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Rouhani urges EU to press US to abide by JCPOA



president.ir

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called on the European Union to remain fully committed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and compel the US to live up to its commitments under the nuclear agreement by sending a "decisive message."

and, secondly, to press the US to honor its commitments under the deal." President Rouhani said on Saturday, stressing that Washington should be given a strong message.

He made the comments in a meeting with President of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives Siegfried Braecke in Tehran, Tasnim News Agency reported.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency reports, Iran has fully honored its commitments under the JCPOA, the nuclear accord between Tehran and six world powers (the US, Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany), the president added, saying that all other parties to the deal should also fulfill their undertakings.

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South Korea plans to import Iranian LNG

State-run Korea Gas Corp. (KOGAS), the world's second-largest single buyer of liquefied natural gas (LNG), said it plans to import natural gas from Iran as well as explore opportunities to acquire stakes in gas fields in the country.

A KOGAS official said the company was looking to diversify its import sources as supply contracts with Qatar and Oman were set to expire by 2015, Press TV reported.

"Iran is rich in natural gas so we would like to work closely with both public and private energy companies there," the official was quoted as saying by the Korea Times.

In May 2016, Iran awarded a deal to conduct technical studies on the offshore Balal gas field in the Persian Gulf to KOGAS.

An Iranian official said in June that the country was working on a plan to develop small-size gas liquefaction units with South Korean companies, including KOGAS. Saeed Paksessrest, director for research and development affairs of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), was quoted as saying that a consortium from Iran and another from South Korea, including Oceanus and KOGAS, would be involved in the scheme.

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Iraq's Kurdish parliament backs independence referendum



REUTERS

The parliament of Iraq's Kurdistan region approved a plan on Friday to hold a referendum on independence on Sept. 25, ignoring opposition from Baghdad and the wider region as well as Western concerns that the vote could spark fresh conflict. Parliament reconvened in Erbil, the seat of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in northern Iraq, where an overwhelming majority of the Kurdish lawmakers taking part backed the plan, Reuters said.

Hours after the decision, the White House publicly called for the first time on the KRG to cancel the referendum, warning that the vote was "distracting from efforts to defeat ISIS (Daesh) and stabilize the liberated areas."

The parliament session was the first held since the legislature was suspended nearly two years ago, though only 68 of 111 lawmakers attended due to a boycott by the main opposition movement Gorran.

"We've been waiting more than 100 years for this," Omed Khoshnaw, a lawmaker from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of KRG President Massoud Barzani, said.

Some lawmakers wore Kurdish flags and rose to clap and sing the national anthem after the vote.

The Baghdad parliament's decision earlier this week to oppose the referendum drew condemnation from deputies in Erbil. "We refuse to accept the Iraqi parliament's decision, which was unlawful," Muna Qahwachi, a Turkman lawmaker, said.

Qahwachi said she had voted in favor of the referendum because she said Turkmen were protected in Kurdistan, unlike in the rest of Iraq.

Earlier, Barzani shrugged off requests from the United States and other Western powers to put off the referendum.

"We still haven't heard a proposal that can be an alternative to the Kurdistan referendum," Barzani told a rally in the Kurdistan region, referring to a proposal put forward by the United States and other Western envoys this week.

Iraq's neighbors Iran and Turkey also oppose the plebiscite.

The opposition Gorran movement boycotted Friday's parliamentary session, the first since a dispute between them and Barzani's KDP caused the suspension of the assembly in October 2015.

"Those assembled in parliament today think this is a lawful session, but this is unlawful," Birzu Majeed, the head of Gorran's parliamentary block, told a news conference held while parliament was in session.

Lawmakers from a third party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), ensured the required quorum. The PUK is a historic rival of the KDP but supports the referendum plan.

British police make arrest over London train attack

British police made their first arrest Saturday over the bombing of a London underground train, detaining a man at the country's main ferry port and describing the development as significant.

Thirty people were treated in hospital after the bomb detonated in a packed train carriage on Friday morning, in what was Britain's fifth terror attack in six months, AFP reported.

The improvised explosive device failed to detonate fully, according to media reports, but the blast inflicted flash burns on passengers while others fled in panic.

Police in the southern port area of Dover said an 18-year-old man had been detained and he is due to be transferred to custody in London.

"This arrest will lead to more activity from our officers," they said in a statement, outlining that the teenager was being held under anti-terror legislation.

Friday's incident – claimed by the Daesh terror group – led to the national threat level being raised to critical – meaning another attack could be imminent.

Prime Minister Theresa May announced late Friday that troops – 1,000 were deployed – would take on responsibility for guarding key sites, including nuclear facilities, to free up police.

In a statement, anti-terrorism chief Mark Rowley said officers were "chasing down suspects."

"Somebody has planted this improvised explosive device on the Tube. We have to be open-minded at this stage about him and potential associates," he said.

The critical alert terror warning was last used after the deadly suicide attack at Manchester Arena, also claimed by Daesh, in May.

British media reported that the bomb had a timer that it had failed to properly detonate.

Police said that they would not release any more details on the man arrested at this stage because of "strong investigative reasons."

Police officers are being deployed on the transport network and on the street across Britain.

Victims were treated in hospital while health authorities said none were in a serious life-threatening condition.

Only three remained in care on Saturday morning.

The area around Parsons Green station – a quiet and wealthy residential district, filled with chic cafes – was evacuated for most of the day.

Four previous attacks in London and Manchester this year claimed the lives of 35 people.

Three of those attacks involved a vehicle ploughing into pedestrians.

Police, protesters clash in St. Louis after ex-cop acquitted of murdering black man

US police fired tear gas and rubber bullets during clashes with protesters in St. Louis early on Saturday after a white former policeman was acquitted of murdering a black man.

A peaceful rally over Friday's not guilty verdict turned violent after police confronted a small group of demonstrators – three years after the shooting of another black man in the nearby suburb of Ferguson stirred nationwide anger and debate, Reuters wrote.

Officers fired tear gas as people broke windows at a library and two restaurants and threw bricks and water bottles at officers. Protesters also threw rocks and paint at the home of St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson, said Acting Police Commissioner Lawrence O'Toole.

Nine city officers and a state trooper were injured and at least 23 people were taken into custody, he said.



REUTERS

Former city policeman Jason Stockley, 36, was found not guilty of the first-degree murder of Anthony Lamar Smith, 24, shot to death on Dec. 20, 2011.

