.

As president, Trump has broad powers to issue pardons and he had said Arpaio was convicted for "doing his job".

Arpaio lost his own bid for reelection in Arizona's Maricopa County in November, after 24 years in office.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Thai company presents feasibility reports on three oilfields

Representatives of Thailand's PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP) discussed the outcome of studies conducted on three Iranian oilfields in a meeting with National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) officials.

In the meeting with NIOC Deputy Head for Development and Engineering Affairs Gholamreza Manuchehri in Tehran, experts from Thailand's PTTEP presented the results of their studies on Changuoleh, Dalpari and Balal oilfields in Iran, Shana reported.



SHANA

The meeting was also attended by representatives of Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC) as well as Oil Engineering and Development Company.

The Thai firm inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) for conducting studies on the three Iranian fields. Ultimately after six months and in May 2017, PTTEP presented study results which were analyzed.

PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited is currently involved in gas production in several parts of the world, including Southeast Asia, Algeria and Oman, and has previously cooperated with Iran in drilling and exploration.

In addition to PTTEP, NIOC also signed cooperation agreements with Korea Gas Corporation on Balal field, Austria's OMV on Dalpari field as well as with Gazprom of Russian and Norway's Dno International ASA on Changuoleh oilfield.

Balal Oilfield, whose initial recoverable reserves were estimated at 100 million barrels, is located 93 kilometers, southwest of Lavan Island. Dalpari is however situated 70 km off northwest of Dezful city, southwest of Kaboud oilfield in Ilam Province. Also, Changuoleh oilfield is located 80 km northwest of Dehloran city and situated in northwest part of North Dezful basin in Lorestan Province.

Envoy: Iran, Indonesia eying \$600m trade exchanges

Indonesian Ambassador to Iran Octaviano Alimuddin underlined the need for bolstering trade ties between Tehran and Jakarta to \$600 million by the end of the current year. "Iran-Indonesia trade exchanges amounted to \$338 million in 2016 and if this trend continues, it will increase to \$600 million in 2017," Alimuddin said in a meeting with Iranian industrialists in the central city of Yazd on Sunday, Fars News Agency reported.

Underscoring the high potentials in the two countries, he said trade exchanges between Tehran and Jakarta increased 28 percent in 2016 compared to the amount for 2015.



IRINA

Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) reported in June that Iranian companies and traders have undertaken 25 investment projects valued at \$25.6 million in Indonesia during 2016-17.

"Iran's projects were mainly in the sectors of general trade, transportation and warehousing, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, hotels and restaurants, and metal industries," Iran's Commercial Attaché to Indonesia Anvar Kamari said.

The figures indicate that between 2008 and 2014, on average three projects worth of \$1 million have been implemented in Indonesia per year; in 2015 no project was conducted and 16 projects with a capital equivalent to \$14.3 million were undertaken in 2016. In the first four months of 2017, nine projects worth \$11.3 million have been implemented or are in progress in the Asian country.

Iran produces 7m tons of steel in four months

From Page 1

Iranian steel plants also produced about 6.339 million tons of various steel products including beam, wide sheets, hot rolled sheets, galvanized steel and tubes during the 4-month period, indicating a 10-percent growth compared to 5.75 million tons in the same period of the preceding year.

Privatized steel companies produced 3.675 million tons of steel products while private sector production stood at 2.664 million tons.

Iran exported 2.138 million tons of crude steel (67 percent increase year-on-year) and 414,000 tons of various steel products (52 percent fall) in the four months to July 21.

The country also imported 761,000 tons of steel products in the four-month period which is 24 percent less year-on-year. Meanwhile 6,000 tons of crude steel was imported in the same four months (a decline of 89 percent).

Based on a 2025 outlook, Iran's steel output is to reach 55 million tons, 15 million of which should be exported. For the year to mid-March 2018, it is predicted that Iran will produce 18 million tons of steel, of which six million tons will be exported.



msc.ir

Iran's non-oil exports to Qatar rise despite hurdles

Iran's non-oil exports to Qatar increased both in weight and value in the past five months, despite the hurdles in trade transactions with Qatar.

Iran exported 737,500 tons of non-oil goods, mostly food products, valued at \$67.5 million to Qatar during the period indicating a 30.8-percent rise in terms of weight and 60.57 percent growth in terms of value, reported Xinhua quoting trade figures released by Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration.

The figures show significant growth in trade as Iran has been seeking to expand ties with Qatar following its rifts with Saudi Arabia and allies in June.

Despite the growth in Iran's business with the Arab state, the rush and convergence of several neighboring countries wanting to sell to the Qataris plus cumbersome domestic rules have raised concern among traders that Iran has failed to rise to the occasion.

The report said that Turkey is also in trilateral talks with Iran and Qatar to ease transit of goods to Qatar via Iran.

Pakistan has also launched a direct shipping line to Qatar, along with Azerbaijan, which is also trying to develop closer trade ties with the Persian Gulf Arab country.



IRINA

A large number of Iranian traders started to ship food to Qatar following the political crisis. However, Iranian goods did not have the necessary traction in that market since they were not made for export.

Trade Promotion Organization of Iran is set for talks with organizations involved in the trade process to finalize an incentive package for exporters to Qatar.

Lack of efficient shipping services between the two neighbors is another snag. Valfajr Shipping Line, a company affiliated to the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines, has said it will launch a direct shipping service between Bushehr and Doha.

Moreover, Central Bank of Iran governor has suggested that talks are underway to link Iran and Qatar bank cards.

Iran's Exclusive Food Exhibition will also be held in Doha on September 10-13.

On Saturday, Qatar's ambassador to Iran, Ali Bin Hamad al-Sulaiti, officially resumed his diplomatic mission in the Islamic Republic after a 20-month hiatus.

The Qatari Foreign Ministry said Thursday that it had decided to send its ambassador back to Iran expressing aspiration to strengthen ties with Iran in all fields.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi welcomed Doha's decision, saying that "the decision is a logical and positive move by Qatar".

Qatar has withdrawn its ambassador from Iran in January 2016, after Saudi Arabia cut ties with Iran.

Chadormalu mining company eyes three major projects

Domestic Economy Desk

Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company has three major development project at hand for the year to mid-March 2018, said the company's managing director.

Nourian noted that \$189 million will be invested in the 4-million-ton pelletizing plant adding that the rolling plant will produce 1.2 million tons of rolled steel.

Chadormalu's main stakeholders are Omid Investment Management Group with



IRINA

Mahmoud Nourian added that his company will begin exploration operations in the iron ore-rich D19 geological layer adding that setting up a pelletizing unit is also scheduled for this year in addition to launching a rolling plant, according to a fax sent to Iran Daily.

The official put the proven reserves of D19 anomaly deposit at 79 million tons to 100 million tons of iron ore which will provide feedstock to Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company and Iran Central Iron Ore Company.

a 39.17 percent stake, Mines and Metals Development Investment Company with 16.6 percent and Mobarakeh Steel Company with 8.23 percent.

The company's continued production is also essential for expanding Iran's steel industry. The government aims to turn the steel industry into the world's sixth largest manufacturer as per the goals set in the 20-Year Vision Plan (2005-25), which stipulates the production of 55 million tons of crude steel. Over 150 million tons of iron ore are required to achieve this figure.

Iran's dairy exports hit \$264m

Iran exported about 153,000 tons of dairy products worth \$264 million during March 21-July 22 this year.

This shows a three-percent rise in weight and a 28-percent growth in value year on year, IRNA reported.

In the past year, Iran exported 404,000 tons of dairy products valued at \$773 million.

Among the items exported, yogurt topped the list with \$218 million, followed by cheese with \$187 million, infant formula with \$129 million, cream and ice cream with \$120 million.

Dairy products accounted for the highest share in Iran's food exports last year. "Iran is targeting one billion dollars in



dairy exports for the current Iranian year (March 2017-18)," said Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati.

Moody's has bumped up its rating of Ukraine by one notch, thanks to progress on structural reforms to help improve its government debt dynamics, although the country remains mired in junk territory.

China July industrial profits rise at slowest pace



CNBC

Earnings growth for China's industrial firms cooled in July after accelerating for three straight months, reinforcing expectations the economy will slow over coming quarters as higher lending costs and property market curbs bite.

Profits earned by China's industrial companies in July rose 16.5 percent from a year earlier to 612.7 billion yuan (€71.55 billion), slower than the previous month, the statistics bureau said on Sunday, Reuters wrote.

