



Iran Daily congratulates its readers on Eid Al-Adha, the Feast of Sacrifice

# IRAN DAILY



Over 18,000 Rohingya flee to Bangladesh from Myanmar **3**

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president.ir

## Rouhani: US unable to forge anti-Iran consensus

President Hassan Rouhani said the United States under Donald Trump is not able to form a consensus against the Iran nuclear deal signed in 2015 with world powers. In an interview broadcast live on Iranian national television on Tuesday night, Rouhani said that the US lacked any backing from the other signatories for its hostile stance toward the deal, and that the Trump administration faced "the most difficult circumstances" in trying to upend it.

"Of course, we will respond to any violation of the commitments carried out by the US, but even so, the US faces the most difficult conditions and we are in the best position," Rouhani said. "We will not be the ones to initiate a violation of the nuclear deal, not ever, but neither will we sit idly by in the face of violations of the deal by others."

He pointed out that the European Union continues to support the deal, known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), despite pressure from their ally, the US.

Continued on Page 2

# Iran Air to receive two more ATR aircraft next month



## More than two million Muslims begin Hajj pilgrimage

See Page 3

Iran Air will receive two more European turbo-prop planes next month, bringing the number of new Western aircraft delivered to the country since 2016 to nine, said a deputy roads and urban development minister.



IRNA

Asghar Fakhrieh Kashan said on Wednesday that the ATR fleet may be based in the Caspian city of Rasht to connect small towns to big cities such as Tabriz and Mashhad in Iran and the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, reported Press TV.

Another hub-and-spoke model is being weighed for southern Iran, with the Persian Gulf city of Bandar Abbas being groomed as the base for traffic between Lar in Shiraz and the Qatari capital of Doha. Iran took delivery of the first four ATR aircraft in May, with the rest due to be handed over to the country by the end of 2018, including a further five this year.

They are part of 20 ATR 72-600s which Iran Air signed with the Franco-Italian aircraft manufacturer early this year as part of the Iranian flag carrier's bid to rebuild its fleet after years of sanctions.

Continued on Page 4



Exir Novin Farayand

## Exir Novin Farayand Asia Company unveils its knowledge and technology cycle, strategic products, techno-engineering services



اکسیر نوین فرآیند

Exir Novin Farayand Asia Company, as a knowledge-based economy, will introduce various types of strategic catalysts, required by refining, gas and petrochemical industries to the world.

More than 2,000 tons of various types of catalysts, manufactured by Exir Novin Farayand Asia Co. have so far been used in Iran's refining, gas and petrochemical industries which helped the country attain self-sufficiency in this regard.

Speaking in the inaugural ceremony of the company's complete catalytic cycle, the Industry, Mine and Trade Minister Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh expressed thanks to the Iranian companies purchasing domestically produced catalysts. "We should support the Iranian knowledge-based companies while ministries should help them export their products," he added. He said technology, knowledge

and industry are closely related to each other, adding efforts have been made during the past 20 years caused domestic oil and petrochemical industries to use the products manufactured by the company. The minister said about 60 types of catalysts are being produced in the company through research, development and reverse engineering. He noted that the country has achieved self-sufficiency in producing a major part of catalysts used in oil and petrochemical industries, but some products of Exir Novin Farayand Asia Company will be supplied to the market in near future. About 1000 billion rials have been invested to establish Exir Novin



Farayand Asia Company with the capacity of producing 2,500 tons of catalysts. The company, which is the manufacturer of strategic catalysts used in oil and precious metals industries, generated 550 jobs. The company's products are highly used in the refining, petrochemical and gas industries. It should be mentioned that regarding the country's requirement to catalysts, Exir Novin Farayand Asia Company has used its research teams to launch an extensive study in the related field. The company has focused its activities on the production of



catalysts containing precious metals including platinum, palladium, radium, silver and gold which are among the main requirements of the country, especially oil industry. The company has the complete cycle of the catalysts now. Exir Novin Farayand Asia Company produce catalysts for CCR and CRU naphtha reforming units and aromatic production units. It also manufacture paraffin dehydrogenation catalysts for MTBE, LAB units and production of propylene via propane and manufacture catalysts for isomerization units of refineries producing euro 4 and euro 5

gasoline and for hydrotreating and hydrocracking processes. The company also produce catalysts for oxidation of ethylene to ethylene oxide and isomerization of ethylbenzene and xylenes. It should be mentioned that all phases of recycling precious metals from spent catalysts, producing catalyst supports, refining metals, producing salts for catalysts and inoculation phases are carried out in the company. Completing the catalysts production cycle will help Iran become one of the exporters of high tech products.



Iran, Syria review counterterrorism cooperation

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari in a Wednesday meeting with the Syrian President Bashar al-Assad discussed counterterrorism cooperation. Jaber Ansari arrived in the Syrian capital Damascus on Tuesday night to meet senior political and security officials, IRNA reported. The two sides also discussed the latest developments in the region and war-torn country suffering from foreign-backed insurgency since March 2011.



SANA

The meeting came ahead of the sixth round of international peace talks on Syria slated for mid-September in the Kazakhstani capital Astana. On Monday, Jaber Ansari, who is Iran's top negotiator in the talks, met the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura in Tehran. After his talks with the UN envoy, Jaber Ansari told reporters that he held "serious and effective" talks with de Mistura on the Syria peace negotiations and security arrangements, especially in de-escalation zones, which had been agreed upon during the Astana negotiations. He added that regional nations are in charge of their own territories and no country can determine the fate of the Syrian people. "We are not trying to take anybody's place [in Syria]. Regional nations are in charge of their territories and will have control of their countries and the basic principle for the resolution of the crisis in Syria is letting people determine future of their country," he said. On the verge of the Astana talks, Iran along with Turkey and Russia and the UN are making serious efforts to pave the way for an agreement, which would restore security and stability to Syria, he added.

Report: Nonstandard wiring cause of Plasco fire

The primary cause of the deadly collapse of a burning building in the Iranian capital in January was "unauthorized and nonstandard wiring," an investigation said. An investigation commission released the report during an open session of Iran's Parliament on Wednesday. It detailed the reasons Plasco, a high-rise building in Tehran, became engulfed in flames in January, killing 26 people, including 16 firefighters. More than 230 were injured, ISNA reported. The report said the building's electrical and heating systems and fire safety regulations were not up to standard and contributed to the building fire and collapse. The fire and subsequent building collapse was the worst such disaster in Tehran since 2005, when a blaze at a historic mosque killed 59.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi

Zarif: Bolton's JCPOA exit plan to lead to 'fiasco' for US

Iran's foreign minister slammed a "game plan" drawn up by a veteran US diplomat for the Washington administration to exit the 2015 multilateral nuclear agreement, saying John Bolton's strategy would only lead to "a fiasco" for the United States. "This plan will definitely be a huge failure for the United States and it will lead to the further isolation of America in the international arena," Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a Wednesday interview, Press TV reported. Bolton, a hawkish ally of US President Donald Trump, elaborated on what he called the game plan in an op-ed published on Monday in the National Review, laying out a "strategy" for the campaign to leave the Iran deal and "its execution." He openly stated that he shares Trump's strong antipathy toward the 2015 nuclear deal, called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), between Iran and six world powers, including the US. He claimed the plan had to be presented publicly as Trump declined to meet him and receive his suggestions regarding the issue amid staff changes at the White House. Zarif pointed to Bolton's previous plan over a decade ago to halt Iran's uranium enrichment program, saying, "Mr. Bolton should remember that if his policy had been successful, the US would not have had to come to the negotiating table with Iran after 10 years of pursuing that policy and reach an agreement." The Iranian foreign minister argued that Washington's decade-long pursuit of Bolton-engineered policy to halt Iran's uranium enrichment eventually had no result but a significant increase in the number of Iran's centrifuges from 200 to nearly 20,000. This shows that pressure and sanctions will not affect the political will of the Iranian nation, Zarif said. Trump intensely campaigned against the Iran deal and remains a steadfast critic of the landmark deal, which is viewed internationally as a major win for diplomacy;



however, Iran's full compliance has forced the US president to twice certify the deal to Congress. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), tasked with monitoring Iranian compliance, has consistently verified that Iran has been holding up its end of the bargain.

Iran reacts to UAE FM 'insulting' remarks



Political Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman on Wednesday reacted to the comments by the United Arab Emirates' foreign minister regarding Tehran's regional role, calling them "incorrect, unconstructive and insulting." Bahram Qassemi added, "Unfortunately, the United Arab Emirates has created numerous problems for the region by adopting adventurous policies beyond its capacities," IRNA reported. The UAE's participation in Yemen war and the cruel bloodshed there, its efforts to occupy parts of Yemen's territories, its intervention in Libya, and its effort to provoke regional governments to blockade and boycott other countries are a few examples of such policies, the spokesman said. "The UAE is required to end such destructive, inefficient, and provocative policies," Qassemi added.

His statement came after the UAE's Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan urged Iran and Turkey on Tuesday to end what it called their "colonial" actions in Syria. "If Iran and Turkey continue the same historical, colonial and competitive behavior and perspectives between them in Arab affairs, we will continue in this situation not just in Syria today but tomorrow in some other country," Sheikh Abdullah said.

Iran urges int'l community to prevent 'ethnic cleansing' of Rohingya Muslims

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called on the international community to help prevent Myanmar's ongoing "ethnic cleansing" agenda against its Muslim minority. "Global silence on continuing violence against Rohingya Muslims. Int'l action crucial to prevent further ethnic cleansing - UN must rally," Zarif said in a message posted on his Twitter account on Wednesday. Also, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi on Monday expressed grave concern about the continuation of discrimination and violence against Muslims in Myanmar that has resulted in the killing and forced displacement of thousands of Rohingya Muslims, Tasnim News Agency reported. "Within the framework of respect for basic human rights and dignity as an internationally recognized norm, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses deep concern about the continued violation of Muslims' rights in Myanmar, which has led to the death and forced immigration of many of them," he said. Qassemi also expressed Iran's dissatisfaction with the continuation of the "miserable situation and the slaughter and displacement of Myanmar Muslims." The Rohingyas have long faced severe discrimination and were the targets of violence in 2012 that killed hundreds and drove about 140,000 people from their homes to camps for the internally displaced. Over the past days, intensifying clashes between security forces and insurgents in western Myanmar have sent terrified civilians scrambling toward the Bangladesh border in a desperate search for refuge.

Rouhani: US unable to forge anti-Iran consensus

From Page 1 "As you know, the EU's stance on the JCPOA is clear; all 28 countries in the bloc have announced that they are committed to the nuclear agreement," he added. Rouhani shrugged off any concerns about recent attempts by the US government to influence the United Nations nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is responsible for overseeing Iran's compliance with the terms of the pact. "I doubt that the Agency will bow to pressure from the US, and neither will we," Rouhani said. Rouhani also noted that Iran can never be bullied into permitting the inspection of its military sites. Rouhani said that Washington's demands from IAEA over the inspection

of Iran's military sites would probably not be accepted by the UN body. "The International Atomic Energy Agency is very unlikely to agree to the US's demands over inspecting our military sites," he stressed. The president referred to the Friday statements by US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley who urged the IAEA to request access to Iranian military sites, in what is regarded as an attempt by the US to undermine the JCPOA. The deal was reached 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. US President Donald Trump has called the JCPOA — which was negotiated under his predecessor, Barack



US MISSION TO THE UN

Obama — "the worst deal ever" and repeatedly threatened to tear it up. Rouhani further stressed that regulations determine the framework of Iran's relation with the IAEA not Washington and its pressure.



# Over 18,000 Rohingya flee to Bangladesh from Myanmar

At least 18,500 Rohingya Muslims, many sick and some with bullet wounds, fled into Bangladesh over the past six days amid renewed fighting in western Myanmar.

The figures from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Wednesday came amid increasing concerns by the international community, aljazeera.com wrote.