After the ruling, around 600 protesters marched on the courthouse through downtown St. Louis, chanting "No justice, no peace" and "Hey hey! Ho ho! These killer cops have got to go!" Some held "Black Lives Matter" signs.

Smith was shot five times in his car after trying to flee Stockley and his partner, following an alleged drug deal, authorities said.

Prosecutors said that during the pursuit, Stockley could be heard saying on an internal police car video he was going to kill Smith.

At Stockley's direction, his partner, who was driving, slammed the police cruiser into Smith's vehicle and they came to a stop. Stockley then approached Smith's car and opened fire with his service weapon, court documents said. The former policeman believed Smith was armed, defense attorneys said, and a gun was found in the car. But prosecutors argued Stockley planted the weapon and that the gun had only Stockley's DNA on it.

North Korea seeks military 'equilibrium' with US



AFP

North Korea said Saturday it was seeking military "equilibrium" with the United States as leader Kim Jong-un vowed to complete Pyongyang's nuclear program.

North Korea successfully fired a Hwasong-12 intermediate-range ballistic missile over Japan on Friday, responding to a new round of UN sanctions over its sixth nuclear test with its furthest-ever missile flight, AFP reported.

"Our final goal is to establish the equilibrium of real force with the US and make the US rulers dare not talk about military option for the DPRK," Kim said, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

Kim said the country was close to the goal of completing its nuclear ambitions and should use all power at its disposal to finish the task, saying it had "nearly reached the terminal," KCNA reported.

The young leader said Friday's launch had increased the North's "combat power of the nuclear force."

"We should clearly show the big power chauvinists how our state attains the goal of completing its nuclear force despite their limitless sanctions and blockade," Kim said, according to KCNA.

The UN Security Council condemned Friday's launch as "highly provocative" and US President Donald Trump scheduled talks with the leaders of Japan and South Korea to address the crisis.

The North's previous missile launch, a Hwasong-12 IRBM just over two weeks ago, also overflew Japan's main islands and was the first to do so for years. Russian President Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron jointly appealed for talks with North Korea, saying this was the only way to resolve tensions over its nuclear program.

Russia and China, North Korea's main ally, on Monday backed a US-drafted resolution at the Security Council to impose fresh sanctions on Pyongyang – but they maintain that dialogue is the key to defuse the crisis.

President Rouhani to leave for US today

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is scheduled to leave Tehran for New York today to attend the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, due to be held next week, the president's office said.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, the president is due to deliver a speech at the UN General Assembly on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. local time, IRNA reported.



MEHR NEWS AGENCY

During his trip to the US, Rouhani will also attend meetings with Iranian expatriates living in the US, Muslims and political elites, as well as members of the media. Rouhani also plans to participate in discussions at the General Assembly session in New York, which runs from September 19 to 25.

Iran repatriates 132 Afghan prisoners

Iran transferred 132 Afghan prisoners to Afghanistan to serve the remaining of their jail terms in their homeland.

The prisoners were repatriated under a deal between the governments of Iran and Afghanistan and following efforts by Iran's Justice Ministry, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Afghan nationals sentenced to imprisonment for their involvement in drug smuggling in Iran are also planned to be repatriated in coming weeks.

Iran, which has a 900-kilometer common border with Afghanistan, has been used as the main conduit for smuggling Afghan drugs to narcotics kingpins in Europe.

Iran and Afghanistan signed an agreement for exchange of prisoners in 2012.

The two neighbors first drew up rules defining the terms of such exchanges in 2006, allowing prisoners or their families to choose whether to be incarcerated in Iran or Afghanistan.



Commander says IRGC infiltrated into US command centers

A senior Iranian commander said over the recent years, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has infiltrated into the US military's command centers and has evidence of their support for Daesh terrorists.

"We have documents showing the behavior of the Americans in Iraq and Syria. We know what the Americans did there; what they neglected and how they supported Daesh," IRGC Aerospace Force Commander Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh said in a Friday TV interview, Press TV reported.

If the IRGC is allowed to release those documents, it would bring about more "scandals" for the US, the commander pointed out.

The Americans, among others, "have come to Iraq and Syria to disintegrate them, but what eventually happened was Iran's will. I see no army in the world to be on a par with the IRGC," he added.

The US has long been accused of colluding with Daesh to provide safe passage and logistic support to members of the Takfiri group in conflict zones.

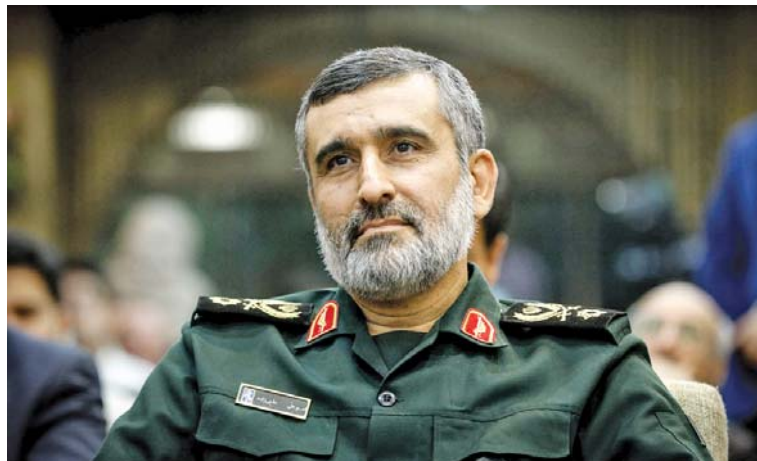
The US and its allies have been bombarding what they call Daesh positions inside Syria since September 2014 without any authorization from the Damascus government or a UN mandate.

In late August, the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said US helicopters had transferred members of the Daesh terrorist group in Deir ez-Zor Province.

The sources speculated that the airlift was possibly meant to transfer US mercenaries fighting alongside Daesh or the terror outfit's ringleaders who sought to defect.

"Father of All Bombs"

Hajizadeh said Iran possesses domestically-made 10-ton "Father of All



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Bombs" that dwarfs the most powerful non-nuclear weapon of the US.

"Following a proposal by the Aerospace Force of the IRGC, [Iran's] Defense Industries [Organization] manufactured a 10-ton bomb. These bombs are at our disposal. They can be launched from Ilyushin aircraft and they are highly destructive," he said.

The commander referred to the ordnance as Iran's "Father of All Bombs" as compared with the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB), also known as the "Mother of All Bombs," which the US Air Force dropped on tunnels in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province from an MC-130 aircraft in April.