That was the slowest rate of growth since profits rose 14.0 percent in April.

Profit growth slowed in July because some companies halted production due to especially high temperatures, He Ping of the National Bureau of Statistics bureau said in a statement along with the data release.

For the first seven months of the year, the firms notched up profits of 4.25 trillion yuan, a 21.2 percent jump from the same period last year and a touch slower than the 22.0 percent annual growth in the January-June period.

Earnings for the industrial sector were boosted by a year-long, government-led construction spree, which fueled demand and prices for building materials.

Government efforts to shut older, heavily polluting mines and factories have given commodity prices fresh impetus in recent weeks.

Strong earnings, in turn, have opened the way for fresh investment, and given the country's long ailing 'smoke-stack' industries more cash flow which could, in theory, be used to start paying down a mountain of debt.

Aluminum Corp. of China Ltd reported on Aug. 17 that its six-month net profit rose more than tenfold year-on-year as it cashed in sky-high aluminum prices.

A day later, China's top state-run aluminum smelter said it will be making further investment in raising output in the second half of the year.

The manufacturing sector, which accounts for 88 percent of industrial profits, saw profit growth of 18.1 percent in the first seven months, trending down only slightly from 18.5 percent in the first half.

Stalling out

But analysts said economic growth is starting to slow as measures to cool heated property prices and clamp down on riskier forms of lending put the brakes on activity.

Beijing's efforts to reduce debt have pushed up lending rates, signaling tighter margins and tougher operating conditions for firms as debt servicing costs go up — a sign of slowing earnings growth over coming months.

In addition to slower profit growth, Sunday's data showed profit margins and account receivables days outstanding weakened slightly in July after improving for the last two months. Industrial firms' net profit margin fell to 6.09 percent in July from 6.11 in June.

Weaker performance in the industrial sector is in line with July economic data that was mostly weaker than expected, after forecast-beating GDP growth of 6.9 percent in the first half.

At the end of July, industrial firms' liabilities were 6.6 percent higher than a year earlier, compared with a 6.4 percent increase at the end of June.

Profits at China's state-owned firms were up 44.2 percent at 927.4 billion yuan in January-July, compared with a 45.8 percent rise in the first six months.

The data covers large companies with annual revenue of more than 20 billion yuan from their main operations.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	82898.2	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	71532.0	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	91164.1	3826	4.27
First Market Index	58289.0	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	179611.9	2030.5	1.14

Overall Index details on 20170827

First	82889.9	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	82968.2	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	82899.0	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	82898.2	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

Industry Index details on 20170827

First	71873.5	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	71952.9	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	70278.2	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	71893.9	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

Free Float Index details on 20170827

First	90665.9	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	91164.1	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

Main Board Index details on 20170827

First	58306.6	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	58359.9	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	58289.0	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

Secondary Index details on 20170827

First	179537.2	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	179629.1	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	179611.9	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2235.2		

IMF: We see a broad-based global recovery



Maury Obstfeld, the chief economist for the International Monetary Fund

The global economy is doing well, the chief economist for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said.

The IMF's new forecast on the world's economy is expected in about five weeks, Maury Obstfeld said. And while he wouldn't divulge what that may be, he did say the organization "certainly" isn't going to lower the number from its last projection, CNBC reported.

In July, the IMF forecast global economic growth of 3.5 percent for 2017 and 2.5 percent for 2018.

"We see broad-based

recovery. The importance is that it's really broad-based in a way that it hasn't been in a decade," Obstfeld said in a "Closing Bell" interview from the sidelines of the Federal Reserve's symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

That doesn't mean there won't be concerns ahead. While there are not any immediate downside risks, there are longer-term ones, he noted.

"One risk is just continuing tepid growth. What we're seeing now is a cyclical upswing, but potential growth remains slow," Obstfeld said.

"That brings with it political tensions which we've seen spilling over into protectionist rhetoric, for example."

Earlier Friday, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi told the audience at Jackson Hole that protectionist policies pose a 'serious risk' for growth in the global economy.

The comments come at a time when President Donald Trump has been scrutinizing US trade agreements around the world in a push to reduce trade deficits and boost conditions for American manufacturers.

Moody's Analytics expects BoK to hold policy rate steady

South Korea's central bank is likely to hold its key rates steady this month as soft economic growth and subdued inflation will allow it to sit on the sidelines, a leading provider of economic analysis said Sunday.

The Bank of Korea (BoK) is set to hold its rate-review session to decide whether to keep or adjust the all-time low rate of 1.25 percent, Yonhap reported.

Moody's Analytics said in an economic preview, "Further interest rate cuts are firmly off the cards despite below-potential growth," noting core inflation is oscillating around 1.5 percent year-over-year, below the central bank's two percent target.

Moody's Analytics said private debt is elevated, particularly with households, and reigniting leveraging would cause further concerns about sustainability. It also said elevated household debt is preventing South Koreans from materially loosening their purse strings.

South Korea's overall household debt came to 1,388.3 trillion won (\$1.22 trillion) as of end-June, up 10.4 percent from a year earlier, according to data compiled by the BoK.

In June, BoK Governor Lee Ju-yeol said the central bank may take a monetary tightening approach if the economy shows signs of a robust recovery.

Meanwhile, Moody's Analytics said South Korea's industrial production likely improved to 0.5 percent year-over-year in July after a 0.3 percent decline in June.

"Even though global tech demand is buoyant, South Korean manufacturers have faced mediocre manufacturing growth, at best," Moody's Analytics said.

"We expect production to improve in the second half since domestic demand has improved and the global economy remains healthy."



YONHAP NEWS

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2903	Chinese Yuan	0.1504
Euro	1.1924	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.2882	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3143
Australian Dollar	0.7937	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0091	Saudi Riyal	0.2665

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$47.86	Silver	\$17.06
Gold	\$1296.50	Platinum	\$977.00
Copper	\$3.03	Wheat	\$433.25

An estimated 10 percent of Los Angeles is covered in asphalt. On sunny days, the heat retained by these paved surfaces can make neighborhoods feel far hotter than those in more rural areas.

Brazil abolishes huge Amazon reserve

The Brazilian President Michel Temer has abolished an Amazonian reserve the size of Denmark, prompting concerns of an influx of mineral companies, road-builders and workers into the species-rich forest.



DANIEL BELTRA/GREENPEACE

The dissolution of the Renca reserve — which spans 46,000sq.km. on the border of the Amapa and Para states — was described by one opposition senator Rauloffe Rodrigues of the Sustainability Network party, as the “biggest attack on the Amazon of the last 50 years”, wrote The Guardian.

Conservationists said it will open the door for mining companies to enter Renca — the Portuguese acronym for the National Reserve of Copper and Associates — which was set up in 1984 and encompasses nine protected areas.

More than 20 domestic and multinational firms have expressed an interest in the region which is thought to contain deposits of gold, copper, tantalum, iron ore, nickel and manganese.

The government said the reserve is being abolished to attract foreign investment, improve exports and boost an economy that has been struggling to emerge from its deepest recession in decades.

It claimed the change of status would not affect conservation areas and indigenous territories in the region, but Amazon activists warned commercial exploitation by big companies in the past has been followed by illegal land grabbers, artisanal miners and road builders.

Christian Poirier of Amazon Watch said Temer's decision had to be seen in the context of wider efforts by his government to erode protected areas, weaken environmental licensing, and diminish indigenous rights in the interests of wealthy supporters in the extractive industries.

Geothermal, a key source of clean energy in Central America

Energy from the depths of the earth — geothermal — is destined to fuel renewable power generation in Central America, a region with great potential in this field.

According to IPS, David López, president of the government's Lempa River Executive Hydropower Commission, in a regional workshop on geothermal energy, said, “Volcanoes have always been a menace to humanity but now in El Salvador they are a resource to generate clean, renewable and cheap energy. Now they represent the future of our nations.”

The August 21-22 workshop in El Salvador and a regional conference on clean energies held the following three days allowed representatives of the governments of the region, experts and academics to exchange experiences and discuss key issues to promote geothermal energy as one of the cleanest and cheapest renewable energy sources.

Central America, with a total population of 40 million people and annual economic growth of three percent, has shown a 65-percent increase in energy demand in the last 12 years.

And by 2020, this region will require an injection of seven



EDGARDO AYALA/IPS

additional gigawatts of energy to the current supply, according to a report published in July by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Furthermore, seven million people still have no or little access to electricity, according to IRENA, which is devoted to promoting development of sustainable energy around the world.

