



Salehi: All options on table if US violates JCPOA

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Ukraine joins Iran's oil customers

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Rouhani presents cabinet to Parliament for confidence vote



Political Desk

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday presented his cabinet to Parliament for a vote of confidence.

The list has the names of 17 out of 18 ministries. The nominee for the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology is yet to be presented to the Iranian Parliament. President Rouhani has changed eight of his ministers from the former cabinet.

The list includes two prominent ministers from his first term: Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, the lead negotiator in the nuclear deal, and Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, who is credited with increasing oil production after the lifting of sanctions.

The key appointments suggest Rouhani will continue with foreign and economic policies that center on opening up the country and seeking investment.

Some of the ministers who have retained their portfolios in the list are Mahmoud Alavi as intelligence minister, Hassan Qazizadeh Hashemi as minister of health, and Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli as interior minister.

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China says willing to pay price for new North Korea sanctions

China will pay the biggest price from the new United Nations sanctions against North Korea because of its close economic relationship with the country, but will always enforce the resolutions, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

The United Nations Security Council unanimously imposed new sanctions on North Korea on Saturday that could slash its \$3 billion annual export revenue by a third.

Speaking at a regional security forum in Manila on Monday, Wang said the new resolution showed China and the international community's opposition to North Korea's continued missile tests, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday, Reuters reported.

"Owing to China's traditional economic ties with North Korea, it will mainly be China paying the price for implementing the resolution," the statement cited Wang as saying.

"But in order to protect the international non-proliferation system and regional peace and stability, China will as before fully and strictly properly implement the entire contents of the relevant resolution."

China has repeatedly said it is committed to enforcing increasingly tough UN resolutions on North Korea, though it has also said what it terms "normal" trade and ordinary North Koreans should not be affected.

The latest UN resolution bans North Korean exports of coal, iron, iron ore, lead, lead ore and seafood. It also prohibits countries from increasing the numbers of North Korean laborers currently working abroad, bans new joint ventures with North Korea and any new investment in current joint ventures.

Wang said that apart from the new sanctions, the resolution also made clear that the six-party talks, a stalled dialogue mechanism with North Korea that also includes Russia and Japan, should be restarted.

China appreciated comments earlier this month by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson that the United States does not seek to topple the North Korean government and would like dialogue with Pyongyang at some point, Wang added.

The United States does not seek regime change, an accelerated reunification of the peninsula or an excuse to send the US military into North Korea, Tillerson said.

Wang said Tillerson's "Four Nos" promise was a positive signal.

China "hopes North Korea can echo this signal from the United States", Wang added.

Speaking at the same forum on Monday, Tillerson held a door open for dialogue with North Korea saying Washington was willing to talk to Pyongyang if it halted a series of recent missile test launches.

North Korea said the latest sanctions infringed its sovereignty and it was ready to give Washington a "severe lesson" with its strategic nuclear force in response to any US military action.

The successful testing of two intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) last month suggested the North was making technical progress, Japan's annual Defense White Paper warned.



Berlin: Turkey agrees to German lawmaker visit to troops



Partial eclipse makes satellite glow red



'Kelleh & Demneh' wins Special Jury Award at Eurasia event

Army prepares to clear Lebanon's border area of Daesh

Lebanon's military is gearing up for a long-awaited assault to dislodge hundreds of Daesh terrorists from a remote corner near Syrian border, seeking to end a years-long threat posed to neighboring towns and villages by the terror group.

The campaign will involve cooperation with the resistance group Hezbollah and the Syrian Army on the other side of the border, AP reported on Tuesday.

The years-long presence of terrorists in the border area has brought suffering to neighboring towns and villages, from shelling, to kidnappings of villagers for ransom. Car bombs made in the area and sent to other parts of the country, including the Lebanese capital, Beirut, have killed scores of citizens.

The Lebanese Army has accumulated steady successes against the terrorists in the past year, slowly clawing back territory, including strategic hills retaken in the past week. Authorities say it's time for an all-out assault.

The planned operation follows a six-day military offensive by Hezbollah that forced Al-Qaeda-linked terrorists to flee the area on the outskirts of the town of Aarsal, along with thousands of civilians.

In a clear distribution of roles, the army is now expected to launch the attack on Daesh. In the past few days, the army's artillery shells and multiple rocket launchers have been pounding the mountainous areas on the Lebanon-Syria border where Daesh held positions, in preparation for the offensive. Drones could be heard around the clock and residents of the eastern Bekaa Valley reported seeing army reinforcements arriving daily in the northeastern district of Hermel to join the battle.

The offensive from the Lebanese side of the border will be carried out by the Lebanese Army, while Syrian troops and Hezbollah fighters will be working to clear the Syrian side of Daesh terrorists. Hezbollah has been fighting alongside Syrian forces since 2013.

On Tuesday, the army's top brass conferred with President Michel Aoun, Prime Minister Saad Hariri and interior and defense ministers at the presidential palace to plan operations in the eastern Bekaa Valley.

The committee took the "necessary counsel and decisions to succeed in the military operations to eliminate the terrorists," Maj. Gen. Saadallah Hamad said after the meeting.

Iran: €3b Siemens credit line on the way

German industrial group Siemens is about to undertake financing rail and power plant projects worth €3 billion in Iran, said a senior Iranian official.

According to Press TV, Deputy Minister of Road and Urban Development for International Affairs, Asghar Fakhrieh-Kashan said on Tuesday, "On a trip to Germany, we had discussions about Siemens' participation in Iran's railway and power plant projects."

In the rail sector, Iran is to buy a number of wagons from Siemens for the high-speed rail line between Tehran, Qom and Isfahan, he said, noting Siemens will also cooperate in providing signaling equipment and installing communication signs.

"Through financing a number of construction projects, Siemens plans to enter into a joint venture with Iranian company MAPNA both in the power plant and locomotive manufacturing sector to boost domestic production," he said.

Last month, the Export-Import Bank of China (EXIM) signed a \$1.5-billion deal to finance the electrification of a high-speed rail line between the Iranian cities of Tehran and Mashhad.



EXIM's Vice President Sun Ping said in Tehran that the institution had provided loans for 26 Iranian projects in the electricity, petrochemicals, non-ferrous metals, oil and gas sectors, worth \$9 billion.

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UN slams 'systematic use of excessive force' in Venezuela

The UN decried Tuesday "widespread and systematic use of excessive force" against demonstrators in Venezuela, saying security forces and pro-government groups were responsible for at least 73 protester deaths.

Presenting the preliminary findings from an investigation conducted in June and July, the UN rights office described "a picture of widespread and systematic use of excessive force and arbitrary detentions against demonstrators in Venezuela," AFP reported.

"Witness accounts suggest that security forces, mainly the National Guard, the National Police and local police forces, have systematically used disproportionate force to instill fear, crush dissent, and to prevent demonstrators from assembling, rallying and reaching public institutions to present petitions," the rights office said in a statement.

"Government authorities have rarely condemned such incidents," it stressed.

It called on the government of President Nicolas Maduro to rein in security forces and investigate alleged abuses, release people arbitrarily detained, and ensure the protection of the ousted attorney general Luisa Ortega.

On Friday, Venezuela inaugurated a new legislative super body that is expected to rewrite the constitution and give vast powers to Maduro's ruling Socialist Party.

Venezuela, which is suffering from an acute economic crisis marked by shortages of basic goods, has experienced four months of street demonstrations have left 125 people dead.

"Several thousand people have been arbitrarily detained, many reportedly subjected to ill-treatment and even torture, while several hundred have been brought before military rather than civilian courts," UN rights



chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein said. At the same time, nearly 2,000 people have been injured, while more than 5,050 people have been arbitrarily arrested, with over 1,000 reportedly still in detention, the statement said.

Speaker highlights US failure to isolate Iran

A remarkable turnout of foreign dignitaries in Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's swearing-in ceremony in Tehran indicated that US attempts to isolate Iran and dissuade others from working with it have ended in failure, Iran's Parliament speaker said.



IRNA

The high number of foreign officials attending Rouhani's inauguration illustrated that the international community has ignored the US push to isolate Iran by spending billions of dollars, Ali Larijani said at an open session of the Parliament on Tuesday, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The participation of more than 130 high-ranking foreign authorities in the event was a testimony to international interest in friendly ties with Iran and the futility of the plot to isolate the Islamic Republic, he added.

Larijani also said that the great enthusiasm for trade cooperation with Iran reveals "how worthless US sanctions are."

President Rouhani was sworn in at a ceremony at the Iranian Parliament on Saturday. Some 500 foreign guests from 105 countries, including more than 130 top officials, participated in the event.

Iranian refugee dies at notorious Australian camp

UN warns of worsening crisis at refugee camp

An Iranian refugee has been found dead in a notorious offshore Australian immigration camp on Manus Island, with fellow refugees saying officials failed to treat him despite a long history of mental illness.

Australia's Immigration Department on Monday confirmed the death of Hamed Shamshepour, 32, near the Refugee Transit Center in East Lorengau, but gave no further details, Press TV reported.

It said Papua New Guinea officials were investigating the matter. The police said they cordoned off the area where the man had been found hanging.

Shamshepour had been staying at a transit center for refugees awaiting resettlement.

His death caused outrage among his fellow asylum-seekers who revealed he was the victim of mistreatment by camp authorities.

The death is the sixth to take place in an Australian offshore detention center since 2014 according to Monash University's Australian Border Deaths Database.

Behrouz Boochani, an asylum-seeker from Iran who has also been detained on Manus since 2013, revealed some of the facts regarding the situation of Shamshepour and other refugees at Australia's notorious 'transit' camps.

Shamshepour was sent "by force to the transit center and Australia left him without any protection there and now he died. So Australia is responsible."

Boochani, who described the detention centers as prisons, warned that the situation remained dire for the asylum-seekers at the Australian camps.

"Hundreds of refugees are sick – they are damaged physically and mentally in this prison and Australia doesn't care," Boochani said.

It comes following days of protests inside the center against attempts to force the asylum seekers to move out. The asylum-seekers confronted guards and police on Friday, refusing to leave the compound.

The United Nations on Tuesday warned of a worsening crisis at the Australian refugee detention camps following the death of Iranian asylum seeker.

The UN Refugee Agency announced in a statement that the death of the 32-year-old refugee "highlights the precarious situation for vulnerable people."

The body said it was "gravely concerned" by the deteriorating conditions and warned of an "escalating crisis."

The PNG Supreme Court last year ruled that the detention of asylum-seekers on Manus breached the constitution and ordered that the camp be closed.

Australia refuses to resettle any asylum-seekers who try to reach its shores by boat. Instead, the country pays the Pacific nations of PNG and Nauru to hold them in detention camps.

The United Nations and human rights organizations and advocates have condemned the Australian government for their inhumane treatment of refugees.

Approximately 2,000 asylum-seekers are barred from Australia and instead sent to lawless offshore centers, where numerous criminal acts and human rights violations have been recorded and documented over the years.

Salehi: All options on table if US violates JCPOA

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi said Tehran will keep all options on the table if the United States violates the landmark 2015 nuclear deal signed between the Islamic Republic and the P5+1 group of countries.

The US will be the one to suffer if it breaches the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Salehi said in an interview with Lebanon-based Arabic-language Al-Mayadeen news network published on Tuesday.

He added that Iran would reciprocate the US approach to the JCPOA.

As the European Union, China, Russia and other world countries have approved the JCPOA, the US withdrawal from the JCPOA would never have any impact on the endurance of the deal, Salehi said, Press TV reported.

The senior Iranian nuclear official emphasized that Washington has to bear responsibility for its measures in contravention of the JCPOA.

He said Iran is not liable for any possible violation of the JCPOA because the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has released seven reports verifying Tehran's complete fulfillment of its commitments under the deal.

Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China – plus Germany reached the



EPA

JCPOA on July 14, 2015 and began implementing it in January 2016.

Iran has been complaining that the US, under the administration of President Donald Trump, has been seeking to sabo-

tage international trade with Iran. This is while according to the deal, the US must "refrain from any policy specifically intended to directly and adversely affect the normalization of trade and economic re-

lations with Iran."