Foreign governments and organizations fear Rohingya villages are being subject to collective punishment after an armed group on August 5 attacked police posts and an army base in Rakhine state leaving over 100 people dead.

In the days following the attacks, the Myanmar army has burned down areas of Rakhine state and fired on civilians, according to rights groups and witnesses. Scores have reportedly been killed.

While Rohingya Muslims have largely fled to Bangladesh, Rakhine Buddhists have mostly sought sanctuary in towns and monasteries to the south and east of the fighting.

"As of last night, 18,500 people have come across" from Myanmar's Rakhine state, Chris Lom, the IOM's Asia-Pacific spokesman, told the AFP news agency.

Lom said exact figures were difficult to obtain because many of those who have made it into Bangladesh might not register with local authorities.

"We also know there are people stuck at the border but we do not know how many," Lom said.

Bangladesh, which already hosts some 400,000 Rohingya who have fled Myanmar over the years, has vowed to block new arrivals.

"They are in a very, very desperate condition," said Sanjukta Sahany, who runs the IOM office in the southern town of Cox's Bazar near the border.

"The biggest needs are food, health



REUTERS

services and they need shelter. They need at least some cover, some roofs over their heads."

Sahany said many crossed "with bullet injuries and burn injuries," and that aid workers reported that some refugees "gave a blank look" when questioned.

"People are traumatized, which is quite visible."

The UN has pressured Myanmar to protect civilian lives without discrimination and appealed to Bangladesh to admit

those fleeing the military counteroffensive.

Northern Rakhine has been under lockdown since October last year when attackers ambushed a series of border posts inside Myanmar.

That prompted a massive military response, leading to some 87,000 Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh, bringing with them harrowing tales of murder, rape and burned villages.

The UN believes the Myanmar govern-

ment's response to the crisis may amount to ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Satellite data recently accessed by Human Rights Watch show widespread fires burning in at least 10 areas in Rakhine.

Myanmar authorities say Rohingya have been setting the fires during fighting with government troops, while Rohingya have blamed soldiers who have been accused of carrying out extrajudicial killings.

## More than two million Muslims begin Hajj pilgrimage

More than two million Muslims from around the world began the hajj pilgrimage at Islam's holiest sites Wednesday, a religious duty and an epic multi-stage journey.

On the esplanade of Mecca's Grand Mosque, the excitement was palpable as crowds from all four corners of the world gathered for a pilgrimage that all able Muslims are required to perform at least once in their lives, AFP wrote.

Wearing the simple garb of the pilgrim, the faithful waited at dawn with their suitcases for buses to take them to Mina five kilometers (three miles) to the east.

There, hundreds of thousands will gather before setting off today at dawn to climb Mount Arafat, the pinnacle of the Hajj.

First, however, they must perform a ritual walk known as the tawaf seven times around the Kaaba, a black masonry cube wrapped in a heavy silk cloth embroidered in gold with Quranic verses at the center of Mecca's Grand Mosque.

The shrine is the point toward which Muslims around the world pray.



pbs.org

Saudi authorities have mobilized vast resources including more than 100,000 security personnel to avoid a repeat of the stampede in 2015 in which thousands of pilgrims were killed.

This year's pilgrimage comes amid a diplomatic crisis between a Saudi-led bloc of Arab countries and Qatar accused of supporting extremist groups. Doha denied the allegation, dismissing the

blockade as illegal.

A blockade imposed on Qatar since June 5 has seen sea and air links shut down, preventing many Qataris from making the Hajj.

Although Saudi Arabia relaxed entry restrictions across its land border with the emirate two weeks before the Hajj, Qatar said only a few dozen of its nationals were able to join the pilgrimage.

## Lebanese Army raises flag after Daesh withdrawal



AFP

The Lebanese Army on Tuesday raised the national flag on the highest hills of a barren area near the border with Syria, where Daesh terrorists were holed up before their withdrawal earlier this week.

The army command said in a statement that it had scoured the area for explosives following the retreat of the terrorists, arabnews.com reported.

"The Lebanese flags were raised on the ... highest peaks in the area, while specialized units in the Engineers Regiment surveyed the area in search of land mines, explosive devices, and suspicious objects left by the terrorists."

The deployment came just after the army was moved to deny reports claiming the resignation of the commander of the military operation in the area, criticizing the websites that published the news.

## Death toll from Harvey rises to at least 18

The death toll from Harvey rose to at least 18 as three more fatalities were confirmed in the Houston area.

The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences updated its storm-related deaths Tuesday night to include an 89-year-old woman, Agnes Stanley, who was found floating in four feet of floodwater in a home, Fox News wrote.



nymag.com

A 76-year-old woman was found floating in floodwater near a vehicle. Her name was not released. A 45-year-old man, Travis Lynn Callihan, left his vehicle and fell into floodwaters. He was taken to a hospital, where he died Monday.

Family members and authorities have reported at least 18 deaths although the bodies of some victims apparently swept away in the floodwaters have not been found.

## N. Korea warns more missiles to come as UN condemns launch

The United Nations condemned North Korea's "outrageous" firing of a ballistic missile over Japan, demanding that the country halt its weapons program and hold back on any threat of new sanctions.

North Korea said the launch of an intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) on Tuesday was to counter US and South Korean military drills and was a first step in military action in the Pacific to "contain" the US territory of Guam, The Independent wrote.

The North's leader, Kim Jong Un, ordered the launch to be conducted for the first time from its capital, Pyongyang, and said more exercises with the Pacific as they were needed, the North's KCNA news agency said on Wednesday.

"The current ballistic rocket launching drill like a real war is the first step of the military operation of the KPA in the Pacific and a meaningful prelude to containing Guam," KCNA quoted Kim as saying. KPA stands for the Korean People's Army.

North Korea this month threatened to fire four missiles into the sea near Guam, home to a major US military presence, after President Donald Trump said the North would face "fire and fury" if it threatened the United States.

The 15-member Security Council said it was of "vital importance" that North Korea take immediate, concrete actions to reduce tension and called on all states to implement UN sanctions.

However, the US-drafted statement, which was agreed by consensus, does not threaten new sanctions on North Korea.

## Palestinians, Jordan angered by Israeli MKs' Aqsa visits

The Palestinian Authority and Jordan censured recent visits by two members of the Israeli's Knesset to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound during a one-day break in the regime's ban prohibiting lawmakers from entering the sensitive site.

Yehuda Glick, of the right-wing Likud party, and Shuli Molelem-Refaeli, of the far-right Jewish Home party, toured Tuesday the Haram al-Sharif, which Jews call Temple Mount, in Beit-ul-Moqaddas, Press TV wrote.

The legislators were accompanied by heavily-armed Israeli policemen.

The visits were made possible after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lifted the two-year ban on lawmakers' entry into the site for a trial period to test the waters and determine if they would provoke tensions.

The move angered the Palestinians, with Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, condemning the visits as provocative.

He said Israeli provocations at Al-Aqsa Mosque will lead to dire consequences whose responsibility will be of Tel Aviv alone.

Jordan, the custodian of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, also censured the visits as "unacceptable," saying that Israel's "irresponsible decision will increase tension and escalation at a place holy to all Muslims."

Jordanian government spokesman, Mohammad al-Momeni, called on the Israeli regime "as the occupying power to take measures to prevent provocations by extremists against the Al-Aqsa Mosque."

Moreover, Israeli MK Masud Ghnaim said allowing right-wing politicians at the Al-Aqsa compound had "the goal of provoking Arab and Muslim sentiment and inflaming the situation."

Another Israeli legislator, Ahmad Tibi, also accused the right-wing Israeli lawmakers of seeking to change the status quo of the site.

"The Arab MKs come to their home, to their mosque. But the right-wing extremist MKs storm the mosque with the protection of ... police, and they are the same ones who want to change the status quo to allow them to pray in the courtyard of the mosque," he added.

In October 2015, Netanyahu barred Israeli MKs from visiting the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. The order was meant to calm unrest that erupted in part over Palestinian fears that Israel was planning to assert further control over the mosque complex.

## UN chief calls for end to Gaza blockade

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for an end to the decade-long Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, describing the situation in the coastal Palestinian enclave as one of the most "dramatic humanitarian crises."

Guterres made the remarks during a visit on Wednesday to a school run by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, also known as UNRWA, in northern Gaza, Press TV reported.

The besieged Palestinian territory is undergoing an electricity and water crisis.

"I am deeply moved to be in Gaza today, unfortunately to witness one of the most dramatic humanitarian crises that I've seen in many years working as a humanitarian in the United Nations," Guterres stated.

He added that it was "important to open the closures," in a reference to the Israeli siege of Gaza and Egypt's closure of Rafah border crossing, the only passageway to the outside world for the impoverished coastal Palestinian sliver.

The UN secretary general wrapped up his three-day visit to the Palestinian territories on Wednesday. The trip was the first of its kind since Guterres took office.

During the trip, Guterres met Israeli and Palestinian officials in Beit-ul-Moqaddas and Ramallah.

The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas welcomed Guterres' visit, urging him to work for the lifting of the Israeli blockade.

Last month, a UN official warned that Gaza was drawing closer to becoming "unlivable" much faster than previous expectations, as Israel's all-out blockade continued.



## SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

## CBI: Foreign banks to open L/Cs for Iran

Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Valiollah Seif announced that foreign banks will allocate credit lines for Iran to implement projects in different fields.

"A sum of €22 billion will be considered for Iran to boom its economy," Seif was quoted as saying by Fars News Agency.

The CBI governor noted that Austria, Denmark, Italy and some other countries will open lines of credit for Iran in coming weeks.

He recalled that a separate €3-billion L/C was recently signed with South Korea indicating that the measure would lead to further investment and a rise in production and employment.

CBI governor also underlined the need to follow up the compliance of Iran's economic activities with international standards referring to adequate international banking ties as a necessary prerequisite for this.

In relevant remarks earlier on Tuesday, Deputy Economy Minister Mohammad Khazaei said that foreign investors are likely to make huge investments in Iran's development projects.



IRAN DAILY

"A sum of \$29-30 billion will be invested in Iran in the near future," Khazaei said, addressing the Islamic Banking Conference in Tehran.

The Iranian deputy economy minister said that the country has allocated \$30 billion for its economic growth.

"Negotiations leading to these contracts have been underway for a long time and the Central Bank of Iran has been meticulous about every single word mentioned in the contracts," Khazaei said.

"However signing these contracts doesn't mean that our country will be in debt. We have signed a line of credit agreement with Exim Bank of South Korea, an Austrian bank and the national bank of Italy," he said.

In a relevant development in early August, Chairman of the French-Iranian Trade Promotion Center (CPCFI) Mohsen Rashidi announced that a large number of French companies have shown interest in investment in Iran's economic development projects.

"French companies are eagerly looking for investment opportunities in the Iranian market, as the country today is in a position to choose from an array of trade offers," Rashidi said. He reiterated that since the implementation of the nuclear agreement between Iran and the major world powers, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), numerous French enterprises visited Iran.

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

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

Iran and the six world powers (the US, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany) signed the nuclear agreement in Vienna in July 2015, under which Iran accepted to curb its nuclear program in return for lifting the related sanctions.

## Zambian president hails Iran's economic growth

Zambian President Edgar Lungu lauded Iran's significant economic progress and hailed the long-standing ties between the two countries.

Zambia is eager to learn about how Iran has successfully exploited oil resources for the benefit of its citizens, Lungu said in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Zambia Ahmad Erfanian, Zambia Daily Mail reported.

He said Zambia admires Iran's significant economic progress and its position as one of the world's largest holders of oil and gas reserves.

Iran and Zambia have a long-standing history of collaboration, particularly within the framework of non-aligned movement, he underlined, expressing confidence that during the Iranian ambassador's tenure, the two countries will continue to enhance cooperation.