The motor that moves Central

America has been driven mainly by hydropower plants, but the new scenario in an increasingly changing world has enabled the entry of new players.

Geothermal energy has gradually been gaining strength. It is the energy produced by the internal heat of the earth, which is concentrated in areas where there are volcanoes or geysers, known as geothermal reservoirs, which can

produce clean energy indefinitely.

The heat or thermal energy is transferred to the surface, and the force generated by the steam is used to power a turbine that moves an electric generator, in a plant within or near a producing field.

Given the environmental vulnerability of Central America and the impacts that climate change is already causing, with

phenomena such as increasingly long droughts, it is vital for the region to depend less on hydropower generation and to make greater efforts to develop other options, geologist Leonardo Solís, from the state Costa Rican Institute of Electricity, said.

“If there are climate variations, droughts, etc., how do we compensate? We have to say that geothermal energy is an excellent complement to other energies,” he said, during a visit to the Ahuachapán Plant, one of the two geothermal plants in El Salvador, as part of the activities on clean energies in the area.

The workshop was organized by LaGeo, the state company in charge of the production of geothermal energy in El Salvador, and IRENA, with the support of the German Institute for International Cooperation (GIZ), while the conference was coordinated by IRENA together with other bodies.

Geothermal energy in the region started to be developed in the 1970s in El Salvador, with the inauguration of its first plant in Ahuachapán, in the west of the country, and later it began to be developed in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras.

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

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

Daily consumption of kimchi can lower the risk of contracting atopic dermatitis by 32 percent compared to those that do not consume the Korean side dish, a report by a team of local scientists said.

Bone fracture warning: Five signs you suffer from dangerous muscle decline

Bone fractures are more likely in people with sarcopenia — a condition characterized by loss of muscle and strength. Sarcopenia is a condition where muscle mass and strength is lost as you get older, according to express.co.uk.

This can cause significant reduction in a person's strength, which can also affect gait and balance, causing difficulty climbing stairs and lifting objects.

The condition is estimated to affect 4.6 percent of men and 7.9 percent of women with an average age of 67 years, according to research published in the journal Age and Aging.

Muscle mass starts to decline from the age of 30 years, and it is estimated people will lose three to eight percent of muscle mass per decade.

It has long been thought to be an inevitable part of the aging process.

However, according to the International Osteoporosis Foundation, scientists have recently been researching whether it is possible to slow loss of muscle mass and strength.

While sarcopenia is most commonly seen in inactive people, it also affects those who are physically active throughout their life.

At the moment experts believe age-related factors that cause sarcopenia include hormone levels changing, protein requirements alter, motor neuron die and we tend to become more sedentary.



express.co.uk

Additionally, poor nutrition, such as a lack of vitamin D, is thought to play a part.

The condition is associated with serious health issues, including frailty, disability, morbidity and mortality. These are five main symptoms of the condition.

Muscle size: People may begin to notice a decrease in muscle size. Unlike some other symptoms, it can be physical indicator of the condition.

Weakness: Feeling weak is another sign. This can increase people's risk of falling.

Endurance: Losing endurance — or stamina — is another indicator. Physical endurance is important for being able to do everyday activities.

Balance: Experiencing poor balance can be a sign of sarcopenia. This can lead to a person avoiding physi-

cal activities, which in turn can speed up muscle loss.

Stairs: Issues climbing stairs can also be caused by the condition. In the elderly, having sarcopenia can raise risk of falling.

Research by the University of Southampton has linked muscle loss with increased fractures and falls.

Skinny patients far more likely die after common heart treatments

Skinny patients are far more likely to die after common heart treatments than those who are overweight, a major study suggested.

Research on more than one million adults found those who were underweight were five times as likely as obese patients to die after a routine cardiac procedure, telegraph.co.uk wrote.

Obese patients fared even better than those of normal weight, the study found, in a phenomenon dubbed 'the obesity paradox'.

The findings, presented at the European Society of Cardiology Congress in Barcelona, come from a US study which tracked patients for 30 days after their procedure.

All had undergone cardiac procedures used to investigate and unblock narrowed arteries.

Around 100,000 such procedures which go on to use balloons and stents to keep the arteries open are performed in England each year.

The study found that patients who were underweight had far greater risks than other patients — with the highest rates of readmission, the longest lengths of stay and the highest death levels.

Overall, those who weighed too little had death rates of six percent, compared with a rate of 2.3 percent among those of normal weight, and 1.7 percent among those who were overweight.

The lowest rates of all — at 1.2 percent — were among those who were obese.

The study tracked more than one million patients who underwent cardiac catheterization, an investigative procedure, which in 42 percent of cases was followed with the insertion of a stent or balloon.

The research did not establish why those carrying excess weight fared so much better.

One theory is that larger people have greater energy reserves to beat their illness.

Experts also believe that being underweight could be a symptom of poorer health, and that such patients might be more likely to be given too high a dose of drugs with bleeding risks.

Lead author Dr. Afnan Tariq, an interventional cardiology fellow, from Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, said, "The obesity paradox has flummoxed researchers for some time, and our research also flips the conventional wisdom that a higher BMI should portend a worse outcome."



megared.com

"We found that the lower BMI group had worse outcomes across the board, including readmission, length of stay, cost, and mortality."

He said evidence suggesting that excess pounds offered some protection after surgery was mounting up.

"Further research will certainly add to the growing body of evidence, but the scales seem to be tipping in favor of higher BMI patients having better outcomes than normal weight patients."

"This study also reinforces the notion that the frail, those with the lowest BMI, have the worst outcomes — suggesting that when it comes to cardiac catheterization, the smaller they are, the harder they fall."

Underweight patients were 18 percent more likely than normal weight patients to be readmitted within 30 days, while overweight and obese patients had the lowest readmission rates, and were more than 10 percent less likely to be readmitted.

The phenomenon is known as the obesity paradox because excess weight is one of the major risk factors for heart disease, and the NHS advises a healthy diet and lifestyle as one of the best ways to protect against the killer.

A healthy weight helps prevent and manage conditions like high blood pressure, high cholesterol and type 2 diabetes which increase the risk of heart disease.

Dr. Mike Knapton, associate medical director at the British Heart Foundation, said, "This intriguing paradox seems to suggest that overweight and obese patients have better outcomes following certain treatments for heart disease."

"But we know you are far less likely to get heart disease in the first place if you maintain a healthy weight."

"Being overweight increases your risk of a range of health issues so keep active, cut down on alcohol and eat a healthy balanced diet."

Mystery of sudden heart attacks in healthy people

Heart attacks are most commonly caused by high blood pressure — and are a symptoms of cardiovascular disease.

However, there are sudden heart attacks which can affect younger people and affect up to 1,000 people a year in the UK, express.co.uk reported.

These heart attacks are called spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD), which occurs when one or more of the inner layers of a coronary artery tears away from the outer layer.

Blood is able to flow into the space between the layers, which causes a blood clot.

This can reduce the flow of blood through the artery which



medicalnewstoday.com

can cause a potentially fatal heart attack.

SCAD attacks have been linked to severe emotional stress which can be caused by major life events.

The condition is unusual

because it occurs when people who aren't at risk of cardiovascular disease.

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) said, "The symptoms are very similar to those of angina or a heart attack."

"You may feel a heaviness or tightness in your chest, which may spread to your arms, neck, jaw, back or stomach."

"You may also feel short of breath, sick, sweaty and light headed."

"If the artery becomes completely blocked you may have a heart attack — which puts you at risk of a cardiac arrest."

The BHF said CHD doesn't appear to be preventable.

It added, "Further research is needed to help us understand this rare condition but we know SCAD usually stroke between the ages of 19 and 64."

"Most people with SCAD will have few or no risk factors for heart and circulatory

disease. Over 80 percent of those with SCAD are women."

Research into SCAD is ongoing and the BHF said it is working to find clues about what causes the condition and how best to treat it.

Experts said treatment for SCAD will carry from person to person depending on their condition and how severe their symptoms are.

In some people, SCAD can be managed with medication alone. However some cases require stenting to the affected artery and sometimes treatment by coronary artery bypass surgery.

Young people face stroke risk with methamphetamine use

Using methamphetamines may increase the risk of stroke among young people, according to a new review.

Methamphetamine use was linked most strongly to a type of stroke caused by bleeding in the brain, known as a hemorrhagic stroke, as opposed to ischemic stroke, which is caused by blood clots, foxnews.com reported.