The US has also imposed sanctions on Iran over the country's missile activities, including most recently on July 28.

Iran urges Pakistan to protect border areas more seriously

Iran expects Pakistan to protect its borders more seriously, an Iranian border commander said on Tuesday after Iranian forces dismantled a drug trafficking group which planned to enter the country's soil from Pakistan.

"We expect Pakistani security and law enforcement forces to confront drug smuggling groups and terrorist cells and protect their borders more seriously," Commander of Sistan-Baluchestan Province Border Guards Brigadier Saeed Komeili said, IRNA reported.

Komeili said border forces in the eastern province have managed to annihilate



the drug smuggling group and seize some 1.7 tons of various illegal drugs during an operation.

The smugglers' large convoy was stopped by Iranian guards before entering the security zone between the two neighbors.

The smugglers ignored warnings, opening fire on the Iranian forces. However, they finally fled into the Pakistan's territories after they failed to fight Iranian forces during an hour-long fire exchange, the commander said.

He added that the smugglers also left drugs consignment before escaping into the Pakistan's soil.

Sistan-Baluchestan is Iran's largest province which shares borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan which is the world's largest producer of opium. The Iranian province lies on a major transit route for drug traffickers.

Minister: UK seeking better ties with Iran

British Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa Alistair Burt said the UK is seeking better ties with Iran, stressing that the reelection of President Hassan Rouhani would help strengthen bilateral relations.

"We have seen Iran's positive approach through the nuclear agreement", said the minister, who had traveled to Tehran to participate in President Rouhani's swearing-in ceremony on Saturday, IRNA reported.

He pointed to the inauguration ceremony, saying he held talks on the sidelines of the event.



"World's countries have always been seeking to establish relations with each other," he added.

Chairman of the British All Party Parliamentary Group on Iran Richard Bacon also attended the ceremony.

Before leaving London for Tehran on Friday, he emphasized on improving bilateral relationship between the two countries.

"Britain's relations with Iran are very important for both countries," he said.

"The history between the two countries has not always been easy", he said, adding, "For me, this represents an obligation to work harder at achieving better relations through patience, understanding and hard work."

"I believe", said Bacon, "steadily improving bilateral relations between our two countries will be to the benefit of all."

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Some of the new picks include Brigadier General Amir Hatami, an army commander, to head the Defense Ministry and Seyyed Alireza Avaei to head the Ministry of Justice.

It was not clear when the nominee for the Ministry of Science would be named.

Separately on Tuesday, the Iranian chief executive appointed Es'haq Jahangiri, a senior reformist figure, as the first vice president of his new administration. Jahangiri held the same position under Rouhani's first term.

The cabinet list, however, does not include any women among the proposed nominees.

During his first term, the moderate president installed several female vice presidents. Rouhani's predecessor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad appointed the Islamic Republic of Iran's only female minister, Marziyeh Vahid-Dastjerdi, as health minister in 2009.

In May, Rouhani won reelection in a landslide after securing 57 percent of the votes on a platform that touted the merits of the nuclear deal with the United States, the European Union and Russia and China.

Rouhani has intensified efforts to protect the 2015 nuclear deal against American return to an aggressive policy toward Iran.

Rouhani was sworn in for a new term on Saturday. In an address in front of more than 130 foreign dignitaries, he warned US President Donald Trump that tearing up the accord, as Trump had promised during his election campaign, would be a political suicide.

Trump signed into law new sanctions against Iran last week over Iran's missile program and alleged human rights abuses. Tehran called the new sanctions

violation of the nuclear deal and vowed a "proportionate" response.

On August 3, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei formally endorsed Rouhani as president for the second term. Two days later, Rouhani took the oath of office.

Since the swearing-in ceremony, he had two weeks' time to present his cabinet to the legislative body for a vote of confidence.

The Parliament will begin holding debates on the nominees next Tuesday, with the Iranian president being allowed to defend his cabinet picks.

Typhoon Noru dumped heavy rain on Japan Tuesday as it moved back out to sea, causing flooding and property damage while the number of injured reportedly rose to 51.

Berlin: Turkey agrees to German lawmaker visit to troops

Turkey agreed to let German lawmakers visit soldiers serving at an airbase in Turkey next month as part of a NATO trip, a letter from the German foreign minister showed on Tuesday, after Ankara refused a visit there in July.

A row over access to German soldiers at Turkish bases has heightened tensions between the NATO allies and fueled a wider row with Ankara.

Turkey arrested 10 human rights activists last month, including a German, in a security crackdown, Reuters reported.

A letter from German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel to the head of Germany's parliamentary defense committee said Turkey had agreed to a NATO proposal for a visit to the airbase near Konya on Sept. 8.

Under the plan, NATO's Deputy General Secretary Rose Gottemoeller would lead the delegation and take up to seven members of the parliamentary committee with her.

"The Turkish foreign minister has agreed to this proposal," Gabriel wrote.

Details were still being worked out about which lawmakers would be included in the visit. Turkey had objected particularly strenuously to participation by members of Germany's far-left Left party, whom Ankara accuses of supporting terrorists.

Repeated refusals by Ankara to let law-



A German Tornado jet is pictured on the ground at the airbase in Incirlik, Turkey.

makers visit German soldiers at the Incirlik airbase in Turkey made Berlin relocate those troops to Jordan. It also refused a visit to Konya planned for mid-July.

Germany's armed forces are under parliamentary control and Berlin insists lawmakers must have access to them.

On Monday, Turkish President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan accused Germany of assisting terrorists by not responding to files sent to Berlin or handing over suspects wanted by Turkish authorities.

TOBIAS SCHWARZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Taliban move into Afghan drug production

The Taliban – which banned poppy cultivation when it ruled Afghanistan – now appear to wield significant control over the war-torn country's heroin production line, providing members with billions of dollars, officials have told AFP.

In 2016, Afghanistan, which produces 80 percent of the world's opium, made around 4,800 tons of the drug bringing in revenues of three billion dollars, according to the United Nations.

The Taliban have long taxed poppy-growing farmers to fund their years-long terrorism, but Western officials are concerned they are now running its own factories, refining the lucrative crop into morphine and heroin for exporting abroad.

"I pretty firmly feel they are processing all the harvest," US Assistant Secretary for Drugs and Law Enforcement William Brownfield told reporters in the Afghan capital Kabul recently.

"Everything they harvest is duly processed inside the country. They receive more revenues if they process it before it has left the country."

"Obviously we are dealing with very loose figures, but drug trafficking amounts to billions of dollars every year from which the Taliban are taking a substantial percentage," he added.

Poppies, which are cheap and easy to grow, make up half of Afghanistan's entire agricultural output.

Farmers are paid about \$163 for a kilo of the black sap – the raw opium that oozes out of poppy

seed pods when they are slit with a knife.

Once it is refined into heroin, the Taliban terrorists sell it in regional markets for between \$2,300 and \$3,500 a kilo. By the time it reaches Europe it wholesales for \$45,000, according to a Western expert who is advising Afghan anti-narcotics forces

Sixty-six tons of the chemicals were seized in all of 2016, while 50 tons were impounded in just the first six months of this year, the expert said.

Afghanistan's Interior Ministry said that between January and June, 46 clandestine drug factories were closed down by anti-narcotics officers compared with 16 in the first half of last year.

A senior Western official who asked not to be named was adamant that the Taliban have their own laboratories, describing the southern province of Helmand, where an estimated 80 percent of Afghan poppies are grown, as a "big drug factory".

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) opium production provided about half of the Taliban's revenues in 2016.

David Dudge, a spokesman for UNODC, says there is "anecdotal evidence" that Taliban commanders are involved in the manufacture of opiates, but says that stops short of proving that the Taliban as an organization have a systematic program of running factories.

For the Afghan Interior Ministry, however, there is little doubt.

"The Taliban need more money to run their war machine and buy guns, that is why they have taken control of drug factories," said Sayed Mehdi Kazemi, a spokesman for its Counter-Narcotics Department.



Afghan security personnel destroy an illegal poppy crop in eastern Nangarhar Province in April.

NOORULLAH SHIRZADA/AFP

and asked not to be named.

He said an increase in seizures of chemicals required to turn opium into morphine, the first step before it becomes heroin, such as acid anhydride, points to an escalation in Taliban drug activity.

Pakistan ruling party drops plans for ex-PM's brother to replace him

The brother of ousted Pakistani leader Nawaz Sharif will not contest a parliamentary by-election for the vacant seat, party sources said on Tuesday, effectively scuttling previous plans for him to take over as prime minister in September.

Sharif, 68, was disqualified by the Supreme Court last month but kept his grip on the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party and outlined plans for Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to act as interim prime minister until his brother, Shahbaz, becomes eligible to take over by winning the by-election, Reuters reported.

But Sharif and PML-N leadership have decided that Shahbaz should continue in his role



REUTERS

as chief minister of the politically vital Punjab Province that

accounts for more than half of Pakistan's 190 million people.

"Shahbaz will definitely not contest for NA 120," said one of Shahbaz's aides in Lahore, referring to the National Assembly seat left vacant by Nawaz.

A senior PML-N figure in Lahore confirmed that the chief minister would not be contesting the seat, a move likely to leave Abbasi in charge until the next general elections, likely in mid-2018.

PML-N officials say the main reason why Shahbaz may not take over is linked to the general elections and the party's fears that its grip on the vital Punjab Province will weaken if he steps down as chief minister.

The way Pakistan's political system is set up means any

party that sweeps Punjab will most likely go on to form a government after the 2018 poll.

Nawaz resigned last month after the Supreme Court disqualified him for not declaring a small source of income – something he rejects receiving.

The veteran leader has criticized the court's decision and today plans to begin a two-day drive to Lahore via all the major towns along the way, a move that his supporters say will show how popular he remains with voters.

His supporters also argue that it is not clear if the Supreme Court disqualification means he is barred from contesting the next election.

UN backs Italy bid to close migrant route from Libya

The UN's new envoy to Libya on Tuesday endorsed Italy's drive to stem the flow of migrants leaving the North African state for Europe, despite misgivings among human rights groups.

Rights campaigners fear Italy's focus on strengthening the Libyan coastguard to ensure boatloads of migrants are intercepted before reaching international waters could place thousands of people with a right to asylum at serious risk, AFP reported.

But Ghassam Salame, a former Lebanese culture minister appointed in June to head UN operations in Libya, described the cooperation between Tripoli and Rome as a "very constructive" way of dealing with an acute problem.



AFP

"It would be absolutely unrealistic to ignore the seriousness of the challenge of irregular migration," Salame said after meeting Italian Foreign Minister Angelo Alfano in Rome.

"There are hundreds of millions of them across the world. This is very serious problem."

"I also believe each country has an absolute right to control its borders and that the best way of doing that is through cooperation with neighboring countries."

More than 600,000 refugees and other migrants have reached Italy from Libya since 2014.

Italy's center-left government is under intense pressure from domestic opponents and EU partners to close down the route.

Its navy is providing technical assistance to the Libyan coastguard, which has also been provided with new patrol boats and training by its former colonial master.

Alfano said the cooperation was beginning to bear fruit, in a reference to a more than 50-percent fall in the number of migrants rescued at sea during July, when compared to the same month in 2016.

Italy has also been working to stem migrant arrivals in Libya through better controls on the southern border, cooperation with countries like Niger, Chad and Mali that migrants transit on their way to the Mediterranean and a voluntary repatriation program.

Refugee agencies say Libya is too unstable for any potential refugee to be safely returned there.

There is particular concern over the fate of migrants who end up in the country's detention camps, where conditions are usually squalid and a lack of regulation means people risk torture, sexual abuse and forced labor.

Alfano insisted the Italian government would not compromise on its commitment to human rights.

"It is not a derby between security and humanity," he said. But he acknowledged Libya's migrant holding facilities leave much to be desired.

Two dozen killed in China landslide

A landslide triggered by heavy rain killed at least 24 people in China's mountainous southwestern province of Sichuan on Tuesday, state media reported.

