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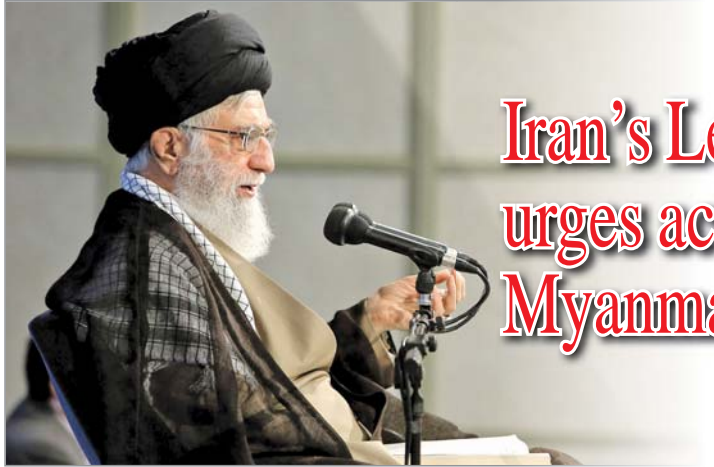
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## Iran's Leader urges action against Myanmar over Rohingya

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called on Islamic governments to exert political and economic pressure on Myanmar's "cruel" government to make it stop a deadly crackdown on minority Rohingya Muslims in the Southeast Asian country.

Speaking on Tuesday, Ayatollah Khamenei urged practical measures by Islamic governments to end the crisis in Myanmar, Press TV reported.

"Of course, practical measures don't mean military deployments. Rather, they (Islamic governments) have to increase their political, economic, and trade pressure on Myanmar's government and cry out against these crimes in international organizations," the Leader said. Myanmar's government has laid a siege to a western state where the Rohingya are concentrated. There, horrific violence has been taking place against the minority Muslims, according to reports and eyewitnesses.

Soldiers and extremist Buddhists have reportedly been killing or raping the Muslims and setting their homes on fire. The Myanmar government says 400 people, mostly Muslims, have died in the latest bout of violence. The UN says the actual number likely tops 1,000. Ayatollah Khamenei strongly criticized the silence and inaction of international bodies and self-proclaimed human rights advocates on those ongoing atrocities.

The Leader said the crisis in Myanmar is a political issue and should not be reduced to a religious conflict between Muslims and Buddhists, although he said religious prejudice may have been involved.

"This is a political issue because the party that has been carrying out the atrocities is Myanmar's government, at the top of which is a cruel woman who has won the Nobel Peace Prize. And with these incidents, the death of the Nobel Peace Prize has been spelled," he said.

Myanmar's de facto leader, Aung Sang Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, has taken almost no action to end the deadly violence against the Rohingya in the country's western Rakhine state.

Recently, she said widespread reports of brutal violence against the Muslims were fake news.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should convene to discuss the crisis in Myanmar.

The Leader said Iran has to be bold in making its stance known.

"The world today is the world of oppression, and the Islamic Republic has to maintain for itself the honor of speaking out against oppression anywhere in the world, whether in territories occupied by Zionists, or in Bahrain, or Yemen, or Myanmar," he said.

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## North Korea says will make US suffer over 'vicious' UN sanctions

North Korea Tuesday condemned "vicious" new UN sanctions imposed over its sixth and largest nuclear test, warning it would make the US "suffer the greatest pain" it has ever experienced.

The new sanctions imposed unanimously by the UN Security Council Monday ban North Korean textile exports and restrict shipments of oil products, AFP wrote.

The resolution, passed after the US toned down its original proposals to secure backing from China and Russia, came just one month after the council banned exports of coal, lead and seafood in response to the North's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).



AFP

North Korea Tuesday categorically rejected the new measures, with UN Ambassador Han Tae-song saying in Geneva that the US had "fabricated the most vicious sanction resolution" and warning of retaliation.

"The forthcoming measures by DPRK (North Korea) will make the US suffer the greatest pain it has ever experienced in its history," he told a disarmament conference in the Swiss city.

US Ambassador Nikki Haley said Monday at the UN the tough new measures were a message to Pyongyang that "the world will never accept a nuclear-armed North Korea". But she also held out the prospect of a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

During tough negotiations, the United States dropped initial demands for a full oil embargo and a freeze on the foreign assets of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

The resolution instead bans trade in textiles, cuts off natural gas shipments to North Korea, places a ceiling on deliveries of refined oil products and caps crude oil shipments at current levels.

It bars countries from issuing new work permits to North Korean laborers sent abroad - there are some 93,000.

Under the measure, countries are authorized to inspect ships suspected of carrying banned North Korean cargo but must first seek the consent of the flag-state.

Joint ventures will be banned and the names of senior North Korean official and three entities were added to a UN sanctions blacklist that provides for an assets freeze and a global travel ban.

It was the eighth series of sanctions imposed on North Korea since it first tested a nuclear device in 2006.

### 'Concrete action'

South Korea welcomed the resolution while Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the sanctions were much stronger than earlier measures. He urged Pyongyang to take "concrete action" toward denuclearization.

The United States and its allies argue that tougher sanctions will pile pressure on Kim's government to negotiate an end to its nuclear and missile tests.

Russia and China are pushing for talks with North Korea, but the US rejects their proposal for a freeze on Pyongyang's missile and nuclear tests in exchange for a suspension of US-South Korean military drills.

Chinese UN Ambassador Liu Jieyi again called for talks "sooner rather than later."

## Iranian oil flows gain further ground in China, Europe

Iran's crude and condensate exports rose slightly in August as lower deliveries from key competitors like Saudi Arabia and Iraq meant there was more demand for crude from some of Iran's main buyers.

Total estimated export volume on Aframax, Suezmaxes and VLCCs from Iranian ports in August rose almost 2.5 percent to 2.42 million barrels per day from 2.37 mbd in July, according to data from Platts trade flow software eFlow.

Exports to Asia fell to 1.46 mbd in August from 1.55 mbd in July, with demand from key customer India down sharply, although flows to China continued to rise.

Europe's share of Iranian exports grew sharply, with demand from Italy, France, the Netherlands and Greece all up, while Turkey remained a key buyer too.

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## Iraq MPs reject Kurdish independence referendum

The Iraqi Parliament voted on Tuesday to oppose an independence referendum planned by Iraqi Kurdish leaders for later this month, prompting a walkout by Kurdish lawmakers.

Speaker Salim al-Juburi, a Sunni Arab, said the vote required the government to "take all steps to protect the unity of Iraq and open a serious dialogue" with Iraqi Kurdish leaders, AFP reported.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and other top officials have said repeatedly that the referendum planned for September 25 would violate Iraq's Constitution.

Speaking to reporters on Monday following a cabinet meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag said the referendum will add to problems in the conflict-ridden region.

Bozdag said, "This referendum is of no benefit to [Kurdish regional President Masoud] Barzani, it is of no benefit to Kurds, it is of no benefit to the people of the region."



AFP

Kurdish leaders plan to hold the plebiscite not only in the three northern provinces, where they have long enjoyed autonomy, but also in other historically Kurdish-majority areas of Iraq that Kurdish forces captured during the battle against the Daesh terror group.

Tuesday's vote in the federal Parliament was held after 80 lawmakers asked for the issue to be added to the day's agenda.

The planned referendum is non-binding but it has been criticized by Iraq's Western allies as a distraction from the war against Daesh.

It has drawn stronger opposition from powerful neighbors, Iran and Turkey, who fear that it will stoke separatist sentiment.

## Brexit bill passes first vote in British Parliament

British MPs voted in favor of a bill on Tuesday to end Britain's EU membership, a key moment for the government's Brexit strategy despite opposition accusations of an unprecedented power grab.

Lawmakers voted by 326 to 290 in favor of backing the legislation, after more than 13 hours of debate, which will now go forward for further scrutiny by MPs, AFP wrote.

The bill is aimed at repealing the 1972 law through which Britain joined the bloc, transferring in bulk around 12,000 existing EU regulations onto the British statute books.

It is the next step in implementing last year's historic referendum vote to leave the EU, after Prime Minister Theresa May formally notified Brussels of Britain's withdrawal in March.

May's Conservative government won Tuesday's parliamentary vote, thanks to its alliance with the Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

The premier described the outcome as a "historic decision" which "gives certainty and clarity ahead of our withdrawal from the European Union."

The main opposition Labour Party had voiced its objection to the bill, arguing that its provisions to smooth the transfer of EU laws represent an unacceptable expansion of executive power.

Many EU regulations may need adjusting as they are transferred, and the bill proposes the broad use of existing "Henry VIII powers" that allow ministers to amend legislation without full

parliamentary scrutiny. Labour lawmaker Chris Bryant said such powers would lead to "a dangerous spiral of autocracy."

"It intends to bring back power to this country, but it actually represents the biggest peacetime power grab by the executive over the legislature, by the government over Parliament, in 100 years," he told Parliament.

While most MPs have accepted that Brexit will happen, the shape of the European divorce remains unclear and Prime Minister May has been under pressure from all sides after losing her parliamentary majority in the June snap election.

The government plans to leave Europe's single market and customs union after Brexit, but is seeking a transitional



AP

A total of seven Labour MPs, however, rebelled against the party line and backed the bill.

Although the legislation has passed its first test, Conservative MPs have warned they could seek to amend the bill as it comes under further scrutiny in the coming weeks, amid concerns about its constitutional implications.

deal that would replicate existing arrangements until it agrees to a new trade deal with the EU.

Labour wants to remain in the single market during the interim period following Brexit day, currently set for March 29, 2019, while a euro-sceptic group of Conservatives is pressing May to make a clean break.

Iran's FM due in Russia today

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is scheduled to travel to the Russian city of Sochi today. Zarif is to hold talks with Russian officials, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi announced. Iran and Russia have increased their relations in economy and fight against terrorism in recent years, IRNA reported.



TASNIH NEWS AGENCY

The relations have improved following the implementation of 2015 nuclear agreement between Tehran and P5+1 group of countries, including Russia.

Both countries have signed several economic and military agreements in recent years.

They are also cooperating in fight against terrorist groups in Syria which is grappling with foreign-backed extremists since 2011.

Iran's Leader urges action against Myanmar over Rohingya

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UNSC meeting

The United Nations said on Tuesday 370,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Buddhist-majority Myanmar since the army launched a huge crackdown late last month.

But international pressure on Myanmar heightened this week after United Nations rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini said the violence seemed to be a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

The US also raised alarm over the violence while the Security Council announced it would meet today to discuss the crisis.

Britain and Sweden requested the urgent Security Council meeting amid growing international concern over the ongoing violence.

The council met behind closed doors in late August to discuss the violence, but could not agree a formal statement.

The UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar has said the latest violence may have left more than 1,000 dead, most of them Rohingya.

Many refugees are hungry and sick, without shelter or clean water in the middle of the rainy season. The United Nations said 200,000 children needed urgent support.

Exhausted Rohingyas refugees have given accounts of atrocities at the hands of soldiers and Buddhist mobs who burned their villages to the ground.

The Rohingyas are denied citizenship and have suffered years of persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar.



Velayati: Iran will never allow foreigners to inspect military sites



An Iranian official underlined that foreigners would never be given access to the country's military bases, deriding the notion that the UN nuclear watchdog sees no distinction between civilian and military sites in its inspections as a figment of Yukiya Amano's

imagination. Speaking to reporters in Tehran on Tuesday, Ali Akbar Velayati, a top international adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, said no foreigners, including International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors, could ever

have access to Iran's military sites, Press TV reported.

Asked about IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano's recent comments that his agency does not distinguish between civilian or military sites in its inspections and would ask Iran for access when

necessary, Velayati said, "In the previous agreements with the agency (IAEA) there was no talk of access to military sites at all; and if it were so, we wouldn't have come to an agreement."

He also described the IAEA chief's claim about having the right to inspect Iran's military sites as "an invention of Mr. Amano."

Criticizing Amano for lack of independence in his decisions, Velayati said if the Japanese UN nuclear chief were really independent, he would push for an inspection of the Zionist regime of Israel's nuclear facilities.

While the Israeli nuclear stockpile is the greatest threat to the Middle East, Amano is dragging his feet over the issue and has no clear answer for his conduct, he deplored.

Last month, the US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley traveled to Vienna to press the UN nuclear chief on her reading of Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear agreement between Iran and the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany), and asked if the IAEA planned to inspect Iranian military sites, something she has called for.