Erfanian, for his part, said Iran is advanced in science, medicine and agriculture and is ready to share its experiences with Zambia.

Expansion of relations with African nations in all political, economic and cultural fields is top on the agenda of Iran's foreign policy.

Rouhani, who was reelected as president in May, has repeatedly stressed his government's interest in boosting relations with African states.

## Iran Khodro to finalize deal for Nissan's Datsun cars

Iran Khodro expects to finalize a deal with Nissan Motor Co. for production of low-budget Datsun cars, said its managing director.

According to Press TV, Hashem Yekke Zare' further said, "We will enter into a contract with Japan's Datsun in the next few months."

The contract will be signed before mid-March 2018, he added.

Nissan had earlier said it would send so-called knockdown kits, to be assembled locally, rather than finished autos to Iran and that the automaker was looking to export kits for several thousand vehicles a year.

Iran Khodro's talks with Nissan for production of affordable cars of high quality began in early 2016, with the Iranian automaker targeting Datsun cars in the price range of \$11,500.

The production of Datsun cars can potentially enable Iran Khodro to phase out its dilapidated models in the same price category including the Peugeot 405.

Datsun is a resurrected brand targeting emerging markets. Nissan quit using the Datsun brand in 1981 but revived the nameplate in 2013 for increasing sales to Indonesia, India and Russia.

## Massive auto market

Iran, which is the Middle East's largest auto market, has a population of more than 80 million who are estimated to buy more than one million cars in 2017.

The automobile industry is seen as Iran's biggest non-oil sector, accounting for nearly 10 percent of its gross domestic product. Iran Khodro and Saipa companies account for more than 90 percent of the total domestic production in Iran.

According to Yekke Zare', Iran levies tariffs of 40 percent for imports and 26 percent for production, which means Iranian customers have to buy the imported cars at bloated prices. Officials say the tariffs are needed to protect the domestic automotive industry, which is the largest in the Middle East and North Africa.



REUTERS

Iran's automakers have been approaching Honda, Toyota and Mitsubishi in the hope of transferring Japanese technology.

Mitsubishi Motors' plug-in hybrid Outlander SUV is expected to hit Iranian roads as early as fall, Japan's largest financial daily the Nikkei reported earlier this month.

The redesigned Outlander, which curbs use of the conventional engine in favor of the twin electric motors, will be built in Japan and shipped to Iran, it added.

## Japanese footprints in Iran

Prior to the 1980s, Japan had a growing presence in the Iranian automotive sector, with brands such as Talbot and Datsun growing in popularity. Japanese cars are still considered reliable compared with other imports such

as Chinese vehicles.

Cars are the major source of Iranian imports from Japan. Supplies of vehicles like Mitsubishi, Honda and Toyota continued even during the most stringent point of sanctions, though in limited numbers.

Trade balance between the two countries has historically been in favor of Iran, where Japan's foreign policy toward Tehran has been directed toward its thirst for stable and reliable energy supplies. Iran continues to be Japan's third-largest oil supplier after Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Yekke Zare' said in March 2016 that Iran Khodro wanted Datsun to be its sixth international business partner after signing deals with Japan's Suzuki, Germany's Mercedes-Benz, France's Peugeot and Renault and Italy's Fiat.

Suzuki Motor has said it was ramping up exports of auto components for

assembly in Iran while introducing new models to the Iranian market. The company began producing around 4,000 sport-utility vehicles a year there in 2005, but the sanctions reduced output to a trickle in 2012.

Another Japanese automaker, Isuzu Motors, resumed exports of D-Max pickup trucks to Iran in May 2016. Toyota Motor plans to begin sales of the recently launched C-HR crossover model.

Meanwhile, Mazda Motor resumed exports of some auto parts to Iran in April 2015 and has been expanding exports to the country since then.

Japan and Iran have traditionally maintained a friendly relationship. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has expressed a willingness to visit Iran for the first time since Takeo Fukuda traveled to the country in 1978 before the Islamic Revolution.

## Iran says new oil deals nullify US pressures

Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said every new agreement with a foreign company on the development of oil and gas projects shows that US policies against the Islamic Republic are already failing.

Zanganeh said the Ministry of Oil is prioritizing the signing of new oil and gas agreements with international contractors as a tactic to defuse US pressures against Iran, Press TV reported.

He said that his ministry is also pursuing the policy of diversifying the range of contractors as this would secure the oil industry against US pressures.

"We should not rely just on Europe," Zanganeh said adding that diversifying contractors would provide a safe protection to Iran's oil industry.

In early July, Iran awarded a contract to a consortium



SHANA

led by French energy giant Total over the development of Phase II of South Pars.

Based on the deal, Total would invest an initial \$1 billion in the project which it would carry out together with China's CNPC and Iran's Petropars.

It was seen as the biggest vote of confidence in the Islamic Republic since sanctions were lifted under a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zanganeh said the US-led sanctions had created numerous problems for Iran's oil and gas projects.

He added that concrete measures should be taken to facilitate investments in oil and gas projects, specifically those located in areas bordering Iraq.

Devising a new generation of oil contracts, Zanganeh underlined, was a significant step in this direction.

## Iran Air to receive two more...

## From Page 1

The planes will be operating among regional cities as part of a commercial plan, covering a populous crescent straddling Iran's northwest and northeast.

Much of Iran's domestic traffic is conducted via a handful of airports, with the rest of more than 100 airstrips withering away since there are not enough small planes.

Iran Air's deal with ATR includes options for a further 20 aircraft and a training program for Iranian pilots and engineers.

Iran is also renovating its aging fleet for international or long-distance flights under deals signed with Airbus and Boeing to buy a total of 180 passenger jets.

The country has so far received three Airbus jets and will get another by yearend. The first Boeing is due around May 2018.

For long-term purchases, however, Tehran faces hurdles in financing because international banks eschew



IRNA

dealing with the Islamic Republic which is still subject to unilateral US sanctions despite a nuclear deal.

Fakhrieh Kashan said Iran Air had issued bidding documents for the financing of the purchases and five companies from China, Norway and European countries,

which he did not identify, had received them.

"They have until mid-September to respond and submit their proposals," he told reporters in Tehran.

The financing will be in the form of small packages, he said, adding the first package is for the purchase of seven aircraft.

"If the first package is successful, we will repeat the next packages, and this repetition will depend on market conditions," Fakhrieh Kashan said.

Iran Air has undertaken to make an advance payment of \$1 billion to Airbus and Boeing for the purchases, which will be reimbursed over a period of four years.

The deal with Boeing, signed in December, is for the purchase of 80 passenger planes. In January, Iran Air signed agreements to buy 118 planes from Airbus, before cutting the number to around 100.

Given the type of the orders, the total value of the three contracts for the purchase of 200 aircraft from Airbus, Boeing and ATR is less than \$18 billion, Fakhrieh Kashan has said.

House price growth slowed to 2.1 percent in August, from 2.9 percent in July, amid fears Brexit-fueled inflation is placing pressure on household spending, said the Nationwide.

# Moody's: G20 GDP growth to exceed 3%



Moody's Investors Service kept its forecast for G20 economic growth at just over three percent for this year and next, but warned of geopolitical risks, US protectionism and spillovers from global monetary tightening and China's deleveraging measures. The ratings agency said surprisingly strong data in the first half of the year prompted it to raise 2017 growth forecasts for China to 6.8 percent from 6.6 percent, for South Korea to 2.8 percent from 2.5 percent, and for Japan to 1.5 percent from 1.1 percent, Reuters wrote. It also expected the eurozone to accelerate in the rest of the year as suggested by robust sentiment indicators and revised upwards its forecasts for Germany, France and Italy. The agency cut its forecast for the United States, however, to 2.2 percent in 2017 and 2.3 percent in 2018 from a previous 2.4 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively, cit-

ing its weaker-than-expected first half performance and expectations of more modest fiscal stimulus than previously assumed. "The balance of risks is more favorable than it was at the beginning of the year," Moody's said. "However, we note event risks related to conflicts in the Korean Peninsula, the South China Sea, and the Middle East. "The test firing of missiles by North Korea, intensification of aggressive rhetoric on both sides, and a hard-line stance from the Trump administration have raised the risk of a conflict in the Korean Peninsula." The agency also said there appeared to be "renewed momentum" to address bilateral trade issues that the Donald Trump administration deemed as unfair trade practices, which could hurt growth if wide-ranging measures were introduced.

For markets, it warned of risks of increased volatility due to historically elevated asset prices and broad investor expectations that interest rates would remain low even as the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank said they were preparing to start rolling back unconventional stimulus. While raising its China forecasts, the agency warned the economy has become increasingly reliant on new debt to foster growth. The agency downgraded China's ratings by one notch to A1 in May, saying the financial strength of the economy would erode in coming years. The agency revised its India forecast slightly lower to 7.1 percent as the government's demonetization move last year led to several months of acute shortages for manufacturing and construction firms in particular, although it said it expected the impact to ease in coming months.

## Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	83294.6	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	72331.8	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	91796.4	3826	4.27
First Market Index	58642.4	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	179996.0	2030.5	1.14

### Overall Index details on 20170830

First	83306.0	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	83342.9	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	83292.2	Historical lowest	100 (13691/6)
Close	83294.6	Base Value	100 (13691/6)
Change	2522.5		

### Industry Index details on 20170830

First	72328.2	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	72380.9	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	70278.2	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	72331.8	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

### Free Float Index details on 20170830

First	91359.4	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	91796.4	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

### Main Board Index details on 20170830

First	58720.3	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	58698.8	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	58642.4	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

### Secondary Index details on 20170830

First	179635.3	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	180032.2	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	179996.0	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2235.2		

## China, India rivalry looms over BRICS summit

China and India may have ended a tense border standoff for now, but their longstanding rivalry raises questions about the possibility of meaningful cooperation at an upcoming summit of major emerging economies.

The annual summit of the BRICS grouping encompassing Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa gets under way this weekend in the southeastern Chinese city of Xiamen, hoping to advance its vision of an alternative to the Western dominance of global affairs, AP wrote.

The leaders of all five nations are expected to attend, offering the best opportunity for Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to talk since the border tensions flared in June.

While both their countries view BRICS as a significant forum for progress, their rivalry for global influence and fears of containment by the other threaten to overshadow those aspirations.

The two countries' militaries are 'prowling the same spaces'



In this file photo, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the signing ceremony by foreign ministers during the BRICS summit in Goa, India.

along their land borders, in the Indian Ocean and western Pacific Ocean, said Sreeram Chaulia, dean of Jindal School of International Affairs in the Indian city of Sonapat.

Even beyond the region, they are vying in Africa and Latin America "for the leadership of the developing world", Chaulia said.

"There is a contest, whether it

is acknowledged or not, and it is because of the ambitions of both nations to be superpowers and to be inheriting the Asian century," Chaulia said.

Attempting to start the BRICS

summit off on a positive note, Beijing and Delhi announced a resolution of their most protracted and potentially explosive border standoff in years.

The saber-rattling had raised fears of renewed conflict between the nuclear-armed Asian giants, who fought a bloody border war in 1962 and remain locked in disputes over extensive chunks of territory along their border.

Yet, while India's Ministry of External Affairs said that troops were leaving the face-off site, China's official response avoided any mention of Chinese concessions or the fact that troops from both sides will continue patrolling in the area.

Sripama Pathak, an assistant professor in international relations at Assam Don Bosco University in the northeastern Indian state of Assam, said, "The attempt is to paint India as the aggressor. Clearly, China wants to somehow portray itself as the winner in a conflict which India had started and has now ... been forced to withdraw by China."

## Harvey could temporarily weigh on economic growth

Tropical storm Harvey isn't done battering the US, but analysts are already forecasting a temporary dent in economic growth through lower consumer spending and higher unemployment — although those losses could be reversed when recovery efforts take hold.