The MOAB weighs about 22,000

pounds (9,800 kg), and was said to be the most powerful non-nuclear weapon ever designed. It was developed during the US war on Iraq and is intended to target large below-surface areas.

Iran has repeatedly insisted that its military capabilities are solely aimed for defense purposes and they pose no threat to other countries. The country has also been assisting its allies, including Iraq and Syria, in their ongoing fight against terrorism.

In June, the IRGC fired six medium-range ballistic missiles at Daesh targets in Syrian province of Deir ez-Zor in response to a June 7 terrorist attack in Tehran, which killed 18 people.

The IRGC said the missiles killed more than 170 terrorists, including a

number of commanders and senior elements, and inflicted heavy damage on their equipment and systems.

Washington has on several occasions slapped new sanctions against Iran over its missile program.

The United States claims that Iran's missile tests and rocket launches violate UN Resolution 2231, which was adopted in July 2015 to endorse the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany.

Iran has strongly rejected the US allegations that it has violated the UN resolution, and insists that its missile tests and rocket launches are solely for defense purposes and not designed to carry nuclear warheads.

Turkish president to visit Iran in Oct.



AP

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a television channel that he will pay an official visit to Iran on October 4.

Turkey and Iran maintain close ties, he told Turkish television A Haber on Friday, adding that during his visit he will discuss regional and bilateral issues, including fighting terrorism, with the Iranian authorities, IRNA reported.

Erdogan said that the Iran-Turkey joint economic commission will also be held at the same time.

Prior to the visit, Turkey's Chief of Staff General Hulusi Akar will travel to Iran, according to the Turkish president.

Last month, Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri paid a three-day visit to Turkey at the head of a high-ranking politico-military delegation and held meetings with Akar, President Erdogan, Turkish Defense Minister Nurettin Canikli and other senior officials.

On September 10, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani met with his Turkish counterpart on the sidelines of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit in Kazakhstan's capital, Astana.

Over 1,200kg opium seized in southern province

Iran's anti-narcotics police forces in the southern province of Bushehr managed to seize more than 1,200 kilograms of opium in two separate operations in the province, the provincial police chief announced.

Speaking to reporters in Bushehr on Saturday, Brigadier General Khalil Vaezi highlighted his forces' intelligence dominance over drug traffickers, saying that their activities are monitored on a round-the-clock basis in such a way that the province is not safe for them, Tasnim News Agency reported.

He further said that in two separate operations in the port cities of Kangan and Asalouyeh recently, a total of 1,221 kilograms of opium were seized from drug gangs, and members of the gangs were arrested.

Iran, which has a 900-kilometer common border with Afghanistan, has been used as the main conduit



for smuggling Afghan drugs to narcotics kingpins in Europe.

Despite high economic and human costs, the Islamic Republic has been actively fighting drug-trafficking over the past three decades.

The country has spent more than \$700 million on sealing its borders and preventing the transit of narcotics destined for European, Arab and Central Asian countries.

The war on drug trade, originating in Afghanistan, has claimed the lives of nearly 4,000 Iranian police officers over the past four decades.

Rouhani urges EU to press...

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Rouhani referred to the IAEA as the only entity that is authorized to verify Iran's compliance with the nuclear agreement, in an apparent reaction to the US president who has repeatedly accused Iran of violating the spirit of the JCPOA.

Elsewhere in his comments, President Rouhani voiced his administration's resolve to broaden

ties with the EU, hoping that friendly countries, including Belgium, would participate more actively in the economic and trade interaction with Iran.

Bracke said Belgium is determined to expand relations with Iran.

Highlighting the significance that Belgium and the EU attach to the JCPOA, the Belgian official said the European Union would do its utmost to fulfill the JCPOA

undertakings. Under the agreement signed in 2015 and implemented in 2016, certain limits were put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for, among other things, the removal of all nuclear-related sanctions against Tehran.

In all of its reports after the JCPOA came into force, the IAEA has verified Iran's compliance with the nuclear accord.

Germany will have no choice but to restrict its economic ties with Turkey to pressure it into releasing German citizens, Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

Bangladesh plans huge camps for Rohingya refugees

The Bangladeshi government announced plans to build shelters for up to 400,000 Rohingya Muslims fleeing from neighboring Myanmar.

The army and aid agencies are due to erect 14,000 shelters, each housing six families, near the city of Cox's Bazar, BBC reported.

Since late August over 400,000 Rohingya are thought to have fled to Bangladesh, to escape a government offensive.

The UN says Myanmar's operation could amount to ethnic cleansing.

Rights groups have accused the military of burning Rohingya villages. But the army says it is responding to attacks by militants and denies it is targeting civilians.

According to a report in Bangladesh's Daily Star newspaper, the new shelters will be on a site covering about eight square kilometers (three square miles) of land, close to established camps which have been overwhelmed by arrivals from Myanmar.

A total of 8,500 temporary toilets will be built and 14 "makeshift warehouses" will be set up near the shelters, the paper said.

The government hopes that there will be enough places for 400,000 people, AFP reported, quoting Bangladesh's disaster management secretary, Shah Kama. It is meant to be built within 10 days.

A rubella and polio vaccination campaign for the many refugee children reportedly started on Saturday morning.

Pro-Rohingya rally

Thousands rallied in solidarity with the Rohingya Muslims in the Indonesian capital Jakarta on Saturday, eurone.ws.com reported.

Iraqi forces attack Daesh outpost ahead of Euphrates push

Iraqi forces attacked a desert outpost of the Daesh terror group near the Syrian border on Saturday in preparation for a drive up the Euphrates Valley towards the frontier, commanders said.

The assault targeted the former mining town of Akashat, in Anbar Province, some 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Daesh's border bastion of Al-Qaim, according to AFP.

Al-Qaim and the Euphrates towns of Rawah and Anna downstream form just one of two enclaves still held by Daesh in Iraq after a string of battlefield defeats this year. "The army, the Hashed al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization Force) and the border guard launched a major operation to liberate Akashat... and secure the border to its north," said the head of Joint Operations Command, General Abdelamir Yarallah.



delamir Yarallah.

Iraqi commanders estimate there are no more than 300 civilian families left in Akashat, a former railroad base that was once a major source of phosphate production.

Imed Meshaal, mayor of Rutba, a desert town further south recaptured from Daesh last year, said the terrorists had turned the area into a

major hub for arms caches, training camps and command centers.