In a letter dated August 19 but released on August 23, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif warned about US lack of adherence to the nuclear deal.

Zarif has said that Haley's visit to the IAEA undermines "the independence and credibility" of IAEA inspectors.

Iran bus crash kills 11

A bus plunged into a ravine on a road northeast of capital Tehran on Tuesday morning, killing 11 passengers and injuring 27 others.

Firefighters and rescue teams were informed at 2:10 a.m. local time on Tuesday, spokesman for the Tehran Fire Department said.

He added that the bus was carrying 38 people when it crashed on a road linking Tehran to the northern parts of the country, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The bus had veered off the road for unknown reasons and fallen at least 100 meters into a ravine, Jalal Maleki said.

The crash had ripped off the roof of the bus and passengers were strewn over the area, he added.



ana.ir

Eleven people have been killed in the crash, and 27 others are seriously wounded, the spokesman added.

According to the figures released by World Atlas in September 2016, Iran is fourth in the list of countries with the highest road traffic death rates.

The estimated road traffic death rate per 100,000 people in Iran was 34.1.

Nearly two weeks ago, a bus carrying high school students overturned in Iran's southern Hormuzgan Province, leaving at least nine people, including seven schoolgirls, dead and some 30 others wounded.

Masum hails Iran for helping Iraq fight terrorism

Iraq's President Fuad Masum acknowledged Iran's support for his country, particularly in 'fight against terrorism', a statement by his office read on Tuesday.

The president appreciated Iran for supporting the Iraqi people and government, especially in the battle against the terrorist group Daesh, IRNA reported.



Masum, who received Iran's Ambassador to Baghdad Iraj Masjedi, also emphasized the enhancement of cooperation between the two neighboring countries in different spheres, according to the statement.

The Iranian ambassador, for his part, stressed his country's stance on supporting Iraq and promoting mutual ties between the two countries.

Masjedi added that it is in the two countries' interests to open new horizons of cooperation.

Turkish deputy PM: Tehran-Ankara trade relations legal

Turkey Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag said that trade relations between Turkey and Iran are legal according to both international and Turkish law.

Bozdag made the remarks after US prosecutors charged a former Turkish economy minister and the ex-head of a state-owned bank with conspiring to violate Iran sanctions, Anadolu Agency reported.

At a news conference on Monday, Bozdag defended former economy minister Zafer Caglayan against the charges.

"There is no commercial transaction [between Iran and Turkey] that is against national and international law... It is definitely not possible to make [such a transaction]," Bozdag said.

An indictment was announced on September 6 in New York charging Caglayan and three other Turkish nationals for vio-



ANADOLU AGENCY

lating US sanctions against Iran.

The charges stem from a probe into Reza Zarrab, a Turkish-Iranian gold trader arrested in the US last year for alleged

sanctions evasion.

"If you ask what is trying to be done in the US over Reza Zarrab and now the phenomenon that our honorable min-

ister's name is involved, the essence of the matter is this: The American judicial system is being used to repeat what the Fetullah Terrorist Organization tried to do during the coup attempt of Dec. 17-25 (2013) (in Turkey) and failed," Bozdag said.

Bozdag said Caglayan protected Turkey's interests during that period and did his duty according to national and international laws.

"There is a very different thing here... It is part of a very dirty game. There is no evidence; there are fabrications," he said.

Bozdag also said some circles are trying hard to harm Turkish-US relations, and they should not be tolerated anymore.

The Iranian-born Zarrab was arrested on March 21 last year in the US on fraud and Iran sanctions-related charges.

At least eight people died in flooding after violent rains lashed the Tuscan city of Livorno over the weekend, Italian rescue services said Tuesday.

# California sues Trump administration over plan to end DACA

California on Monday sued the administration of President Donald Trump, challenging as unconstitutional the president's plan to rescind a program to protect young immigrants brought to the country illegally from deportation.

The lawsuit comes a week after 15 other states, led by New York and Washington, filed a similar legal challenge, the Los Angeles Times reported.

California Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra said Monday he decided to file a separate suit because the state and its economy will be especially harmed by the president's action because it is home to a quarter of the 800,000 people in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program.

"I think everyone recognizes the scope and breadth of the Trump decision to terminate DACA hits hardest here," Becerra said after the other states sued.

Becerra's lawsuit says the DACA program approved by former president Obama is legal and that its repeal violates due process rights and will hurt the state's economy.

"It's fully lawful, it's totally American in its values and it's an unmitigated success for California's economy and the country's economy," Becerra said in a recent interview.

The lawsuit is joined by Maine, Minnesota and Maryland and argues in part that



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the repeal "may lead to the untenable outcome that the [Trump] administration will renege on the promise it made to Dreamers and their employers that information they gave to the government for their participation in the program will not be used to deport them or prosecute their employ-

ers." The lawsuit was criticized Monday by Robin Hvidston, who heads a California group seeking tougher enforcement of immigration laws. "It's misguided and premature and a misuse of tax dollars," said Hvidston, ex-

ecutive director of the Claremont-based group We the People Rising. She noted that President Trump delayed repeal of the program for six months to give Congress a chance to address the issue, and that several Republican-led states have sued to end the DACA program.

## Irma's US death toll rises

Florida allowed some residents to return on Tuesday to areas hammered by Hurricane Irma's high winds and storm surge, while the death toll rose in the second major hurricane to hit the United States this year.

Irma, which had rampaged through the Caribbean as one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes on record, was downgraded to a tropical depression on Monday, Reuters reported.

At its peak the storm prompted evacuation orders for 6.5 million people in Florida, the largest evacuation in modern US history.

Irma killed nearly 40 people in the Caribbean and at least six in Florida and Georgia.



abcnews.go.com

A local Florida official said there had been more deaths yet to be reported, particularly on the Florida Keys, where Irma arrived as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of up to 130 miles per hour (215 km per hour) on Sunday morning.

Local authorities told around 90,000 residents of Miami Beach and from some parts of the Keys they could go home but warned it might not be prudent to remain there.

"This is going to be a frustrating event. It's going to take some time to let people back into their homes particularly in the Florida Keys," Brock Long, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, told a news conference.

FEMA was continuing to rescue people stranded by flooding around Jacksonville, in the state's northeast, he said.

## Israel to impose 'sanctions' on Amnesty International

Israel plans to impose "financial sanctions" on Amnesty International over the human rights group's call for the boycott of products made in Israeli settlements.

Israel Hayom newspaper said in a report on Tuesday that the Israeli Finance Ministry was poised to impose the sanctions on Amnesty International's Israel branch for upholding the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel and thus "violating" an Israeli law against the movement, according to Press TV.

This summer the Britain-based Amnesty International urged a global ban on imports of Israeli products from Beit-ul-Moqaddas and elsewhere in the West Bank.

"The international community must ban the import of all goods produced in illegal Israeli settlements and put an end to the multi-million-dollar profits that have fueled mass human rights violations against Palestinians," Amnesty International's Secretary General Salil Shetty said on June 7.

"It's time for states to take concrete international action to stop the financing of settlements, which themselves flagrantly violate international law and constitute war crimes," he said.

In July, Israel's Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon vowed to use "every means we have, including revoking tax benefits" to punish Amnesty over its anti-Israel campaign.

Amnesty International has declined to comment definitively on the report. "We expect that in a legal case as important as this, the Finance Ministry will send a formal, orderly request based on established rules, at which point we will issue a response," a spokesperson for the rights group said in a statement.

## HRW: Saudi-led airstrikes in Yemen are war crimes

Human Rights Watch accused the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen of war crimes on Tuesday, saying its airstrikes killed 39 civilians including 26 children in two months.

The rights group said five airstrikes hitting four family homes and a grocery store was carried out either deliberately or recklessly, causing indiscriminate loss of civilian lives in violation of the laws of war, CNBC wrote.

The coalition has repeatedly denied allegations of war crimes. It has been carrying out strikes against Yemen since March 2015, which has led to the death of many civilians.

"The Saudi-led coalition's repeated promises to conduct its airstrikes lawfully are not sparing Yemeni children from unlawful attacks," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at Human Rights Watch, in a statement.

"This underscores the need for the United Nations to immediately return the coalition to its annual 'list

of shame" for violations against children in armed conflict," she said.



On July 3, an airstrike killed eight members of the same family in Taiz Province, including the wife and eight-year-old daughter, the organization said.

HRW said it interviewed nine family members and witnesses to five airstrikes that occurred between June 9 and August 4, and did not detect any potential military targets in the vicinity.

The war has killed more than 12,000 Yemenis, displaced more than three million and ruined much of the impoverished country's infrastructure.

HRW called on United Nations Security Council to launch an international investigation into the abuses at its September session.

On Monday, the UN said it has verified 5,144 civilian deaths in the war in Yemen, mainly from airstrikes by a Saudi-led coalition, and an international investigation is urgently needed.

On August 4, coalition aircraft struck a home in Sa'ada, killing nine members of a family, including six children, aged three through 12.

in Yemen, mainly from airstrikes by a Saudi-led coalition, and an international investigation is urgently needed.

## Turkey orders arrest warrants for over 60

Turkey issued arrest warrants for 63 people, including former National Intelligence Agency (MIT) personnel, over alleged links to the US-based cleric accused of orchestrating last year's attempted coup, Anadolu news agency reported on Tuesday.

The police operation was launched in 21 provinces across Turkey, the state-run news agency reported.



hindustantimes.com

Ankara says Fethullah Gulen, who has lived in the United States since 1999, was behind the abortive putsch in July 2016. Gulen has denied involvement, according to Reuters.

More than 50,000 people have been jailed pending trial for alleged ties to Gulen's movement and some 150,000 people have been sacked or suspended from jobs in the public and private sectors for the same reason.

Some of Turkey's Western allies and rights groups have expressed concern about the crackdown and suspect the government has used the coup as a pretext to quash dissent.

The government says the purges are necessary due to the gravity of the threats it has faced since the failed putsch, in which more than 240 people were killed.

## French labor reforms: Why workers are protesting

French President Emmanuel Macron's plan to overhaul the country's complex labor code, fulfilling a central campaign promise, sparked the first strikes and protests on Tuesday.

While the 39-year-old centrist believes that making the labor market more flexible will help drive down unemployment of 9.5 percent, opponents fear an erosion of worker protections, AFP wrote.

What he hopes will be a signature reform entails a major overhaul of the more than 3,000-page labor code, which sets out workers' rights, with some measures dating back over a century.

Macron, whose Republic on the Move party enjoys a comfortable majority in Parliament, intends to fast-track the reforms by executive orders, which are expected to take effect late this month, even before being ratified by Parliament in the next few months.

The reforms will give small companies in particular more freedom to negotiate working conditions with their employees, rather than being bound by industry-wide collective agreements negotiated by trade unions.

Other measures include streamlining workers' committees, which are mandatory within large companies, and expanding the use of flexible "project contracts" which allow companies to hire people for a specific job.

Philippe Martinez, the head of the Communist-backed CGT union leading Tuesday's protests, said the reforms give "full powers to employers" and has called for strikes and rallies.

The CGT has called another day of



ctpost.com

In a further concession to companies, multinationals, whose French operations are struggling, will find it easier to lay off staff, while workers made redundant will receive higher payouts.

Several unions also fear new measures that would give employers greater leeway to launch voluntary redundancy plans.

demonstrations on September 21.

But the leaders of more moderate unions, including the CFDT - the biggest private-sector union - and the hard-line Force Ouvriere have adopted a wait-and-see approach.

"We need to stop thinking that trade union action only makes sense when we

demonstrate," the head of the CFDT, Laurent Berger, told Franceinfo radio on Tuesday, explaining how he favored dialogue.

In Parliament, the opposition to the changes is being led by the radical France Unbound Party of leftist firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon, which is planning a mass march in Paris on September 23.

The right and center-left parties in Parliament have broadly backed the reforms. Hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated last year against plans by former president Francois Hollande to push through another round of business-friendly reforms to labor law.

The union-led action forced the government to water down their initial proposals, but despite months of strikes and demonstrations, most of the measures cleared Parliament and became law.

Macron is hoping to avoid a repeat of the months-long, sometimes violent protests unleashed by Hollande's labor reforms last year which would sap his political capital. The reform comes as his approval ratings have plunged, with recent polls showing that only around 40 percent of French voters are satisfied with his performance.