Goldman Sachs analysts estimated that 16.5 percent of US refining capacity had been shuttered as a result of Harvey, and that energy-sector disruptions could knock as much as 0.2 percentage points off of GDP growth for the third quarter, FT reported.

"We stress that the overall impact of the hurricane on second-half growth is uncertain, as the negative effects are likely to be offset by an increase in business investment and construction activity once the storm has passed. Property losses will not be directly visible in most economic indicators, but major hurricanes in the past have been associated with a temporary slowdown in retail sales, construction spending, and industrial production, as well as a pickup in jobless claims.

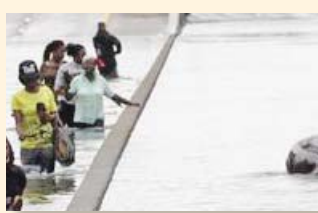
"However, GDP effects are ambiguous, as the level

of economic activity typically returns to its previous trend — or even somewhat above — reflecting a boost from rebuilding efforts and a catch-up in economic activity displaced during the hurricane."

Whether or not any Harvey-induced slowdown prompts the Federal Reserve to reconsider its monetary policy course, ING analysts said that the mere perception could weigh on the already-weakened dollar.

"The knock-on effects suggest dampened 3Q17 US growth that may see the Fed deciding against raising interest rates again in 2017. While this may be too early to call, we do expect this thinking to weigh on the dollar in the near-term — especially as our economists believe that US activity data is unlikely to surprise to the upside, such that it could more than offset any external shock caused by the hurricane in Texas."

Those same concerns and unknowns will also weigh on markets, which have pulled back this week over jitters stirred by Harvey, as well as the latest North Korea missile launch, said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA.



dw.com

"From a markets perspective, the uncertainty surrounding the cost and the economic implications of the storm is going to be a concern for investors, although it is difficult to look past the sheer devastation it has caused at the moment."

## Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2898	Chinese Yuan	0.1518
Euro	1.1962	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.2909	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3158
Australian Dollar	0.7965	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0091	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

## Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$46.29	Silver	\$17.33
Gold	\$1313.10	Platinum	\$996.60
Copper	\$3.08	Wheat	\$432.00



Lebanese President Michel Aoun signed the country's first animal welfare bill into law, guaranteeing that domestic and wild animals will be legally protected from abuse.

# Caspian Sea evaporating as temperatures rise



dailymail.co.uk

Earth's largest inland body of water has been slowly evaporating for the past two decades due to rising temperatures associated with climate change, a new study found.

Water levels in the Caspian Sea dropped nearly seven centimeters per year from 1996 to 2015, or nearly 1.5 meters total, according to the new study. The current Caspian Sea level is only about one meter above the historic low level it reached in the late 1970s, phys.org wrote.

Increased evaporation over the Caspian Sea has been linked to increased surface air temperatures.

According to the data from the study,

the average yearly surface temperature over the Caspian Sea rose by about 1°C between the two timeframes studied, 1979-1995 and 1996-2015.

These rising temperatures are likely a result of climate change, according to the study's authors.

Evaporation brought about by warming temperatures appears to be the primary cause of the current drop in sea level and the decline will likely continue as the planet warms, according to the study's authors.

Clark Wilson, a geophysicist with the Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas at Austin, and coauthor of the new study published in

Geophysical Research Letters, a journal of the American Geophysical Union, said, "From our point of view as geoscientists, it's an interesting place because it's possible to construct a sort of budget for the total amount of water that's there."

"The real control that causes it to go up and down over long periods of time is really most likely the evaporation, which is almost completely dominated by temperature."

The Caspian Sea, located between Europe and Asia, is roughly the size of Montana at 371,000 square kilometers. It has experienced substantial changes in its water level over the past several

hundred years, but previous studies were unable to nail down the exact causes of the sea level changes.

The Caspian Sea is bordered by five countries and contains an abundance of natural resources and diverse wildlife. The sea also contains oil and natural gas reserves, and is an important resource for fisheries in the surrounding countries.

The new study began after Wilson and Jianli Chen, the study's lead author from the Center for Space Research at the University of Texas at Austin, along with other researchers, used the Caspian Sea to calibrate data from the twin satellites of the GRACE mission launched in 2002.

By comparing measurements of the Caspian Sea from GRACE data and Earth-based measurements, the researchers helped improve the satellite data's accuracy.

In doing so, they noticed the Caspian Sea's water levels were undergoing significant changes.

"Once we got through with the calibration, Jianli Chen said, 'Well, you know, this is very curious. Why is this changing so much?'" Wilson said.

"That got us going on the current question, which is trying to understand what the reason is for these multi-meter variations in the sea level. It's an interesting place, and it's been stud-

ied for a long time, but it wasn't really clear."

The researchers looked at the three primary influences on Caspian Sea water levels: Water from rivers that drain into the sea, precipitation and evaporation.

They compiled information about water level changes observed by satellites, records of precipitation and drainage into the sea from rivers, and estimations of precipitation and evaporation from climate models.

The researchers then assembled a record of how much each of these factors contributed to observed changes in the Caspian Sea level from 1979 to 2015.



IRNA

## Iran donates 200 precious books to Thailand Nat'l Library

Iran donated 200 precious books to Thailand National Library to develop cultural ties between the two countries.

The books were delivered in a ceremony attended by Iran's Ambassador to Thailand Mohsen Mohammadi, Iran's Cultural Attaché Mohammad Reza Zainali and deputy head of Visual

Arts at Thailand Culture Ministry and management of National Library books, IRNA reported.

The Thai official commended Iran for donating invaluable books describing it as a good beginning for cultural and artistic cooperation between the two countries.

He also expressed readiness of national

library and affiliated bodies of Thailand Cultural Ministry for closer cooperation with Iran.

Ambassador Mohammadi pointed to history of political-cultural relations between Iran and Thailand and welcomed the Thailand Culture Ministry and subordinate institutions' readiness to cooperate with Iran.

He expressed the embassy's readiness to extend full cooperation in this respect.

Thailand's National Library has allocated special section for Iranian books in its international sector.

The Iranian delegation visited different sections of the library.

# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

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

**بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت**

مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیر مبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا  
و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم

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

Researchers at the University of Washington developed an app that could allow people to screen for pancreatic cancer by using a smartphone selfie.

# Iran top among regional states in microbiology

Exclusive

By Sadoq Dehqan & Katayoon Dashti

Iran ranks first in the production of scientific articles on microbiology in the region, said the head of Iranian Microbiology Association.

Mohammad-Mehdi Feizabadi told Iran Daily that several years ago, Turkey had been approximately on par with Iran in terms of number and diversity of articles in microbiology. Currently, however, Iran is doing better in research work in scientific centers and universities, he noted.

Turkey, due to greater interactions with the West, can make use of advanced facilities and technologies, but we were deprived of facilities due to Western sanctions, he said.

However, Iranian microbiologists managed to overtake other regional countries in scientific sector, he added.

Feizabadi further said contagious diseases and microbial resistance have been on the rise in the world particularly in recent decades.

Currently, worrisome figures have been released about



Mohammad-Mehdi Feizabadi, the head of Iranian Microbiology Association (L), talking to Iran Daily reporter.

the failure in treating contagious and hospital diseases in some developing nations, he noted.

The rate of microbial resistance to antibiotics has reached an alarming level across the world, he said.

The issue of microbes

gained importance in recent years due to their impacts on the spread of contagious and non-contagious diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity and mental disorders, he stated.

He continued that hospital infections stand between five

and 15 percent in Iran whereas global standard is less than five percent. However, hospital infections are higher in some neighboring nations, he added.

Feizabadi said, "Our people take antibiotics even without the prescription of physicians.

Although, there is no need to take antibiotic to treat viral infections, we witness high consumption of antibiotics. This has raised antibiotic resistance nationwide."

He also said the 18th International Microbiology Congress is underway in Tehran from August 29 to 31.

Microbiology issues and the use of microbial techniques in diagnosis, treatment and control of contagious diseases are being discussed in the ongoing event.

The three-day congress is being attended by 1,500 specialists and microbiologists. Close to 1,200 articles were approved and 180 lectures were presented in the event.

Also, eight lecturers from Italy, the UK, France, South Africa and Spain have taken part in the event, he said.

On the importance of presence of microbiologists in hospitals and medical treatment centers, he said microbiologists can diagnose the diseases and its cause faster.

Based on experience, laboratories that benefit from the services of microbiologists, perform better, he added.

## Autoimmune diseases raise cardiovascular, mortality risk

A new study from researchers in Spain found autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis increase risk for cardiovascular disease and death.

Autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis affect between 150,000 and 200,000 people in Spain, and Crohn's and colitis affect about 100,000 people, UPI reported.

Researchers from the Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute, or IMIM, and IDIAP Jordi Gol conducted the six-year study of nearly one million people aged between 35 and 85 diagnosed with autoimmune diseases but who have no history of cardiovascular disease.



UPI

María Grau, a researcher in the IMIM's Cardiovascular Epidemiology research group, said, "We wanted to determine whether the risk of suffering a coronary heart disease, stroke, or overall mortality was increased in people suffering autoimmune inflammatory diseases including Crohn's and ulcerative colitis, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, or ankylosing spondylitis, among other illnesses, and establish the incidence of each pathology."

The study, published in Heart, found that systemic disorders of connective tissue such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis are linked with a greater cardiovascular and overall mortality risk, followed by inflammatory bowel diseases such as Crohn's and ulcerative colitis.

Grau said, "It is believed that the increased risk of cardiovascular problems and mortality in rheumatoid arthritis and lupus is due to the interaction of inflammation, metabolic factors, therapy, and disease-related factors."

"Therefore developing new tools for predicting cardiovascular events, which incorporate autoimmune inflammatory disease activity biomarkers, could help to reduce the incidence of these events."

## Study: Carbs, not fats, bad for you

A large, 18-country study may turn current nutritional thinking on its head.

The new research suggested that it's not the fat in your diet that's raising your risk of premature death, it's too many carbohydrates — especially the refined, processed kinds of carbs — that may be the real killer, according to UPI.

The research also found that eating fruits, vegetables and legumes can lower your risk of dying prematurely.

But three or four servings a day seemed to be plenty. Any additional servings didn't appear to provide more benefit.

What does all this mean to you? Well, a cheeseburger may be OK to eat, and adding lettuce and tomato to the burger is still good for you, but an excess of white flour burger buns may boost your risk of dying early.

Lead author Malshid Dehqan, an investigator with the Population Health Research Institute at McMaster University in Ontario, said, "People with a high fat intake — about 35 percent of their daily diet — had a 23 percent lower risk of early death and 18 percent lower risk of stroke compared to people who ate less fat."

The researchers also noted that a very low intake of saturated fats (below three percent of daily diet) was associated with a higher risk of death in the study, compared to diets containing up to 13 percent daily.

Dehqan said, "At the same time, high-carb diets — containing an average 77 percent carbohydrates — were associated with a 28 percent increased risk of death versus low-carb diets."

"The study showed that contrary to popular belief, increased

consumption of dietary fats is associated with a lower risk of death.

"We found no evidence that below 10 percent of energy by saturated fat is beneficial, and going below seven percent may even be harmful.

"Moderate amounts, particularly when accompanied with lower carbohydrate intake, are probably optimal.

"These results suggested that



UPI

leading health organizations might need to reconsider their dietary guidelines. But not everyone is ready to throw out current dietary guidelines."

Dr. Christopher Ramsden is a clinical investigator with the US National Institute on Aging, said, "There's a lot more information that's needed."

"They did a great job and they're going to have a lot more coming out of it for years to come, but it's hard to get it down to recommendations regarding food at this point.

"It really highlights the need for well-designed randomized controlled trials to answer some of these questions."

The researchers noted that their

study did not look at the specific types of food from which nutrients were derived.

Bethany O'Dea, a cardiometabolic dietitian with Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, said, "For example, eating a healthy carb like an apple is more nutrient dense and better for you than eating a bag of processed potato chips."