What's more, strokes among young methamphetamine users tend to be deadlier than strokes among young people in general, the review found.

Given the increasing use of methamphetamine worldwide, the findings are cause for concern, the researchers said.

"With the use of

methamphetamine increasing, particularly more potent forms, there is a growing burden of methamphetamine-related disease and harms, particularly among young people.

"The researchers wrote in issue of the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry.

"In fact, it's likely that methamphetamine abuse is contributing to the increase in the rate of stroke among young people that has been seen in recent decades."

In the review, the researchers analyzed data from 77 previous reports on the link between methamphetamine use and stroke in people under age 45.

These data included reports of just a single person or of a

few patients, as well as reports of larger groups of people who either used illicit drugs or had a stroke.

Overall, the reports showed a link between methamphetamine use and stroke, particularly hemorrhagic stroke, the researchers said.

For example, one study of more than three million patients treated at hospitals in Texas found that young people who abused amphetamines (including methamphetamine) were five times more likely to have a hemorrhagic stroke, compared with young people who didn't use this type of drug.

In addition, the review looked at 98 cases of young people who



heartandstroke.ca

had a stroke and used methamphetamine.

Of these strokes, 80 percent were hemorrhagic. This is much higher than the rate of hemorrhagic stroke among the general

population of people under 45, in which 40 percent to 50 percent of strokes are hemorrhagic, the review said.

About one-third of young methamphetamine users who

experienced a hemorrhagic stroke died as a result of the stroke.

That's also much higher than the death rate among young people in the general population who experience a stroke, which is around three percent, the study said.

Hemorrhagic stroke is associated with vascular abnormalities, such as high blood pressure and vasculitis, or inflamed blood vessels, according to the review.

And repeated use of methamphetamine raised blood pressure even in those users whose blood pressure was normal to start with, the researchers said.

Young people who use methamphetamine, and the doctors

who treat them, need to be aware of the increased risk of stroke tied to this drug, the researchers said.

Users should also be aware of early warning signs of stroke; some users may experience symptoms such as headache, speech and language difficulties, and vision problems that may be temporary at first, but which later predict a full-blown stroke.

The researchers said, "The increased risk of hemorrhagic stroke in particular should be highlighted to young people who may use methamphetamine, and to their communities."

"Which may encourage them to seek help and get treatment for their drug use."

Futuristic house robots could be weaponized by hackers

Household robots which will soon be around us could be weaponized by hackers, experts warned.

Cesar Cerrudo and Lucas Apa from the cybersecurity firm IO-Active said current and future robots have vulnerabilities which would allow hackers to spy and launch attacks on users, according to express.co.uk.



Lucas Apa with the Alpha 2 'humanoid' robot which he warned could be weaponized.

The pair have identified nearly 50 vulnerabilities in home, business and industrial robots which could be exploited and potentially weaponized.

Apa said, "Our research shows proof that even non-military robots could be weaponized to cause harm."

"These robots don't use bullets or explosives, but microphones, cameras, arms and legs."

"The difference is that they will be soon around us and we need to secure them now before it's too late."

Apa warned that danger lurks in the home as he revealed how a 43.8cm Alpha 2 'humanoid' robot from Ubtech — advertised as 'your new family member' — could be programmed to violently jab a screwdriver.

He added, "Maybe it's small and it's not really going to hurt right now, but the trend is that the robots are going to be more powerful. We tested industrial ones which are really heavy and powerful, and some of the attacks work with them."

Apa and his colleague in a January report claimed that half a dozen robot manufacturers' products had similar vulnerabilities, but only a few of these problems had now been addressed by companies. The news comes as a letter signed by more than 100 leading robotic experts urged the UN to ban the development of killer military robots and autonomous weapons.

Nathan Wenzler, chief security strategist at AsTech, said, "The potential impact to companies, and even countries, could be massive."

"Should an attacker exploit the vulnerability within the applications that control these robots?"

A spokesman for Rethink Robotics, which makes the Baxter and Sawyer assembly-line robots, said that all but two issues — in the education and research versions of its robots — had been fixed.

Study finds drones accurate for relay of RFID signals for inventory control

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have developed a system that enables small, safe, aerial drones to read radio frequency ID tags from tens of meters away with better accuracy.

Radio frequency ID, or RFID, tags were originally expected to revolutionize supply chain management due to their low cost, battery-free design, UPI reported.

RFIDs received power wirelessly from scanners and then broadcast identifying numbers to allow warehouse managers to log inventory more efficiently.



Fadel Adib, the Sony Corporation

Career Development Assistant Professor of Media Arts and Sciences at MIT, said, "Between 2003 and 2011, the US Army lost track of \$5.8 billion of supplies among its warehouses."

"In 2016, the US National Retail Federation reported that shrinkage — loss of items in retail stores — averaged around \$45.2 billion annually."

"By enabling drones to find and localize items and equipment, this research will provide a fundamental technological advancement for solving these problems."

Researchers have developed a system that allows small, safe aerial drones to read RFID tags from tens of meters away while identifying the tags' locations with an average error of roughly 19 centimeters.

The team overcame the problem of using very small drones with plastic rotors to prevent injury in case of a collision.

But the small drones are too small to carry an RFID reader with a range of more than a few centimeters.

The researchers found a method of using the drones to relay signals emitted by a standard RFID reader, allowing for the more effective locating of tags.

The research was presented at the annual conference of the Association for Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group on Data Communications.

Watches, LEDs powered by yarn battery

Researchers fabricated rechargeable batteries by using highly conductive yarns that have a diameter and flexibility similar to that of a piece of cotton yarn.

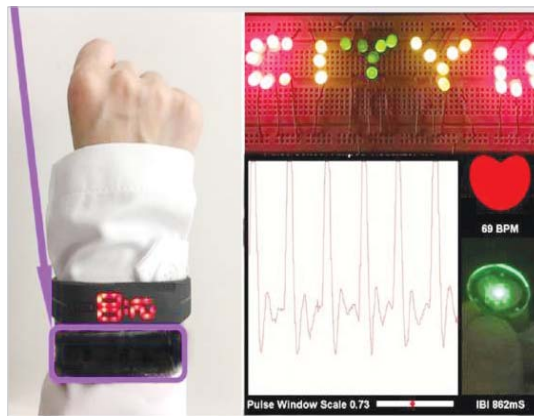
The new yarn battery can be woven into fabric and worn as a wristband or other type of clothing to power watches, LEDs, pulse monitors and other small personal electronics, phys.org reported.

The researchers, led by Chunyi Zhi, professor of materials science and engineering at the City University of Hong Kong, have published a paper on the new yarn battery in a recent issue of ACS Nano.

So far it has been challenging to develop high-performance wearable batteries due to a lack of materials that are both highly conductive yet strong and flexible enough to be woven into fabric.

By addressing these issues, the new yarn battery exhibits one of the best performances to date, including a power density similar to that of supercapacitors, as well as an energy density and capacity similar to that of conventional batteries.

Zhi said, "We utilize highly conductive and wearable yarns to fabricate a yarn battery with state-of-the-art



A wristband made of cloth woven from the new yarn battery can power a watch (L), LEDs (upper right) and a pulse sensor (bottom right).

performance in terms of capacity, energy density, power density, and rate capability.

"The yarns are further weaved to make a wristband battery to power various personal electronics."

The core of the yarn battery consists of highly flexible micrometer-sized stainless steel filaments, onto which metals

are deposited (zinc as the anode, nickel cobalt hydroxide as the cathode).

A gel electrolyte is then coated around the entire piece of yarn.

As the researchers explain, each material contributes to the good performance of the overall battery: The stainless steel yarn is strong enough

to be woven and knitted by both machine and hand, and its conductivity also provides good long-distance electron transport.

Synergistic effects between the nickel and cobalt metal ions boost the capacity and energy density values above those that would be possible using either metal

alone.

By the numbers, the battery delivers power densities of 2.2 W/cm³, and 33 mW/cm² for the whole battery.

It has energy densities of 8 mWh/cm³, and 0.12 mWh/cm² for the whole battery.

All of these values are among the highest reported to date. The battery's capacity, 16.6 mAh/cm², is the highest value so far reported for a fiber-based energy storage device, to the best of the researchers' knowledge.

After bending and twisting for 1,000 cycles, the battery retains 80 percent and 70 percent of its initial capacity, respectively.