Macron described critics of the reforms this week as "slackers" - a remark seized upon by his opponents and Tuesday's protesters.

Anglo-Dutch oil giant Royal Dutch Shell on Tuesday met with officials from the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) to discuss the development project of Iran's Kish gas field, Shana reported.

**SPECIAL NEWS**

Domestic Economy Desk

**Iran calls for €5b trade with Pakistan**

Iran's Vice President for Economic Affairs Mohammad Nahavandian called for boosting trade transactions with Pakistan to €5 billion.

In a meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Tehran, Nahavandian called for expediting trade negotiations between the two countries and removing the obstacles to banking transactions, Mehr News Agency reported.

He added, "Although the level of trade cooperation between the two countries shows a 35-percent increase, we need to boost economic transactions in the post-sanctions era."

The implementation of a two-way credit line of €500 million between the two countries' central banks and the opening of bank branches should materialize in the next three months, he underlined.

Nahavandian added that the establishment of passenger and cargo shipping lines between Iran's Chabahar and Pakistan's Karachi, as well as a direct flights between the two countries could lay the groundwork for long-term cooperation.

The Pakistani foreign minister called for expediting preferential and free trade talks, noting gas and electricity cooperation between Iran and Pakistan would benefit the two sides as well as the region.

Iran-Pakistan-China trilateral cooperation on investment in transport and energy will speed up, he promised.

**Turkey-Iran trade relations legal: Official**

Trade relations between Turkey and Iran are legal according to both international and Turkish law, said Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag who also doubles as government spokesman.



"There is no commercial transaction between Iran and Turkey that is against national and international law," Bozdag was quoted as saying by aa.com.tr.

An indictment was announced Sept. 6 in New York charging former economy minister Zafer Caglayan and three other Turkish nationals with violating US sanctions against Iran.

The charges stem from a probe into Reza Zarrab, a Turkish-Iranian gold trader arrested in the US last year for alleged sanctions evasion.

Bozdag said Caglayan protected Turkey's interests and did his duty according to national and international laws.

"There is a very different thing here... It is part of a very dirty game. There is no evidence; there are fabrications," he said.

The Iranian-born Zarrab was arrested on March 21 last year in the US on fraud and Iran sanctions-related charges.

He earlier faced an investigation in Turkey in 2013 on charges of alleged illegal gold sales to Iran via Turkey, which led to his detention. That case was dismissed in 2014.

**Iran to reconstruct Syria's power lines, power plants**

Caretaker of the Iranian Energy Ministry Sattar Mahmoudi announced that Tehran and Damascus have inked several agreements to reconstruct Syria's power lines and power plants.

"Most of these contracts are related to the reconstruction of electricity equipment, power plants and transmission lines so that we can provide better services to the Syrian clients," Mahmoudi said after a meeting with Syria's Electricity Minister Zahir Kharboutli on Tuesday, Fars News Agency reported. Kharboutli, for his part, underscored the Iranian companies' good capabilities for providing power plant systems and equipment, and expressed the hope that these capabilities would be used for the reconstruction of his country.

In relevant remarks in August, Syrian Industry Minister Ahmad al-Hamou underlined that the enemies who have supported the terrorist groups in the Arab country will play no role in reconstruction efforts in Syria, welcoming the partnership of friendly states, especially Iran, in this regard.



"We don't allow the enemies and the countries which have hatched plots (against the country) to participate in Syria's reconstruction and they will play no role," al-Hamou said after visiting the Iranian companies' booths in the 59th International Fair of Damascus.

He, meantime, underscored that "the friendly states and allies will accompany Syria in reconstruction stage as they helped Syria to attain victory against terrorism".

"The friendly states will be prioritized in cooperation during the reconstruction time and all necessary possibilities will be provided to them," al-Hamou said.

# Iranian oil flows gain further ground in China, Europe

From Page 1

Sources and analysts noted that Iranian oil exports last month rose as demand for its crude, especially in China and Europe, climbed, supported by favorable economics.

Moves by Saudi Arabia and Iraq to further reduce exports in August, both to meet domestic demand and also as part of OPEC's coordinated output cuts, bode well for Iran.

The reductions have created a gap for Iran to fill, while state-owned NIOC has also reduced prices for some of its heavy crude grades, making them more economically viable for refiners and pushing up spot demand.

Sources added that Iran's additional exports came from its onshore storage, not necessarily only from additional production.

**Flows to China, Europe climb**

Exports to Iran's largest customer, China, were up slightly to 693,419 bpd in August from 638,322 bpd — the highest volume Iran has exported to China this year, according to Platts data.

Chinese consumption has increased this summer on healthy spot demand, buoyed by growing interest from both Chinese state-owned and independent refiners. Chinese companies have seen cuts in their term contract volumes from Saudi Aramco in the past few months, pushing up demand for Iranian crude, which is of a similar quality.

At the same time, Indian demand for Iranian crude has slowed this summer, particularly from state-owned refiners, after the two countries faced a standoff over the development of Iran's Farzad B gas field.

Exports to India fell by 167,258 bpd month on month to 264,742 bpd in August. Key buyers of Iranian crude in In-



dia were again Essar Oil and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL).

As a result of lower flows to India, South Korea has now emerged as the second-biggest buyer of Iranian oil in August, taking 284,742 bpd.

In neighboring Japan, flows from Iran continued their downward trend, falling by 43,162 bpd on the month.

Meanwhile, Iranian oil flows to Europe rebounded sharply in August, with 835,742 bpd sailing to the region, a rise of almost 200,000 bpd month on month.

Turkey remains the region's largest

buyer of Iranian crude, with 256,258 bpd exported last month.

**Production boost**

Iran's oil production has also continued to rise in the past few months and is now above its OPEC quota of 3,797 mbd.

According to a recent Platts OPEC survey, Iranian crude oil production was at 3,833 mbd in August, up 10,000 bpd from July.

The country's Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh also confirmed earlier this week that production was more than 3.8

mbd. "We hope to increase oil production capacity in the coming months. We can do that with [development] of the West Karun [oilfields] and also South Pars gas condensates," he said.

The West Karun oil region is home to Iran's shared oilfields with Iraq, including Azadegan, Yadavaran and Yaran. The area's oil production has reached 280,000 bpd, Zanganeh added.

The country also intends to issue foreign bonds as part of plans to pursue projects in its investment and technology-hungry energy sector, Zanganeh said.

**Russia to provide €1.2b for Iran power plant project**

Russia has taken the final step to grant a major loan to Iran for the development of a power plant in the country's south thus moving close to a pledge of providing the Islamic Republic with over €2 billion for infrastructure projects.

Russia's state-owned Vnesheconbank, or the VEB, signed an agreement to this effect with an Iranian bank over a loan worth €1.2 billion for the development of Hormuzgan thermal power plant in the Persian Gulf, Press TV reported.

Based on the agreement signed in Moscow, the VEB would provide the loan to Iran's Bank of Industry and Mine over a period of five years.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in February that Moscow would grant a total of €2.2 billion to Iran for two key energy-related projects.



Putin said the projects included the construction of Hormuzgan plant as well as the electrification of a railway from Garnsar in eastern Tehran to Ince-Borun in the northeast of Iran.

Iran's then-energy minister Hamid Chitchian announced in February the signing of a contract with Russia for the construction of a thermal power plant with the capacity of 1,400 megawatts in the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas in Hormuzgan Province.

The project will be the first of a package of four thermal plant projects that Russia is expected to develop in Hormuzgan. The two countries had earlier discussed the development of two more power plants in Tabriz, in northwestern Iran, and two others in Tabas, northeastern Iran. The costs for construction of the projects are estimated at over \$10 billion.

**Ukraine pursuing \$1b agro ties with Iran**


Agrarian Policy and Food Ministry of Ukraine expects trade in agricultural products between Ukraine and Iran to increase up to \$1 billion by the end of 2017.

Vasyl Antonenko, the chief specialist of the bilateral trade and economic cooperation department of the International Cooperation Department of Agrarian Policy and Food Ministry of Ukraine, announced the above during a meeting of Ukrainian-Iranian Business Forum, ukrinform.net reported.

"In the seven months of 2017, Iran ranked 8th among importers of Ukrainian agricultural products. It is expected that we will be able to reach \$1 billion agricultural products turnover by the end of this year due to joint efforts of the businesses of both countries," Antonenko said.

In January-May 2017, Ukrainian exports to the Islamic Republic of Iran increased by 78 percent compared to the figure for the same period last year.

This was announced by President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Ukraine Gennadiy Chyzhykov at the Ukrainian-Iranian Business Forum.

"In 2016, compared with 2015, exports from Ukraine to Iran increased by 32 percent, while imports from Iran went up by 30 percent. In January-May 2017, Ukraine's exports to Iran increased by an additional 78 percent compared to the figure for the same period in 2016," said Chyzhykov.

He underlined that to increase trade between Ukraine and Iran, the two countries should refuse the mediation of third countries in building a chain supply.

Trade between Ukraine and Iran in 2016 totaled \$745,082 million.

In March 2016, Iran and Ukraine signed a memorandum of understanding for expanding economic cooperation in various fields.

In May 2016, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said there are good opportunities for closer trade interaction between Iranian and Ukrainian companies in a broad range of fields, including higher education, scientific and technological issues, energy, power plant equipment, renewable energy, agriculture, cultural programs and tourism.

South Korea's household loans extended by banks rose nine percent in August from a year earlier due to increased mortgages and other bank loans, central bank data showed on Tuesday.

# Offshore wind power cheaper than new nuclear



greenpeace.org

Energy from offshore wind in the UK will be cheaper than electricity from new nuclear power for the first time.

The cost of subsidies for new offshore wind farms has halved since the last 2015 auction for clean energy projects, BBC reported.

Two firms said they were willing to build offshore wind farms for a guaranteed price of £57.50 per megawatt hour for 2022-23.

This compares with the new Hinkley Point C nuclear plant securing subsidies of £92.50 per megawatt hour.

Nuclear firms said the UK still needed a mix of low-carbon energy, especially for when wind power was not available.

### 'Truly astonishing'

The figures for offshore wind, from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, were revealed as the result of an auction for subsidies, in which the lowest bidder wins.

In the auction in 2015, offshore wind farm projects won subsidies between £114 and £120 per megawatt hour.

Emma Pinchbeck, from the wind energy trade body Renewable UK, told the BBC the latest figures were 'truly astonishing'.

"We still think nuclear can be part of the mix — but our industry has shown how to drive costs down, and now they need to do the same."

Bigger turbines, higher voltage cables and lower cost foundations, as well as growth in the UK supply chain and the downturn in the oil and gas industry have all contributed to falling prices.

The newest eight megawatt offshore turbines stand almost 200 meters high, taller than London's Gherkin building. But Pinchbeck said the turbines would double in size in the 2020s.

### Nuclear 'still needed'

However, the nuclear industry said that because wind power

is intermittent, nuclear energy would still be needed.

Tom Greatrex, chief executive of the Nuclear Industry Association, said: "It doesn't matter how low the price of offshore wind is. On last year's figures it only produced electricity for 36 percent of the time."

EDF, which is building the Hinkley Point C nuclear plant, said the UK still needed a 'diverse, well-balanced' mix of low-carbon energy.

"New nuclear remains competitive for consumers who face extra costs in providing back-up power when the wind doesn't blow or the Sun doesn't shine," the French firm said.

"There are also costs of dealing with excess electricity when there is too much wind or sun."

EDF added that energy from new nuclear plants would become cheaper as the market matures, as has happened with offshore wind.

Eyes will be raised at this suggestion, as nuclear power has already received subsidies since

the 1950s. But storage of surplus energy from offshore wind is still a challenge.

### 'Energy revolution'

Onshore wind power and solar energy are already both cost-competitive with gas in some places in the UK.

And the price of energy subsidies for offshore wind has now halved in less than three years.

Energy analysts said UK government policy helped to lower the costs by nurturing the fledgling industry, then incentivizing it to expand — and then demanding firms should bid in auction for their subsidies.

Minister for Energy and Industry Richard Harrington said: "We've placed clean growth at the heart of the Industrial Strategy to unlock opportunities across the country, while cutting carbon emissions."

"The offshore wind sector alone will invest £17.5 billion in the UK up to 2021 and thousands of new jobs in British

businesses will be created by the projects announced today."

Michael Grubb, professor of energy policy at University College London, called the cost reduction "a huge step forward in the energy revolution".