Iraqi commanders say they estimate Daesh still has more than 1,500 terrorists in its Al-Qaim enclave.

The Takfiris also control a second enclave west of the ethnically divided Kurdish-held city of Kirkuk, centered on the town of Hawija.



Rohingya refugees are seen at Thaingkhali makeshift refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, on September 14, 2017.

sian capital Jakarta on Saturday, eurone.ws.com reported.

Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population, and its leaders are under pressure to do more to help the Rohingya persecuted in mainly Buddhist Myanmar.

Waving Indonesian flags and holding up placards, people clad in white vowed

to stand by their "Muslim brothers and sisters in Myanmar."

The demonstration was also attended by the leaders of various religious communities, including Christians and Buddhists.

Protesters held banners reading "Stop the genocide of Rohingya" and "Stop crimes against humanity."

Myanmar's government brands more than one million Rohingya Muslims in the country as "illegal immigrants" from Bangladesh, launching a deadly and brutal crackdown on them. Rohingya Muslims, however, have had roots in the country that go back centuries. They are considered by the UN the "most persecuted minority group in the world."

Police in Catalonia hunt for hidden ballot boxes in bid to foil referendum

Armed police in Spain have raided several print works and newspaper offices in Catalonia in recent days in a hunt for voting papers, ballot boxes and leaflets to be used in an October 1 independence referendum which Madrid vehemently opposes.

The searches are part of a concerted effort by the government to prevent the ballot from going ahead, amid fears that a vote to break away could trigger a political crisis even if Spain does not recognize the outcome, Reuters reported.

On Friday, the government passed measures to tighten control over the region's spending to stop it from using state cash to pay for the ballot, and earlier this week Madrid summoned over 700 Catalan mayors for questioning over their support for the vote.

"They've lost the plot," said Albert Batet, mayor of the town of Valls and one of those summoned for questioning. "They are persecuting mayors, the press, printers. They are stretching the limits of democracy."

Catalonia's President Carles Puigdemont, who faces criminal charges for organizing the referendum, says he has over 6,000 ballot boxes ready to deploy next month, but their whereabouts are a secret.



channelnewsasia.com

"Right now, we have no idea where they are," said Toni Castejon, spokesman for the Catalan police force union.

A spokesman for the Catalan regional government declined to say where the ballot boxes were, or how the government was going to get them out of hiding to voting stations on October 1.

On Friday, police confiscated 100,000 campaign leaflets in a raid in Catalonia, the Interior Ministry said, without saying where. Catalonia's top court issued a warning on Friday to seven newspapers, many of them online, not to publish campaign notices for the referendum, a court spokesman said on Saturday. At the offices of Catalan newspaper El Valenc in Valls, some 50km west of Barcelona, six armed police knocked on the door last Saturday with a warrant to search the offices, said its editor, Francesc Fabregas.

The search lasted five-and-a-half hours. "They didn't say what they were looking for," Fabregas said, adding that he had not printed any voting papers.

Dozens of Burundian refugees killed in DR Congo

Troops shot dead 34 Burundian refugees in clashes in Kamanayola in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, local officials in the eastern province of South Kivu said Saturday.

A Burundian refugee said that more than 30 had been killed and at least 100 wounded in the violence on Friday, AFP wrote.

Interior ministry official Josue Boji said troops had tried to disperse the refugees by "firing in the air but were overwhelmed" when the group responded by throwing stones.

Boji said the clashes began after a group of refugees overran a jail run by the country's domestic intelligence agency to demand the release of four Burundians who had been arrested for expulsion on Wednesday night.



REUTERS

"There are 34 dead and 124 wounded among the Burundian refugees," he said, revising upwards an earlier toll of 18 dead plus one DR Congo soldier.

Boji had warned earlier that the toll could rise further, as the refugees took the bodies of other victims to the Pakistani-run UN camp at Kamanayola.

A spokeswoman for MONUSCO, the UN's peacekeeping mission in the country, gave a toll, which was also provisional, of 18 dead and 50 injured.

A Burundian refugee said: "I saw people falling down, men, women and children who were completely unarmed."

"So far, we have counted 31 dead and at least 105 injured, 15 of them seriously," the refugee said.

Burundi's foreign minister, Alain-Aime Nyamitwe, on Twitter described the incident as a "shooting" and said "explanations are needed."

Tens of thousands of Burundians have fled to the eastern DR Congo to escape a wave of violence that unfurled in 2015 after Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza sought a fiercely contested third term in office.

Overall, the violence in Burundi has claimed between 500 and 2,000 lives, according to differing tolls provided by the UN or NGOs and more than 400,000 Burundians have fled abroad.

Around 36,000 are in DR Congo, mainly in the overcrowded camp of Lusenda, in the east, or several transit camps.

On September 4, the UN released a report accusing Burundi's government of crimes against humanity, including executions and torture, and urged the International Criminal Court (ICC) to open a case "as soon as possible".

Burundi's government firmly rejected the allegations, accusing the UN investigators of being "mercenaries" in a Western plot to "enslave African states."

Merkel: Putin's proposed UN Ukraine peacekeepers must have full access

Any United Nations peacekeepers sent to eastern Ukraine must be granted access to the entirety of the region held by pro-Russia forces, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin floated the idea of deploying UN troops to eastern Ukraine in a Monday call with Merkel, suggesting that the UN mission could protect observers from the international OSCE monitoring mission, Reuters reported.

With growing calls in Germany for the lifting of European Union sanctions against Russia over its alleged activities in Ukraine, Moscow has been keen to float proposals that would help soften export bans that have hit Russians' living standards.



businessinsider.com

"I find President Putin's proposal to send UN troops to protect OSCE observers interesting," she told the FUNKE newspaper group on Friday. "A few days ago I discussed with him that the UN troops must have access to everywhere where the OSCE is stationed, so the entire Donetsk/Luhansk region."

The conflict between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russians has claimed more than 10,000 lives since it erupted in 2014. Russia denies Western accusations it fomented the conflict and provided arms and fighters.

The observers are there to monitor implementation of a peace deal agreed in Minsk in 2015, which has been largely unsuccessful in settling the conflict despite German and French wrings.

Some German politicians have said sanctions should be lifted if the peace deal is implemented. Christian Lindner, leader of the Free Democrats, a likely coalition partner for Merkel after September 24 elections, even suggested Germany must accept the reunification of the Crimean peninsula to Russia.