The researchers explain that the capacity loss is due to the formation of cracks on the electrodes when deformed.

To demonstrate the battery, the researchers wove the conductive yarn into a large conductive cloth, which could be used as a wristband battery to power electronic devices such as watches and LEDs.

They expect that the yarn battery will have applications for wearable electronics, smart garments, and in healthcare in the future.

Zhi said, "Next we plan to make textile batteries that are washable, water-proof and durable, in order to be closer to commercialization."

NASA sent one identical twin brother to space for a year



Astronaut Scott Kelly (R) stands alongside his identical twin brother Mark on January 19, 2015.

Last March, NASA astronaut Scott Kelly returned to Earth after spending nearly one year in space.

During his 340 days aboard the International Space Station, or ISS, scientists were also observing Scott's identical twin brother Mark Kelly while he hung out on Earth, according to independent.co.uk.

The goal was to look at the changes in the human body that might be connected to spaceflight.

Scott and Mark made perfect subjects for this experiment because they have the same DNA.

This means scientists have had the rare opportunity to directly compare changes in Scott's genes with changes in Mark's over the same time period.

Scientists already know that living in a weightless environment for six months or less can have negative effects on the human body, like stretching your spine, shrinking your muscles, or messing up your sleep cycle. But the effects of long-term exposure to space are less well-known.

The results from NASA's Twin Study, which were first released at the end of January, can be used to prepare for future deep-space missions.

Researchers are still combing through the data after taking biological samples from each twin before, during and after Scott's space mission.

It might be some time before the full results of the Twin Study are published due to the amount and the sensitivity of the information, some of which the twins may want to keep private, according to Nature.

Some of the most interesting results so far

• Scott's telomeres got longer, then shrunk back to normal. Scott's

telomeres, or the caps at the end of chromosomes, became longer than his brother's while he was in space, but quickly returned to their normal length once he returned home.

Susan Bailey, a radiation biologist at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, said, "That is exactly the opposite of what we thought."

That's because shorter telomeres are generally associated with getting older.

Scientists are still studying what this means, but it could be linked to more exercise and eating fewer calories while in space, according to NASA.

• Scott's methylation levels decreased. The level of methylation, a process that can change the activity of a DNA segment without changing its sequence, decreased in Scott's white blood cells during flight and increased in Mark half-way through the study. NASA announced, "These results could indicate genes that are more sensitive to a changing environment whether on Earth or in space."

• The twins hosted different gut bacteria. Scott and Mark hosted different gut bacteria, or the 'bugs' that aid in digestion, throughout the year-long study.

This was probably a result of their different diets and environments, NASA wrote.

• Scientists are looking for what they're calling a 'space gene'. By sequencing the RNA in the twins' white blood cells, researchers found more than 200,000 RNA molecules that were expressed differently between the brothers.

It is normal for twins to have unique mutations in their genome, but scientists are looking closer to see if a 'space gene' could have been activated while Scott was in space.

Breakthrough made in ultra-high strength steel



Pictured from right are He Binbin, Huang Mingxin and Luo Haiwen, whose engineering teams developed the new super steel.

A team of mechanical engineers developed a super steel called D&P Steel to improve the strength-ductility trade-off.

Aerospace, automotive and defense applications need metallic materials with ultra-high strength, and in some high-loading structural applications metallic materials also need to have large ductility and high toughness to allow for the precise forming of structural components and avoid catastrophic failure, UPI wrote.

A problem that has plagued engineers is that increasing the strength

of steel often leads to a decrease in ductility, known as a strength-ductility trade-off.

A team of mechanical engineers from Hong Kong, Beijing and Taiwan has developed a Super Steel called D&P Steel to address the strength-ductility trade-off. The material cost is one-fifth of steel used in current aerospace and defense applications, the engineers said.

The study, published in Science, showed a way to develop a strong and ductile breakthrough steel to improve ductility of metallic

materials when their yield strength is beyond 2 Gigapascal, or GPa.

D&P Steel has achieved the unprecedented yield strength of 2.2 GPa and uniform elongation of 16 percent, the engineers report, in addition to the super steel having low raw materials cost and simple industrial processing.

It also outperformed nanotwinned steel, which was also developed by the same research team and demonstrated the best combination of yield strength and uniform elongation among all existing high-strength metallic materials up to its creation.

Science 'for boys' message putting girls off some careers

The idea science is for boys' is driven into girls before they are able to communicate, a Wales-based academic said.

One in six workers in key science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) sectors is a woman, Welsh Government-commissioned figures show.

According to BBC, Aberystwyth University's Hannah Dee said children spot 'tribalism' before they start making their own decisions.

Encouraging more women into STEM is a key priority for the Welsh Government.

In Wales, only 25 percent of people in ICT are women, compared to 51 percent in India.

Figures also show 12 percent of engineering and technology students are female.

The campaign Let Toys Be Toys names companies and shops on social media which categories by gender — particularly when toys relating to science and industry are automatically placed in the 'boy' section.

Dee set up the BCSWomen Lovelace Colloquium, a conference dedicated to encouraging more female students to enter the world of computing and IT.

She said studies had shown attitudes towards girls and boys throughout their lives were 'damaging' and girls picked up on such signals before they were capable of making their own decisions.

"The idea girls don't like science because they have less innate talent for science is for me completely laughable," she said.

"It's damaging to girls, girls had lower expectations of themselves and the professions they aspired to were ones which didn't have status or didn't have money.

"But it's damaging to boys too. I think boys — and in fact children — can be really cruel, and boys aren't allowed to do anything caring or they're described as a 'sissy'."

Dee, who works on school initiatives and competitions to get children interested in computers and coding, said once



cloudfront.net

girls are able to make the decision to participate they have often already pigeon-holed themselves by gender.

"One of the worst thing is the girls' microscope," she said.

"You can buy a microscope 'for girls' but it will have half the magnification of others and I think children are really good at spotting 'in group' and 'out group' behavior, they are much more tribal than adults — and adults are pretty tribal.

"So what this does is to say 'yes girls can have a microscope but it doesn't need to be as good'."

"They are very good at spotting what goes in what group and they don't just get it from the parents. However much the parents try there's going to be, as soon as they

get to the playground, different pressures."

But senior computer science lecturer Dee said, if there were a clear solution, it would already be in place. However, she said adding more role models was key.

"Code clubs and anything that's voluntary is likely to have a gender bias because, by the time they take clubs, they've already internalized patterns."

Dee, previously named the ninth most-influential woman in UK IT, added despite progress in many fields, children were more polarized now than they had been previously and things were 'going backwards'.

"I look at the clothes and the shoes and the toys, and I had buckets of Lego as a kid. In a house with two sisters, we had

dolls coming out of our ears and we had Lego, science, chemistry sets.

"It's devastating that Lego is now seen as for boys, the idea is bizarre, they are blocks."

Skills Minister Julie James said encouraging more women into STEM made 'economic sense' and was a key priority for the Welsh Government.

She agreed to establish and chair a high-level women in STEM board which will meet for the first time on September 21.

A report by the Wise campaign said increasing the number of women in STEM could be worth £2 billion to the UK economy — and help to "challenge gender stereotyping, which contributes to occupational segregation."

40% of Australian women diagnosed with depression

A survey of more than 10,000 Australian women found 40 percent have been professionally diagnosed with depression or anxiety.

The Jean Hailes Women's Health survey 2017 released on Sunday, also found 60 percent did not meet the recommended 2.5 hours of weekly physical activity because for many they were 'too tired' or it was too 'hard' to find the time, The Guardian reported.

Two out of five women surveyed, aged 18-89, considered themselves slightly overweight, while 20 percent said they were quite overweight.

Only a quarter had been screened for sexually transmitted infections in the last five years. The survey found 95 percent of women were non-smokers.

The survey director, Dr. Helen Brown, said the findings raised particular concern about the mental health of young women.

"The 18 to 35-year-olds had the highest anxiety scores, that's even more telling," she said.

Technology and social media was to blame, Brown said, "I think they put an enormous amount of pressure on themselves to be 'ever-ready', to be on Instagram et cetera, which means they constantly have their phone in their hand and being ready for it," Brown said.



theguardian.com

The survey asked women what had bothered them in the past two weeks and nearly half agreed to 'worrying too much about different things'.

More than 40 percent reported feeling anxious, nervous and 'on the edge', while many agreed to regularly feeling easily annoyed or irritated.

Adding to a woman's anxiety was an overload of health information available to them online, the survey concluded.