"Furthermore, the study did not take trans fats into account, which hold heavy evidence of being un-

pendulum swinging from low-fat to low-carb diets over time.

For this study, Dehqan and her colleagues tracked the diet and health of more than 135,000 people, aged between 35 and 70, from 18 countries around the world, to gain a global perspective on the health effects of diet.

Participants provided detailed information on their social and economic status, lifestyle, medical history and current health.

They also completed a questionnaire on their regular diet, which researchers used to calculate their average daily calories from fats, carbohydrates and proteins.

The research team then tracked the participants' health for about seven years on average, with follow-up visits at least every three years.

The investigators found that high-carbohydrate diets are common, with more than half of the people deriving 70 percent of their daily calories from carbs.

Dehqan said, "High-carbohydrate diets have been linked with increases in both blood cholesterol and in the chemical building blocks of cholesterol."

While the experts continue debating what the best diet is, what should you be eating?

O'Dea said, "Your diet should consist of healthy carbs, lean protein, and plenty of fruits and vegetables."

"Remember to avoid processed snacks that contain Trans and saturated fats and opt for a healthy carb source."

The study was scheduled to be presented at the European Society of Cardiology annual meeting in Barcelona, Spain. The research was being published online as two studies in The Lancet.

## New test could identify potential case of meningitis



express.co.uk

Scientists have come up with a new test which can identify potential cases of meningitis in a fraction of the current time.

Standard tests for meningococcal disease — which can lead to meningitis and blood poisoning — can take up to 48 hours for results to come back, express.co.uk wrote.

But a new diagnostic tool created by experts at Queen's University Belfast and The Belfast Trust can provide results within an hour.

Researchers said the test could prevent children with meningococcal disease being wrongly sent home — potentially saving dozens of lives every year.

It could also prevent children being admitted for treatment unnecessarily.

If medics suspect a child may have meningococcal septicemia they administer antibiotic treatment straight away — a study by the organizations found that of 105 babies and children treated for suspected meningococcal septicemia,

only a third were later found to be infected, meaning two-thirds received treatment unnecessarily.

The new diagnostic test — known as Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) — has been assessed in a two year study alongside the standard NHS tests.

Researchers said the LAMP diagnostic tool proved to be as efficient as the standard test in returning accurate diagnosis.

Dr. James Mc Kenna, clinical scientist and lead researcher in developing the LAMP test, said, "The LAMP test enables doctors to efficiently diagnose meningococcal septicemia within an hour."

"The LAMP diagnosis could significantly reduce the number of patients taking medication unnecessarily as well as preventing needless anxiety to patients and their families."

Dr. Tom Waterfield, is leading a new study at Queen's University in collaboration with the Pediatric Emergency Research UK and Ireland to

assess the practicality of testing being undertaken by a clinician in a hospital environment.

He added, "We know that scientifically the test is effective but we now need the evidence base to confirm whether it is feasible for clinicians to carry out this test as part of their role before an informed decision can be taken."

"As part of this study, we will evaluate the feasibility of clinicians using the LAMP test in a hospital setting by assessing any potential barriers and ease of use."

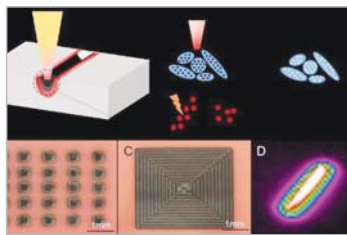
The findings come as health officials have urged students to get vaccinated to protect themselves against meningitis before starting university.

Health leaders have encouraged soon-to-be university students to get the vaccine for group W meningococcal disease (Men W), saying that cases of meningitis and blood poisoning caused by a highly virulent strain of Men Ware on the rise.



### To detoxify soil, just shoot lasers at it

Researchers have developed a new technique for ridding soil of pollutants: Blasting the dirt with lasers.



UPI  
New research suggested lasers can be used to break down and eradicate pollutants trapped in soil.

Oil spills and other contaminant-releasing catastrophes are often thought of as water-based, but soils can also become tainted by harmful chemicals, UPI wrote.

Most Superfund sites — places suffering from the aftereffects of extreme pollution — are on dry land.

Traditional methods for removing harmful contaminants from large amounts of soil are expensive and time consuming.

However, researchers at Northeastern University have developed a cheaper, more efficient way to detoxify soil.

The method involves the concentration of high-powered infrared lasers on contaminated soil.

In experiments, researchers were able to successfully remove DDE from artificial soil.

DDE is a derivative of DDT, the infamous, cancer-causing pesticide banned in 1972. Because DDE glows when exposed to ultraviolet light, it's easy to track.

After researchers blasted contaminated soil with their high-powered laser, an ultraviolet scan revealed no glowing DDE molecules — proof that the laser light broke down and eradicated the pollutant.

Traditionally researchers use chemical solvents and water to flush out toxins, but this often simply dilutes the problem, instead of getting rid of the contaminant.

Plants and microbes can help breakdown pollutants, but the process is extremely slow.

Northeastern researcher Ming Su said, "Other methods are either costly, labor intensive, have low efficiency, or take a long time."

Su and her colleagues hope a plow-like device pulling laser-carrying fiber-optic cables could soon be used to detoxify contaminated soil.

They detailed the potential for such a device in a new paper, published in the *Journal of Applied Physics*.

## We live in a magnetic Universe

With the help of a gigantic cosmic lens, astronomers measured the magnetic field of a galaxy nearly five billion light-years away.

The achievement is giving them important new clues about a problem at the frontiers of cosmology — the nature and origin of the magnetic fields that play an important role in how galaxies develop over time, according to sciencedaily.com.

The scientists used the National Science Foundation's Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA) to study a star-forming galaxy that lies directly between a more-distant quasar and Earth.

The galaxy's gravity serves as a giant lens, splitting the quasar's image into two separate images as seen from Earth.

Importantly, the radio waves coming from this quasar, nearly eight billion light-years away, are preferentially aligned, or polarized.

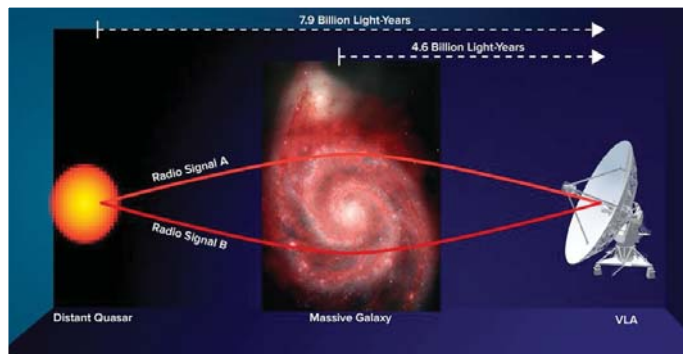
Sui Ana Mao, Minerva Research Group Leader for the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn, Germany, said, "The

polarization of the waves coming from the background quasar, combined with the fact that the waves producing the two lensed images traveled through different parts of the intervening galaxy, allowed us to learn some important facts about the

differently. Mao added, "The difference tells us that this galaxy has a large-scale, coherent magnetic field, similar to those we see in nearby galaxies in the present-day Universe."

The similarity is both in the

and evolve over time. Mao said, "The results of our study support the idea that galaxy magnetic fields are generated by a rotating dynamo effect, similar to the process that produces the Sun's magnetic field."



Astronomers observed the magnetic field of a galaxy five billion light-years away. The galaxy provides important insight into how magnetism in the Universe formed and evolved.

galaxy's magnetic field."

Magnetic fields affect radio waves that travel through them. Analysis of the VLA images showed a significant difference between the two gravitationally-lensed images in how the waves' polarization was changed.

That means, the scientists said, that the different regions in the intervening galaxy affected the waves

strength of the field and in its arrangement, with magnetic field lines twisted in spirals around the galaxy's rotation axis.

Since this galaxy is seen as it was almost five billion years ago, when the Universe was about two-thirds of its current age, this discovery provides an important clue about how galactic magnetic fields are formed

operate in galaxies."

Magnetic fields play a pivotal role in the physics of the tenuous gas that permeates the space between stars in a galaxy.

Understanding how those fields originate and develop over time can provide astronomers with important clues about the evolution of the galaxies themselves.

"However, there are other processes that might be producing the magnetic fields. To determine which process is at work, we need to go still farther back in time — to more distant galaxies — and make similar measurements of their magnetic fields." Ellen Zweibel, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, added, "This measurement provided the most stringent tests to date of how dynamos

### Brown bears on Alaska's Kodiak Island are switching to a vegetarian diet of elderberries in preference to salmon because the warmer temperatures are ripening the fruit earlier in the year.



earlier per decade.

Normally the bears would eat up to 75 percent of the salmon that swim up the rivers to spawn up until about late August, independent.co.uk wrote.

And, when this plentiful supply of protein started to dry up, the bears would switch to the elderberries that usually come into fruit in late August or early September.

However, global warming has seen temperatures in Alaska rise, bringing forward the elderberry season so that it begins as early as July 14.

Faced with a choice between the two meals, the bears have been choosing the berries rather than the fish, according to a new study.

Writing in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, researchers said that their analysis had found red elderberries had been fruiting 2½ days

earlier per decade. They wrote, "In years with anomalously high spring air temperatures, elderberry fruited several weeks earlier and became available during the period when salmon spawned in tributary streams."

"Bears departed salmon spawning streams, where they typically kill 25 to 75 percent of the salmon, to forage on berries on adjacent hillsides."

"This prey-switching behavior attenuated an iconic predator-prey interaction and likely altered the many

ecological functions that result from bears foraging on salmon."

"If these trends continue, by 2070, the average onset of berry availability would occur during the average peak of salmon availability."

However they added that coastal brown bears would continue to depend on healthy runs of salmon to meet much of their energy needs.

The researchers, from Oregon State University, Montana University, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and

other institutions, said that climate change was altering the seasonal timing of life cycle events in organisms across the planet.

The main focus of previous studies had been on species that are evolving to become out of sync so, for example, migrating animals like caribou can arrive at traditional feeding grounds long after plants have come into leaf and the shoots are less nutritious.

But the researchers said climate-induced synchronization could also create novel interactions.

The bears' switch to berries could have knock-on ecological effects.

The researchers added, "Climate change is altering the seasonal timing of biological events, effectively re-scheduling the potential interactions among species."

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A natural process that occurs during photosynthesis could lead to the design of more efficient artificial solar cells, according to researchers at Georgia State University.

During photosynthesis, plants and other organisms, such as algae and cyanobacteria, convert solar energy into chemical energy that can later be used as fuel for activities, phys.org reported.

In plants, light energy from the Sun causes an electron to rapidly move across the cell membrane.

In artificial solar cells, the electron often returns to its starting point and the captured solar energy is lost.

In plants, the electron virtually never returns to its starting point, and this is why solar energy capture in plants is so efficient.

A process called inverted-region electron transfer could contribute to inhibiting this 'back electron transfer'.

This study's findings, published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, provide quantitative evidence that inverted-region electron transfer is responsible for the very high efficiency associated with solar energy conversion in photosynthesis.

Theoretical work on this phenomenon won Dr. Rudolph Marcus the 1992 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, but until now the mechanism has not been demonstrated in natural photosynthetic systems.

The researchers studied photosynthetic reaction centers from the freshwater cyanobacterium species *Synechocystis*, which has the same photosynthetic machinery as plants.

Dr. Gary Hastings, lead author

and professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Georgia State, said, "We were able to reveal the existence of the mechanism for the first time by inventing a method to allow us to successfully undertake the required challenging experiments."

"Our findings point to new ways on how one might think about designing artificial solar cells that can be used, for example, for producing hydrogen gas, which can

be used as a clean and renewable fuel."