"It shows that Britain's biggest renewable resource — and least politically problematic — is available at reasonable cost."

"It'll be like the North Sea oil and gas industry: It started off expensive, then as the industry expanded, costs fell. We can expect offshore wind costs to fall more, too," he said.

The subsidies, paid from a levy on consumer bills, will run for 15 years — unlike nuclear subsidies for Hinkley C which run for 35 years.

This adds to the cost advantage offshore wind has now established over new nuclear.

Grubb estimated the new offshore wind farms would supply about two percent of UK electricity demand, with a net cost to consumers of under £5 per year.

## Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	83469.0	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	72487.6	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	91092.1	3826	4.27
First Market Index	58197.5	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	183524.1	2030.5	1.14

### Overall Index details on 20170912

First	83241.7	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	83471.3	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	83371.3	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	83469.0	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

### Industry Index details on 20170912

First	72250.5	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	72477.5	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	72675.1	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	72487.6	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

### Free Float Index details on 20170912

First	91073.5	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	91092.1	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

### Main Board Index details on 20170912

First	58112.5	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	58197.6	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	58197.5	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

### Secondary Index details on 20170912

First	182603.5	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	183537.8	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	183524.1	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2235.2		

## Italian industrial production rises

Italian industrial production rose by 4.4 percent year on year in July from a year ago, national statistics agency ISTAT reported.

In the January-July period of 2017, the growth rate stood at 2.6 percent year-on-year.

According to Italian news agency ANSA, Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni commented, "Such data was unthink-

able just one or two years ago. Our country is finally experiencing a slow recovery, which is not as slow as we thought."

In July 2017, the seasonally-adjusted industrial production index increased by 0.1 percent compared to the previous month, and grew by 1.4 percent in the latest quarter compared to the previous

quarter, according to ISTAT. The ISTAT industrial index measures the volume of industrial production, excluding construction. The fastest-growing sectors included mining (+8.4 percent), machine and equipment manufacturing (+8 percent), and food, beverages, and tobacco production and automobile manufacturing (both +6.9 percent).



ansamed.info

Sectors that experienced a slow-down include electrical, electronics, and electro-medical equipment manufacturing (-0.6 percent), as well as textiles, apparel, leather and accessories (-0.5 percent), ISTAT said.

Italy's sluggish recovery has been among the slowest in the eurozone.

## China auto sales rise 5.3%



wautom.com

China's auto sales continued to increase in August, evidence of the steady growth of the world's largest car market, data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM) showed.

Some 2.19 million vehicles were sold last month — up 5.3 percent year-on-year — maintaining momentum in July that saw sales rise 6.2 percent, Xinhua wrote.

Meanwhile, 2.09 million vehicles were produced in August, up 4.8 percent from the same period last year, according to the CAAM.

In the first eight months, total auto output and sales increased by 4.7 percent and 4.3 percent year-on-year to 17.68 million and 17.51 million vehicles, respectively.

The market share of domestic brands

went up 5.3 percent year on year in August, said the CAAM.

Sales and production of new energy vehicles maintained fast growth. Some 72,000 new energy vehicles were produced in August, up 67.3 percent year-on-year, and 68,000 were sold, up 76.3 percent from the same period last year.

Earlier data from the China Passenger Car Association showed China sold 54,000 new energy passenger cars last month, surging 25 percent month-on-month.

The robust growth came as China has intensified efforts to encourage the use of new energy vehicles to ease pressure on the environment, by offering tax exemptions and discounts for car purchases, and ordering government organizations to buy more new energy cars.

## Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2930	Chinese Yuan	0.1531
Euro	1.1976	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.3192	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3167
Australian Dollar	0.8037	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0091	Saudi Riyal	0.2667

## Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$47.07	Silver	\$17.83
Gold	\$1330.70	Platinum	\$991.70
Copper	\$3.06	Wheat	\$433.75

## Archeologists find main Achaemenid waterway in Persepolis

The main valve of a water system dating back to the Achaemenid era, which used to transfer surface waters from the west to the main network in the south was discovered in Persepolis, near Shiraz in the southern province of Fars.

Research Institute of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) quoted the head of the team conducting the third season of excavations, Ahmad Ali Asadi as saying that the objective of the studies was to explore the waterways in Persepolis particularly the waterway in the southern yard of Tachar Palace.

Identifying the status of the waterway compound of the unfinished gates, and unearthing some part of the wall of Persepolis that had been buried in earlier excavations in the southern side of the royal court were the other objectives of the studies, IRNA wrote.

The waterway discharged water in the roof of the main

hall and the southern porch of the palace, he said, adding that a third waterway lay in the southern yard of Tachar Palace and was used for discharging waters in the aforementioned yard.

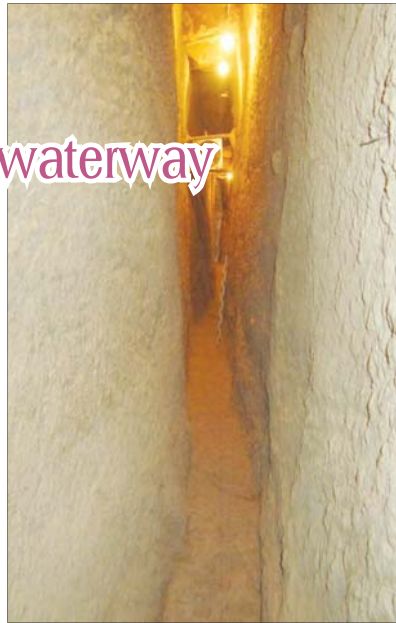
Pointing to the identification of the branches on both sides of the waterway, Asadi said: "One of these branches which continued towards the northwest of Tachar yard running under Tachar Palace had been used for disposing water in the roof of the southern porch of the palace."

Continued work in the southern branch of Tachar yard could lead to fresh understanding about the status of the waterways, especially in the Hundred-Column Palace, he added.

According to the archeologist, another branch of the waterway is located in the eastern span of the unfinished gate which runs from the south under the Hundred-Column Palace and from the north towards the northern wall of the royal court.

Asadi pointed out that the canals with a height of about six meters, which are carved in one piece from the mountain, have no regular structure.

The excavations also aimed at identifying and unearthing a part of the Persepolis wall, he said, adding this would lead to restoring the original structure



IRNA

of Parse as it stood over the centuries.

According to him, most of the stone findings were obtained from the workshop in the southern yard of Tachar Palace and the findings of the southern wall were mainly scattered on the side during previous explorations of the Persepolis.

## Air pollution cuts three years off lifespans in northern China



GETTY IMAGES

There are currently an estimated 4.5 billion people around the world exposed to levels of particulate air pollution that are at least twice what World Health Organization (WHO) considers safe. Yet, the impact of sustained exposure to pollution on a person's life expectancy has largely remained a vexingly unanswered question — until now.

A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences finds that a Chinese policy is unintentionally causing people in northern China to live 3.1 years less than people in the south due to air pollution concentrations that are 46 percent higher, according to the study.

These findings imply that

every additional 10 micrograms per cubic meter of particulate matter pollution (PM10) reduces life expectancy by 0.6 years. The elevated mortality is entirely due to an increase in cardiorespiratory deaths, indicating that air pollution is the cause of reduced life expectancies to the north.

"These results greatly strengthen the case that long-term exposure to particulates air pollution causes substantial reductions in life expectancy."

Study coauthor, Michael Greenstone, the director of the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) and the Milton Friedman Professor in Economics, the College and the Harris School,

said, "They indicate that particulates are the greatest current environmental risk to human health, with the impact on life expectancy in many parts of the world similar to the effects of every man, woman and child smoking cigarettes for several decades."

"The histories of the United States, parts of Europe, Japan and a handful of other countries teach us that air pollution can be reduced, but it requires robust policy and enforcement."

The study exploits China's Hui River policy, which provided free coal to power boilers for winter heating to people living north of the river and provided almost no resources towards heating south of the river.

# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

مالکین محترم  
ساختمان در دست در مناطق شمال تهران  
جهت اجاره به یک سفارخانه  
و کمپانی‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

Men are more likely to develop diabetes if their wife is obese, but women living with overweight men are not at greater risk, new research found.

# Stomach cancer breakthrough on horizon: Cell investigation could lead to new treatment

Stomach cancer and gastrointestinal cancer cures could be on the horizon after a scientist pledged to investigate how the disease disrupts the growth of healthy cells.

A scientist at the University of Birmingham has received a £1.4 million award from Cancer Research UK to carry out research that could discover how cancer 'steals the keys' from the body's locksmiths, [express.co.uk](http://express.co.uk) writes.

Dr. Matthew Coleman, of the Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences at the University of Birmingham, is set to receive £1.4 million over six years to find out more about three specific proteins that are thought to have a role in cancer.

Although this research focuses on gastrointestinal cancer such as stomach cancer and cancer of the intestines, his findings will likely be able to be applied to other tumor types.

The proteins in our body play a range of roles, including controlling energy production,



express.co.uk

cell growth and cell function. However, if these proteins become faulty, it can affect how they work, causing them and important cells to go out of control.

Coleman said, "The proteins in our cells all have different roles."

"We are interested in three particular proteins, which are all enzymes that act as 'locksmiths' for other proteins."

"Usually, these enzymes, called 'oxygenases', work by

attaching an oxygen molecule to specific parts of other proteins, which generally turns them on.

"This is a bit like a locksmith putting a key in a lock — once the door is opened, it 'unlocks' processes in a cell that ensure it develops normally and that everything is properly controlled."

"We have found that these enzyme 'locksmiths' become faulty in cancer, meaning they're unable to attach

oxygen molecules to other proteins properly.

"This means the door remains shut, and certain processes are 'locked out'."

"We think that this can lead to abnormal cell growth and function, which can lead to cancer."

"It's as if cancer has stolen the keys from these locksmiths."

"What is amazing is that such a small thing — not being able to place a 'key' in a 'lock'

— has the potential to have a domino effect that disrupts cell growth and function, causing cells to go awry and turn cancerous."

Coleman's team will study both human tissue and cells donated by cancer patients in a bid to discover new treatments for patients.

Coleman said, "If we can find out more about how oxygenases become faulty and the consequences of this in cancer cells, we may be able to identify and develop new drugs that target the cellular processes they control."

"Or, we may be able to develop drugs that act as a 'skeleton key' that does their job for them."

"We're incredibly grateful to the patients who donate their tumor samples to research; their contribution is making a real impact in allowing researchers like me to understand cancer."

"We're also extremely thankful to the people who support Cancer Research UK because without them, our work would not be possible."

## Regular weigh-ins may help prevent college weight gain

No one likes looking at their weight on a scale every day, but that may be just the trick that college students need to ward off the dreaded "Freshman 15," a new study suggested.

Researchers at Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania found that female freshman students lost more weight when they weighed themselves at least once a day, while those who didn't failed to shed any pounds at all, UPI reported.

An estimated 70 percent of freshman college students gain weight at school.

The average is four to eight pounds. Their weight gain is much greater than in their counterparts in the general population, the study authors noted.

For the new study, the researchers tracked nearly 300 women. The students' height and weight were measured at the beginning of the study, and again at six months and at two years.

The researchers also had the students fill out questionnaires. College students who weighed themselves at least once daily lost weight over two years, although not a lot.

Study researcher Diane Rosenbaum, who was a graduate student at Drexel at the time of the study, said, "The losses ... were modest, but still significant, especially keeping in mind that these women were not part of a weight-loss program."

"We did not expect that, in the absence of a weight-loss intervention, folks would be losing weight."

It's not clear, though, whether there was a cause-and-effect relationship between daily weighing and weight loss.

"It is possible that the relation between self-weighing and weight might be due to scale avoidance among those who experienced weight gain," the researchers wrote.


According to Meghan Butryn, an associate professor at Drexel University, "Regularly weighing yourself can motivate you to engage in healthy eating and exercise behaviors, because it provides you with evidence that these behaviors are effective in helping you lose weight or prevent weight gain."

"Similarly, if you see weight gain on the scale, that information can motivate you to make a change."

The study was published online in the *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*.