Extreme weather this summer has triggered a series of landslides and floods across the country, leaving scores dead and tens of thousands displaced, AFP reported.

The latest disaster hit Gengdi village in Puge county at around 6 a.m., the official Xinhua news agency said, adding that four others were injured and one person remained missing.



REUTERS

Rescue workers carry an injured villager at the site of a landslide that occurred in Gengdi village, Puge county, Sichuan Province, China, on August 8, 2017.

As of late Tuesday afternoon, authorities estimated that 71 houses and five kilometers of roads had been destroyed, the Sichuan government information office said in a social media post.

Landslides are a frequent danger in rural and mountainous parts of China, particularly after heavy rain.

A massive landslide in June killed at least 10 people and buried dozens of homes in a village in Sichuan after rains brought down a mountainside.

In July 63 people were killed by landslides and floods in the central province of Hunan. Some 1.6 million people were forced from their homes.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Zanganeh tapped to retain oil portfolio

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani proposed the reappointment of its longest-serving Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh who fought to restore crude production and closed a landmark deal with Total SA to develop the country's share in the world's biggest natural gas field.

Rouhani submitted names of his cabinet nominees, including Zanganeh, for parliamentary approval, Bloomberg reported Wednesday.

Zanganeh, a 65-year-old engineer who served two presidents as oil minister, succeeded in shielding Iran from joining global cuts in crude production by OPEC and other major suppliers. Parliament is set to vote on his reappointment starting next week, according to state media.

During the first of his two terms as oil minister, from 1997 until 2005, Zanganeh enticed foreign companies including Total and Royal Dutch Shell Plc, to help revive Iran's oil and gas fields after years of under-investment.



SHANA

He returned to the post in 2013 and boosted the nation's oil exports as production rose by about one million barrels a day after the easing of economic sanctions in January 2016.

His latest efforts to woo investors bore fruit when Total signed a contract on July 3 to develop South Pars, Iran's share of the world's largest gas deposit—the first major investment by an international energy company since sanctions were scaled back.

‘No-nonsense approach’

“Zanganeh’s straightforward and no-nonsense approach was key in opening Iran’s oil sector to foreign investment in the late 1990s,” and he was a catalyst almost 20 years later for the milestone contract with Total, said Robin Mills, chief executive officer at Dubai-based consultant Qamar Energy. The Total agreement is “a big deal” that can “open the door for more companies to sign contracts with the country.”

When other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries decided last November to pump less oil to reduce a global glut, Zanganeh wrangled permission for Iran to raise output by 90,000 barrels a day. He preserved the special arrangement when OPEC and allied producers extended their supply cuts through next March.

Zanganeh was born on June 22, 1952, in the western city of Kermanshah. He graduated with a bachelors in civil engineering from the University of Tehran, where he also earned a masters with distinction in the same subject.

Revising sales

While Zanganeh has also worked to expand the petrochemicals industry, boosting oil output has been his paramount goal. “Revival of Iran’s lost oil markets is among my top priorities,” Zanganeh told Fars News Agency in August 2013—days after beginning his second tenure as minister.

Iran was OPEC’s second-biggest supplier at the time of Zanganeh’s dismissal.

By the time he returned to the post, the nation had dropped to sixth-largest among the group’s members, its economy hobbled by sanctions. Iran’s oil production surged in 2016 before leveling off this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

By July, the country was pumping 3.75 million barrels a day, the data show, making Iran OPEC’s third-largest producer.

International monitors have asserted that Iran is meeting its commitments to scale back its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief.

Zanganeh has outlasted the most punishing phase of sanctions so far and has helped devise new terms for an investor contract offering foreign partners incentives to explore for crude and gas.

However, residual sanctions, particularly those affecting payments, have deterred many potential energy investors.

Suriname to buy fertilizer from Iran to break US dominance

Suriname’s minister of agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries said that his country intends to break US dominance in its urea fertilizer market by importing from Iran.

Soeresh Algoe said in a meeting with Managing Director of Iran’s Government Trading Company (GTC) Yazdan Seif that his country can import urea fertilizer from Iran and this can be a model for 16 neighboring countries in South America, IRNA reported.

About extra-territorial farming, he said that his country is to provide Iran with 10,000 hectares of prime-quality and virgin land for rice plantation.

Seif said, “Iran is ready to export 40,000 metric tons of urea to Suriname and its neighboring countries.”

Ukraine joins Iran’s oil customers

Ukraine joined Iran’s oil customers, making its first purchase in June, said media reports quoting the country’s State Fiscal Service.

According to the report, Ukraine bought crude oil worth \$236,000 from Iran in June but the purchase rose to \$5.4 million in July which saw the East European country importing 152,655 tons of oil in total, Press TV reported.

Shipments to Europe from Iran are increasing by the day, with the country’s leading oil tanker operator NITC planning to expand its fleet to cope with the situation.

Iran has been ramping up oil production since the removal of sanctions, aiming to reach pre-sanction levels of around four million barrels per day (mbd) by the end of the year from around 3.8 million bpd in recent months.

The country has persuaded OPEC to exclude it from a deal under which members are bound to reduce their output by 1.2 mbd.

Last month, Iran delivered more than 2.2 mbd of crude to Asian and European markets, reported Mehr News Agency quoting an Oil Ministry report.

Iran’s biggest oil customer is China which is expected to raise shipments from the Middle Eastern country to the highest in 11 months in August on growing demand for heavier Iranian



REUTERS

crude. Crude and condensate exports from Iran to China are set to hit 733,000 bpd in August, the highest since September, Reuters report.

Overall Iranian crude exports in August for Asia are set to fall to 1.3 mbd—down 0.3 percent from the figure for July.

However, Iran’s exports to Europe have been rising, with new buyers joining the list of the country’s crude oil clients.

Iran-Pakistan \$5b trade target achievable: Pakistani official

Vice President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) strongly believes that target of \$5 billion trade between Iran and Pakistan is achievable.

Mian Shaikat Masud told IRNA that trade activities this year witnessed a boost and

that Iran’s Ambassador to Pakistan Mehdi Honardoust also attended the meeting,” he said.

“We feel that such meetings can always help to promote business and we have chalked out a plan to have next meeting in Iran. FPCCI is planning to take a trade delegation to Iran

Gwadar and Chabahar, so these two ports can become twin sister ports and lot of business activity can be generated between the two countries and that is how we can develop more relations with Iran.”

Shaikat Masud contended that resumption of banking channel is very important for enhancing trade ties.

“We need to establish one bank from Iran in Pakistan and one bank from Pakistan in Iran so that business could be developed,” he said.

He added, “Iran is our neighbor and we can export so many things including agricultural products and import many products produced by Iran.”

“I am very much hopeful that trade ties between the two countries would be further enhanced.”

Iran and Pakistan have agreed to increase annual trade to \$5 billion by 2021. In a major development after the JCPOA, the central banks of the two countries have signed an agreement to resume ties through banking channel.

Last year, trade between Iran and Pakistan increased to more than \$1 billion which shows a growing trend after the JCPOA.



IRNA

both countries would be able to achieve the set target of \$5 billion.

“I am very hopeful that relations between the two countries will improve in the future,” he said.

He added that Pakistan-Iran business council had met for the fourth time in Islamabad to discuss ways to promote trade ties. “It is heartening to see

very soon,” he said.

The businessman added, “It is very important to develop strong relations between the two countries and we feel the time has come for that.”

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects are coming and with road coming from China to Gwadar port of Pakistan can help promote trade relations between

Iran to roll out Mideast’s first electric cars

Iran is to become the first Middle Eastern country to launch electric vehicles, with Mitsubishi Motors’ plug-in hybrid Outlander SUV expected to hit Iranian roads as early as fall.

The Japanese automaker seeks to take advantage of burgeoning demand for environmentally friendly cars in the country where around one million cars are sold annually, Press TV reported.

Iran Khodro is the largest car manufacturer in the Middle East, but the serious problem of air pollution in Tehran and other big cities has prompted state planners to look for green vehicles.



According to a Tuesday report on the Nikkei business daily website, 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.

The introduction of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles known as PHEVs into the Iranian market requires a series of adjustment work, such as a network of rapid-charging stations has to be built.

However, PHEVs which employ both conventional engines and electric motors can be charged at home.

Mitsubishi Motors has sold plug-in hybrids in Japan and Western Europe, with plans to broaden into the US and Eastern Europe this year, Nikkei said.

For carmakers, the lifting of sanctions has turned Iran into a new bonanza market. European manufacturers, especially France’s Peugeot and Renault, have been quick to stake out a foothold.

Among Asian companies, Chinese and Korean automakers have the upper hand through a series of assembly lines which produce completely knocked down (CKD) units.

Japan’s auto profile in Iran, however, is restricted to dealership. According to Nikkei, Mitsubishi Motors plans to increase Iran dealerships to about 50 from the current 41 this year after seeing sales volume grow 16-fold on the year to about 3,200 units in 2016.

On Monday, Renault signed Iran’s biggest-ever car deal worth €660 million to produce 150,000 units a year. The agreement calls for 30 percent of the cars manufactured in Iran to be exported.

Another French carmaker, PSA Group whose Peugeot and Citroen cars have an omnipresence on Iranian roads, are discussing plans for new production in the country of more than 80 million people.

Both Renault and Peugeot have a strong basis in Iran, but they have had a bumpy road for return after leaving the country when the West intensified sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

The Iranian market is highly important and the turnaround in Renault’s business this year after massive losses during the years it was absent from the country came courtesy of resuming sales to Iran.

Renault says its sales in Iran increased by more than 100 percent to 68,365 vehicles in the first half of 2017, a nearly 10 percent market share.

Iran: €3b Siemens credit line...

From Page 1

China Railway Group Limited (CREC) is implementing the \$1.8-billion project to electrify the high-speed rail link between Tehran, Qom and Isfahan.

Iran has announced plans to increase its investment by up to \$25 billion over the next 10 years on modernizing and expanding its railway network.

Siemens was one of the first major companies to agree on a deal with Iran after the lifting of sanctions in January 2016, signing a \$1.6 billion memorandum of understanding on Iran’s rail infrastructure and a long-term roadmap with MAPNA on the power sector.



The agreement included a license for manufacturing F-class gas turbines in Iran, based on which more than 20 gas turbines and associated generators will be delivered over the next four to five years.

Moody's Investors Service cut the outlook for Qatar's banking system to negative from stable on Tuesday amid a continuing blockade of the country by its neighbors.

World trade indicator suggests continued modest recovery: WTO



jota.info

The latest World Trade Outlook Indicator points to global merchandise trade growth that will continue to strengthen in the third quarter of 2017, the World Trade Organization (WTO) said.

Meanwhile, global export orders also show signs of flattening, which could mean that upward momentum in trade growth may have peaked, the WTO cautioned, Xinhua reported.

If this is the case, trade growth would be expected to moderate later this year.

These results are slightly stronger than the WTO's most recent trade forecast of April 12, which anticipated moderate trade growth this year after weak

expansion in 2016.

The latest reading of 102.6 is higher than the previous reading of 102.2 issued in May this year, suggesting sustained momentum for trade growth, said the WTO in a statement.

Readings of 100 indicate growth in line with medium-term trends; readings greater than 100 suggest above trend growth, while those below 100 indicate the reverse.

Strong performances in air freight, export orders and container shipping are balanced by weaker results in other indices.

Results for agricultural raw materials and electronic components trade have been weaker, but both

indices have turned up recently.

At the same time, weak growth in automobile production and sales is a cause for concern as it may signal weakening consumer confidence worldwide, said the report.

The WTO said the outlook indicator is not intended as a short-term forecast, although it does provide an indication of trade growth in the near future.

Its main contribution is to identify turning points and gauge momentum in global trade growth.

It said the indicator complements trade statistics and forecasts from the WTO and other international organizations.

Bitcoin's value has jumped to a record high, following a month of turmoil.

The virtual currency reached \$3,451.86 (£2,651) per coin in Monday trade, according to the CoinDesk Bitcoin Price Index, BBC reported.