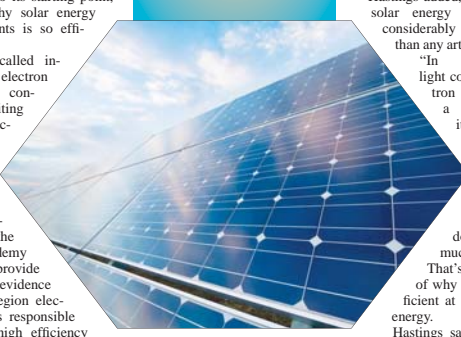
Solar energy, the cleanest and most abundant, renewable energy source available, can be converted into thermal, chemical or electrical energy.

Hastings said, "By tapping into and converting a tiny fraction of the solar energy that falls on the earth each year, humans' increasing thirst for energy may be quenched."

The solar market industry in the US is working to scale up the production of solar technology and drive down costs, but it faces some challenges, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association.

Hastings added, "Plants convert solar energy ultra-efficiently, considerably more efficiently than any artificial solar cell."

Photosynthesis discovery could help design more efficient artificial solar cells



inhabitat.com

### Scientists tie flexible crystals into knots

Researchers in Australia have grown bendable crystals strong enough to be tied in knots.

Scientists are now considering how the flexible single crystals can be incorporated in new technologies and commercial applications, UPI reported.

John McMurtrie, a professor of science and engineering at the Queensland University of Technology, said, "Crystals are something we work with a lot — they're typically grown in small blocks, are hard and brittle,

and when struck or bent they crack or shatter.

"While it has previously been observed that some crystals could bend, this is the first study to examine the process in detail."

"We found that the crystals exhibit traditional characteristics of not only hard matter, but soft matter like nylon."

McMurtrie and his colleagues grew crystals from a copper acetylacetonate, a common metal compound.

The crystals formed a

thread-like shape measuring some 20 micrometers across.

Researchers used X-ray imaging to observe atomic behavior as the crystals were bent and unbent. Their analysis suggested the crystal's atoms are able to reorganize after being bent without suffering structural damage.

Jack Clegg, a professor of chemistry at the University of Queensland, said, "Under strain the molecules in the crystal reversibly rotate and reorganize to allow the

compression and expansion required for elasticity and still maintain the integrity of the crystal structure."

Researchers detailed the crystals and their potential in a paper published in the journal *Nature Chemistry*.

Clegg added, "Flexible crystals like these could lead to new hybrid materials for numerous applications, from components of planes and spacecraft to parts of motion or pressure sensors and electronic devices."



# Children's access to safe water, sanitation a right, not a privilege

In countries beset by violence, displacement, conflict and instability, children's most basic means of survival — water — must be a priority, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said, warning that children living in fragile situations are four times more likely to lack access to drinking water.

Sanjay Wijesekera, UNICEF's global chief of water, sanitation and hygiene, said, "Children's access to safe water and sanitation, especially in conflicts and emergencies, is a right, not a privilege."

He warned, as World Water Week gets underway, that more than 180 million people in crisis-torn countries have no access to drinking water, un.org wrote.

UNICEF said that in Yemen, a country reeling from the impact of over two years of conflict, water supply networks that serve the country's largest cities are at imminent risk of collapse due to war-inflicted damage and displacement.

Around 15 million people in the country have been cut off from regular access to water and



un.org

sanitation.

As for Syria, where the conflict is well into its seventh year, around 15 million people are in need of safe water, including an estimated 6.4 million children.

Water has frequently been used as a weapon of war. In 2016 alone, there were at least 30 deliberate water cuts —

including in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Raqqa and Dara, with pumps destroyed and water sources contaminated.

In conflict-affected areas in northeast Nigeria, 75 percent of water and sanitation infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed, leaving 3.6 million people without even basic water

services.

The UN agency adds that in South Sudan, where fighting has raged for over three years, almost half the water points across the country have been damaged or completely destroyed.

Wijesekera said, "In far too many cases, water and sanitation systems have been attacked,

damaged or left in disrepair to the point of collapse. When children have no safe water to drink, and when health systems are left in ruins, malnutrition and potentially fatal diseases like cholera will inevitably follow."

In Yemen, for example, children make up more than 53 percent of the over half a million cases of suspected cholera and acute watery diarrhea reported so far.

Somalia is suffering from the largest outbreak of cholera in the last five years, with nearly 77,000 cases of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhea.

And in South Sudan, the cholera outbreak is the most severe the country has ever experienced, with more than 19,000 cases since June 2016, said UNICEF.

In famine-threatened northeast Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, nearly 30 million people, including 14.6 million children, are in urgent need of safe water. More than five million children are estimated to be malnourished this year, with 1.4 million severely so.

## Racial attitudes of a region can influence decisions by police

When more white people in a community hold African-Americans in greater suspicion, that prevailing view may influence police behavior in ways that drive the outsized use of lethal force against African-Americans by cops, a recent study showed.

It's a finding likely to stir controversy and spark new interest in the phenomenon of implicit bias — the beliefs and prejudices we hold beneath our level of awareness, phsy.org wrote.

Studied and measured by psychologists since the early 1990s, these unconscious views — which sometimes conflict with the opinions we explicitly embrace — are thought to shape our behavior every day. That influence may be subtle, psychologists say. But it's never more powerful than when we are under extreme stress or time pressure, as police officers often are.

For the study, a trio of psychologists built a map of the racial bias and stereotypes that prevail among whites across the United States.

They gathered individuals' answers to a pair of online tests that measure implicit bias and stereotypes about black and white people. Then they arranged them in geographical clusters according to the recorded location of the test-taker.

When the researchers overlaid those maps with their hot spots of white racial



originalpeople.org

bias and presumption of violent intent against African-Americans, they discerned a strong correlation with a very different map: One showing where, in the first nine months of 2015, African-Americans were killed by police in disproportionate numbers.

The study, published last month in the journal Social Psychological and Personality Science, was conducted by psychologists Eric Hehman of Ryerson University and Jessica K. Flake of York University, both in Toronto, and by University of California, Davis social psychologist Jimmy Calanchini.

It relied upon millions of individuals' scores on online tests taken between 2003 and 2013. Those quizzes use word associations and time pressure to capture beliefs and associations that people hold and make without always being aware of those biases. The researchers also used a database of people killed by police in the United States (called "The Counted") that has been compiled by The Guardian newspaper since the start of 2015.

The team considered two measures of community belief: Implicit racial bias and a stereotyped view that black people are more threatening than whites.

They found that the latter was a better predictor of disproportionate police killings of black people.

When many more white people in a given community revealed in tests that they considered black people more threatening than whites, that community was more likely to have rates of lethal force against black people that were out of proportion to their numbers in the local population.

"The idea here is that context influences behavior," Hehman said.

Our behavior is shaped not just by our own beliefs, he said, but by beliefs that are dominant in a community.

"We're tapping into that and finding the associations," he added.

Researchers have long believed that demographic factors — such as poverty, high crime and employment rates, and a preponderance of idle young men — are the most powerful drivers of police officers' use of lethal force.

Because black communities typically have higher rates of all those factors, outside rates of police killings in those communities are to be expected, many believe. The new research does not cast doubt on that explanation. But it does offer evidence that a psychological factor — prevailing racial attitudes in a community and police officers' embrace of those views — may be a contributor too.

## China lifts 13.9m people out of poverty each year

China lifted an average of 13.9 million people out of poverty each year from 2012 to 2016, and the annual per capita income in impoverished rural areas has grown 10.7 percent every year, according to a report from the State Council.

The report on poverty relief work was delivered by Liu Yongfu on behalf of the State Council at the ongoing bimonthly session of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, xinhuanet.com reported.

China's top legislator Zhang Dejiang attended the session.

Yongfu, director of the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, said, "The State Council has always put a lot of effort into poverty relief. The government work reports in the past four years all promised to lift at least 10 million out of poverty."

From 1978 to 2016, about 730 million Chinese people has been lifted out of poverty.

China has set 2020 as the target year to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society, which requires the eradication of poverty.

As of the end of 2016, there were 43.35 million people in China living below the country's poverty line of 2,300 yuan (\$348.9) of annual income as constant with 2010 prices, accounting for about three percent of China's population.

To achieve the target, China needs to bring more than 10 million people out of poverty every year, meaning nearly one million people per month or 20 people per minute.

According to global experience, the most difficult phase in poverty eradication is when the population living in poverty accounts for less than 10 percent of the overall population.

"The task has become more difficult and costly as the process approaches its end," said Liu.

The report pointed out that 775,000 officials have been sent to impoverished areas for poverty relief work.

The central government's spending on the cause had increased from 39.4 billion yuan in 2013 to 86.1 billion yuan in 2017, the report noted.

China has also established a national database collecting information of impoverished people since 2014, said the report.

The database records the distribution of impoverished population, the reasons for poverty and the needs of impoverished people.

Liu said 2017 is an important year to achieve the target and promised to "work together to conquer the difficulties in this battle against poverty".

The five-day session lasts until September 1.

## Exercise right after learning improves memory in women

A little cardio exercise, such as jogging, straight after a learning session may boost memory in young women.

Whether you are cramming for an exam or simply want to give your memory a boost, doing some physical exercise straight after a learning session may be of great help — if you are a woman, that is, medicinenewstoday.com wrote.

A new study published in the journal Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications showed that just five minutes of light physical exercise following a learning session improves memory in young women.



contentful.com

The study's first author is Dr. Steven Most, of the School of Psychology at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. He and his team conducted four experiments that included a total of 256 participants.

In the first experiment, 74 undergraduate students — 38 women and 36 men — aged 19.9 years, on average, were divided into two groups.

One group engaged in five minutes of low-impact cardio exercise (such as step exercise) before a learning phase that involved remembering name-face pairs, while the other group engaged in another, non-exercise activity.

After 24 hours, the researchers tested the participants' memory of their previous learning phase. The same conditions were repeated but with five minutes of activity after the learning phase.

In the second experiment, Most and team wanted to see if the 'post-learning' exercise benefits noticed in the first experiment would be replicated if they eliminated sleep as a possible consolidation phase.

The memory test was therefore administered on the same day as the learning phase. The researchers also altered the non-exercise activity.

In the third experiment, the researchers replaced the face-name association task with one that involved abstract shapes.

The reason for this was that some studies have previously suggested that emotional material such as face stimuli may be more easily remembered than neutral material.

## Schools start cracking down on social media use

Social media can be a great tool, but there are also several downsides to the use of it, especially when in the hands of students. With the start of a new school year, we take a look at some of those pitfalls and what schools and law enforcement are doing to tackle them.

Social Media. It's out there, bigger than ever and doesn't appear to be going anywhere, anytime soon. But at Gwinn Schools and Kingsford High School, one place it will be going this year is in a locker, uppermichigansource.com wrote.

Kingsford High School Principal Lyle Smithson said, "Social media has a place in today's society, but that place is not in a classroom, thus, we have guidelines at our high school that indicate that our students can bring their phones to school, but they need to be turned off and left in their lockers. They are not to be brought to class and used for any purpose within the classroom itself."

Gwinn Schools Superintendent Tom Jayne said, "They have to go into their lockers before the first bell rings, and they cannot use them until after the last bell rings of the day, meaning we will not even allow them to take them to lunch."

At Kingsford High, this new guideline was implemented



business2community.com

in the middle of last year, after administrators noticed it was becoming a huge distraction inside classrooms. Since then, a change was noticed almost immediately.

"It really increases the positive engagement of our students within the classroom, not having their devices as a distraction," Smithson said.

"There's a greater engagement in the lesson that is being taught and them as active learners within the classroom."

Both schools say students are provided with Chromebooks and all the tools they need for assignments by the school, so there is no reason for a phone to even be present.

Stopping the usage of social media during school by taking cell phones out of the hands of students, the hope is that this will also help prevent online bullying.