"They are getting a lot of information about their health but actually they are getting too much and so they're getting confused as to what they should trust," said Brown.

"In the old days we used to get health messages from our GPs, you know very restricted views, and now that it's open to everything it's really hard to work out who to believe."

The advice for women was to go back to the 'basics'. "Everything change is extremely complicated, we live in a very complex environment but it's still trying to remember the basics of eating well, exercising well or being active," said Brown.

She said being active did not mean going for a 10km run or going to the gym.

"Physical activity's not about that — it's just making sure you're active throughout the day, like using the stairs instead of the lift," Brown said.

Chinese government advisor: More Mandarin needed to fight poverty

Not enough effort is being put into teaching China's ethnic minorities standardized Mandarin Chinese during Beijing's fight to eradicate poverty, a top advisor to the government said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has declared war on poverty, and instructed local governments to eliminate impoverishment to create a 'moderately well-off society' by the beginning of 2021, in time for centenary of the ruling Communist Party, Reuters wrote.

While regional authorities have doled out supportive policies, funds and programs in China's poorest regions, they are failing to teach ethnicities enough Mandarin, Zhu Weiqun, said in an article in the state-backed Global Times newspaper.

Efforts to teach minority peoples Mandarin are 'not up to scratch' in various places, said Weiqun, who is head of the minorities and religions committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, an advisory body.

"I regularly come across low level cadres who with great effort use a mouthful of dialect to talk about their poverty alleviation plans without realizing that dealing with their own deficiencies in speaking Mandarin is an urgent task," he said.

China promotes the use of standardized Mandarin, based on the dialect of Beijing, and encourages ethnic minorities to learn the official language in a bid to improve unity in multi-ethnic areas of the country.

But there has been resistance to the push for standardization in regions such as Tibet and Xinjiang, where Tibetans and Uighurs — a Turkic speaking mostly Muslim minority — often consider language integral to their cultural identity.

Beijing denies that Mandarin promotion damages minority culture, arguing that learning the official language gives minorities greater opportunities for work and schooling.

Weiqun said in the article that communication issues with workers from Xinjiang could cause a 'vicious cycle' when companies group the workers together hindering their ability to work with others.

Over 70 percent of the population speaks Mandarin, but there levels of fluency in west China are 20 percent lower than in the east, with only 40 percent of people able to speak Mandarin in some rural areas, Weiqun said.

Using standardized Mandarin to alleviate poverty, using poverty alleviation to promote standardized Mandarin, does not only have an economic importance, but also has a deep political importance," he said.

One in three US parents worry about cyberbullying

With school bells ringing once again, one in three US parents admits to worrying about bullying and cyberbullying.

A new poll involving more than 1,500 parents of children and teens found one-third very concerned about online bullying and how it could affect their child's mental health, according to UPI.

Experts have warned about the link between cyberbullying and anxiety, depression and suicide, the University of Michigan researchers pointed out.

Dr. Gary Freed said, "Adults across the country recognized bullying, including cyberbullying, as the leading health problem for US children."

He's a professor of pediatrics at the university and co-director of the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health.

Trailing closely behind cyberbullying on parents' list of concerns are sedentary behavior, poor diet, drug abuse and car accidents, the researchers found.



primarytimes.net

The poll included more than 1,500 parents of children 18 or younger.

Internet safety, including online predators, is also a major concern among parents of children and teens, the

researchers discovered.

"Parents should regularly discuss Internet safety with their children and teens and ways to prevent problems," Freed said in a university news release.

Dad creates app making parents' texts impossible for kids to ignore



wired.com

Parents have a new tool to help them get through to their phone-addicted kids. A father in Britain has created an app that will send texts their children are not able to ignore until they read the message.

Nick Herbert was reportedly tired of his son, Ben, ignoring messages from home and developed the app called ReplyASAP. ReplyASAP allows users to

send a text message that triggers an alarm on the recipient's phone even if their cell is on silent, sblocal.com wrote.

The message will block out anything else being done on the phone and the alarm won't end until the message is read. The app creator said, "It will alleviate the stress when I can't get hold of him as I will know that he has seen my message.

He is always playing games and has the phone on silent. It drives me crazy."

The father noted that he and Ben now have a mutual understanding that the app will be used, "only for important things and not because he needs new batteries for his Xbox controller".

The technology will not only give parents a direct line to hard-to-reach chil-

dren in an emergency, but is likely to find many others uses for adults too.

Herbert said ReplyASAP could help co-workers communicate in a crucial situation, help friends gather to search for something that's been lost.

Currently the app is only available on Android, but will reportedly be available for iOS shortly.

Wonderful people shave their heads for loved ones

In this heart-wrenching photoshoot, family members shave their heads in support of loved ones affected by cancer.

World famous photographer Rankin who has worked with the likes of Kate Moss teamed up with Macmillan Cancer Support to produce this movingly beautiful shoot, metro.co.uk reported.

Rankin, who lost his own mother to cancer in 2005, hopes to raise money for sufferers of the disease through Macmillan's 'Brave the Shave' campaign.

Among those who had their heads shaved was Jenny Deverell, pictured above. She is the mother of five-year-old Seren, pictured with her, who was diagnosed with cancer after doctors found a tumor the size of a pineapple on the child's kidney.

The 39-year-old mom from Chester, Cheshire, said: "Seren has a large tumor on one of her kidneys and a smaller one on the other, so she is having chemotherapy now."

"It is a real tough time for the whole family but Macmillan has

been absolutely fantastic, and this was a great experience for Seren and our family."

Heather Pad-dison, 30, from



L i n - colnshire, joined the campaign after three of her relatives were diagnosed with cancer.

Her aunt Shelia Moore, 56, passed away just a few days before the shoot.



Kieth Wood, from West Malling in Kent, had his hair and big beard shaved off in memory of his wife Emma who died of a brain tumor at the age of 36.



H e told how she was only diagnosed by chance after a routine eye test in 2011.

The 38-year-old said: "She hated losing her hair and even postponed radiotherapy until after our wedding day because she was worried about

how she would look. But she always looked beautiful to me. "Emma knew how much I loved my beard and I know she'll be watching down on me and laughing at my new look."

Ted Woodward, 28, from southeast London, took part in the campaign for his 18-year-old sister Hannah who despite being diagnosed with incurable cancer refuses to let her disease hold her back in normal life.

Victoria, from Leicestershire, also tragically lost her father David Baker to cancer in 2016.

She said: "I lost my dad to this horrible disease and six months later I had the terrible news that my husband also has cancer."

Victoria added: "I wanted to do this so I can help even more families going through this



get the support they need."

Kerry from Doncaster also had her head shaved for her 14-year-old son Kane who was diagnosed with follicular thyroid



RANKIN/MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

cancer, a rare form of the disease.

"The 42-year-old mom said: "Kane has never complained. He has been so strong, whereas I don't think I have ever felt so helpless in my life."

"As his mom, I'm supposed to be able to make it better and I can't, so I decided to help in a different way. If I can't fix Kane, I can help people to help others."

Lucy Barnett, 29, from East London, shaved her head for her two grandfathers who both died of cancer.

Rankin wanted to show the emotion behind individual stories in the campaign which involved more than 23,000 people and raised over £12.6 million.

He said: "This was an incredible project to work on and one very close to my heart."

"I know how hard it is to watch someone you love go through cancer from the side lines. It can make you feel totally helpless."

Beards 'help men stay healthy, handsome'

Beards have been one of style's biggest talking points for a long, long time now.

Opinion has been split on whether ditching the shaving razor in favor of letting it all grow out is a style disaster or a fashionable win.

Many celebrities (and even that boring bloke in accounts you never really talk to) have opted to go for it and it's a trend that doesn't seem like slowing down any time soon, mirror.co.uk wrote.

And it may well continue for a sometime thanks to this latest piece of advice and research, which says beards could well be keeping you healthy and handsome.

A study carried out by the University of Queensland revealed that beards can protect their owners from up to 95 percent of harmful UV rays, with an ultraviolet



GETTY IMAGES

protection factor of up to 21.

The study's lead author Professor Parisi explained: "While beards will never be as sun-safe as sunscreen, they certainly are a factor in blocking UV rays."



Backing up the findings in an interview with The Independent, Harley Street dermatologist Adam Freidman explained how fuzzy faces can also help protect against skin cancer and changes in your facial appearance.