It had never crossed the \$3,000 mark until the weekend. The market value of all bitcoins in existence has now surpassed \$56 billion (£43 billion).

The surge followed the creation of a spin-off crypto-currency, Bitcoin Cash, last week.

The new asset is trading well below the peak price of \$727.54 (£557) per coin it attained on August 2.

However, Bitcoin Cash's future does appear to be more assured after Coinbase, one of the leading exchange and wallet services, promised to support it after previously refusing to give such a commitment.

"We are planning to have support for Bitcoin Cash by January 1, 2018, assuming no additional risks emerge during that time," it announced on its blog.

Bitcoin fork

The value of the original Bitcoin experienced big swings in July. First there was concern that there might be a 'civil war' over rival plans to speed up



GETTY IMAGES

Bitcoin soars to record high value

transactions.

That helped cause its value to dip to \$1,938.94 (£1,485) on July 16 before a compromise scheme called Segwit2x gained favor.

Then a fresh plan to fork the currency emerged from a group of insiders unhappy with the Segwit2x initiative.

On August 1, they offered investors a Bitcoin Cash token to match every original Bitcoin token they owned. The move created an incompatible version of the blockchain ledger, which keeps track of past transactions.

The initiative had the potential to undermine the original Bitcoin,

particularly if many miners had jumped ship. Miners provide the computer processing power to authorize transactions, and Bitcoin Cash was designed to appeal to their interests.

However, it currently remains more profitable to mine the original Bitcoin's blockchain than that of Bitcoin Cash, and support for the new crypto-currency remains limited.

"What this has shown is that Bitcoin is much more resilient to forks than some people thought," commented Michael Parsons, a blockchain adviser.

"And it appears that there is room for more than one type of Bitcoin to exist." Another market watcher suggested that the introduction of Bitcoin Cash had actually contributed to the surge in the original version's value.

Matthew Newton, market analyst at the eToro trading platform, said, "We've seen a lot of people selling their Bitcoin Cash in order to buy more Bitcoin."

"On top of this, some investors sat on the sidelines last week, waiting to see what happened; these investors are now moving back into Bitcoin."

The total market capitalization for all crypto-currencies — including Ethereum and Litecoin — was close to \$118 billion on Monday, according to CoinMarketCap.

German industrial production down in June

The German industrial production fell unexpectedly in June for the first time after five consecutive rises, German federal statistics office Destatis reported.

According to the provisional figures of Destatis, the industrial output was down by 1.1 percent from May after seasonal, working-day and price adjustment, Xinhua wrote.

The industrial production excluding energy and construction was down by 1.4 percent. The production of capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods all showed decreases. Energy production was up by 1.4 percent, while the production of construction decreased by 1.0 percent, Destatis reported.

Economists had expected a 0.2 percent increase.

Despite the unexpected setback, the production in the second quarter



neweurope.eu

increased by 1.8 percent compared to the first quarter of the year, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy said in a statement.

"The incoming orders as well as the indicators for the business climate indicate that the upward trend in industrial production continues," the ministry said.

UK staff shortages are pushing up pay

The UK labor market is tightening, with employers finding it harder to recruit staff, according to a survey of employment agencies.

The survey said that pay rates for both permanent and temporary staff are rising quickly due to a continuing fall in the number of job applicants, according to BBC.

Last year's Brexit vote is also driving some EU nationals home, making it harder to fill a wide variety of jobs.

Official figures have shown employment levels in the UK at record high levels.

The monthly survey of employment agencies was carried out by the market research firm Markit for the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC).

REC Chief Executive Kevin Green, said: "It's clear that employers are having to work even harder to fill jobs as vacancies rise and candidate



PA

availability shrinks.

"The parts of the economy most reliant on European workers are under even more pressure as many EU workers return home."

He added, "Employers are not just struggling to hire the brightest and the best but also people to fill roles such as chefs, drivers and warehouse workers."

Main Indices of TSE

| Index | Value | Change | Percent |
|---------------------|----------|--------|---------|
| Total Index | 81313.9 | 2522.5 | 3.11 |
| Industry Index | 70220.9 | 2306.2 | 3.29 |
| Free Float Index | 89598.8 | 3826 | 4.27 |
| First Market Index | 56939.4 | 2388.7 | 4.21 |
| Second Market Index | 177435.4 | 2030.5 | 1.14 |

Overall Index details on 20170808

| | | | |
|--------|---------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| First | 81285.7 | Change end of year(%) | 919.04% |
| High | 81346.7 | Historical highest | 89500.6 (20140105) |
| Low | 81278.2 | Historical lowest | 100 (1369/1/6) |
| Close | 81313.9 | Base Value | 100 (1369/1/6) |
| Change | 2522.5 | | |

Industry Index details on 20170808

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| First | 70174.0 | Change end of year(%) | 1034.32% |
| Max Value | 70269.6 | Historical highest | 75181.9 (20140105) |
| Max Value | 70278.2 | Historical lowest | 1226.8 (1377/8/25) |
| Closing | 70220.9 | Base Value | |
| Closing | 2306.2 | | |

Free Float Index details on 20170808

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| First | 89811.8 | Change end of year(%) | |
| Max Value | 89665 | Historical highest | 105040 (20140105) |
| Max Value | 89154.9 | Historical lowest | |
| Closing | 89598.8 | Base Value | |
| Closing | 3826 | | |

Main Board Index details on 20170808

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| First | 56913.7 | Change end of year(%) | 787.77% |
| Max Value | 56947.8 | Historical highest | 67441.4 (20140105) |
| Max Value | 56380.7 | Historical lowest | |
| Closing | 56939.4 | Base Value | 4740.4 (1381/6/2) |
| Closing | 2388.7 | | |

Secondary Index details on 20170808

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| First | 177406.2 | Change end of year(%) | 1317.58% |
| Max Value | 177619.2 | Historical highest | 181353 (20170522) |
| Max Value | 177894 | Historical lowest | |
| Closing | 177435.4 | Base Value | 4740.4 (1381/6/2) |
| Closing | 2030.5 | | |

Major Currencies

| Currency | To USD | Currency | To USD |
|-------------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Turkish Lira | 0.2832 | Chinese Yuan | 0.1491 |
| Euro | 1.1814 | UAE Dirham | 0.2721 |
| British Pound | 1.3048 | Kuwaiti Dinar | 3.3099 |
| Australian Dollar | 0.7925 | Iraqi Dinar | 0.0008 |
| Japanese 100 Yen | 0.0090 | Saudi Riyal | 0.2666 |

Major Commodities

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Crude Oil | \$49.53 | Silver | \$16.22 |
| Gold | \$1266.20 | Platinum | \$973.00 |
| Copper | \$2.90 | Wheat | \$467.00 |

North Khorasan hub of Bronze Age grey pottery production

The discovery of furnaces, ash and coal accumulation in Manjaq, North Khorasan Province Mound 2 indicates that the site had been a workshop-industrial zone in the Bronze Age for the production of grey pottery.



IRNA

Manjaq Mound 2 is located one kilometer from Robat Qara Bil Village in the rural district of Golestan in the city of Garneh, according to IRNA.

Research Institute of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) quoted the head of the archeological team, Reza Nasseri, as saying that the mound is one of the ancient locations of North Khorasan wherein works dating back to the Copper-Stone period up to the Bronze era could be studied.

Given the location of the mound along the western banks of the Atrak River valley and its proximity to Gorgan Plain, extensive study could be conducted in this area to determine the impacts of the pre-historic culture in Gorgan Plain, he said.

He cited the most important objectives of the study as determining the boundaries of the area and designating it as private, conducting relative chronology of settlement in the area, surveying regional and trans-regional interactions of Manjaq Mound 2 during the settlement period and ascertaining the diet and nutrition pattern of the ancient inhabitants.

Nasseri said the vegetation and animal species, study of the artifacts and evidence of trade and cultural exchanges by relying on archeological findings gained as a result of the excavations, recognition of economic and social developments in the settlement period were among other objectives of the plan.

On the plan to identify the limits of the area and making 15 exploratory wells around the mound, he stated that in order to identify the sequence of the settlements, a step-like trench was created on the southern side as a result of which two new clay baking furnaces and ancient structures with adobe and clay walls were found.

Tibet's fragile ecosystem in danger

China must change its flawed environmental policy

As Australia continues to battle a water crisis and the challenges facing the world's driest inhabited continent, Tibet on the other hand is Asia's water tower, its principal rainmaker and the largest source of fresh water, feeding over a billion lives in Asia including China.

At an average elevation of 4,000 meters above sea level and with an area of 2.5m sq.km., Tibet is the world's highest and largest plateau. It's nearly two-third the size of the European continent. If Tibet were still a sovereign nation it would be the world's tenth largest. It has the largest concentration of the world's tallest mountains and is called the earth's third pole because it has the largest reservoir of glacial ice after the two poles. Tibet is also a treasure trove of minerals, oil and natural gas reserves and a leading producer of lithium in China, The Guardian reported.

Chinese scientists have over the years been proposing an increase in nature reserves across Tibet considering the fragile ecosystem on the plateau. In April this year China unveiled its grand plans on turning the entire stretch of Tibet into a national park.

The Chinese government has been declaring more and more national parks and nature



wp.com

reserves across Tibet in recent years, and this is a welcome gesture. The Chinese government must take into consideration the fragility and delicate nature of Tibet's environment and reign in the factors that contribute to environmental crises in Tibet: Rapid urbanization, transfer of Chinese population into Tibet,

unchecked mining on Tibet's sacred mountains and damming of Tibet's rivers to facilitate hydro power projects.

In light of such robust projects, Tibetans are not only deprived of their traditional way of living, but are made peripheral beneficiaries of the projects. The real beneficiaries are the

Chinese officials who pocket their share of the gain, the Chinese companies and the Chinese employers benefiting from the economic opportunities.

We are not against Chinese development projects in Tibet per se, but we propose that the real beneficiaries of any development must be Tibetans in Tibet.

Any projects that China undertake must be environmentally sustainable, culturally sensitive and economically beneficial to local Tibetans.

China's rolling of its strategic and economic imperatives in Tibet has greater implications on the larger environmental consequences caused by climate change.

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

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

Less sugar quickly improves health of overweight kids, adults

Research showed overweight children and adults can significantly and quickly improve their health by consuming less sugar. The study, published in the August edition of *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*, or *JAOA*, found that improved health can be seen in less than two weeks with reduced sugar consumption, according to UPI.

Reducing or eliminating fructose, especially high-fructose corn syrup, or HFCS, from the diet can avert obesity, fatty liver disease and type 2 diabetes. Fructose accelerates the conversion of sugar to fat. Glucose metabolizes 20 percent in the liver and 80 percent throughout the body, while fructose metabolizes 90 percent in the liver and converts to fat 18.9 times faster than glucose.

Dr. Tyree Winters, an osteopathic pediatrician focused on childhood obesity, said, "Fructose provides no nutritional value and isn't metabolized in the brain."

"Your body converts it to fat, but doesn't recognize that you've eaten, so the hunger doesn't go away."

"Many young patients tell me they're always hungry, which makes sense because what they're eating

isn't helping their bodies function." HFCS can be found in 75 percent of packaged foods and drinks due to the fact that it is cheaper and 20 percent sweeter than raw sugar. Fructose starts the metabolic

pathways that converts to fat and is stored in the body.

Winters said, "If we cut out the HFCS and make way for food that the body can properly metabolize, the hunger and sugar cravings fade."

"At the same time, patients are getting healthier without dieting or counting calories."

"This one change has the potential to prevent serious diseases and help restore health."



UPI

Gold flecks could be newest weapon in fight against cancer

Tiny flecks of gold could be used in the fight against cancer, new research suggested.

Scientists at Edinburgh University have just completed a study which shows the precious metal increased the effectiveness of drugs used to treat lung cancer cells, express.co.uk reported.

Minute fragments, known as gold nanoparticles, were encased in a chemical device by the research team.

While this has not yet been tested on humans, it is hoped such a device could one day be used to reduce side effects of current chemotherapy treatments by precisely targeting diseased cells without damaging healthy tissue.