UPI



**Iranian Offshore Oil Company**  
(Private Joint Stock)

**RENEWAL OF INVITATION TO COMMON BID**  
(Pre-Qualification)

Permit No: 1396.2732  
First Announcement

**Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) intends to renew Pre-Qualification for the following:**

Item	Subject	Tender No.	Amount of Bid Bond
1	Drilling fluids Services in Kharg and Bahregan Districts	097/95/0F	Rials 14,976,800,000 or Euro 434,841
2	Drilling fluids Services in Lavan Districts	098/95/0F	Rials 14,976,800,000 or Euro 434,841

Period of Services: Two Years

Terms of Bid:

- 1 Ability of submission of 10 percent of total Contract Price value as performance guarantee in case of winning according to company's procedure.
- 2 Proposals should be submitted in due date with no condition, incomplete, ambiguous or adverse of package specification.
- 3 Company shall reserve the right to accept or reject any or all of proposals or part(s) thereof without giving any reason or explanation whatsoever.
- 4 The validity of the submitted financial proposals shall be three months from the Closing Date that can be extended for one further period.
- 5 For invitation to each above tenders, it is necessary to achieve the determinate minimum score in the Pre-Qualification.
- 6 There is no need to request of bidders who have submitted their Pre-Qualification documents in previous invitation of these tenders. Also they can complete or replace their submitted documents if necessary.


Bidders, who have ability and are willing to participate in the Pre-qualification, are requested to submit a written request to Contract Department, within One Week from Second Announcement through a representative and collect the Pre-Qualification Forms.

Closing Date for submission of the Pre-Qualification documents shall be up to 14 days after the deadline of collecting Pre-Qualification documents. Place and time of submission and opening of proposals will be stated in Tender Documents.

Address for those willing to participate and submit Pre-qualification Documents is as follow: Fifth Floor, #12, Touraj St., Khakzad St., Vali-e-Asr Ave; Between Balal Mosque and Modarres Crossroad, Tehran, Iran, Tel: +9821-23942510

Note: Additional information is available at IOOC website address: [www.iooc.co.ir](http://www.iooc.co.ir) on the day of Second Announcement

Public Relations Department of Iranian Offshore Oil Company



**Iranian Offshore Oil Company**  
(Private Joint Stock)

**INVITATION TO PUBLIC TENDER (Pre-Qualification)**  
**WHIPSTOCK EQUIPMENTS AND SERVICES**

Permit No: 1396.2742  
First Announcement  
TENDER No. 96/054/0F

**Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) intends to open Pre-Qualification for above tender with the following conditions:**

Scope of work: Providing Whipstock Equipments and Services  
Location: IOOC Oil Fields in Bahregan and Kharg District  
Performance Period: Two Years

Other items that shall be considered:

- 1 Ability of submission of Bid Bond as in the amount of Iranian Rial 3,686,400,000 or Euro 93,469.00
- 2 Ability of submission of 10 percent of total Contract Price value as performance guarantee in case of winning according to company's procedure.
- 3 Proposals should be submitted in due date with no condition, incomplete, ambiguous or adverse of package specification.
- 4 Company shall reserve the right to accept or reject any or all of proposals or part(s) thereof without giving any reason or explanation whatsoever.
- 5 The validity of the submitted financial proposals shall be three months from the Closing Date that can be extended for one further period.
- 6 For invitation to above tender, it is necessary to achieve the determinate minimum score in the Pre-qualification.
- 7 Bidders, who have ability and are willing to participate in the Pre-qualification, are requested to submit a written request to Contract Department, within One Week from Second Announcement through a representative and collect the Pre-Qualification Forms.

Closing Date for submission of the Pre-Qualification documents shall be up to 14 days after the deadline of collecting Pre-Qualification documents. Place and time of submission and opening of proposals will be stated in Tender Documents.

Address for those willing to participate and submit Pre-qualification Documents is as follows: Fifth Floor, #12, Touraj St., Khakzad St., Vali-e-Asr Ave; Between Balal Mosque and Modarres Crossroad, Tehran, Iran, Tel: +9821-23942510

Note: Additional information is available at IOOC website address: [www.iooc.co.ir](http://www.iooc.co.ir) on the day of Second Announcement

Public Relations Department of Iranian Offshore Oil Company

## Whole grains decrease colorectal cancer risk

Eating whole grains daily, such as brown rice or whole-wheat bread, reduces colorectal cancer risk, with the more you eat the lower the risk, found a new report by the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) and the World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF).

This is the first time AICR/WCRF research links whole grains independently to lower cancer risk, scientifically reported.

Diet, nutrition, physical activity and colorectal cancer also found that hot dogs and other processed meats consumed regularly increase the risk of this cancer.

There was strong evidence that physical activity protects against colon cancer.

Edward L. Giovannucci, MD, ScD, lead author of the report and professor of nutrition and epidemiology at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, said, "Colorectal cancer is one of the most common cancers, yet this report demonstrates there is a lot people can do to dramatically lower their risk."

"The findings from this comprehensive report are robust and clear: Diet and lifestyle have a major role in colorectal cancer."

The new report evaluated the scientific research worldwide on how diet, weight and physical activity affect colorectal cancer risk.

The report analyzed 99 studies, including data on 29 million people, of whom over a quarter of a million were diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

Other factors found to increase colorectal cancer include:

- Eating high amounts of red meat (above 500 grams cooked weight a week), such as beef.
- Being overweight or obese.

Factors such as maintaining a lean body weight, proper exercise, limiting red and processed meat and eating more whole grains and fiber would lower risk substantially.

"Moreover, avoidance or cessation of smoking also lower risk."

**Fish, fruits, vegetables, emerging evidence**

The report found other links between diet and colorectal cancer that were visible but not as clear.

There was limited evidence that risk increases with low intake of both non-starchy vegetables and fruit.

A higher risk was observed for intakes of less than 100 grams per day (about a cup) of each.

Links to lowering risk of colorectal cancer was with fish and foods containing vitamin C.

Oranges, strawberries and spinach are all foods high in vitamin C.

The research continues to emerge for these factors, but it all points to the power of a plant-based diet.

Alice Bender, MS, RD, AICR director of nutrition programs, said, "Replacing some of your refined grains with whole grains and eating mostly plant foods, such as fruits, vegetables and beans, will give you a diet packed with cancer-protective compounds and help you manage your weight, which is so important to lower risk."

"When it comes to cancer there are no guarantees, but it's clear now there are choices you can make and steps you can take to lower your risk of colorectal and other cancers."



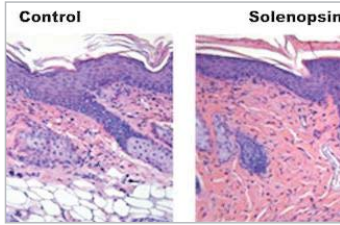
sobeys.com

A new brain-computer interface application that allows music to be composed by the power of thought has now been developed by scientists.

## Fire ant venom could be used for skin treatments

A new study from Emory and Case Western universities found that compounds from fire ant venom could reduce skin thickening and inflammation in psoriasis.

Psoriasis is an autoimmune skin disease that is treated with topical steroids that can cause skin thinning and bruising, UPI reported.



Pictured are skin sections from mouse psoriasis model, after treatment with solenopsis analog or control cream.

Researchers used mouse models of psoriasis to test the compound solenopsis, the main toxic component in fire ant venom, which chemically resemble ceramides, the lipid-like molecules necessary for maintaining the barrier function of skin.

The study, published in *Scientific Reports*, showed solenopsis decreased skin thickness from psoriasis 30 percent compared to control groups.

Dr. Jack Arbiser, professor of dermatology at Emory University School of Medicine, said, "We believe that solenopsis analogs are contributing to full restoration of the barrier function in the skin."

"Emollients can soothe the skin in psoriasis, but they are not sufficient for restoration of the barrier."

Researchers created two solenopsis analogs that resemble ceramides but can't degrade into SIP, or sphingosine-1-phosphate, that can convert ceramides into an inflammatory molecule.

Researchers found that the mice treated with solenopsis analogs also had 50 percent fewer immune cells infiltrating the skin and when the compound was applied to immune cells in a culture they decreased the cells' production of the inflammatory signal IL-22 and increased production of anti-inflammatory IL-12.

The study showed that the solenopsis analogs turned down genes that are turned up by current treatments.

Arbiser added, "This may be compensatory and a mechanism of resistance to anti-psoriasis therapy, and it suggested that the solenopsis compounds could be used in combination with existing approaches."

## Study shows impact of global warming on coffee production

A recent study by the University of Vermont (UVM) found global warming could reduce coffee growing areas in Latin America by as much as 88 percent by 2050.

Researchers from the University of Vermont's Gund Institute for Environment found climate change will continue to negatively impact coffee production, as well as bee populations, essential to coffee farming, UPI wrote.

Taylor Ricketts, director of the UVM's Gund Institute for Environment, said, "Coffee is one of the most valuable commodities on Earth, and needs a suitable climate and pollinating bees to produce well."

"This is the first study to show how both will likely change under global warming—in ways that will hit coffee producers hard."



A coffee farmer picks fresh coffee cherries in Colombia. New climate research suggests Latin America will face major declines in coffee-growing regions, as well as bees, which help coffee to grow.

Researchers predict much greater losses of coffee in regions than previous assessments, with the biggest impacts in Nicaragua, Honduras and Venezuela.

On the positive side, researchers project a slight increase in coffee suitability in Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica and Guatemala—mostly in mountainous regions where temperatures can support coffee growing and robust bee populations.

Pablo Imbach, of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, said, "If there are bees in the coffee plots, they are very efficient and very good at pollinating, so productivity increases and also berry weight."

"In the areas projected to lose coffee suitability, we wanted to know whether that loss could be offset by bees."

The study identified some strategies to improve coffee growth and bee pollination, including the increase of bee habitats near coffee farms where bee diversity may decrease.

Policy makers could also prioritize farming practices that reduce climate impacts on coffee production where bees are thriving, and protect forests and main shade trees, windbreaks, live fences and native plants.

Lee Hannah, senior scientist at Conservation International, said, "We hope the models we have created to make these projections can help to target appropriate management practices such as forest conservation, shade adjustment and crop rotation."

# Cassini: Saturn probe turns towards its death plunge

Cassini began its study of the ringed planet in 2004.

bbc.com

The international Cassini spacecraft at Saturn has executed the course correction that will send it to destruction at the end of the week.

The probe flew within 120,000km of the giant moon Titan on Monday—an encounter that bent its trajectory just enough to put it on a collision path with the ringed planet, according to bbc.com.

Nothing can now stop the death plunge in Saturn's atmosphere on Friday.

Cassini will be torn to pieces as it heads down towards the clouds. Its components will melt and be dispersed through the planet's gases.

Ever since it arrived at Saturn 13 years ago, the probe has used the gravity of Titan—the second biggest moon in the solar system—to slingshot itself into different positions from which to study the planet and its stunning rings.

It has been a smart strategy because Cassini would otherwise have had to fire up its propulsion system and drain its fuel reserves every time it wanted to make a big change in direction.

As it is, those propellants are almost

exhausted and NASA is determined the spacecraft will not be permitted to just drift around Saturn uncontrolled; it must be disposed of properly and fully.

The agency called Monday's last encounter with Titan the 'kiss goodbye'. Earl Maize, the Cassini project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, said, "Cassini has been in a long-term relationship with Titan, with a new rendezvous nearly every month for more than a decade."

"This final encounter is something of a bittersweet goodbye, but as it has done throughout the mission, Titan's gravity is once again sending Cassini where we need it to go."

Closest approach to the moon's surface occurred at 19:04 GMT.

As the probe passed Titan, it gathered some images and other science data that will be streamed back to Earth on Tuesday. The investigation of the 5,150km-wide moon has been one of the outstanding successes of the Cassini mission.

The spacecraft put a small robot

called Huygens on its surface in 2005.

It returned a remarkable image of rounded pebbles that had been smoothed by the action of flowing liquid methane.

This hydrocarbon rains from Titan's orange sky and runs into huge seas at northern latitudes.

Cassini also spied what are presumed to be volcanoes that spew an icy slush and vast dunes made from a plastic-like sand.

Cassini scientist Michelle Dougherty from Imperial College London, UK, said, "There will be an effort in the days up to Friday to try to squeeze out every last scientific observation."

"We're now running on fumes."

"The fact that we've got as far as we have, so close to the end of mission, is spectacular. We're almost there and it's going to be really sad watching it happen."

Besides a last look at Titan, scientists want to get a few more pictures of the rings and the moon Enceladus, before then configuring the spacecraft for its dramatic scuttling.

The idea is to use only those

instruments at the end that can sense Saturn's near-space environment, such as its magnetic field, or can sample the composition of its gases.