"We want to try and eliminate any type of social bullying, any type of mistake that they may or may not make during the school day...at least it helps mitigate it on our end," Jayne said.

Law enforcement has stepped up their game when it comes to improper use of social media, as well. Officers are taking a harder look at what's being posted online and at what could potentially even turn criminal.

Michigan State Police Trooper for the Iron Mountain post Geno Basanese said, "Whether it either be with inappropriate photos or there's threatening, either text or emails or something like that. So, there's other legal means that can get looked into, depending on the severity of the event."

While educators may be cracking down on the use of social media in school settings, administrators and law enforcement officers suggest parents keep a closer eye on their child's social media activity at home, as well.





## Hippos wade in to stop a wildebeest from being eaten by crocodile

This is the moment a pair of hungry hippos stopped a wildebeest from being eaten by a crocodile — and then tried to get a bite for themselves.

The amazing video was captured in South Africa's Kruger Park by pensioner Mervyn Van Wyk, 72, who was visiting the park with his wife Tokkie, [daily-mail.co.uk](http://daily-mail.co.uk) wrote.

The adventurous pair noticed the wildebeest happily grazing on the opposite side of the river along with zebras and impalas.

Mervyn's wife was happily snapping away when she noticed that one of the unlucky animals had been grabbed by a crocodile.

It struggled for its life for eight minutes with the wildebeest trying and failing to drag itself out of the water.

The exhausted animal was close to succumbing to the water when suddenly two hippos appeared before approaching the scene cautiously.

They suddenly sprang on the



The wildebeest struggled with the crocodile for eight minutes as it was caught in its jaws.



crocodile forcing it to release its grip on the wildebeest — and crucially giving the creature a chance to escape.

But while it might seem that

the hippos were rescuing the wildebeest, it is far more likely that they were showing territorial behavior.

It turns out that they were actually trying to attack the animal in a bid to get it out of their area of water.

Mervyn said: "We could not

believe the rarity of this situation. I have never seen a hippo coming to the aid of another animal, it was simply astonishing.

"Remember in Kruger, never rush away and always be patient because these amazing sightings are everywhere to be seen."

[daily-mail.co.uk](http://daily-mail.co.uk)

## Pirates miss world-record attempt after staying behind

A town in England failed its attempt at setting a world record for people dressed as pirates after some participants stayed behind.

About 10,574 pirates showed up for the final count at the Penzance Pirates on the Prom festival as the group fell about 4,000 people short of their goal, according to UPI.

"We hope you had a great day at the Pirate event, we didn't get the record but we had lots of fun," the festival said. "We'll just have to do it all again."

The gathering was Penzance's third attempt to reclaim the record from the city of Hastings, which set the pace with 14,231.

Organizer Andy Hazlehurst told attendees they missed the record by a "few" after some participants were spotted in a tavern as heads were being counted, Cornwall Live reported.

"Sorry to say we're back again next time we'll



PENZANCE PIRATES ON THE PROM

short by a few. We won't say how many [were in the tavern]. We won't shame those who were down in the Dolphin and that," he said.

"We still haven't taught the people who go to the tavern to get here on time."

Penzance Mayor Dick Cliffe told The Telegraph he was baffled after seeing people dressed in pirate costumes still inside the taverns when the counting began.

"I remember looking into the tavern and seeing people in pirate outfits around the time the count was being done. I thought — what are they doing there?" he said.

"Whether it is missed communication over the importance of being in the compounds for just ten minutes I don't know."

Cliffe expressed his disappointment after the town once again failed to reclaim its title from their southeastern rivals.

## PICTURE OF THE DAY



OLI SCARFF/GETTY IMAGES

Competitors take part in the 10th annual World Gravy Wrestling Championships at the Rose 'n Bowl, Stacksteads, near Bacup, Rossendale, Lancashire in the UK.

## How snakes give birth

A sand boa snake gave birth to six babies over the weekend — but the footage is not for the faint hearted.

The gruesome video was posted on Facebook by Reptile Collective, who breed snakes in America, and has been viewed 8.1 million times so far, [mirror.co.uk](http://mirror.co.uk) reported.

They wrote: "Always cool to witness live birth. Yes all the babies made it. Here are all of them."

"Thank you for all of the interest. Sand boas are amazing animals that stay small and generally very tractable and tolerant of us humans."

The sand boa can give birth to up to



FACEBOOK

25-32 babies and delivers the fully formed babies encased in individual membranes. Viewers were amazed to see the live

birth and many thought all snakes laid eggs.

Gina Kircher wrote: "Wait. Am I crazy for thinking all snakes laid eggs?"

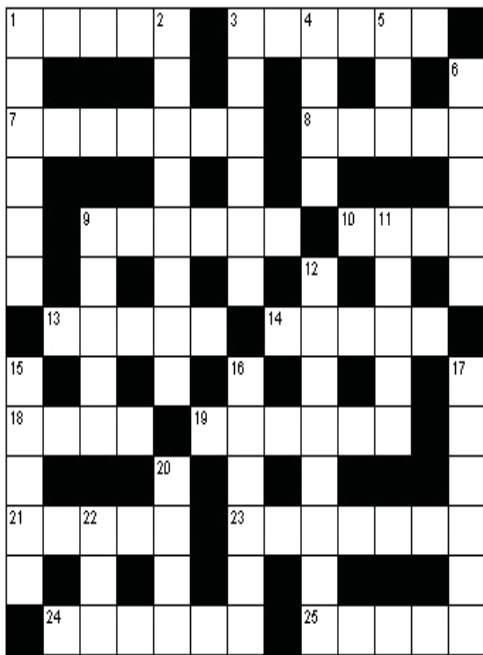
Joan Lumealo: "I thought all reptiles lay eggs well I guess it's back to the books for me."

Only 70 percent of the world's snakes lay eggs and the rest give birth to live young, the National Geographic said.

Oviparous, or egg-laying snakes, tend to live in warmer climates, which helps incubate their eggs.

Viviparous, or live-birthing snakes, tend to live in cooler regions, where the ground is too cold for the eggs to develop on their own.

## Themed Crossword



### DOWN

1. Long-tailed primate (6)
2. Spiny anteaters (8)
3. Young hen (6)
4. Simians (4)
5. North Atlantic food fish (3)
6. Corvines (5)
9. Large plantigrade mammals (5)
11. Bird with long legs, neck and bill (5)
12. Shellfish (8)
15. Large wading bird (5)
16. Nocturnal canine mammal (6)
17. Shepdog (6)
20. Colony insects (4)
22. Drone (3)

### ACROSS

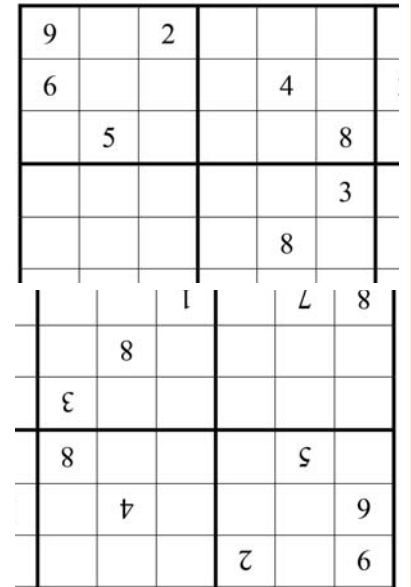
1. Rodent (5)
3. European flatfish (6)
7. Arctic whale with spiral tusk (7)
8. Type of duck (5)
9. Carnivorous burrowing mammal (6)
10. Breed of dog (4)
13. Showy parrot (5)
14. Venomous snake (5)
18. Elephant ivory (4)
19. Billfish (6)
21. Small bird (5)
23. Sparrow hawk (7)
24. Musteline mammal (6)
25. Reptile (5)

## Yesterday's solution



## Sudoku

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





The members of the Brazilian soccer club Chapecoense that was devastated by an airplane crash in the mountains of Colombia last year met with Pope Francis at the Vatican on Wednesday.

# Iran eager to beat South Korea, Queiroz says

Iran's coach Carlos Queiroz said Wednesday his side will try to collect a victory against South Korea in order to maintain the undefeated and clean sheet record in the World Cup qualifying campaign. Iran and South Korea will go head-to-head at Seoul World Cup Stadium today, Yonhap reported.

With two matches remaining, Iran has already affirmed its presence in the 2018 FIFA World Cup by clinching the top spot in the group with 20 points from six wins and two draws. The West Asian side is seven points above second-place South Korea and eight points ahead of third-place Uzbekistan.

Queiroz, former assistant to Alex Ferguson at Manchester United, said he is aware that South Korea has scored nine goals in four matches at home. He also admitted that the East Asian giant has little information on the Taeguk Warriors now managed by new head coach Shin Tae-yong, who was appointed last month.

With Shin in mind, Queiroz said he expects to see a different South Korean team. "I did study the records of the coach (Shin) with other teams," he said. "I tried to read his approach to the game and understand his game, but the information we have is very limited."

When asked about his team's solid performance in the World Cup qualifying campaign, Queiroz said his players are sticking to the basics.

"We try to have a good attack to defend well and we try to defend well to make our attack easy," he said. "We also work as a team. For whatever reason, we have yet to concede a goal, but if we do concede a goal, we won't point finger at anybody."

As South Korea and Uzbekistan are fighting for the remaining automatic qualification spot in the group, Queiroz said he prefers to see the best team going to the World Cup with Iran.

"It's a matter of respect not to express my feelings and my opinions in regards to (whether) Korea would qualify or not," he said. "I just hope the best team makes it (to the World Cup)."

### 'They have no information'

South Korea football coach Shin Tae-yong said Wednesday his side will prevail against Iran in the upcoming World Cup qualifier since the opponent will not have much information on the new national team after a coaching change. "We've analyzed all matches of Iran in the World Cup qualifying round, but I believe they don't have much information on us, so we have an advantage," Shin said at the press conference at the National Football Center in Paju.

"The players are also determined to win tomorrow, so we'll play a good game." "Iranians have good physical presence and they are good at set pieces," he said.

"I think if one or two things that we prepared are well displayed on the pitch, we may get an easy win."



Iran's coach Carlos Queiroz answers questions in a press conference at the National Football Center in Seoul, South Korea, on August 30, 2017.

Both teams are in Group A in the final Asian qualifying round for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Queiroz said the match against South Korea is a great learning opportunity for Iran, but that doesn't mean his side will accept a loss.

"There is only one way in football, which is to win," Queiroz said at a press conference at the National Football Center in Paju, north of Seoul. "We have our own record and our own capabilities. We're going to try to do our best to play good football and win the game."

Iran is also the only Asian team in the final round that has yet to concede a goal.

Since Queiroz took over the team in 2011, Iran has never lost to South Korea, winning the last four matches by a 1-0 score line. The 64-year-old Portuguese coach, however, emphasized that past records don't matter.

"Of course, this team is proud of those records and numbers. But we know that the past doesn't guarantee a win tomorrow," he said. "Tomorrow, we have a job to do and we know it's not going to be easy."

## Argentina with little margin for error at Uruguay



Luis Suarez could yet line up against Barcelona teammate Lionel Messi tonight as South America's battle for 2018 World Cup places resumes with Argentina's trip to Uruguay the pick of the fixtures.

With leader Brazil already locking up its place at next year's tournament, attention turns to the tussle for the three remaining automatic berths on offer in the marathon 10-team qualifying tournament, AFP reported.

Colombia is second in the standings on 24 points while Uruguay and Chile occupy the other two automatic spots on 23 points.

It means that fifth-placed Argentina has little margin for error as the South American giant heads to Montevideo's Estadio Centenario for the latest instalment of its historic rivalry with the Uruguayans. Argentina has spluttered its way through the qualifiers so far, notching only six wins in 14 games, but has shown signs of life under new coach Jorge Sampaoli.