Gold is a safe chemical element and has the ability to accelerate — or catalyze — chemical reactions.

Researchers at the University of Edinburgh discovered properties of the metal that allow these catalytic abilities to be accessed in living things without any side effects.

The device was shown to be effective after being implanted in the brain of a zebrafish, suggesting it can be used in living animals.

The study was carried out in collaboration with researchers at the University of Zaragoza's Institute of Nanoscience of Aragon in Spain, with funding coming from Cancer Research UK (CRUK) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

Dr. Asier Unciti-Broeca, from the University of Edinburgh's CRUK Edinburgh Centre, said, "We have discovered new properties of gold that were previously unknown and our findings suggest that the metal could be used to release drugs inside tumors very safely."

"There is still work to do before we can use this on patients, but this study is a step forward."

"We hope that a similar device in humans could one day be implanted by surgeons to activate chemotherapy directly in tumors and reduce harmful effects to healthy organs."

Dr. Aine McCarthy, Cancer Research UK's senior science information officer, said, "By developing new, better ways of delivering cancer drugs, studies like this have the potential to improve cancer treatment and reduce side effects. In particular, it could help improve treatment for brain tumors and other hard-to-treat cancers."

"The next steps will be to see if this method is safe to use in people, what its long- and short-term side effects are, and if it's a better way to treat some cancers."



express.co.uk
 Gold nanoparticles could one day be used to reduce side effects of current chemotherapy treatments.

Blood pressure fluctuations linked to dementia

People whose blood pressure varies widely from day to day may be more likely to develop dementia than adults who have fairly steady blood pressure, a Japanese study suggested.

Researchers examined data from one month of daily home blood pressure readings for 1,674 older adults without dementia, according to Reuters.com. During the next five years, compared to individuals with little to no fluctuation, people with the most variations in blood pressure were more than twice as likely to develop dementia.

Lead study author Dr. Tomoyuki Ohara, of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Kyushu University in Fukuoka City, Japan, said, "The present study demonstrated that an increased day-to-day blood pressure variation (measured at home) was significantly associated with the development of all-cause dementia, vascular dementia, and Alzheimer's disease, regardless of average home blood pressure."

"While the study didn't assess why this might be the case, it's possible that daily variation in blood pressure might cause changes in the brain's structure and function that contribute to the development of dementia."

Consistently high blood pressure, or hypertension, is a known risk factor for dementia. Previous research has also shown a link between cognitive impairment and dementia and different blood pressure readings at the doctor's office.

Home monitoring might give a more reliable snapshot of blood pressure than tests at the doctor's office because stress or anxiety about these exams sometimes leads patients to have higher blood pressure at the office than they do at home, a so-called "white coat" effect.

Participants in the current study were 71 years old on average. For one month, they typically measured their blood pressure three times each morning before eating breakfast or taking medication.

About 43 percent of them took drugs to manage high blood pressure.

Researchers reviewed data from blood pressure readings taken during that month, conducted cognitive testing to uncover the development of dementia and reviewed medical records for the occurrence of

stroke.

Five years later, 134 participants had developed Alzheimer's disease and 47 had developed what's known as vascular dementia, which results from diminished blood flow to the brain and is often related to the occurrence of small strokes.

People with the most variation in daily blood pressure readings at the start of the study were more than twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease and almost three times more likely to develop vascular dementia, researchers report in *Circulation*.

Among participants with the most variability in blood pressure, higher systolic blood pressure (the top number in a blood pressure reading) in particular increased the risk of vascular dementia but didn't appear to heighten the odds of Alzheimer's disease.

Systolic pressure is the pressure blood exerts against artery walls when the heart beats. One limitation of the study is that researchers lacked data on changes in blood pressure after the initial home monitoring period and didn't have information on any lifestyle changes or medications people may have used to control blood pressure during the five-year follow-up period, the authors noted.

Dr. Costantino Iadecola, director of the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York said, "It's also possible that fluctuations in blood pressure could be a symptom of cognitive decline in progress rather than a risk factor for developing dementia in the future."

"Presently, doctors don't know how to reduce variability in blood pressure."

"The key question to be answered is whether interventions to control blood pressure variation, once available, would reduce dementia risk."

"In the meantime, the take-home message is that the health of the cardiovascular system is of paramount importance to the health of the brain."

"Even if specific measures to target blood pressure variation may not be available at this time, maintaining general cardiovascular health through lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, etc.) and control of risk factors (diabetes, hypertension, smoking, obesity, etc.) remain the most sensible approaches to stave off dementia."



express.co.uk

Ways to slash chances of suffering the deadly condition

Heart attacks happen when one or more of your coronary arteries become blocked.

They can prove fatal or leave sufferers with long-lasting damage. Here are four ways to prevent an episode, express.co.uk wrote.

Every five minutes someone in the UK has a heart attack.

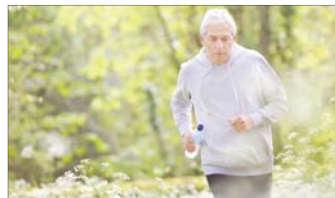
This is where the supply of blood to the heart is suddenly blocked.

According to the National Health Service (NHS), this can cause the heart muscles to become damaged and begin to die.

Without treatment this can cause irreversible damage or death.

The leading cause of heart attacks is coronary heart disease (CHD).

This is where your arteries get clogged up with deposits



express.co.uk

of cholesterol.

Less common triggers include drug misuse and a lack of oxygen in the blood called hypoxia.

However, there are a number of ways to reduce your risk of a heart attack by changing your lifestyle.

Diet: The NHS recommend you eat a low-fat, high-fiber

diet with plenty of fruit, vegetables and whole grains.

They suggest limiting salt and sugar intake, and foods high in saturated fat such as sausages, hard cheese and cake.

Exercise: Being physically active helps you maintain a healthy weight which, in turn, reduces your chances of high

blood pressure.

The NHS stated, "Regular exercise will make your heart and blood circulatory system more efficient, lower your cholesterol level and also keep your blood pressure at a healthy level."

Smoking: Giving up will reduce your risk of developing CHD.

It's a major risk factor for developing atherosclerosis, furring of the arteries.

Stress: The American Heart Association recommend reducing stress levels.

They said, "A few studies have noted a relationship between coronary heart disease risk and stress in a person's life that may affect the risk factors for heart disease and stroke."

Scientists develop new regenerative tissue technology

Researchers at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center have developed a breakthrough technology to generate any cell type for treatment in the body.

The Tissue Nanotransfection, or TNT, can be capable of generating any cell type for treatment and can be used to repair injured tissue or restore function to aging tissue, UPI wrote.

The study, published in *Nature Nanotechnology*, was conducted on mice and pigs.

Researchers were able to reprogram skin cells to become vascular cells in severely injured legs that lacked blood flow.

Active blood vessels appeared within one week and the legs were saved within two weeks.

Dr. Chandan Sen, director of Ohio State's Center for Regenerative Medicine and Cell Based Therapies, said, "By using



theengineer.co.uk

skin cells into elements of any organ with just one touch.

"This process only takes less than a second and is non-invasive, and then you're off. The chip does not stay with you and the reprogramming of the cell starts."

"Our technology keeps the cells in the body under immune surveillance, so immune suppression is not necessary."

TNT is a nanotechnology-based chip designed to deliver cargo to adult cells in the body and the design of specific biological cargo for cell conversion. The cargo is delivered by a small electrical charge zapping the device.

It doesn't require laboratory-based procedures, is non-invasive and can be implemented at the point of care.

Clinical trials are expected to begin next year to test the technology in humans.

our novel nanochip technology, injured or compromised organs can be replaced.

"We have shown that skin is a fertile land where we can grow the elements of any organ that is declining."

"This is difficult to imagine, but it is achievable, successfully working about 98 percent of the time."

"With this technology, we can convert

Researchers unveiled a machine they call a digital-to-biological converter — it sends digitized information describing DNA, RNA or a protein to a device that prints out synthesized versions of the original material.

New grass snake discovered in UK

A new type of snake has been discovered in the UK, bringing the total number of species to four.

Scientists say the barred grass snake, *Natrix helvetica*, is actually a different species to the common or eastern grass snake, *Natrix*, according to [bbc.com](#).

Before, it was thought the grass snake was one species with several subspecies that looked slightly different.

The others native to the UK are the smooth snake and the adder, which is venomous.

Grass snakes are a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act so it is a criminal offence to injure or kill them.

Both types of grass snake are normally found in lowland regions in the south of England.

The snakes can be more than a meter long, are found near water and eat mainly amphibians like frogs and newts.

The newly distinguished barred grass snake is grey, not olive green like the *N. natrix* and does not have the same bright yellow collar.

The snake is also found in Switzerland, Italy and France and also has been seen in western Germany.



The species has been distinguished from the common or eastern grass snake. [bbc.com](#)

Along its entire length the *N. helvetica* has black stripes, which on the common grass snake are barely noticeable.

The Senckenberg Research Institute in Germany led the study into the genetics of more than 1,600 grass snakes.

Professor Uwe Fritz said, "We discovered that the barred grass snake, previously considered a subspecies, is in fact a distinct species."

"We now have to pay close attention to which species of grass snake is involved in each case, in order to be able to assess whether one of them may be more threatened than previously thought."

Record for fastest light pulse set

A research team at the University of Central Florida has demonstrated the fastest light pulse ever developed, a 53-attosecond X-ray flash.

The group led by Professor Zenghu Chang beat its own record set in 2012: A 67-attosecond extreme ultraviolet light pulse that was the fastest at the time, according to [sciencedaily.com](#).

At one-quintillionth of a second, an attosecond is unimaginably fast. In 53 attoseconds, light travels less than one-thousandth of the diameter of a human hair.

In the same way high-speed cameras can record slow-motion video of flying bullets, attosecond light pulses allow scientists to capture images of fast-moving electrons in atoms and molecules with unprecedented sharpness.



University of Central Florida Professor Zenghu Chang broke the record for the fastest light pulse. [sciencedaily.com](#)

As reported Aug. 4 in *Nature Communications*, the pulses Chang has now demonstrated are not just shorter in duration, but also in wavelength.

The new light reaches an important spectral region, the so called 'water window', where carbon atoms absorb strongly but water does not.

Chang, the director of the Institute for the Frontiers of Attosecond Science and Technology (IFAST), said, "Such attosecond soft X-rays could be used to shoot slow-motion video of electrons and atoms of biological molecules in living cells to, for instance, improve the efficiency of solar panels by better understanding how photosynthesis works."

X-rays interact with the tightly bound electrons in matter and may reveal which electrons move in which atoms, providing another way to study fast processes in materials with chemical element specificity.

That capability is invaluable for the development of next-generation logic and memory chips for mobile phones and computers that are a thousand times faster than those in use today.

Producing attosecond X-rays requires a new type of high-power driver: Femtosecond lasers with a long wavelength. It's an approach that Chang and his team have pioneered.



[phys.org](#)

Japanese create ice cream that doesn't melt

A team of Japanese scientists has developed a way to make and sell a type of ice cream that does not melt, capitalizing on a discovery made accidentally by a chef.

Most ice cream starts melting just moments after it is scooped from a container and placed into a bowl or on a cone, [phys.org](#) wrote.

Because of this, people have taken to eating it quickly. But now that may change, as a team in Japan has found a way to maintain the shape of ice cream no matter how slowly it is eaten.

The ice cream reportedly came about by mistake after a chef in Japan was asked to find a way to use strawberries

grown in areas impacted by the earthquake and tsunami back in 2011 — they wouldn't grow in a normal shape, so customers wouldn't buy them.

The chef tried to use the strawberries in other ways, and at one point, complained that they caused cream to solidify.

Hearing of the complaint, a team at Kanazawa University took a closer look and discovered that a compound called polyphenol in the strawberries was responsible for solidifying the cream.

The extract, they found, makes it difficult for water and oil to separate, which is what occurs in regular ice

cream. They tried mixing it with ice cream and found it would prevent the ice cream from melting.

Because the extract is completely natural, it did not require testing by health inspectors — instead, it was made available to local shop owners who gladly began selling the ice cream in prepressed shapes on sticks or forms to customers who were more than happy to try it.