In the final three hours or so before 'impact' on Friday, all data acquired by the spacecraft will be relayed straight to Earth, bypassing the onboard solid state memory.

Contact with the probe after it has entered the atmosphere will be short, measured perhaps in a few tens of seconds. The signal at Earth is expected to drop off around 11:55 GMT. Engineers will be able to be more precise once they have looked at the position of the probe after Monday's change in course.

Curt Niebur, the Cassini program scientist at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC, said, "The Cassini mission has taught us so very much, and to me personally I find great comfort from the fact that Cassini will continue teaching us right up to the very last seconds."

The Cassini-Huygens mission is a joint endeavor of NASA, and the European and Italian space agencies.

## Long sitting periods may be just as harmful as daily total

A new study found that it isn't just the amount of time spent sitting, but also the way in which sitting time is accumulated during the day, that can affect risk of early death.

The study, published in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, found that adults who sit for one to two hours at a time without moving have a higher mortality rate than adults who accrue the same amount of sedentary time in shorter bouts, sedentaryxpress.com reported.

Keith Diaz, PhD, associate research scientist in the Department of Medicine at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) and lead investigator of the study, said, "We tend to think of sedentary behavior as just the sheer volume of how much we sit around each day."

"But previous studies have



completewellbeing.com

suggested that sedentary patterns—whether an individual accrues sedentary time through several short stretches or fewer long stretches of time—may have an impact on health."

The researchers used hip-mounted activity monitors to objectively measure inactivity during waking time over a period of seven days in 7,985 black and white adults aged over 45.

On average, sedentary behavior accounted for 77 percent of the participants' waking hours, equivalent to more than 12 hours per day. Over a median follow-up period of four years, 340 of the participants died.

Mortality risk was calculated for those with various amounts of total sedentary time and various sedentary patterns.

Those with the greatest amount of sedentary time—more than 13 hours per day—and who frequently had sedentary bouts of at least 60 to 90 consecutive minutes had a nearly twofold increase in death risk compared with those who had the least total sedentary time and the shortest sedentary bouts.

The researchers also found that participants who kept most of their sitting bouts to less than 30 minutes had the lowest risk of death.

Diaz said, "So if you have a job or lifestyle where you have to sit for prolonged periods of time, we suggest taking a movement break every half hour."

"This one behavior change

could reduce your risk of death, although we don't yet know precisely how much activity is optimal."

The study was the largest to link objectively measured sedentary time and sedentary patterns with mortality risk.

Study coauthor Monika Saford, MD, chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine and the John J. Kuiper Professor at Weill Cornell Medicine, said, "This study added to the growing literature on how dangerous long periods of sitting are for our health, and underscores a growing awareness among clinicians and researchers that sitting really is the new smoking."

"We need creative ways to ensure that we not only cut back on the total amount we sit, but also increase regular interruptions to sitting with bursts of activity."

## Scientists track brain-skull transition from dinosaurs to birds

and the brain enlarges.

"We were surprised that no one had directly addressed the idea that the underlying parts of the brain—the forebrain and midbrain—are correlated or somehow developmentally related to the overlying frontal and parietal bones."

Matteo Fabri, a graduate student in Bhullar's lab, is the first author of the study. Although previous studies have shown a general relationship between the brain and skull, associations between specific regions of the brain and individual elements of the skull roof have remained unclear.

This has led to conflicting theories on

some aspects of skull development.

Bhullar and his colleagues set out to trace the evolution of brain and skull shape not simply in the dinosaurs closest to birds, but in the entire lineage leading from reptiles to birds. They discovered that most reptile brains and skulls were markedly similar to each other.

It was the dinosaurs most closely related to birds, as well as birds themselves, that were divergent, with enlarged brains and skulls ballooning out around them.

Bhullar said, "We found a clear relationship between the frontal bones and forebrain and the parietal bones and midbrain."

The researchers confirmed this finding by looking at embryos of lizards, alligators, and birds using a new contrast-stained CT scanning technique.

Bhullar added, "We suggest that this relationship is found across all vertebrates with bony skulls and indicates a deep developmental relationship between the brain and the skull roof."

"What this implies is that the brain produces molecular signals that instruct the skeleton to form around it, although we understand relatively little about the precise nature of that patterning."

"Ultimately, one of the important messages here is that evolution is simpler and more elegant than it seems."

"Multiple seemingly disparate changes—for instance to the brain and skull—could actually have one underlying cause and represent only a single, manifold transformation."



# Over 3.5m refugee children miss out on school

More than 3.5 million refugee children did not have the chance to attend school in the last academic year, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, said in a report.

Entitled 'Left Behind: Refugee Education in Crisis', the report said that, globally, 91 percent of children attend primary school, but for refugees that figure is just 61 percent, and in low-income countries less than 50 percent, uncr.org wrote.

It said there are 6.4 million refugees of school age — between five and 17 — among the 17.2 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate.

"In 2016, only 2.9 million were enrolled in primary or secondary education. More than half of them — 3.5 million — did not go to school," it continued.

In a statement, Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said: "The education of these young people is crucial to the peaceful and sustainable development of the countries that have welcomed them, and to their homes when they are able to return. Yet compared to other children and adolescents around the world, the gap in opportunity for refugees is growing ever wider."

As refugee children get older, the obstacles increase: Only 23 percent of adolescent refugees are enrolled in secondary school, compared with 84 percent globally. In low-income countries, just nine percent of refugees are able to attend secondary school.

For tertiary, or post-secondary, education the situation is critical, it added. The percentage remains at one percent for refugees, compared with 36 percent



un.org

worldwide.

The report called for education to be considered fundamental to the response to refugee emergencies, and for it to be supported by long-term planning and reliable funding.

It urged governments to include refugees in their national education systems and highlights some of the efforts made towards implementing such a policy, even in countries where resources are already

stretched.

This is the second annual education report from UNHCR.

The first, 'Missing Out', was issued in advance of the UN General Assembly's Summit for Refugees and Migrants last September.

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, signed by 193 countries, put education at the forefront of the international response.

School-age children are supposed to get 200 days of school per year.

"Despite the overwhelming support for the New York Declaration, one year on, refugees are in real danger of being left behind in terms of their education," said Grandi.

"Ensuring that refugees have equitable access to quality education is a shared responsibility. It is time for all of us to put words into action."

IOM, the UN Migration Agency, has appealed for \$26.1 million to meet the immediate needs of some 313,000 newly-arrived undocumented Myanmar Nationals (UMNs) now sheltering in seven sites in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District.

The Flash Appeal, covering the next three months, seeks \$15 million for shelter and essential non-food relief items, together with management of the sites. Another \$5 million will go towards water, sanitation and hygiene, and \$3 million towards healthcare, Ipsnews reported.

Another \$3 million will provide protection for people living in the camps and the remaining \$100,000 will pay for coordination by the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). The IOM appeal is part of a broader appeal (ISCG Preliminary Response

## New arrivals in Bangladesh from Myanmar reach 313,000



iom.int

Plan) by all ISCG agencies operating in Cox's Bazar.

IOM recognized the urgency of the relief operations in Cox's Bazar by adding another \$1.5 million from its revolving Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (MEFM) to the \$1 million already allocated last week. The mechanism allows

IOM to respond to humanitarian emergencies as quickly as possible, before international donors agree to fund them.

The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has already allocated \$7 million across multiple agencies in response to the ISCG appeal. But the funding shortfall remained

significant and is likely to increase as people continue to arrive from Myanmar.

"The number of arrivals and the speed at which they are coming — averaging 20,000 day for the past 16 days — is extremely challenging. The MEFM is allowing us to bring in the technical experts and the

supplies that we need to save lives immediately, and to plan ahead," said IOM Bangladesh Chief of Mission Sarat Dash.

To date (10/09), 313,000 people are estimated to have crossed the border into Bangladesh from Myanmar since the latest outbreak of violence on August 25. Large numbers of people are still arriving every day in densely packed sites, looking for space, and there are clear signs that more will cross before the situation stabilizes.

New arrivals in all locations are in urgent need of life-saving assistance, including food, water and sanitation, health and protection.

According to planners, a rapid, comprehensive multi-sector response is now needed, including 60,000 shelters, 4.5 million liters of water per day, 15,000 latrines, and 1.5 million kilograms of rice per month.

## Segregation's unexpected link with black health in history

Racial housing segregation had some unexpected relationships with how long both blacks and whites lived historically in the United States, a new study suggested.

Using data from North Carolina from 1909 to 1975, researchers found that racially segregated areas generally had higher mortality rates, in both urban and rural areas. But, surprisingly, blacks sometimes lived longer in segregated areas than they did in more integrated environments, while whites had shorter lifespans in segregated rural areas, osu.edu wrote.

The study is the first to be able to measure the effect of segregation on health in rural areas and one of few to look at the historical effects of segregation, said Trevon Logan, co-author of the study and professor of economics at The Ohio State University.

"The study shows that the effects of segregation apply not only to the present, but also to the past," Logan said. "More importantly, we found that segregation was related to health outcomes in rural as well as urban areas."

Logan conducted the study with John Parman, associate professor of economics at the College of William and Mary. Their results appeared online in the journal *Social Science and Medicine*.

The researchers used a measure of historical segregation they developed that allows them, for the first time, to analyze segregation in rural communities.



wip.com

Their measure used complete census manuscript files to identify the races of next-door neighbors. In rural areas, where there may not be traditional neighborhoods, this allowed the researchers to be the first to measure racial segregation.

The researchers used this segregation data along with death certificates from North Carolina to see how segregation was related to mortality in both urban and rural areas for blacks and whites.

Results showed that whites lived roughly 10 years longer than blacks during the time studied. But findings differed by levels of segregation and whether people lived in urban or

rural areas.

For black adults, living in segregated urban and rural areas was associated with a longer lifespan. For example, urban black females living in highly segregated areas lived about five years longer than those who lived in neighborhoods with average levels of segregation. For black men, the result was even more pronounced — nearly 10 years.

In rural areas, blacks also lived longer in more highly segregated areas.

Logan said he suspected that segregation may have been protective of health for blacks historically because, in an era before antibiotics, they would have less exposure to deadly infectious diseases.

"In a period with a lack of access to quality healthcare, especially for black people, less exposure between races could have had large, positive effects on black health," he said.

"Segregation would not have the same protective effects today that it did before antibiotics."

For whites, the results were different. The data suggested that whites in segregated urban areas may have lived longer than those in more integrated areas, but the results were not entirely consistent.

However, white men and women in segregated rural areas did tend to die at slightly younger ages than those in more integrated areas.

## Employee outsourcing hides slaves in the workforce

Failure to monitor outsourced recruitment is resulting in companies inadvertently employing victims of modern slavery, according to new research led by our School of Management.

Interviews with experts in business, NGOs, trade unions, law firms and the police showed that while companies can increasingly trace where their products come from, many are in the dark about the backgrounds of their staff, phys.org wrote.

The research, conducted with the University of Sheffield, suggested that layers of outsourcing, subcontracting and informal hiring of temporary staff are to blame. This, say the researchers, enables victims of slave labor to be hidden within the workforce of companies and organizations, even those with the best of intentions.

Statistics recently released by the National Crime Agency showed that the number of people reported as potential victims of slavery and human trafficking in the UK has more than doubled in the past three years, with 3,805 people referred for help in 2016.

The researchers concluded that the key issue in tackling modern slavery is understanding the labor supply chain — the often unregulated networks through which contingent and sometimes forced or trafficked workers are recruited, transported, and supplied to business by third party agents.

Lead author, Professor Andrew Crane, director of Center for Business, Organizations and Society, explained: "Companies have little hope of detecting modern slavery practices unless they adopt a new approach that focuses specifically on their labor supply chains — they need to be able to trace the origin of their employees in the same way as most now can for their products."

"Twenty years ago most high street retailers did not have a clue where the products they sold actually came from. Since then, there has been a revolution in responsible business practices and companies have invested millions of pounds to trace the source of their



phys.org

products and tackle the myriad sustainability issues they found there. To prevent the misery of modern slavery from blighting our workforces companies must apply that same focus to their staff."

The study showed that most incidences of forced labor were several steps removed from the core workforce at the producer company. Within the agricultural sector these employees could potentially only be on site for a matter of days or weeks, making it difficult for producers to detect abuse.