Merkel said Putin's proposals were "tender shoots" of progress, "which give no cause for softening sanctions" so far. She rejected Lindner's proposal.

Egypt court sentences Morsi to 25 years in Qatar spy case

An Egyptian court on Saturday sentenced ousted president Mohammed Morsi to 25 years in prison, in a final ruling over a case accusing him of spying for Qatar, judicial sources said.

Democratically elected after Egypt's 2011 revolution, Morsi was overthrown in mid-2013 by then-general Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, now the president, following mass protests against his rule, Reuters wrote. He was immediately arrested.

Egypt's Court of Cassation reduced Morsi's sentence in the Qatar case to 25 years in its final ruling, from an original 40 years.

Morsi is already serving a 20-year sentence after being convicted for the killing of protesters during demonstrations in 2012.

Since toppling Morsi, Sisi has clamped down on dissent. Mass trials have been held for thousands of Muslim Brotherhood supporters, and hundreds have received

death sentences or lengthy prison terms.

In 2014, Egypt charged Morsi and nine others with endangering national security by leaking state secrets and sensitive documents to Qatar. Egypt's relations with Doha were already troubled by Qatar's backing of Morsi.

Egypt is one of four Arab nations in a Saudi-led bloc that cut relations with the Gulf state on June 5, accusing it of backing terrorism. Doha denies the allegation.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Russian banks to open L/Cs for Iranian businessmen

Russian banks are now cooperating with Iranian banks in opening letters of credit L/Cs and there is currently no obstacle to this effect, said the commercial counsellor of the Russian Embassy in Tehran.

Rustam Muradov said in a meeting between Russian Ambassador to Iran Levan Dzbagaryan and governor general of Mazandaran Province in Sari on Saturday that Russian banks namely Gazprom and Sovkhoz have opened many L/Cs for Iranian businessmen without any problem, IRNA reported.

He added that the L/Cs for Iranian banks will be opened for Iranian businessmen in less than 30 days.

The Russian ambassador is in Mazandaran Province at the official invitation of the province's governor general.

New China-Iran freight train service opens

A train loaded with more than 560 tons of machinery, household goods and ceramics left Yinchuan South Railway Station earlier this month, scheduled to reach Tehran in fifteen days, the Asset reported.

The new trade route comes with the lifting of sanctions as part of the nuclear deal, breathing new life into Iran's economy, Asia Times reported.

Major trade and investment deals have been signed since the agreement, and despite the Trump administration's threats to backtrack on the deal, China, Russia and France are unlikely to take steps to further isolate Iran.

Deals include a contract signed between Iran and China National Petroleum Corp. and France's Total to develop South Pars which is the world's largest natural gas field.

CIS of high importance in Iran's foreign policy: Ex-official

Expansion of trade cooperation with the CIS countries is among the main objectives of Iran's foreign policy, said Iran's former ambassador to Azerbaijan.

Mohsen Pakiaei told Trend News Agency, "This policy seeks to boost Iran's trade ties with the CIS."

During a recent visit to the Kazakh capital, Astana, to attend the first summit of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on science and technology, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani met some leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Hassan Rouhani met President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Aliyev as well as counterparts from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan—an indication of Iran's interest in widening ties with the CIS Muslim nations.

On the other hand, confronting terrorism and extremism as well as criminal gangs including drug trafficking are the main topics of cooperation between Iran and Central Asia as well as the Caucasus.

Conferring with Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the meeting, Rouhani touched upon trade between the two countries and said the Islamic Republic is the shortest path for Uzbek merchants to reach the Persian Gulf and international waters.

In a meeting with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, the two sides called for measures to improve the oil market.

In talks with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Rouhani hailed the successful development of the bilateral ties between Azerbaijan and Iran.

"We should unite efforts to successfully achieve our goals to develop bilateral relations," he said.

Annual trout export to hit 30,000 tons: Official

Iran will export 30,000 tons of trout to neighboring countries by mid-March 2018.

Addressing an economy of resistance conference in the northern city of Rasht, Head of Iran Fisheries Organization Hassan Salehi recalled that 10,000 tons of trout were exported to neighboring countries in the year to March 20, 2017, IFFP News reported.

He added that in view of the competitive market, trout should weigh more than 1½kg-2kg in order to be considered an export.

Turning to promoting fish farming in cages, Salehi added, "Currently, there are over 500 cages in operation with a capacity of producing 25,000 tons of trout annually and the figure is expected to reach more than 30,000 tons in the near future."

In the four months to July 22, exports of aquaculture products fetched more than \$412 million indicating a 60-percent increase from the figure for the same period last year, he said noting, "Moreover, we saw a 30-percent drop in imports of fish species compared to last year."

Salehi continued that last year in Gomishan County of northeastern Golestan Province, more than 10,000 tons of shrimp were produced using Caspian Sea water, and the figure will reach 15,000 this year.

Also speaking at the conference, Director General of Fisheries Department of Gilan Province Es'hagha Sha'bani noted "with the measures taken, now the estimated capacity of the province's fish production is 3,500 tons annually".

He called on banks to extend facilities for cage fish farmers and asked them to make coastal lands available to establish support bases.

Beijing, Tehran sign \$15b deals on infrastructure, production projects

China Development Bank signed preliminary deals with Iran worth \$15 billion for infrastructure and production projects, announced Governor of Central Bank of Iran Valiollah Seif.

The contracts reflect "a strong will for continuation of cooperation between the two countries", Seif was quoted as saying by AFP.

The credit line will use euros and yuan to help bypass US sanctions that have continued despite the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers in 2015. Seif added that officials from Exim Bank of China will travel to Iran in coming days to finalize a \$10-billion letter of credit.

China was a signatory to the deal that lifted sanctions in exchange for curbs to Iran's nuclear program.

President Xi Jinping visited Iran a week after it came into effect, vowing to boost bilateral trade to \$600 billion within a decade.

China is already Iran's biggest oil customer and accounts for a third of its overall trade.

Since the lifting of sanctions, Beijing has opened two credit lines worth \$4.2 billion to build high-speed railway lines linking Tehran with Mashhad and Isfahan.

The latest move follows an eight-bil-



Iran-euro credit deal signed with South Korea's Exim bank last month. European banks remain wary of penalties from Washington for working

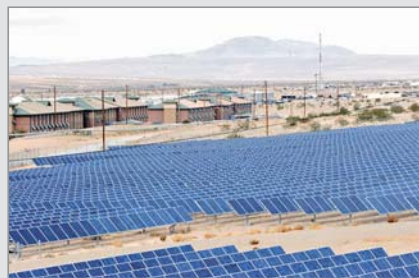
with Iran, but talks are said to be at an advanced stage for \$22 billion in credit deals with banks from Austria, Denmark and Germany.