Local media picked up the story and soon, the news spread around the world.

Local newspapers have been running stories reporting on how the ice

cream tastes (apparently still good) and how well it stands up to warm temperatures.

Some customers would hold their ice cream for many minutes in direct sunlight to see if it will melt.

Others took a harsher approach, subjecting samples to hair dryers or other artificially heated environments.

By all accounts, the ice cream maintains its shape for several hours in warm weather, and still feels chilly in the mouth.

Because the new ice cream is still so new, it is not clear if it will migrate to other countries. Currently, it is only for sale in Japan.

Female brain more active than male brain

The results of the largest functional brain imaging survey ever conducted suggest female brains are more active than male brains.

Scientists surveyed the results of 46,034 brain imaging studies involving single-photon emission computed tomography, or SPECT, a type of 3D gamma ray imaging, [UPI](#) reported.

SPECT can measure blood flow through the brain, identifying regions of heightened neurological activity. The massive dataset allowed researchers to identify gendered differences in brain structure.

Daniel G. Amen, a psychiatrist at Amen Clinics in California, said, "The quantifiable differences we identified between men and women are important for understanding gender-based risk for brain disorders such as Alzheimer's disease."

"Using functional neuroimaging tools, such as SPECT, are essential to developing precision medicine brain treatments in the future."



[UPI](#)

The results of the record-breaking survey showed female brains are especially active in the prefrontal cortex and limbic system.

The prefrontal cortex is responsible for focus and impulse control, while the limbic system controls motivation, behavior and emotions, like mood and anxiety.

The parts of the brain linked with vision and coordination were more active among men.

Researchers say studied differences in male and female brains can reveal how men and women are affected by different diseases and public health problems.

Females experience higher rates of Alzheimer's disease and depression, while men are more likely to experience conduct-related problems and end up in jail or prison.

Dr. George Perry, dean of the College of Sciences at the University of Texas at San Antonio, added, "Precisely defining the physiological and structural basis of gender differences in brain function will illuminate Alzheimer's disease and understanding our partners."

Researchers published the results of their brain scan survey in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*.

How can scientists protect the structures that house fusion reactors?

Scientists in Belgium have shown that vapor clouds of liquid metal can successfully reflect heat during extreme temperature flux, [UPI](#) wrote.

Today, fusion energy is only an ambitious idea. Researchers continue to build and test fusion reactors, but self-sustaining fusion has not yet been achieved.

Still, some scientists are preparing for a future where fusion energy and fusion reactors are a reality.

Currently, fusion test

Metal clouds protect fusion reactor walls from heat flux

facilities deploy tungsten walls, but these are unlikely to be able to withstand the heat generated by a fusion reactor in the future.

Scientists at Ghent University modeled a replacement wall made of liquid metals. Models showed tin or

lithium metal can be liquefied and vaporized when it is pushed through a mesh layer of tungsten.



[UPI](#)

The cloud of liquid metal can self-repair damage caused by the reactor's hot plasma.

The metal vapor will grow and shrink as the cloud wall is bombarded by plasma.

The vapor droplets will absorb much of the heat, allowing the wall to reflect the thermal energy across a larger area.

Researchers found the liquid metal cloud technology allows the tungsten wall to maintain a stable surface temperature, even as the reactor experiences extreme temperature fluxes.

Scientists detailed their work in the *Journal of Nature Communications*.

More Syrian child brides in Jordan amid poverty, uncertainty

Married at 15 and divorced at 16, a Syrian teen said she regrets having said yes to a handsome suitor — a stranger who turned into an abusive husband.

Yet the reasons that transformed her into a child bride have become more prevalent among Syrians who live in Jordanian exile because of a six-year-old civil war back home, AP reported.

More families marry off daughters to ease the financial burden or say marriage is the way to protect the 'honor of girls seen as vulnerable outside their homeland.

Figures from Jordan's population census document the long suspected increase for the first time. In 2015, brides between the ages of 13 and 17 made up almost 44 percent of all Syrian females in Jordan getting married that year, compared to 33 percent in 2010.

With Syrians expected to remain in exile for years, it's a harmful trend for refugees and their overburdened host country, United Nations and Jordanian officials said.

More Syrian girls will lose out on education, since most child brides drop out of school. They typically marry fellow Syrians who are just a few years older, often without a steady job — a constellation that helps perpetuate poverty. And they will likely have more children than those who marry as adults, driving up Jordan's fertility rate.

Maysoun Al-Zoubi, secretary general of Jordan's Higher Population Council, said, "This means we will have more people, more than the government of Jordan can afford."

The figures on early marriage were drawn from Jordan's November 2015 census and compiled in a new study.

The census counted 9.5 million people living in Jordan, including 2.9 non-Jordanians.

Among the foreigners were 1.265 million Syrians — or double the number of refugees registered in the kingdom since the outbreak of the Syria conflict in 2011.



inquirer.net

The other Syrians include migrant laborers who came before the war, and those who never registered as refugees.

The figures on early marriage include all Syrians in Jordan, not just registered refugees.

Many came from southern Syria's culturally conservative countryside, where even before the conflict girls typically married in their teens. Still, the study showed a higher rate of early marriage among Syrians in exile than in their homeland.

Child brides are traditionally shielded from outsiders, and the family provided a rare glimpse at what drives early marriage.

The parents, fearful their children would be harassed, especially the girls, did not enroll them in local schools, typically overcrowded to accommodate large numbers of Syrians.

In such a setting — girls sitting at home without a seeming purpose — the push to have them get married becomes stronger.

Can gender gap be measured in dollars only?

Until a decade or so ago, experts and world organizations measured the impact of natural and man-made disasters in terms of human losses. For instance, they would inform about the number — and suffering — of human beings falling victims of extraordinary floods, droughts, heat or cold waves, and armed conflicts. This is not the case anymore.

Now the measurements are made in terms of money, i.e., how much losses in terms of money a disaster can cause to world economy — more specifically to gross domestic product. In other words, human suffering is now being calculated in terms of dollars. This way, the traditional human welfare related question "How are you today?" might gradually become "How much are you worth today?"

According to reliefweb, this trend to "monetizing" instead of "humanizing" shockingly applies also to what can be considered as the major social and human drama the world has been facing all along its known history — the gender gap.

True that every now and then reports remind about women representing more than 50 percent of all human beings; that they are the human 'life-givers'; the guardians of family and nature and the engine of social coherence, let alone their essential contribution to feeding the world. Indigenous women, for instance, are the key protectors of world's



aljazeera.com

biodiversity.

Here, the facts speak by themselves: globally, women make up 43 percent of the agricultural labor force.

In many poor countries, more than 95 percent of all economically active women work in agriculture. In sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, women hold 10 percent of the credit available to smallholder agriculture, they add.

Similarly, female farmers receive only five percent of all agricultural extension services, and only 15 percent of agricultural extension officers are women.

These facts, which have been cited among others by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), also indicate that closing the gender gap could create 240 million jobs by 2025 and add US \$12 trillion to annual global growth (GDP), according to a report by McKinsey and Company.

Other major UN specialized bodies, like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have systematically been highlighting the essential contribution of women.

Rural women and girls are key agents

of change to free the world from hunger and extreme poverty, said FAO's Director-General José Graziano da Silva at a special side-event on gender equality and women's empowerment on the occasion of the 40th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, July 3-8, 2017).

"Their role goes beyond agricultural production and extends throughout the food system but, as we all know, rural women continue to face multiple constraints," he said, noting that they have less access to productive resources and employment opportunities.

Graziano da Silva also stressed that women are more affected by the consequences of conflicts and crises.

"During a drought situation, for example, a greater workload is placed on women. In Africa and Latin America, women can spend many hours a day searching for water in times of drought and then need to walk many kilometers carrying a bucket of water on their head," he said.

In spite of this, women worldwide continue to be victims of flagrant inequalities.

The need to accelerate women's empowerment in fighting droughts and desertification will be on the table of the UNCCD's 13 Conference of the Parties (COP 13), that's the signatories to the Convention, scheduled to take place in Ordos, China, Sept. 6-16, 2017

Greater access to higher education could have reversed EU referendum result

Greater access to Higher Education in the UK could have reversed the result of the 2016 EU referendum, according to new research from the University of Leicester.

The paper, published in the journal *World Development*, suggested that access to Higher Education was the 'predominant factor' dividing those who voted Remain and those who voted Leave, sciencedaily.com reported.

The research also suggested that greater access to higher and further education can produce different political outcomes — which has been demonstrated in the 2017 General Election, where it can be argued that voting populations with a higher education had a decisive effect on the result.

The research applied Multivariate Regression Analysis combined with a Logit Model to the real data to identify statistically significant factors that have influenced voting preference simultaneously as well as the odds ratio in favor of Leave.



bbc.co.uk

Among the key findings of the paper are that:

- An increase of about three percent of British adults accessing to higher education in England and Wales could have reversed the referendum result;

- A decrease of about seven percent in turnout in England and Wales could have also changed the result of the referendum.

- The factor of elderly voters, although having an effect on the outcome, was generally over reported as a dominant factor;

Dr. Aihua Zhang, from the University of Leicester's Department of Mathematics, said: "The EU referendum raised significant debate and speculation of the intention of the electorate and its motivations in voting. Much of this debate was informed by simple data analysis examining individual factors, in isolation, and using opinion polling data.

"This, in the case of the EU referendum where multiple factors influence the decision simultaneously, failed to predict the eventual outcome. On June 23, 2016, Britain's vote to leave the EU came as a surprise to most observers, with a bigger voter turnout — 72.2 percent — than that of any UK general election in the past decade."

UK-based South Asian women hiding cancer

A number of UK women from South Asian backgrounds who have cancer hide it because of a perceived stigma about the disease, the BBC has learned.

One woman chose to 'suffer on [her] own' through chemotherapy for fear of her family's reaction, and questioned whether God was punishing her.

Experts said others were seeking help too late, causing preventable deaths.

Pravina Patel, who said about her own experience, stumbled upon a lump in her breast when she was 36.

She grew up in a strict Indian community where even talking about the disease was considered shameful. When she was diagnosed, she decided to hide it.

"I just thought if people hear the fact that I've got cancer, they're going to think it's a death sentence," she said.

She remembered worrying that people would say she had lived a 'bad life' and God was punishing her for it.

Patel continued to keep the disease a secret when seeking treatment, saying she felt 'extremely lonely' during chemotherapy.

"It was going through chemo sessions on my own... I had some very dark days," she explained.

Pooja Saini, the lead researcher at CLAHRC North-West Coast, a research arm of the NHS that looks into health inequalities, said her own review into the issue 'really surprised' her.

"Some women went to the extent of not even having treatment because, if they went, people would know as they'd lose their hair," she explained.

She added others "feared it might affect their children because no-one would want to marry them".

It is difficult to say how widespread the problem was, because little information has been collected on ethnicity and mortality.

But in 2014, research from Bridgewater NHS found Asian women between 15 and 64 years old had a significantly reduced survival rate for breast cancer of three years.

Saini said her research suggests the influence of men in the family and elders in the wider community may be contributing to the issue.

"If they didn't think women should go for screening, then they didn't go," she said.

The stigma surrounding cancer in South Asian communities spans different forms of the disease.

Patel said there was a reluctance for women to go for a smear test because they did not want to be 'defiled' or be considered 'no longer pure'.

She has now completed her chemotherapy and is in remission. Patel and her husband got divorced during her treatment — something she says was partly because of cultural expectations about how a wife should be.

Some experts are concerned that women are suffering unnecessarily.

South Asian women are more likely to be from poor, deprived backgrounds, meaning their levels of awareness of cancer are likely to be lower.

National screening statistics show people from ethnic minority communities do not go for screening as much as their white counterparts.

Most people not bargain hunters when it comes to healthcare

New research challenges the idea that allowing Americans to price shop for healthcare services could help slow rising health care costs.