Companies thought they were able to shield themselves from modern slavery because of the investment they had made in responsible product sourcing but in reality their focus on tracing the product supply chain does not equip them to easily trace where workers have come from, or the types of exploitation they have been exposed to.

One CEO of a UK hotel chain explained to researchers: "We have pretty much solved traceability of the food served in our restaurants. I can tell you the farm where the steak on your plate came from, probably even the name of the cow. But we have no idea where the workers came from that work in our kitchens."

The workers in these kitchens may well have been supplied by unscrupulous agents who subject workers to highly exploitative employment practices, such as withholding their passports, forcing them to work for little or no pay, threatening them or their families, or tricking them into racking up huge debts through deductions for accommodation, food, transport and other 'services'. Some will even have paid to get the job in the first place.

## More than half of Americans have battled obesity

A new study is pointing to the growing health crisis surrounding obesity in America. Researchers at Boston University say that more than half of all men and women in the country have been obese at some point in their lives.

The study found that 50.8 percent of men and 51.6 percent of women in the US had battled obesity. The researchers also discovered that the chance of Americans developing chronic conditions like diabetes, congestive heart failure, and stroke were higher among people who had been obese at some point, cbsoical.com reported.

"The results suggest that a much larger fraction of the population is affected by obesity than is reflected by statistics on current weight status alone," researchers wrote in their findings.

The results reportedly confirmed the link between obesity and the risk of early death. Lead researcher Andrew Stokes and his team countered an argument, known as the 'obesity paradox', which claimed that being obese can actually reduce the risk of early death.

Stokes' team also noted that Americans who had lost the weight were still at an increased risk of chronic disease.

"The results clearly suggest that the formerly obese group is important to consider as a separate entity," Stokes said.

The researchers added that people should be broken up into three groups when studying the obesity epidemic: Those who are currently obese, formerly obese, or never obese.

The findings draw a comparison to the health effects smokers deal with even after quitting the habit. The study notes how former smokers are still at risk for disease years after lighting their last cigarette.



go.com

## American Airlines flight canceled after scorpion spotted on board

American Airlines confirmed a flight from California to Phoenix was canceled for an unusual reason — a scorpion was spotted on board the plane.

Airline spokeswoman Leslie Scott said the Boeing 737, which had been due to depart Sacramento at 10:40 a.m. Sunday, had been in Phoenix the previous day, and that's likely where the scorpion boarded, UPI reported.

Passenger Jim Zuber said he and more than 100 fellow passengers were told while waiting to board that the flight crew had spotted a scorpion on the plane and



Or Believe it or not. American Airlines is canceling my flight because they found a 'scorpion' in the plane!" one traveler wrote on Facebook. "I suppose I should be happy it is not a bomb!"

Scott said the plane was taken to a maintenance facility in the Dallas/Fort Worth area to be fumigated after the crew was unable to determine whether the scorpion was still aboard the flight.

Flight delays attributed to scorpions are rare, but not unheard of an Ecuador-bound United Airlines flight out of Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport was delayed for several hours in May when a scorpion was purportedly seen crawling out from the sleeve of a sleeping passenger.



The airline was determining the best course of action. The airline eventually

decided to cancel the flight. "The flight was canceled because we want passengers and crews to feel comfortable," Scott told the Sacramento Bee. "This is one for the books."

UPI

Getting visas to enter Turkmenistan can prove tricky — MailOnline Travel was recently denied entry.

But for those forbidden access to the mysterious former Soviet country, a stunning new video offers an insight into what the place has to offer, dailymail.co.uk wrote.

Intrepid explorer and photographer Jay Tindall recently went on a trip through the landlocked state and he hit some unusual spots, including the 'sister' capital of Ashgabat and the burning 226ft-wide Gates of Hell crater.

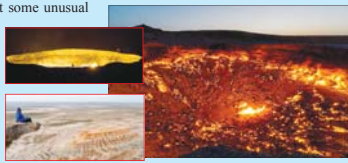
Footage from his trip reveals how the nation offers a mesmerizing mix of scenery.

Video of the capital, Ashgabat, shows it looking eerily empty. The gleaming stone plazas are decked out with giant Soviet-style statues, a reminder of times gone by.

And there are dozens of gargantuan buildings, with opulent gold-leafed domes striking a contrast to the grey skies. Meanwhile, fountains triumphantly froth away in manicured gardens.

Tindall drove north to explore the rugged landscape. After stopping to admire a mix of rural villages and red rock canyons, he ended up at the Gates of Hell in

## Photographer takes stunning drone footage of Turkmenistan



DAILYMAIL.CO.UK

Derweze.

The giant hole of fire, in the heart of the Karakum desert, was made by geologists more than 40 years ago, and the flames within have been burning ever since.

Soviet geologists were drilling at the site in 1971 and tapped into a cavern filled with natural gas.

But the ground beneath the drilling rig collapsed, leaving a hole with a diameter of 70 meters.

Fearing that the hole would lead to the release of poisonous gases, the team decided to burn it off.

It was hoped that the fire would use all the fuel within days, but the gas is still burning today. The flames generate a golden glow which can be seen for miles around Derweze, a village with a population of about 350.

The site is about 161 miles north of Ashgabat. In April 2010, the country's president, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow, visited the site and ordered that the hole should be closed but this is yet to happen.

Summing up his trip to Turkmenistan, Tindall, who runs Travel Company Remote Lands, said: "Turkmenistan is one of the most isolated places in Central Asia — known for the driest desert in the world. The capital is so empty it seems almost sinister. "Monuments and buildings rise high in the skyline, brutalist and imposing. Sharp, strong edges dominate the plane above. "But here, too, are people who live and suffer just like anyone else. They walk lonely in the desolate streets, laughing in the shadow of mountains. "Outside the city, the world is different; the desert is unforgiving. The wastes seem to go on forever — thirsty sand and empty skies. Only an arresting, daunting place like this could be home to the Gates of Hell."

## Seagull waddling into bakery

Have you seen this seagull?

Described as white, of short stature and with a distinctive patch on its lower back, the bird was seen choosing a packet of salt and vinegar crisps then legging it out of Greggs — the largest bakery chain in the UK.

Video footage shows the bird strolling



up to the counter than rushing away once it has the goods in its beak, metro.co.uk wrote.

It seems like it has done this before, as it is well acquainted with how to use automatic doors.

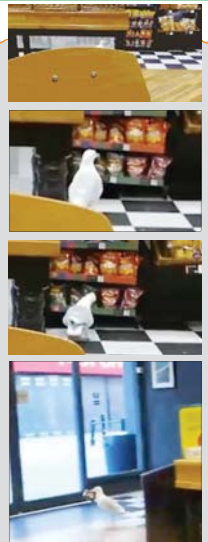
Witnesses saw the crime at a bakery on Kings Street in the center of South Shields, Newcastle.

Gordon Lindsay, who filmed the incriminating footage, said: "It clearly just saw its opportunity and just went for it."

"It grabbed a packet of salt and vinegar crisps — it seemed clear that he knew what flavor he wanted."

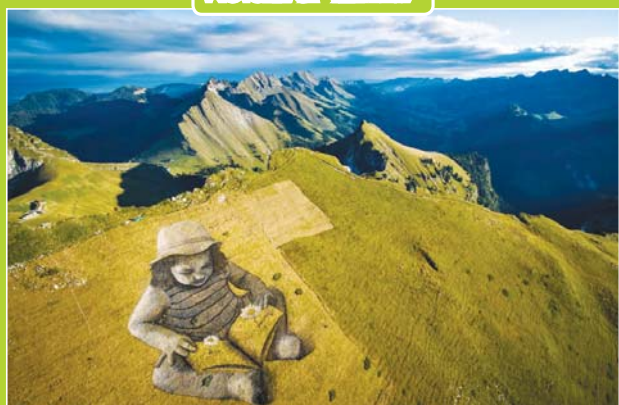
"The staff at the time were filling up the coffee machine and they didn't see him until he was leaving — so there wasn't much they could really do. "They were quite surprised, and so was I. "I just thought it was unbelievably cheeky."

The seagull is thought to be still at large.



NORTH NEWS

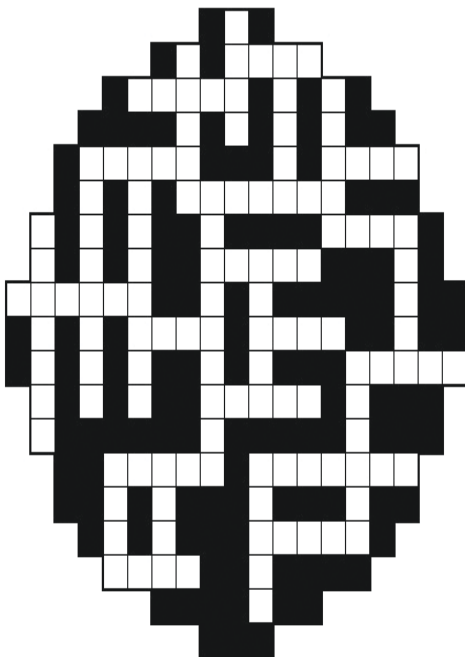
## PICTURE OF THE DAY



VALENTIN FLAURAUD/EPA

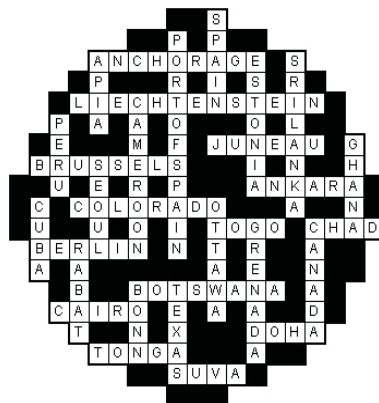
'A Story of the Future' by artist Saype. The artwork covering approximately 6,000 square meters was produced with over 600 liters of biodegradable paint made from natural pigments, water and a milk protein and is part of the celebration for the 125th anniversary of the Glion Rochers-de-Naye train line, Les Rochers-de-Naye, Switzerland.

### Global Word-Fit



- 4 letters: BONN, IRAN, LIMA, MALI, OHIO, OMAN, ROME, SUVA, UTAH
- 5 letters: ACCRA, ARUBA
- 6 letters: DUBLIN
- BOISE, GHANA, HAITI, IDAHO, INDIA, ITALY, JAPAN, MALTA, MIAMI, PARIS, SPAIN
- MANAMA
- 7 letters: BAHRAIN, HOUSTON, NAIROBI
- 8 letters: HONOLULU, ILLINOIS
- 9 letters: ARGENTINA

### 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.

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

Christmas is coming early for Kobe Bryant – the Lakers are planning to retire his jersey before the Warriors game on Dec. 18. TMZ Sports reported.

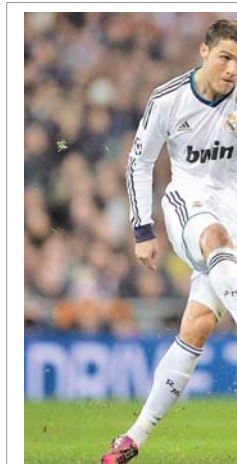
# Ghafour, Ebadipour spark Iran's tiebreak triumph over Italy

Amir Ghafour and Milad Ebadipour's fiery performance sparked Iran's 3-2 (25-19, 23-25, 28-26, 29-31, 15-11) win over Italy in the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Grand Champions Cup at the Nippon Gaishi Hall in Nagoya, Japan, on Tuesday.

Ghafour and Ebadipour registered 21 and 20 points to lead the Iranian offense, while Filippo Lanza and Oleg Antonov made 23 and 18 points to command the Italian side. Iran benefited from the 42 turnovers of Italy, fivb.org reported.

Iran prevailed once more in its second tiebreak encounter with Italy. Four of Iran's five wins at the World Grand Champions Cup have come in five sets. Iran last beat Italy at world level was at the 2014 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship in Poland, where it claimed a 3-1 win.

Italy gave away many points to Iran on its turnovers, which helped the latter take the opening set win at 25-19. Italy bounced back to win at 25-23, but Iran came up with good digs to counterattack and secure the third set at 28-26. In the fourth set, Giulio Sabbi heroics in crucial moments led to an Italian win at 31-29. Iran's scoring spurts at the start of the tiebreaker, helped it pull away and complete the victory.



world. Tonight, we made the first surprise. We have opportunities to make surprises in the coming days as we play USA, Brazil, France and Japan.