"Sun exposure is the primary cause of photo-aging and skin damage so it makes sense that if your face is covered by a heavy beard, it may well protect your skin from the signs of aging."

"This means fewer wrinkles and a reduction in age spots commonly found on the face." However, a beard's protective qualities rely on the thickness of it — the bigger the better, rather than just a bit of five o'clock shadow.

Whether this advice has tempted you to go au naturel or you're already the proud owner of some facial foliage, it's important to take care of it.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A citizen rides in torrential rain after Typhoon Hato landed in Shenzhen, Guangzhou Province, China. VCG/GETTY IMAGES



The playful ass

An ass climbed up to the roof of a building, and frisking about there, broke in the tiling. The owner went up after him and quickly drove him down, beating him severely with a thick wooden cudgel.

The ass said, "Why, I saw the monkey

do this very thing yesterday, and you all laughed heartily, as if it afforded you very great amusement."

Those who do not know their right place must be taught it.

Themed Crossword

Themed Crossword grid with 22 numbered squares for clues.

ACROSS

- Hamilton is the capital of this Atlantic island group (7)
- Continent (4)
- African river, aka Crocodile River (7)
- South American mountain range (5)
- Caracas is the capital (9)
- America's largest state (6)
- Island, southern Indonesia, east of Bali (6)
- Biblical town, near Jerusalem (9)
- Located in 9 Across, ___ Falls (5)
- Montgomery is the state capital (7)
- Tehran is the capital (4)
- Tirana is the capital (7)

DOWN

- Country in central South America (7)
- Bucharest is the capital (7)
- Group of Portuguese islands in the Atlantic Ocean (6)
- Asian river, flows from Tibet to the Arabian Sea (5)
- Capital of Norway (4)
- Historic San Antonio mission (5)
- Capital of Afghanistan (5)
- Manama is the capital (7)
- Capital of Uganda (7)
- Capital of Canada (6)
- Muscat is the capital (4)
- Mountain peak in the Bernese Alps, notorious for its North Face (5)

Yesterday's solution

Grid for yesterday's crossword solution:

V U L P I N E O A T S
 I O B P I B
 X C H E E T A H G N U
 E U X E I E R
 N E S T G A N D E R R O
 T P L I O
 B A S S E T C A L V E S
 A S L H N E
 B T A I P A N G N A T
 O A C R S I O
 O W L A N T L E R S A
 N O N A O D
 A N T S F E L I N E S

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.

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in:

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

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in:

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

Juventus veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon said referees were overusing the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system after it helped award a penalty against the Italian champion for a second successive game on Saturday.



ISAAC BREKKE/PA AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS
SEAN M. HAFEEY/GETTY IMAGES

Mayweather silences McGregor with 10th round TKO

A ruthless Floyd Mayweather scored a 10th round technical knockout over mixed martial arts champion Conor McGregor on Saturday, the American cementing his legacy as an all-time boxing great with his 50th win in as many fights.

Mayweather, who had guaranteed an early finish to the 12 round contest, made good on his promise when he pinned a brave-but-limited McGregor on the ropes and mercilessly hammered the Irishman before referee Robert Byrd stepped in to halt the bout, Reuters reported.

The fight, which Mayweather insisted would be his last, sends the 40-year-old into his second retirement with an unblemished 50-0 record to surpass heavyweight legend Rocky Marciano's 49-0 mark for most wins without a loss or draw.

"This was my last fight tonight. For sure," Mayweather declared in the ring.

"Tonight was my last fight. Tonight I chose the right dance partner to dance with."

"Conor you are a hell of a champion. A win is a win, no matter how you get it. Rocky Marciano is a legend and I look forward to going into the Hall of Fame one day."

Whether the fight will be the richest of all-time as promoters had predicted will be decided later when pay-per-view numbers come in, but it certainly will not be included on any list of the great bouts in boxing.

On paper it would be hard to find a bigger mismatch, but it did not prevent millions around the globe from reaching for their wallets to purchase a pay-per-view package or the 14,623 spectators at T-Mobile Arena to

part with big money for tickets.

In the end, the fight proved to be the one-sided contest many had predicted as Mayweather shook off the rust of two years of inactivity against an outclassed double UFC champion making his professional boxing debut.

For months, the charismatic McGregor had boasted he would knock out Mayweather and his legions of loyal fans believed every word of a man capable of backing his supreme self-confidence with devastating power inside the octagon.

However, McGregor's lack of ring savvy quickly exposed him as Mayweather clinically dissected the 29-year-old, who was soon reverting to his mixed martial arts roots - clutching, grabbing and hitting his opponent repeatedly on the back of the head.

McGregor did come out full of fury and menace but Mayweather, long regarded as one of the finest defensive fighters in history, left few openings as he used the first three rounds to feel out his opponent.

Once he had studied McGregor's technique, Mayweather took complete control of the contest by the fourth round and started to land blow after blow on his easy target as the Irishman bravely battled on.

The American's domination was complete by the 10th round as he moved in for the kill to record his first early finish since he stopped Victor Ortiz in controversial fashion almost six years ago.

"I thought it was close," a defiant McGregor argued. "I thought I had him in the early rounds. I thought he was getting me in the middle toward the end."

"But where was the final two rounds? Let me wobble back to me corner. Let me try and recompose myself. You've got to put me out."

"I thought it was a little early of a stoppage. I get like that when I am tired. I get a little wobbly and flow. But you got to give it to him, that's what 50 pro fights will give you."

Invincible Iran awaits S. Korea

With Iran securing the first of Asia's 2018 FIFA World Cup spots in June, things are heating up for the remaining three automatic places at the finals in Russia next summer when the 12 teams return to action this week for the penultimate round of fixtures.

Iran may have confirmed its place at Russia after beating Uzbekistan in Tehran on Matchday 8, but Carlos Queiroz's unbeaten side will be anything but an easy opponent for second placed Korea Republic in Seoul on Thursday, the-afc.com reported.

However, should the Koreans go on to win, and Uzbekistan fail to get at least a point from its match with China in Wuhan, Shin Tae-yong's side will qualify from Group A as the second placed side and thus avoid a winner-take-all showdown in Tashkent on Matchday 10.



LAGARDERE SPORTS

Fourth-placed Syria is four points behind Korea, and three off Uzbekistan, but it has not yet lost a game at its designated home venue in Malaysia and recently recalled powerhouse forward Omar al-Somah to the side for the upcoming match against Qatar.

While Qatar and China are no longer in the equation for automatic places in the World Cup, they still have a slim chance at third place and a route through the playoffs, but they must record victories on Thursday.

Murray withdraws from US Open with ongoing hip injury

Andy Murray pulled out of the US Open after failing to recover from a hip injury.

The British world number two, 30, has not played since Wimbledon, when he was hampered by the injury as he lost to Sam Querrey in the quarter-finals, BBC reported.

Murray practiced all week but said on Saturday the injury remained an issue.

rinka in June.

"I did pretty much everything that I could to get myself ready here and took a number of weeks off after Wimbledon," added Murray, who has lost the world number one ranking to Rafael Nadal since Wimbledon.

"I obviously spoke to a lot of hip specialists. Tried resting, rehabbing, but try and get myself ready here."

"I was actually practicing OK the



TIM IRELAND/AP

"It's too sore for me to win the tournament and ultimately that's what I was here to try and do," said the Scot.

The 2012 US Open champion was due to face American world number 104 Tennys Sandgren in the first round.

It is the first time since the French Open in 2013 that Murray has withdrawn from a Grand Slam tournament.

He revealed during Wimbledon that he had suffered with a sore hip at times since his early twenties, but it became more significant following his French Open semifinal loss against Stan Waw-

last few days."

Asked if he had risked potential further damage by attempting to play at Flushing Meadows, Murray added, "I certainly wouldn't have been hurting myself more by trying to play. It was more a question of whether it would settle down in time."

"Obviously I kind of ran out of time. Maybe if I'd been able to take a little bit more time off."

Croatian fifth seed Marin Cilic will move up to Murray's place in the draw and face Sandgren in the first round later today.

United's momentum to face first real test

Three games played, three games won, 10 goals scored, none conceded, top of the league. Manchester United has had the perfect start to the season. Only one thing could possibly break United's stride and unfortunately for the club it's coming down the track.

Only two weeks after the beginning of the season the Premier League is shutting down. All across the league managers are saying goodbye to their players and hoping to get them back in one piece for the matches in a fortnight's time, goal.com reported.