China's new \$10 billion credit line will go to Iran's Refah Kargaran, San'at va Ma'dan, Parsian, Pasargad and Tose'e Saderat banks.

Hydroelectric power plant launched in Kermanshah

Iran inaugurated the first unit of a new hydroelectric power plant in the western province of Kermanshah to increase the country's nominal electricity production capacity to more than 77,100 megawatts (MW).

The first unit of the Darian power plant in Kermanshah was recently linked to the national grid, increasing the country's nominal capacity from 77,038 to 77,108 MW, Tasnim News Agency reported.



The unit, which is the first among three units of the power plant, came into operation following synchronization with the national grid.

Deputy Energy Minister Houshang Falahatian said in July that renewable energy including hydropower accounts for about six percent of the overall electricity produced in the country where 90 percent of the fuel used in power plants is natural gas.

This paltry figure in a country with over 300 sunny days and an average of 2,800 hours of sunshine is while air pollution in major cities, especially in Tehran, has turned into a major dilemma in recent years.

Iran is one of the most energy-intensive countries in the world, where inefficient energy use amid consumer subsidies has resulted in a per capita energy consumption which is ten times greater than that in the European Union.

The national energy blueprint is now based on expanding renewable power generation and improving energy efficiency by cutting domestic hydrocarbon use which would free up more oil and gas for export.

"We have planned to allocate part of the country's electricity basket to re-

newables and as a result, we have decided to bring 1,000 MW of renewable energy to the national grid each year in the next five years if possible and raise renewable power capacity to 5,000 MW," Falahatian said.

These ambitious targets are not to stop there and the overall capacity is to rise to 26,000 MW by 2022, with \$60 billion of investment which the Renewable Energy Organization of Iran (SUNA) wants to attract from domestic

and foreign investors.

Energy producers from Germany, Italy, India, South Korea, Japan, Spain, China, and Switzerland have visited the country to test the waters for possible investment.

On Friday, Norway's Scatec Solar was reported to be in talks to generate 120 megawatts of solar power in Iran, which would rise to 500 MW later.

The Oslo-listed firm's CEO Raymond Carlsen told Reuters that the initial project under discussion would cost \$120 million per 100 MW installed.

Iran has currently 63 MW of installed solar capacity, chiefly in the cities of Yazd, Kerman, Isfahan and Hamadan. A further cluster of photovoltaic units are being built in Hamadan and Kerman, with a capacity of 100 MW installed in each city, and another 50 MW solar plant in Isfahan.

However, Iran's largest solar project has been reserved for Qazvin, where the Italians are to set up 1,000 MW of solar capacity with \$1.5 billion of investment. It includes constructing an array of 100 photovoltaic solar power stations over 10 years, each with a nominal capacity of 10 MW.

Iran, Azerbaijan eyeing joint car production

Azerbaijan's Azerdash and Iran's Khodro companies are in talks to supply cars to be produced by the Azerbaijani-Iranian automobile plant to Ukraine, Russia and Central Asia.

The founder of Azerdash Company Emin Akhundov told Trend News Agency, "We have already received Ukraine's proposal about supplying our cars to this country."

"We are also negotiating with the companies from the North Caucasus (Russia), Tajikistan and Turkmenistan."

He added, "In general, Azerdash and Iran Khodro companies have big plans for the supply of cars, produced in Azerbaijan, to other countries. "We are able to create export-oriented products thanks to the successful policy of the Azerbaijani government."

Akhundov noted it will allow Azerbaijan to become a hub for supplying Iranian cars to other countries.

Currently the joint venture, which will manage the plant, is being registered, he said.

"In the joint plant, 75 percent will belong to Azerdash and 25 percent to Iran Khodro," he said. "The Iranian side will deal with the supply of equipment for the plant to Azerbaijan, while the Azerbaijani side will finance the construction of the plant. This is a big project and the construction of the plant is under completion now."

"In the initial stage of the plant's operation, the spare parts will be supplied from Iran, and later, depending on the demand for these cars, the sides may discuss the possibility of establishing the production of spare parts in Azerbaijan," Akhundov stated.

"In the first phase, we plan to produce 5,000-6,000 cars a year," he said. "In later stages, we will increase the production to 10,000 cars a year. We can also increase the number of employees in the future. At present, 300 people work in the plant. But depending on demand, the number of employees can increase."

Akhundov added that the Iranian cars will be in great demand. "First and foremost, these are high-quality economy class cars," he said.

"Iranian cars are already popular in our country. In my opinion, the most popular car brands in the Azerbaijani market are Dena, Soren and Runna."

"In the initial stage, Dena, Runna, Soren and Samand cars are to be produced at the plant and the range of cars will expand in the future."

Iran Khodro and Azerbaijan's AzEuro-Car LLC (a subsidiary of Azerdash) signed an agreement to establish a joint automobile plant in the Neftchala industrial park in 2016. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$15 million.

South Korea plans to import...

From Page 1

"We do not have the technology to develop mini-LNG plants, but joining hands with companies such as Oceanus consortium and KOGAS is an important first step to develop our LNG sector," he said.

Korean companies are also expanding involvement in Iran's massive oil sector. Last month, South Korea's SK Engineering and Construction Co (SKEC) signed heads of agreement for a €1.6 billion upgrade of Tabriz refinery.

A separate \$2 billion contract is about to be signed with South Korea's Daelmin company to boost oil processing capacity at Isfahan refinery, according to Abbas Kazemi, who is Iran's deputy oil minister.

South Korea's imports of Iranian crude oil increased 40.2 percent in August from the same month a year earlier, Reuters reported on Friday, citing customs data.

The Asian country is a major client of Iran's condensate, an ultra-light high quality oil. According to the Reuters report, South Korea imported 12.22 million tons, or 368,529 bpd, of oil from Iran in the first eight months of 2017 — up 46.7 percent from 8.33 million tons during the same period the year before.

Meanwhile, Royal Dutch Shell said it is preparing to bid for development of Iran's giant Azadegan field after putting an end to a century of oil production in neighboring Iraq. Shell has submitted the results of its feasibility studies on South Azadegan and Yadavaran fields to National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Shana reported.