According to UPI, Dr. Ateev Mehrotra, a healthcare economist and physician at Harvard Medical School, said, "The idea is that if you give consumers good information about prices — and make sure they have 'skin in the game' through high deductibles or co-pays — They will choose lower-priced providers and services, and market forces will drive spending and prices down."

Mehrotra added in a school news release, "That's the theory. We wanted to see how it works in reality. Turns out,

reality is a bit more complicated than that."

The researchers looked at Americans' attitudes about comparison shopping for healthcare services.

In a national survey of 3,000 people who had recent out-of-pocket health expenses, the researchers found only 13 percent of the respondents had sought information about their expected expenses before receiving care, and only three percent had compared costs across providers before receiving care.

The majority of those surveyed said they believed price shopping for care was important and they did not believe that more expensive providers necessarily offered higher quality of care, the

researchers said. The most common reason for avoiding price shopping was a reluctance to switch doctors.

In a second study, the researchers offered consumers a comparison shopping tool to price shop a set of services, including lab tests, office visits and advanced imaging services.

Only a few used the tool and were able to purchase less expensive services. Overall, the researchers reported, access to the tool didn't make a dent in lowering outpatient spending.

The findings were published in the August issue of the journal *Health Affairs*.

The results add to growing evidence



healthday.com

that consumerism may not have as much impact on rising healthcare costs as supporters contend, the study authors said.

Partial eclipse makes satellite glow red



The full Moon is pictured above a row of houses during the partial lunar eclipse above buildings in Frankfurt, Germany.



The August full Moon rises above the 5th Century BC Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounio, south of Athens, on Monday



The August Moon is seen in a partial lunar eclipse over a ship in Zakynthos Island. Yesterday's phenomenon was a partial eclipse — meaning only part of the Moon passed through the Earth's shadow



A partial lunar eclipse is pictured besides a building in Berlin, Germany. An eclipse of the Moon occurs when the Sun, Earth and Moon line up, with Earth in the middle

REUTERS

A blood Moon shimmered over Earth as stargazers were given an early warm-up ahead of a solar eclipse later this month.

Pictures were captured in countries such as Germany, Turkey and Greece showing the Moon glowing an orange-

red color, dailymail.co.uk reported.

An eclipse of the Moon occurs when the Sun, Earth and Moon line up, with Earth in the middle.

This alignment causes the Earth's shadow to fall on the Moon, and the orange color

comes from refracted sunlight.

The phenomenon was a partial eclipse — meaning only part of the Moon passed through the Earth's shadow.

In Britain, the Moon was not visible until around 8.30 p.m., when the best views of the Moon had already passed.

Astronomers are now readying themselves for the solar eclipse on August 21, which is expected to be so widely shared that phone networks have issued a warning not to livestream the event, as it could overload networks.

Man swims to work every day with his laptop

A man fed up with the commute has found a new way to get to work, carrying his computer and clothes in a waterproof bag.

Benjamin David, 40, is a familiar sight swimming 2km down the river every morning, dragging his orange bag behind him, metro.co.uk wrote.

He manages to totally avoid being mashed up against bus or train passengers, stuck in traffic or cycling in lorry fumes.

Admit it — you're a bit tempted?

David, from Munich in Germany, got the idea by watching the river Isar flow right past his apartment in Baldeplatz.

He realized it would take him pretty much all the way to work and after trying it for the first time two years ago, he hasn't looked back.

Each morning he hauls himself out of the river bank (no need to shower), dries off and waits for his colleagues to arrive.

He zips up his computer, suit, shoes and mobile phone in the bag, which is called a 'Wickelfisch' and is designed to be a buoyancy aid as well as

storage, so helps him just float downstream if he feels a bit tired.

It was designed in Switzerland, where enough people swim in rivers to make it a profitable invention.

But so far there aren't many people doing it in Munich — and you don't see anyone in the Thames either.

(By the way, if you did fancy copying it in London, swimming in the Thames is banned between Putney Bridge and Crossness.)

Speaking to CBC, David explained why he does it: "I'm not a monk. When I was on my bike, I would yell at cars."

"When I was on foot, I would yell at cyclists, and so on and so forth."

"And just a few meters to the side of that is the river, and if you just swim down that, it's completely relaxed and refreshing."

He added, "I look a little bit like David Hasselhoff. Not that I look like David, but me with my — [bag] — I think you get me."



Benjamin says it's very relaxing. FACEBOOK/BENJAMIN DAVID

Indian Boxer beats Chinese opponent, offers belt back as a gesture of peace

An Indian boxer won a title fight against a Chinese opponent then offered to hand back the prize as a gesture of peace between the two nations which are locked in a territorial dispute in the Himalayas.

Vijender Singh beat Zulpikar Maimaitili on points to retain his WBO Asia Pacific super middleweight title and take his opponent's WBO Oriental super middleweight belt, according to sunmyskyz.com.

After the unanimous verdict in Mumbai, Singh took the microphone and said to the crowd: "I don't want this title. I will give it back to Zulpikar."

He added: "I don't want tension on the border. It's a message of



RAFIQ MAQBOOL/AP

peace. That's important."

The gesture follows a stand-off in a remote frontier region beside the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan that has become increasingly tense.

China argues its territory

extends south to an area called Gamoche, while India says Chinese control ends at Batanga La, further to the north.

About 3,000 troops from both countries are reportedly stationed near the border.

Dinosaurs beheaded at Australian museum

Three model raptors at Australia's national dinosaur museum have been beheaded by mystery vandals who scaled a fence and removed the parts using an angle grinder or hacksaw, police said Tuesday.

Investigators are hunting for the attackers after the damage to the dinosaurs — which were in an outside display area — took place late Saturday at the museum in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory police said, AFP reported.

"The damage sustained to the (three velociraptor) dinosaurs indicate that an angle grinder or hacksaw was used to remove the heads from the body," they said.

"The offenders had climbed a four-foot fence to gain entry."

Museum staffer Mitchell Seymour said the damaged dinosaurs were first spotted by visitors, with children puzzled at what happened.

"We went out to check it out and three of our dinosaurs here have been decapitated," Seymour told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

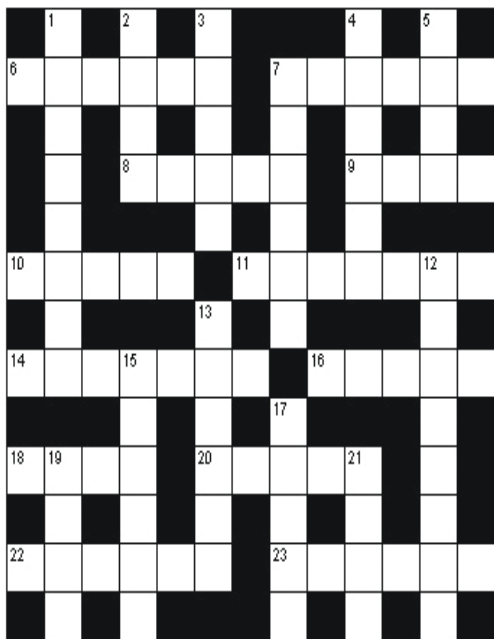
"We had heaps of kids coming up and going 'oh mum and dad, what's wrong with the dinosaurs?' " "It's selfish, and its thoughtless is what it is."

A giant fiberglass dinosaur was stolen from the museum in 2013 and later found in the home of a man who said it was taken as a birthday prank, ABC reported.



A robotic velociraptor at a Tokyo exhibition. Three model raptors on display at Australia's national dinosaur museum have been decapitated by vandals. AFP

Themed Crossword



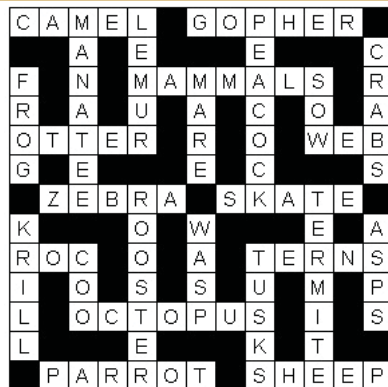
DOWN

1. South American arboreal boa (8)
2. Canines (4)
3. Long-tailed parrot of Central and South America (5)
4. Terrestrial burrowing rodent (6)
5. Small slender gull with forked tail (4)
7. Woodland flycatcher (6)
12. Graceful ruminant (8)
13. Leporid mammal (6)
15. Sea mammals (6)
17. Showy growth of head feathers (5)
19. Type of penguin, sounds regal (4)
21. Male deer (4)

ACROSS

6. Type of goat, cat or rabbit (6)
7. Shorebird, related to the sandpiper (6)
8. Ophidian (5)
9. Female chickens (4)
10. Terrestrial gastropod mollusk (5)
11. Mongoose-like viverrine (7)
14. Arctic whale with long spiral tusk (7)
16. Slow-moving arboreal mammal (5)
18. Gull-like jaeger (4)
20. Raptors (5)
22. Small arthropod (6)
23. Large sauteed shrimp (6)

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.

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

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

Coe, IAAF behavior 'inhumane', says Gatlin's agent

Athletics chief Sebastian Coe and the IAAF's treatment of controversial 100m world champion Justin Gatlin was "inhumane" and "unsportsmanlike", the athlete's agent said in a blistering attack.

British athletics legend Coe – a two-time 1500m Olympic champion – had said on Sunday two-time drugs cheat Gatlin's victory in the sport's most high profile event in London, which was watched by over eight million viewers in Britain, was not the 'perfect script', AFP reported.

Gatlin, 35, had been loudly booed throughout the 100m rounds and the verbal abuse was ratcheted up a few notches when he won the final, denying Jamaican superstar Usain Bolt a 12th world title in his last individual final. The 60,000 plus spectators jeered Gatlin whilst chanting bronze medal winner Bolt's name as if he was the champion.

Coe – who had said prior to being elected president of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) he felt 'queasy' about dopers returning and winning titles – remarked he wasn't very excited about the prospect of placing the gold medal around Gatlin's neck.

"I'm not eulogistic that someone who has

served two bans has walked off with one of our glittering prizes," said the 60-year-old.

However, Gatlin's agent Renaldo Nehemiah, a former 110m hurdles world record holder, was scathing about Coe's remarks.

"I take offence to, with all respect, Lord Coe," he told the BBC.

"I don't condone doping but Justin Gatlin is not the poster child for it.

"He's done his time, he plays by the rules, the IAAF reinstated him. They said if you come back we should accept that.

"So to put a narrative out that it's just Justin Gatlin and he's the bad guy, it's really not fair.

"It's inhumane. It's unsportsmanlike."

'The legend is OK with it'

Nehemiah, who won the 1984 Super Bowl with the San Francisco 49ers, said Coe and the IAAF should be more gracious and accept their rules allowed athletes like Gatlin to get a chance at redeeming themselves.

"Lord Coe's a part of the IAAF who set the rules, who set out the punishments, and when you serve the punishment you are supposed to be reinstated, which these athletes who have offended and abused some of these rules have, and



Justin Gatlin (R) receives his medal from IAAF chief Sebastian Coe during a ceremony at London Stadium, on August 5, 2017.

if you don't want them in you should change the rules," said Nehemiah.

"You don't allow them in and then still condemn them," said the 58-year-old.

Coe has always been a hardliner on doping, believing second time offenders like Gatlin should have life bans – however that view has fallen foul of the legal system when athletes have gone out to court to challenge such punishments. Gatlin – who reacted to the crowd's boosing of his victory by placing a finger to his mouth – served a four-year ban from 2006-10, reduced from eight years and also served a prior ban whilst a student, although that was also reduced as it was ascertained that he had taken medication for his Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).

Nehemiah, who missed out on his chance of an Olympics due to the US boycott of the 1980 Games in Moscow said if Bolt could accept graciously that Gatlin was justified in being there, then it should be good enough for anybody.

"If it's good for Bolt it should be good enough for everyone else," said Nehemiah, who observed that when Gatlin competed and won bronze at the 2012 Olympics in London he was not booed.

"If the king, the legend is OK with it we should all be OK with it."

Pochettino, Klopp tested by great expectations

Under pressure to turn tantalizing potential into tangible prizes, Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino and Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp face the acid test of their talents this season.