For clubs which have hit the ground running, they need this fortnight off like they need a hole in the head. And that means Manchester United.

The international fixtures are distractions that Jose Mourinho could do without right now. His players are well in tune with one another and have that crucial element that in football is hard to gain but easy to lose - momentum.

United is settled and playing winning football. The wins against West Ham, Swansea and Leicester were well-earned and each one showcased the devastating power United now possesses.

Attacking moves are coming freely. There is pace on the flanks, fluid movement in the center from Romelu Lukaku and creativity in behind from Henrik Mkhitarany from Juan Mata. Pulling the strings in the middle is Paul Pogba, finally earning the credit he deserved last season for being the best midfielder in the league.

"The team is playing very well," Mourinho said after the home victory over Leicester City on Saturday as quoted by the BBC.

"They are very confident and are playing great football. I like my team very much. Three matches and nine points is nothing new for us, because last season it was three matches and nine points."

Now though and the train is forced to ground to a halt. United's training ground at Carrington will be a lonely place in the coming days as up to 16



REUTERS

first-teamers head off for international duty. Sergio Romero, Antonio Valencia and Eric Bailly are not only facing grueling matches but grueling trips to get there and back.

The remainder are facing down qualifiers of varying importance in Europe with only Mata and Anthony Martial from the weekend's starters spared international duty this time round.

Mourinho made reference to the international break in the immediate aftermath of the win against Leicester. After three straight wins, it's not what he was looking for.

"We don't have players to train," Mourinho told BT Sport. "That's a pity. Then they arrive and two days later we have to play again a very difficult match against Stoke."

Mourinho spoke out late last season about the timing of international

friendlies, coming at a time of major fixture congestion for his side.

There has been a clamor for FIFA to do something in order to alleviate the pressure of international matches coming at this early juncture of the campaign. Players are barely back and they're off again. That could affect things significantly for the league leaders.

It's not that Stoke is the mystical fortress it was once supposed to be. It's that United last season failed to win any of its games immediately following the international break.

Red Devils started the season with three straight wins - over Southampton, Bournemouth and Hull - before losing to Manchester City after being reconvened. United couldn't regain its momentum, going on to lose against Watford shortly after.

After the October break United

drew with Liverpool before a hammering at Chelsea and a draw against Burnley at home. In November the club came back from the break and drew with Arsenal and followed that up with draws against West Ham and Everton. The Manchester side beat Middlesbrough 3-1 in late March and succumbed to two draws - against West Brom and Everton again - when it returned. United missed out on a lot of points last season and many of those slippages came off the back of the international break.

Stoke therefore is a huge test and one which could well define United's suitability for a title challenge. Manchester giant has repeated the trick of last season's strong start but now must overcome this next affliction.

Ideally United would roll straight into the next fixture but instead is facing first major examination.

Art & Culture

'Kupal' to take part in Arizona Underground Filmfest



Iranian flick 'Kupal', directed by Kazem Mollaei, will compete with films from Britain, Canada, Spain, Palestine and the US in the 10th Arizona Underground Film Festival as the only Asian representative in the event.

Mollaei's debut feature film, 'Kupal' will experience its 6th US screening in this festival, which will be held during September 12-23, mehnews.com reported.

The film narrates the story of a hunter and taxidermist who experiences an unfortunate incident just moments before the turn of the year. The movie's theme is: "You can't be alone in this world!"

Mollaei, who is both the director and the scriptwriter of the film, has previously produced several successful short films which competed in national and international festivals. They include 'Please Stay Away from the Red Line', 'Minus' and 'Delete'.

Arizona Underground Film Festival is the American state's sole premier genre cult film festival, and one of the biggest underground film festivals in the country. The sole mission of filmfest is to showcase works by filmmakers who have defiantly independent visions. The organizers of the festival are on a quest to represent every genre of independent film from across the world celebrating the artist and their works.

The festival features competition categories including Narrative, Horror, Documentaries, Experimental, Animation, and Exploitation.

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Salento filmfest to host nine Iranian flicks



Nine Iranian feature and short films will be screened at Salento International Film Festival (2017), which will be held in Italy in September.

The 14th edition of the fest is scheduled to be held from September 1 to 10 in Italy, ISNA reported.

The Iranian films are 'Cold Breath' directed by Abbas Raziji, 'Descendant' directed by Yaser Talebi, 'Dowry's Sugar Bowl' directed by Ali Molagholi Poor, 'Apricot Groves' directed by Pouria Heidary Oureh, 'Now' directed by Mostafa Gandomkar, 'Kasoo' directed by Mojtaba Qassemi, 'White House' by Arastou Mafakheri, 'Women of the Silk Road' directed by Yasamin Maleknasr and 'No Exit' directed by Negar Zaka.



A ceremony to induct Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi was held on August 26, 2017 at Tehran's Vahdat Hall. The function also served as the farewell ceremony for the former culture minister Reza Salehi Amiri.



(R-L): Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi, First Vice President Es'hag Jahangiri and former culture minister Reza Salehi Amiri.

Over 20 Iranian universities among world's top

A survey by the Information Sciences Institute (ISI) reveals that 24 Iranian universities are among the world's most effective academic centers and institutes, an Iranian academic official said.

The ISI list includes universities in the top one percent of the world's academic centers. It is updated every two months, said the head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC), Mohammad Javad Dehqani, on Sunday, IRNA reported.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Iran Polymer and Petrochemical Institute are

among the world's top one percent, he added.



Most of these universities are categorized in the field of chemistry, Dehqani said.

"In the field of geology, Tehran University is among the world's top universities. In mathematics, Amirkabir University of Technology and Islamic Azad University are ranked among the world's top one percent academic centers."

In physics, the Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences, Sharif University of Technology, Isfahan University of Technology and Islamic Azad University are listed among the world's bests, ISC head said.

Saudi factory stitches gold-laced cover for Islam's holiest site

Dozens of Saudi craftsmen, mostly in their 40s and 50s, are hard at work in a factory in Mecca preparing an embroidered black and gold cloth to cover the Kaaba, the holiest site in Islam.

Known as the kiswa, the cloth is woven from silk and cotton and adorned with verses from the Quran. A new one is made each year to be placed on the Kaaba in Mecca's Grand Mosque during the annual Muslim haj pilgrimage, which begins on Wednesday, Reuters reported.

Many of the craftsmen have worked in the factory in the Oum al-Jood district of Mecca all their lives but they will retire soon, so a new generation is being trained to carry on the trade. General Manager Mohammad bin Abdullah Bajuda said Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud had ordered all the machines, which were introduced some 30 years ago to help automate the process, to be replaced with newer ones by next year.

"He also called for a new cadre of manufacturers to take the place of the current one," Bajuda said during a visit to the factory on Saturday.



A man embroiders the 'kiswa' — a silk cloth covering the Holy Kaaba — ahead of the annual haj pilgrimage, at a factory in the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia August 26, 2017.

day.

The Kaaba is a focal point of the haj, during which some two million pilgrims walk around it in a mass ritual.

When Muslims anywhere in the world say their prayers five times a day, it is towards Mecca and the Kaaba that they face.

Muslims believe The Kaaba was originally built by the prophet Ibrahim, the Biblical Abraham, on the site of the first house of worship built by Adam. It has since been rebuilt more than once.

'The best feeling'

The kiswa was manufactured in Egypt until 1962. There have been red, green or white coverings in centuries past, but now it is always black with embroidered gold calligraphy.

Nearly 670 kg (1,477 pounds) of silk, enough to cover a structure estimated to measure about 50 feet (15 meters) high and 35 to 40 feet long, is imported from Italy. Silver and gold-plated

thread comes from Germany.

But the kiswa is embroidered and stitched together in Saudi Arabia and paid for by the kingdom each year at a cost of \$6 million.

Asked about that expenditure at a time of austerity in Saudi Arabia, Bajuda said, "This glorifies the house of God. The Kaaba more than deserves this honor."

Waleed al-Juhani has worked at the factory, which opened in 1977, for 17 years.

"Thanks to God we are working to serve the holy Kaaba. This is a great blessing," he said, while embroidering a Koranic verse that takes 60 days to complete.

"When we succeed in our work, we are glad that Muslims will celebrate a new cover for the Kaaba. This is the best feeling."

At the end of the Haj, the used cloth will be cut into pieces to be distributed to dignitaries and religious organizations. Recipients regard the fragments as heirlooms.

This year's kiswa is complete, but the workers have already started on the next one.

Weather