Both fields lie across the Iraq border in Iran's strategic West Karoun oil cluster. Shell signed a basic agreement with NIOC in December 2016 to study the investment potentials in South Azadegan and Yadavaran as well as Kish gas field. South Azadegan, discovered in 2001, has recoverable reserves of about two billion barrels. It is believed to be connected with Iraq's Majnoon field from which Shell has decided to withdraw.

Pound hits highest since Brexit vote on rate rise speech



PA

The pound has hit its highest level against the dollar since the Brexit vote after a senior Bank of England (BoE) official fueled speculation it could raise rates in the coming months.

BoE policymaker Gertjan Vlieghe, who has previously argued against a rate rise, said the "moment is approaching" when interest rates might need to go up, BBC reported.

The bank kept rates at 0.25 percent this week, but hinted at a rise in the future.

Sterling rose more than one percent against the dollar to \$1.3610.

That was its highest level since June 24, the day after the Brexit vote.

The pound also gained more than 1.1 percent against the euro to rise to €1.137 by Friday night.

Analysts have suggested the bank could now lift interest rates back to 0.5 percent, the level they were before the EU referendum, as soon as November.

Vlieghe, a member of the bank's interest rate-setting committee, said in a speech on Friday: "Until recently, I thought the appropriate response of monetary policy was to be patient, given modest growth and subdued underlying inflationary pressure."

"But the evolution of the data is increasingly suggesting that we are approaching the moment when bank rate may need to rise."

Vlieghe, who was the first bank member to vote for a rate cut after the Brexit vote, said there was now growing evidence the UK economy was picking up.

'Concerted effort'

He pointed to unemployment falling to record lows, as well as signs that households are spending more and that wages are rising in the private sector.

"If these data trends of reducing slack, rising pay pressure, strengthening household spending and robust global growth continue, the appropriate time for a rise in bank rate might be as early as in the coming months," Vlieghe said.

Markets which track investors' expectations for the bank rate now give a 63-percent likelihood of a rise in November, the highest since the Brexit vote. At the start of the week the futures markets gave only a 20-percent chance.

The return on government bonds, often influenced by interest rate expectations, also hit 15-month highs on

Friday.

The yield on five-year UK bonds rose seven basis points to hit 0.772 percent, the highest since June 23, 2016, the day Britain voted to leave the European Union.

Howard Archer, chief economic adviser to the EY Item Club, said: "Vlieghe's comments will support belief that the Bank of England could well raise interest rates before the end of 2017 with a move as soon as November very much in play."

Archer cautioned that the Bank of England had "talked up the likelihood of an interest rate hike then failed to follow through" in the past.

"But there does seem to be a more concerted effort this time around and more unanimity within the Monetary Policy Committee of the case for a hike," he said.

The bank said that higher inflation and a pickup in growth could lead to a rate rise soon.

Growing speculation of a rate rise lifts the pound against other currencies because higher interest rates would make sterling more attractive to investors.

The bank dropped heavy hints in 2014, and again last year before the EU referendum, that it could raise rates, only to later change course.

Italy public debt

Italy's public debt rose to €2.3 trillion (\$2.75 trillion) in July, the Bank of Italy reported. Debt was up by €8.6 billion compared to the previous month, according to the central bank.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	83683.3	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	72722.0	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	91189.2	3826	4.27
First Market Index	58194.6	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	184797.0	2030.5	1.14

Overall Index details on 20170916

First	83504.7	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	83685.6	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	83524.2	Historical lowest	100 (13691/6)
Close	83683.3	Base Value	100 (13691/6)
Change	2522.5		

Industry Index details on 20170916

First	72531.8	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	72724.7	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	72675.1	Historical lowest	1226.8 (13778/25)
Closing	72722.0	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

Free Float Index details on 20170916

First	91168.0	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	91189.2	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

Main Board Index details on 20170916

First	58215.6	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	58220.5	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	58184.6	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

Secondary Index details on 20170916

First	183617.4	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	184842.7	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	184800.7	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2235.2		

EU finance ministers eye stronger economic, monetary union

EU economic and finance ministers and central bank governors stressed the role of the economic and monetary union for the strength of the entire European Union.

Participants at the first day of the informal meeting of the EU ministers believe that better utilizing the potential of the economic and monetary union is one of the most important aspects of the EU's future, Estonian Finance Minister Toomas Toniste said at a press conference, according to Xinhua.

"All 28 member states are interested in

a strong economic and monetary union and a well-managed fiscal policy, especially in these times of strong economic growth in Europe," he noted.

The ministers acknowledged new solutions and services of the financial innovation, which needs to be regulated but not over-regulated, he said, referring to the need to minimize the risks connected with financial technology (Fintech).

The Fintech field is currently too small to pose a risk to financial stability, however, the fast growth of financial

technology brings along the need to map the risks that come with it and form common positions in the EU, said Ardo Hansson, the governor of the Estonian central bank Eesti Pank.

"Eesti Pank also added Fintech to its strategy as a priority area in the coming years," he noted.

Vitor Constancio, vice president of the European Central Bank, highlighted the need to make EU governance more efficient and transparent, as well as the structural reform.

Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commission vice president for the euro and social dialogue, stressed the need to modernize, as well as the physical stabilization function of the European monetary union.

The two-day informal meeting of EU economic and financial affairs ministers is to discuss financial and tax issues related to innovation and the digital economy, one of the priorities of the current Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU, the rotating six-month position the country assumed in July.

US industrial production falls

US industrial output fell in August for the first time since January as Hurricane Harvey battered oil, gas and chemical plants along the Gulf Coast and a cool summer sapped utility demand in the east, the Federal Reserve said.

Overall industrial production fell 0.9 percent over the month after a July increase revised upward to 0.4 percent, according to Reuters.

The Fed, using a combination of high-frequency plant output data and economic modeling, attributed about 0.75 percentage point of the decline to storm effects that "temporarily curtailed drilling, servicing, and extraction activity for oil and natural gas."

Economists polled by Reuters had still expected a 0.1 percent increase in industrial output. The US

central bank's measure of the industrial sector comprises manufacturing, mining, and electric and gas utilities.

Though Harvey was a major force in the decline, helping push down mining output by 0.8 percent, other sectors contributed.

The output of consumer goods fell 0.7 percent as a rise in production of consumer durables was offset by declines in nondurables and consumer energy products. Production of motor vehicles and auto parts rose 2.2 percent.