USA won the Olympic bronze medal, Brazil won gold, Japan are very strong when it plays on home court, and France is World League champion, so every day we have an opportunity to make a surprise. Today, the difference between our team and Italy was that they made a lot of errors – they took a lot of risks – but they also made a lot of blocks. But we have good defense and a good counterattack. We didn't reach that level when we played in the World



Iran coach Igor Kolakovic keeps an eye on his team against Italy in Nagoya, Japan, on September 12, 2017.

League. Every set was close. I'm so happy we finished with the victory, but we played a tough five sets and we need to be fresh for Wednesday.

**'Happy with win'**

Iran captain Mir Saeid Marouf:

We're so happy to start with a victory; it's very important to us. We played with a lot of pressure and had opportunities to close it out in the fourth set, but couldn't do it. In the fifth set, we played with fewer mistakes but I can't say I'm satisfied with the team; we can play better volleyball.

We had a bad World League, so we had a lot of pressure. I've played a long time for the national team and had good days and bad days, but our youth and junior teams have been playing really well in their World Championships. The youth team won the gold medal and we've been play-

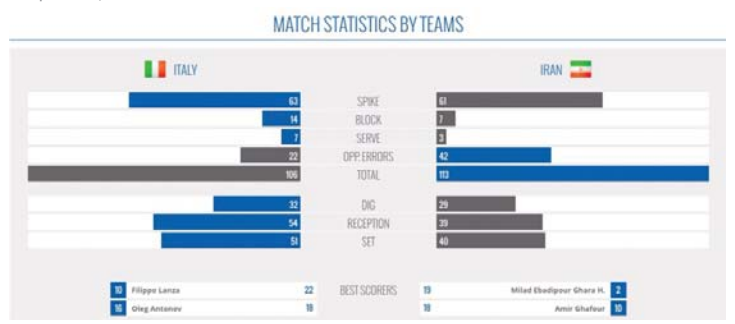
ing in the World League for the last few years so now we are playing with the strong teams of the world and we learn a lot from them.

**'Iran deserves victory'**

Italy coach Gianlorenzo Blengini:



Amir Ghafour scored 21 points in Iran's 3-2 win over Italy at the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Grand Champions Cup in Nagoya, Japan, on September 12, 2017.



Obviously I'm very disappointed with the result. We're very disappointed we couldn't win in the tiebreak. The start of the match wasn't so good, we were too tense and couldn't play good volleyball. But after that, we kept our hopes up and were able to take the second and fourth sets.

We couldn't win today but Iran deserved the victory. The fact that Iran did so well is not something new.

They've been playing at a high level for many years now. Today they defended more than us and better than us, which made it an even and tough match. They also counterattacked very well and generally played better than us.

**Buti congratulates Iran**

Italy captain Simone Buti: We're

very disappointed because we wanted to start in a good way but we were unable to win today.

It was a very even match but in the most important parts, especially defense and service, Iran did better than us.

I think we could have done something on the tiebreak but Iran played very well and I want to congratulate them.



What makes a great goal? What type of strikes are the most memorable, which mean the most, and which echo loudest in history?

Goal and UEFA Champions League sponsor Nissan wanted to find out, so we put that question to you, our users. The results were intriguing, and reflected the cultural and geographical differences between the way those of us around the world consume the beautiful game, goal.com reported.

But there were some things on which a general consensus was found. For example, everyone loves a screamer – regardless of the adjective we use to describe them. Football is, after all, a universal language.

## Messi's dribbling or Ronaldo's screamers

Thirty-one percent of Goal users from around the world cited long-range shots as the game's most exciting goals. Unquestionably the most exciting type of goal to our global users, however, were those that arrived via magical solo-runs, with 35 percent preferring goals of individual brilliance; ostensibly preferring Lionel Messi's dribbles to Cristiano Ronaldo's bullets.

Our global audience also agreed that team play provided the best origin of any goal, with 40 percent stating their preference for a strike that arrived after

a slick passing move. Having established what type of goal you find most exciting, we wanted to know who you love to see scoring. The idol was popular across the board, with 37 percent of global users saying they wanted to see the star of the show.

And of course, almost everyone agreed that nothing is more exciting than a stoppage-time goal in a final.

Globally, there was also a consensus that great goals are best experienced live at the stadium – which was particularly interesting in Asia, where a



massive 54 percent debunked the myth that football fans from the continent are more interested in games taking place on the other side of the world.

Asian fans also voiced their fondness for experiencing excitement digitally

Thirty-four percent of readers in Africa – a continent accustomed to losing its brightest talent at an ever-decreasing age – however, said they wanted to see the 'wonderkid' find the net. Indeed, Africa was the only continent that pre-

ferred seeing a goal from a youngster rather than an established star.

South America, meanwhile, the region which continues to produce football's greatest individual talents, predictably lauded the solo goal most, with a whopping 45 percent insisting they were the most exciting type of goal.

Interestingly, South Americans told us they valued no origin of a goal more than that which begins with a pattern of team passing – though at just 27 percent it was the continent most undecid-

ed. South Americans were unanimous, however, in their love of the soundtrack to each goal.

In a continent where radio played such a huge role in the early development of the game, the region unsurprisingly boasts the most excited commentators in the world, and South American fans insisted those calling the action brought an extra dimension to those special moments.

Back in the old continent, 41 percent of users in Europe – where the game is undoubtedly at its highest standard but still has to import its individual talent from South America – preferred team interplay to individual moments, stating their excitement around great passing moves and ruthless counterattacks.

The bigger the club, the more goals are enjoyed in Europe, it appears, where 22 percent said they liked nothing better than seeing the giants hit the net.

## Art & Culture

### 806 new schools to open in Iran in late September

Art & Culture Desk

A total of 806 new schools will be launched across Iran as of September 23 which marks the beginning of the academic year, said the deputy minister of education.

Also the head of the Organization for Development, Renovation and Equipping Schools of Iran, Mohammad-Taqi Nazarpour added \$228.57 million was extended to ensure on-time completion of the projects.



He said that once the new schools are inaugurated, the number of classrooms across Iran will increase by 4,185.

"Half of the 131,000 classrooms in the country which were in need of retrofitting have undergone the required changes."

In addition, he added, 70 percent of the Iran's classrooms which required renovation have been restored. He hoped that the remainder would be renovated and reconstructed by the end of the Sixth Five-Year Economic Development Plan (in 2022).

Underlining the importance of equipping schools with modern air conditioning systems, Nazarpour said steps have been taken to this end.

"Currently, 70 percent of the classrooms have central heating systems while the remaining 30 percent meet the basic standards in this respect."

### 'Nobody' wins Special Jury Award in Serbia

Art & Culture Desk

Iranian animated short film 'Nobody', directed by Elham Torroqi, won the Special Jury Award at Animanima International Animation Festival held in Cačak, western Serbia, from September 5 to 9.

The Iranian animated film received a €300 cash prize in addition to the award, Mehr News Agency reported.



The panel of jury for granting the award to the Iranian animated movie said: "Our Special Award of the Jury goes to a cinematographic jewel with a sad story, for precise elaborated views of cinematic means of expression, complemented with brilliant hand-drawn animation. A bitter sweet story about never giving up."

'Nobody' is about a white cat that makes several attempts to get food, but no one pays attention to him. Eventually, when the cat was quite desperate, a small white bird, which appears to have gone through the same steps, helps the cat.

The Serbian festival has been held since 2007 under the auspices of the City of Cačak and Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia.

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The Ninth Iran Independent Animation Celebration was held in Tehran on Monday night. Late animator Vahid Nasirian was commemorated and animator Mahin Javaherian (R) received a lifetime achievement award.



Mehr News Agency

## Iranian animated film nominated for top award in India

Art & Culture Desk

Iranian animated movie 'Hezar Afsan' (One Thousand Tales) has been nominated for the Best Animation Award at Calcutta International Film Festival.

poems written by the great Persian poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi (c. 940-1020) — in a number of episodes, Mehr News Agency reported.

The directors of the animation are Abbas Jalali-Yekta and Asghar Saffar.



The animated film depicts free adaptations of a number of tales narrated in Shahnameh — an extensive collection of epic

Commenting on 'Hezar Afsan', Jalali Yekta had earlier said, "A one-year-long research was carried out to select the sto-

ries of the animated film from Shahnameh."

The first episode of the animated movie has won a number of awards at Iranian festivals. Saffar, one of the directors of the animation, is also its producer.

CICFF is an official member of the British Film Institute, in London, and of the Film Society of Lincoln Center, in New York.

CICFF is a monthly live screening film festival with an annual live screening mega event in the City of Joy scheduled this year for December 2017. The monthly live screenings take place at the end of each month at Indira Cinema (one of the most prestigious film venues of Kolkata).

CICFF's sole purpose is to develop a film culture that inspires and brings together cross-cultural innovations that enrich people's lives with entertainment and services that inform, educate and entertain.

## F'M spokesman acclaims Iran's National Cinema Day

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi felicitated to the grand family of Iranian cinema on the occasion of the 18th Iran's National Cinema Day on Tuesday, September 12.

In his message, Qassemi said, "During its one hundred years of life, Iranian cinema has produced unprecedented, admirable and everlasting cinematic works that will forever remain in the memory of those who share a passion for the culture and art of this land."



He added, "The impressive and effective presence of Iranian cinema in numerous international film festivals has presented a clearer and more profound image of Iranian culture and art to the world."

Qassemi expressed gratitude to all the members of the great and hardworking family of Iran's cinema who have improved the status of the Iranian nation and art in international arenas using the diplomacy of art and cinema and presenting an accurate image of the realities of Iran.

Iran has observed National Cinema Day on September 12 each year since 2000 when the country hosted a festival dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the cinema of the Middle Eastern state.

The history of Iran's cinema dates back to 1900 when the fifth king of the Qajar dynasty, Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar, who reigned from 1896 to 1907, instructed the royal photographer Mirza Ebrahim Khan Akkas-Bashi to purchase filmmaking equipment to document the Iranian ruler's visit to Europe.

The first public screening in Iran took place in 1904. The first Iranian feature film, titled 'Abi and Rabi', was produced in 1930 by Ovanes Ohanian. The first Iranian sound film was 'Lor Girl' made by Ardeshir Irani in 1933. The first Iranian female filmmaker is Shahla Rihai who made 'Marjan' in 1956.

Iranian cinema's first and only Palme d'Or was awarded to Abbas Kiarostami's 'Taste of Cherry' in 1997. The first Academy Award for an Iranian film was awarded to Asghar Farhadi's 'A Separation' in 2012.

## Box office monster 'It' scores record opening

Stephen King wrote 'It'. Warner Bros. and New Line made 'It'. And audiences seem to love 'It'.

The new freaky-scary film by that title broke records over the weekend as the largest September opening and largest opening for an R-rated horror film in North American theaters, industry data showed on Monday, AFP reported.

'It', starring Bill Skarsgard as a creepy clown who terrorizes children in a sleepy Maine town, pulled in \$123.4 million, industry monitor Exhibitor Relations reported.

The movie, from Argentine director Andy Muschietti, comes amid one of the slowest cinematic summers in years —

and likely would have done better but for the impact of Hurricane Irma on Florida moviegoers.

Coming in second — but left far back in the dust — was another new release, 'Home Again' from Open Road Films, with a take of just \$8.6 million.

In third was a movie that had clung to a box office lead for three straight weeks, 'The Hitman's Bodyguard' from Lionsgate, which netted \$4.8 million.

The action comedy stars Ryan Reynolds as a bodyguard hired to protect a notorious hitman played by Samuel L. Jackson.

Next was another Warner Bros. horror

film, 'Annabelle: Creation', which took \$4 million. It is part of the popular 'Conjuring' series of movies.

And in fifth was 'Wind River' from the Weinstein Co., at \$3.1 million. It stars Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen as federal agents trying to solve a murder on an Indian reservation.

Rounding out the top 10 were:

- 'Leap!' (\$2.4 million)
- 'Spider-Man: Homecoming' (\$2 million)
- 'Dunkirk' (\$1.9 million)
- 'Logan Lucky' (\$1.7 million)
- 'The Emoji Movie' (\$1.1 million)



## Weather

44 27 Ahvaz	34 13 Borujerd	31 21 Rasht	32 17 Semnan	32 14 Arak	32 <sup>^</sup> v 21 Tehran	24 10 Bishkek	28 21 Istanbul	37 23 Amman	17 12 Minsk	24 12 Moscow
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