Sampaoli, who masterminded Chile's victory at the 2015 Copa America, took control of the 'Albiceleste' in May, and began his reign with a morale-boosting 1-0 win over Brazil in a friendly in June.

Sampaoli served notice of his determination to invigorate Argentina's ranks by axing striker Gonzalo Higuain in favor of Inter Milan's Mauro Icardi.

Icardi is expected to start at the apex of a front

three with Messi and Juventus prodigy Paulo Dybala lurking just behind.

Argentina's path to Russia has been complicated by the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruling on Tuesday that confirmed a sanction against Bolivia for fielding an ineligible player in their September 2016 0-0 draw with Chile.

FIFA later converted that result to a 3-0 win for Chile, a ruling that means Sampaoli's former team now has a one-point advantage over the fifth-placed Argentines.

"Now we have to play catch-up to get to the World Cup," Sampaoli said Tuesday.

Uruguay meanwhile is sweating on the fitness of Barcelona star Suarez.

The 30-year-old talisman was initially ruled out of the fixture through injury but has travelled back to his homeland to train with the team.

Veteran coach Oscar Tabarez hinted Suarez may yet make a dramatic return tonight, declining to rule out the striker.

"He has shown signs of recovery that have rather surprised us," Tabarez said.

If Suarez fails to win his fitness battle, Uruguay will once again turn to in-form Paris Saint-Germain striker Edinson Cavani, who is the top scorer in the qualifying competition with nine goals.

"It is a very, very difficult match... We will see who has the most guts for it," said Tabarez.

## Iran finishes 10th in Summer Universiade

### Sports Desk

A total of 23 medals including eight golds gave Iran a 10th-place finish at the 2017 Summer Universiade in Taipei, Chinese Taipei.

On Tuesday, Iran's volleyball team, having lost only two sets en route to the final, edged Russia 3-2 (25-17, 15-25, 23-25, 25-23, 15-13) to claim the gold medal and put a fitting end to Iran's campaign at the competitions.



Elsewhere in the games, Iranian athletes dominated the taekwondo competitions by clinching 11 medals including four golds in the men's contests through Armin Hadipour (-54kg), Hadi Tiranvalipour (-58kg), Mir-Hashem Hosseini (-63kg) and Saied Rahbari (-87kg).

It was pretty much the same scenario in the wushu contests as Erian Ahangarian (-60kg), Jafar Shirzadeh (-70kg) and Hamid-Reza Ladvar (80kg) gathered three golds to make it a total of six wushu medals for Iran.

Other Iran's medals came in weightlifting, fencing and archery games to take the country's overall tally to 23 medals in the competitions and put Iran in 10th position of the Universiade medals table.

Having collected 101 medals including 37 golds, Japan topped the overall medals table followed by South Korea (82 medals, 30 golds) and Chinese Taipei (90 medals, 26 golds) in second and third place, respectively.

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

## Nadal through, Federer survives five-set thriller in US Open

Roger Federer survived a five-set battle to defeat American teenager Frances Tiafoe and reach the US Open second round on Tuesday, keeping his bid for a record sixth New York title alive.

The 36-year-old Swiss, chasing his third major title of the year and 20th of his career, prevailed 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 to avoid losing in the first round of a Grand Slam for the first time since the 2003 French Open, AFP reported.

The fast and furious duel under the roof of Arthur Ashe Stadium was one of only nine matches to be completed as torrential rain swept 55 matches off Tuesday's schedule.

At times, Federer also looked as if he was about to disappear with the deluge, struggling with a back injury as well as the all-out assault of Tiafoe, the big-hearted 19-year-old son of immigrants from Sierra Leone.

"It was more than a test. We enjoyed it out there, we kept fighting, trying and it was exciting," said Federer, who finished with 17 aces, 41 winners and 56 unforced errors.

"I had a slow start. I was worried about the back injury. In the fifth set, it was a coin toss and it went my way tonight so I am very happy."

"I am feeling extremely well. This will give me great confidence," added Federer, who missed the 2016 tournament with injury and was playing under the \$150 million Ashe roof for the first time.

The back problem, which Federer suffered in losing the Montreal final to Alexander Zverev and ruled him out of the Cincinnati tournament, restricted his movement in the opening set.

World number 70 Tiafoe claimed it on the back of an uncharacteristic 18 unforced errors by the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion.

Federer swept through the next two sets before Tiafoe leveled by storming through a 24-minute fourth set.

In the decider, Federer broke for 3-1 but wasted a match point as he served at 5-3 and was broken by the American.

But Tiafoe's nerve failed him in the 10th game and the match was over when he dumped an off-balance forehand into the net.

The win took Federer's first-round record in New York to 17-0 while world number one Rafael Nadal, a two-time champion in New



Roger Federer celebrates defeating Frances Tiafoe of the US at the first round of 2017 US Open in New York on August 29, 2017.

York, went to 13-0 after the French Open winner claimed a 7-6 (8-6), 6-2, 6-2 win over Serbia's Dusan Lajovic.

The 31-year-old Spaniard was critical of the noise inside the Ashe stadium, which was amplified to distracting levels by the roof, which was closed for virtually the whole day.

"I understand it's a show, but under the roof we need to be a little bit stricter about the noise. All the noise stays inside, and this is difficult," said Nadal.

### Nadal questions Murray withdrawal

Nadal couldn't understand Andy Murray's decision to pull out of the US Open just after the draw was made.

Murray waited until Saturday afternoon to decide his hip had still not fully recovered enough to feature in the Grand Slam.

Had the Scot pulled out prior to Friday's draw, Roger Federer would have moved up to number two seed and he and Nadal would not have been in the same half of the draw.

But now both Federer and Nadal could face off in the semifinal of the US Open.

"It was a little bit strange that he retired just the morning after the draw was made. It was something that is a little bit strange and difficult to understand, Nadal said after his first-round victory.

"Normally you want to keep practicing, keep trying until the last moment. You don't retire Saturday morning. You retire Monday morning or Sunday afternoon. If not, you can do it before the draw."

"That's why I say it's strange. But of course he has his reason, and for sure the only news, and the negative news, was that he will not be playing here."



## US festival to host 11 Iranian short films, animations

The 10th Iranian Film Festival which will be held in San Francisco, the US will feature 11 Iranian short films. The short films are: 'Retouch' directed by Kaveh Mazaheri, 'Animal' directed by Bahram and Bahman Ark, 'Lunch Time' directed by Alireza Qassemi, 'Periodicity' directed by Ali Khoshdumi Parahani, 'Red Peace' directed by Rahim Tufan, 'Border Crossing' directed by Majid Sedaqat and 'White House' directed by Arastu Mafakheri, Mehr News Agency reported.



The short animation movies are 'Dash Akol' directed by Hajar Mohajerani, 'Switchman' directed by Mehdi Khorramian, 'A Thousand Tales' directed by Asghar Safar and Abbas Jalali Yekta and 'Iki' directed by Parastou Kargar. The works will compete in the event with other Iranian short films submitted to the festival from around the world. The festival was founded in 2008 in San Francisco with a mission to discover and support young Iranian filmmakers across the world. The 10th edition of this festival will be held in San Francisco Art Institute on September 23 and 24.

## Bullock donates \$1m to help Hurricane Harvey relief efforts

Hollywood actress Sandra Bullock has donated \$1 million (£774,000) for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. The actress has joined a host of Hollywood stars who have pledged money to the American Red Cross following the devastating flooding in Houston, Texas, telegraph.co.uk reported. "I'm just grateful I can do it. We all have to do our part," Bullock said. The American Red Cross called it an 'incredible gift', adding, "We're so thankful."



The American actress wrote on her Twitter account that: "There are no politics in eight feet of water...I'm just grateful I can do it." Commenting Bullock's move, Yashar Ali, a contributor to New York Magazine and HuffPost, said in Twitter post: "Every time there's a major disaster in US, Sandra Bullock gives \$1 million. 9/11, Katrina, etc and now she's given \$1 mil to Harvey relief." American Red Cross Communications Vice President Elizabeth Penniman added, "It's times like this when we do receive such an incredible amount of support. Especially during times of disaster, people see what's happening in Texas and our hearts all go out to them. "Having someone like Sandra Bullock make this kind of commitment, it helps bring people together and open their hearts and be even more generous." Other celebrities including Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and comedian Kevin Hart have all donated. An estimated 30,000 people have been left temporarily homeless following 'unprecedented' flooding after a year's rain fell in just a week.

## Weather



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## Academician: Enhanced university cooperation vital for Iran-Pakistan ties

Expanded cooperation between Pakistani and Iranian universities can help ties between the two countries, said the head Pakistan's Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU).

Professor Javed Ashraf told IRNA that he is looking for a chance to visit Iran.

He added in case he receives an invitation from any Iranian universities, he would love to visit the country.

Ashraf noted that academic institutions can play a significant role in strengthening relations between the two countries.

Collaboration among Iranian and Pakistani universities needs to be improved, said the Pakistani professor adding, "Both sides intend to work towards this end, nevertheless, they have not yet taken any practical steps. We have even signed MoUs with a couple of Iranian universities and agreed to exchange professors, students, foster collaboration in research. But no practical move has yet been made."

He noted that both sides have been slow in implementing plans to enhance cooperation in the field of higher education.

"Senior staff members of Iranian and Pakistani universities need to be personally involved in this process. Iran is a brotherly nation. Although both sides would like to promote interaction between themselves, they also need to take practical steps," Ashraf pointed out.



Head of Quaid-i-Azam University Professor Javed Ashraf (L) speaks to IRNA in Islamabad.

He maintained that both countries

should appoint focal persons to follow up the implementation of the MoUs signed between the two countries.

Commenting on the interactions between QAU and foreign universities, Ashraf said, his university has had lim-

ited interaction with leading international universities and signed MoUs with a few schools in the US.

"Nonetheless, we would like to increase our interaction with top American research universities."

He said very few foreign students are studying at the QAU, mostly from Afghanistan.

"There is a small number of students from the Middle East at our university. We do not have any students from the US or European states."

Ashraf said currently, about 18,000 and 6,000 Pakistani students are studying at Chinese and American universities, respectively.

He added China is becoming an important country to Pakistan, not just in academic fields but also in many other areas.

Ashraf stressed that expanding academic cooperation with Tehran is of utmost importance to Pakistan as Iran is a Muslim, neighboring and brotherly nation with which his country has very deep and centuries-old ties.

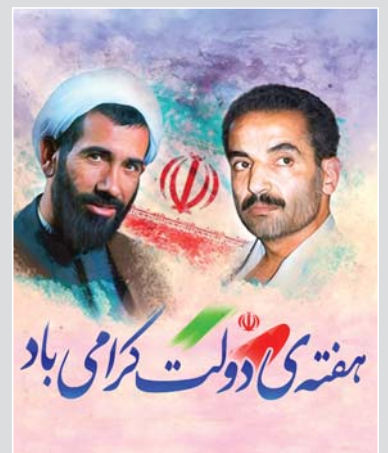
He held that the two countries' academicians can contribute to closer ties and removal of misunderstandings, if any, between Iran and Pakistan.



The press conference of the 19th Iran Cinema's Big Celebration Iran was held at Cinema House in Tehran on August 30, 2017. The session was attended by a number of Iranian pressmen as well as cineastes including Managing Director of Cinema House Manouchehr Shahsavari, cinematographer and producer Touraj Mansouri and Haroun Yashayaei, film producer.



Iranian cinematographer and producer Touraj Mansuri speaks to reporters at a press conference on the 19th Iran Cinema's Big Celebration Iran at Cinema House in Tehran on August 30, 2017.



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Mohammad Ali Rajaei (R) and Mohammad Javad Bahonar, who were the second president and prime minister of Iran respectively after the victory of 1979 Islamic Revolution, were martyred on August 30, 1981. The day marking their martyrdom anniversary is named 'The Day of Fighting Terrorism' and coincides with the last day of Government Week (August 24-30) in Iran.