Despite being feted as teams on the rise, Tottenham and Liverpool have yet to win a single trophy under their current managers, AFP reported.

Pochettino has been in charge at Tottenham since 2014, while Klopp is in his third season with Liverpool, making the forthcoming campaign a watershed moment for both bosses.

After finishing third in the Premier League in 2015 and second last season, Tottenham suddenly finds itself in danger of being stuck in reverse at a time when the club should be putting its foot on the gas.

Building his team around England stars Harry Kane and Dele Alli and, with Christian Eriksen, Toby Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen and Son Heung-Min all influential in their own right, Pochettino has assembled a group capable of beating any side in the country on its day.

But the 45-year-old Argentine and his players have come up short two years in a row as the pressure of the title race proved too much for them.

squad than last year after selling England right-back Kyle Walker to Manchester City.

Finest achievement yet to come

Publicly, Pochettino backs chairman Daniel Levy's cautious approach in an historically expensive market.

Yet the former Southampton coach might not be so sanguine if the window closes without fresh faces finally arriving in north London.

"We are working, trying to add some players to the squad," he said.

"Our idea was, the same as before, to try to provide the team with more strength and try to sign a few players before the end of the transfer window."

At Anfield, Klopp has spent the summer trying to close the gap on Tottenham and the rest of the Premier League's big guns with only limited success.

The German splashed out a club record £43.9 million (\$57 million) on Roma winger Mohamed Salah and added Hull defender Andrew Robertson to the mix.

But Robertson is unlikely to be a game changer, while Salah's last taste of the Premier League

Nadal three victories away from world No. 1

Rafael said he'll focus on the foes in front of him at the ATP Montreal Masters this week, and not on his chance to return to No.1 in the world.

A semifinal run in Montreal would see the Spaniard supplant Britain's Andy Murray atop the rankings, Foxsports reported.

"I don't even think about that (the top ranking) now," Nadal said. "I'm trying to have the right preparation now and that's it."

"I'm going to keep trying to play the way I did in the first part of the season, so if I'm able to make that happen, I hope to have a chance to do well."

Nadal last held the No.1 ranking in late June, 2014 while he slipped to as low as 10th in the time since. Reclaiming top spot would

complete a remarkable comeback after several years of injury setbacks for Nadal, who won his first major title in three years at the French Open.

The top seed is expected to open his campaign for a fourth Canadian title later tonight.

Nadal could also be on track for a third round showdown against 2009 tournament runner-up Juan Martin del Potro who beat hard-serving American John Isner in straight sets 7-5, 7-5 in a night match on Monday.

Murray is among the notable absentees from this key U.S. Open tune up. Novak Djokovic is taking off the rest of the season to rehab an elbow injury and U.S. Open champion Stan Wawrinka has ended his 2017 campaign with a knee problem.

Murray is trying to recover from a nagging hip injury in time for the final Grand Slam of the season that starts later this month in Flushing Meadows.

Nadal claimed his 10th French Open title this year but bowed out in the fourth round at Wimbledon – his fifth exit before the quarterfinals in his last five appearances at the All England Club.

Roger Federer, who seized his 19th Grand Slam title at Wimbledon, is also slated to open tonight.

Former U.S. Open champion del Potro of Argentina snapped an eight-match win streak for Isner, who earned from back-to-back title in July at the Hall of Fame Open in Newport and the Atlanta Open.



ETIENNE LAURENT/EFE



JUSTIN TALLIS/AFP

Last season, Spurs had Chelsea in their sights in the closing weeks before an FA Cup semifinal loss to the Blues triggered a stumble that saw them finish seven points behind the champion.

Making up a deficit of that order won't be easy this season as Tottenham has the thorny issue of playing its home games at Wembley while White Hart Lane is being redeveloped.

Wembley wasn't a welcoming arena for Tottenham when the London club played its European fixtures there last season, prompting claims that the high tempo pressing game Pochettino prefers was ill suited to the English national stadium's large pitch.

Adding to Pochettino's discomfort, he has so far gone through the summer transfer window without making a single signing.

While Tottenham's title rivals have shattered records with their lavish spending, Pochettino heads into the new campaign with a weaker

with Chelsea was utterly forgettable.

Klopp has also failed to land Southampton defender Virgil Van Dijk and Leipzig midfielder Naby Keita, while having to fend off Barcelona's attempts to sign Reds playmaker Philippe Coutinho.

"Until the 31st of August we run through the world with open eyes," Klopp said of his transfer problems.

"It's not that we decide on our own, it's also about other clubs."

After finishing fourth last season, Liverpool needs to rebuff the perception they took advantage of down years from Arsenal and Manchester United.

Having enjoyed unprecedented success with Borussia Dortmund, Klopp has proved he can beat the odds before, but winning Liverpool's first title since 1990 would be the 50-year-old's finest achievement.

German clubs need help against ultras

German football clubs will need the help of the league and the country's football association to handle trouble by "ultra" fans, club executives said, days after a friendly match in England had to be called off.

Premier League Burnley's preseason match with Bundesliga club Hanover 96 on Saturday was abandoned "on police advice", Burnley said in a statement, Reuters reported.

Media reports said German fans threw seats and surged toward Burnley fans during the first half, shortly after Burnley took the lead.

"Ultra groups are being formed across the country and we will need to find answers," Cologne sports director Joerg Schmadtke said in a round table discussion in Duesseldorf on Monday.

"But we, the clubs, won't be able to do so, on our own. The DFB (the German Football Association) as the umbrella organization and the DFL (the German Football League) need to get on board."

Dortmund CEO Hans Joachim Watzke said this week he believed "there is the tendency for ultras to come stronger together."

His team has had its share of fan trouble. It was given a €100,000-fine last season after its supporters attacked visiting RB Leipzig fans.

"The clubs can only deal with the groups around them and try to influence them," Cologne's Schmadtke said. But stiff fines from the DFB were not necessarily the solution, he said.

"The way the DFB is doing things at the moment, with these various sanctions, we will not stop the cycle. It is not improving the atmosphere."



Art & Culture

Nakajima, actor in original 'Godzilla', dies aged 88

Haruo Nakajima, the actor who first portrayed Japanese movie monster 'Godzilla', died aged 88.

His daughter Sonoe confirmed his death to AP, saying that Nakajima had died of pneumonia after being hospitalized last month.



theguardian.com

Donning the Godzilla costume for the first 12 films in the long-running series, the Japanese actor also appeared in Akira Kurosawa's 'Seven Samurai' and a number of Japanese war films.

Nakajima was born on January 1, 1929 in Yamagata, Japan. Contracted to Toho Studios, the actor first performed stunt roles in a number of samurai and war films, appearing as a pilot in a burning airplane in 'Eagle of the Pacific' and a bandit in 'Seven Samurai'.

Nakajima's most famous work though came in the Godzilla films. His first appearance was in 1954's 'Godzilla', for which he had to wear a 220-pound concrete bodysuit, due to a scarcity of rubber in post-war Japan. As well as being painfully heavy, the suit would become hot under the studio lights. "I stuck a thermometer inside the suit; 140 degrees," Nakajima told CBS News in 2014.

To prepare for the role, Nakajima studied bears and elephants at the local zoo, as well as watching the original 1933 film 'King Kong'. His adeptness at performing as Godzilla would lead him to star as the lizard monster in 11 sequels, with his final appearance coming in 'Godzilla vs. Gigan' in 1972.

Nakajima appeared in other movie monsters, including 'Mothra' in 1961 and 'King Kong' in the 1967 Toho and Rankin/Bass co-production 'King Kong Escapes'.

The 'Godzilla' series was popular in a postwar Japan, which was still recovering from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki nine years earlier. In the original film, Godzilla is created as a result of nuclear testing in the Pacific Ocean, and as such was seen as symbolic of the evils of nuclear war.

"Godzilla is a creature of the Americans," Nakajima told CBS. "Godzilla's breath is nuclear radiation. He showed our audiences that atomic bombs are frightening." While plenty of other actors have appeared as the monster in subsequent films, as well as the monster being rendered by computer animation, many fans believe that Nakajima's was the definitive Godzilla. The actor agreed with that assertion, saying in 2014: "I am the original, the real thing. My Godzilla was the best."

Liberia:

'Cultural Heritage Forgotten'

The standard bearer of Liberia's opposition United People's Party (UPP) acknowledged that the leaders have all forgotten the country's rich cultural heritage — a situation that could be responsible for the many problems that the country is facing, McDonald

Wento mentioned that leaders of Liberia have turned their backs from the nation's rich cultural heritage.

Wento said in order for Liberia to regain its status, the people must understand where they come from as people and country. Speaking over the weekend at the Center for the Exchange of Intellectual Opinion (CEIO), the UPP political leader cited that Liberia's problems are not physical, but rather spiritual which he linked to the failure of governments to consider the country's heritage. allafrika.com wrote. He indicated that Liberia is one of those countries in the world that has all the needed resources, yet 95 percent of its people are living in abject poverty which is as the direct result of the decline in the country's heritage.

He noted that Liberia was built on seven principles that were broken by poor and bad governance and it requires a serious prayer for the country to get back on its path. He claimed that there will continue to be calamity and unusual happenings if the country does not regain its cultural heritage. He stated that Liberia is at the crossroads of politics and as such, it is important to revisit the history of the people in order to orientate the citizenry.

Weather



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'Kelileh & Demneh' wins Special Jury Award at Eurasia event

Iranian animated piece 'Kelileh & Demneh', directed by Alireza Tavakoli and produced by Zahra Hashemi, won Special Jury Award at the Children's Fest section of 2017 Eurasia International Film Festival in Kazakhstan.

The animation experienced its first international screening at the 13th Eurasia International Film Festival, which is considered Kazakhstan's most important cinematic event, Mehr News Agency reported.

The flick competed with other productions from France, the Netherland, China, Afghanistan, Georgia, Tunisia, Peru, Mexico, Czech, Spain, Denmark and Kazakhstan.

Kelileh and Demneh are two young jackals. The drama starts in the middle of a rainy night when the horrified owl pays a visit to the king of the jungle to report about the excessive hunting he had witnessed.

In the festival's 2015 edition, highly-acclaimed Iranian actress Fatemeh Motamed-Arya won Best Female Performance for 'Nabat'.

The 13th Eurasia festival was held in Astana from July 22 through July 28.

The Eurasia International Film Festival is the major film forum in Central Asia accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF).

The festival's main goals are to support film industry in Kazakhstan, to further the appreciation of motion picture



MEHR NEWS AGENCY

arts for people of all ages, and to build the platform for successful cooperation between Asia and Europe. Eurasia International Film Festival was established in



1998 in Kazakhstan. The Festival takes place in Almaty, with the exception of the 5th and the 13th editions held in Astana. Since 2010, it is annual.

Achaemenid artifacts discovered in southwest Iran



IRNA

A waterway as well as other vestiges, including the decorative sword handle made of azure stone, pieces of glazed bricks, agate beads were discovered in Persepolis, Fars Province.

Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) quoted the head of the third season of archeological excavations in the Persepolis waterways Ahmad-Ali Assadi as saying that a study of the waterway would help better understanding the status of the palace during the Achaemenid era. In the current season of excavations, studies are being conducted on two parts of the waterways including the section beneath the southern yard of Tachar Palace and the part in the northeast of the court as well as the building known as the 'unfinished gate', he said.

Pointing to the excavations in the

waterway in the southern yard of the Tachar Palace in the east-west direction on the last days of the second season in 2014-2015, he said. "At that time, a blocked vent on the northeast side of the courtyard of Tachar was identified which was used in the Achaemenid period for draining surface water in the yard. In this season, explorations began from a distance of about half a meter from the mentioned vent and continued towards the western part of the court."

Another waterway has been explored in the northeastern side of the building known as the 'unfinished gate', he added.

A large number of small and large pieces of stones with designs including four servants on the stairways of the Tachar and Hadish palaces and aforementioned portraits of the servants on both sides of one of the stones are evident, Assadi said.



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Teheran Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by Shahrdad Rohani, staged a concert at Tehran's Vahdat Hall.