Utilization of factory capacity fell 0.8 percentage point to 76.1 percent, compared to a revised upward figure of 76.9 percent in July, nearly four percentage points below the long run average.



teletrader.com

Indian exports up 10%

India's exports grew by 10.29 percent on a yearly basis to \$23.81 billion in August, official data released on Friday.

The main categories of Indian exports are engineering, petroleum, chemicals and textiles, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce, Xinhua reported.

Meanwhile, India's imports rose 21.02 percent to \$35.46 billion last month from \$29.3 billion a year ago.

India's main imports include oil, crude oil products, electronic products, mechanical products, gold and jewelry.



financialexpress.com

The trade deficit widened to \$11.6 billion from \$7.7 billion during the same month a year ago.

France, Italy open to German ECB chief

France and Italy have signaled to Germany that they are open to a German becoming president of the European Central Bank but not if it is Bundesbank chief Jens Weidmann, Der Spiegel reported.

The German magazine said that representatives from France and Italy had informed German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble and his officials of their position, Reuters wrote.

Paris and Rome fear Weidmann, a long-time critic of the ECB's quantitative easing program, would oppose a flexible and pragmatic monetary policy in times of crisis, but Der Spiegel suggested Berlin was unlikely to agree



KAI PFAFFENBACH/REUTERS

with that view.

"We have just one qualified candidate on offer, and it is Weidmann," it quoted an unnamed source close to the German government as saying.

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2907	Chinese Yuan	0.1526
Euro	1.1945	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.3590	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3194
Australian Dollar	0.8001	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0090	Saudi Riyal	0.2665

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$49.83	Silver	\$17.63
Gold	\$1323.50	Platinum	\$971.10
Copper	\$2.95	Wheat	\$441.50

The conservation status of snow leopard has been improved from 'endangered' to 'vulnerable'. Experts have warned that the species still faces serious threats from poaching and habitat destruction.

Iran Green Film Festival names winners

The Sixth Iran International Green Film Festival (IGFF6) wound up in a ceremony after naming the winners of the event which held from September 9 to 15 in Tehran and several other provinces.

Over 800 artworks were submitted to the cinema section of the IGFF6, IRNA reported.

According to IGFF6, more than 524 domestic and 278 foreign artworks from 43 countries were submitted to the cinema section of Iran's largest environmental cinematic event.

The highest number of entries came from the US, France, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Canada, UK, Brazil, Germany and Russia respectively.

Iranian movies submitted to the festival from provinces and cities nationwide included short, feature, experimental and animation films.

The festival is considered the foremost cultural



IRNA

event focusing on environmental protection in the Middle East.

The selected films competed in feature fiction, short fiction, long documentary, short documentary, animations and experimental sections.

Jordan powering major shift to clean energy

Five years of rapid growth has placed Jordan at the forefront of renewables in the region, but now the sector is stalling as it waits for the country's energy infrastructure to catch up.

Plans are in place for up to 2,000 megawatts (MW) in wind and solar projects by the end of the decade, but with the grid at capacity, the next wave of developments is on hold, arabnews.com wrote.

Wald Shahin, director of the National Energy Research Center in Jordan, said, "There is big demand from investors to build renewable plants, but unfortunately the grid limitation doesn't allow it. The sector has grown very fast, particularly in the past two years, but now things are slowing down a bit because of this limitation."

A new Green Corridor project, due to begin operation in



UNHCR

2018, will transfer power generated in south Jordan to electricity consumption centers in the central and northern regions.

In January, Jordan's state electricity provider, the National Electric Power Co. (NEPCO), signed an agreement to implement the first two phases of the project with a Saudi company at a cost of 19 million Jordanian dinars (about \$27 million).

It is one of several schemes aimed at accommodating renewable energy as the

Jordanian government looks to shift reliance away from traditional sources and move toward energy independence.

A new National Green Growth Plan launched in May earmarked renewable energy as a key sector in driving sustainable growth and reigniting the country's stagnated economy.

The plan builds on ambitious targets outlined in the National Energy Strategy to scale-up renewables to 10 percent of the total energy mix by 2020.

Arctic sea ice once again shows considerable melting

This September, the extent of Arctic sea ice shrank to roughly 4.7 million square kilometers, as was determined by researchers at the Alfred Wegener Institute, the University of Bremen and Universität Hamburg.

Though slightly larger than last year, the minimum sea ice extent 2017 is average for the past ten years and far below the numbers from 1979 to 2006. The Northeast Passage was traversable for ships without the need for icebreakers, according to phys.org.

The sea ice in the Arctic is considered a critical element in climate processes, and a valuable early-warning system for global warming.

Accordingly, the September minimum extent is an important indicator of climate change. Despite an especially warm winter, the current extent of sea ice does not represent a new record low; nevertheless, the amount of ice loss is massive.

As sea-ice physicist Marcel Nicolaus from the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) explains, "This year's sea ice extent is again on a very low level: The observed September value of the past eleven years has



STEFAN HENDRICKS/ALFRED-WEGENER-INSTITUT

consistently been lower than in any of the previous years."

This winter, the Arctic remained unusually warm, and the sea-ice coverage in March was lower than in any March before.

Lars Kaleschke from Universität Hamburg's Center for Earth System Research and Sustainability stressed, "Thanks to the relatively cold summer, the sea ice managed to bounce back somewhat, but this year's September minimum is by no means

a good sign.

"Though the amount of sea ice is of course subject to natural fluctuations, the long-term decline is obvious.

"For comparison, the summertime minimums in the 1970s and 1980s were roughly seven million square kilometers."

The sea-ice covered area is measured with the help of satellites. The high-resolution microwave satellite data are jointly provided by the University of

Bremen and Universität Hamburg. They allow to precisely analyze the daily sea-ice extent over the entire Arctic. That's particularly important for the shipping industry.

Gunnar Spreen from the University of Bremen's Institute of Environmental Physics said, this summer, the Northeast Passage along the Russian coast could be used without the need for icebreakers, and many ships also used the Northwest Passage.

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و مدیران شرکت‌های بین‌المللی
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

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

Researchers found the use of Continuous Glucose Monitoring System (CGMS) during pregnancy led to significantly better health outcomes for type 1 diabetes mothers and baby.

More infants, toddlers placed in car seats correctly

Research shows overall child passenger safety education programs are working, with more infants and toddlers being positioned correctly in car safety seats.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, or AAP, recommends children be placed in rear-facing car seats until at least the age of two, according to UPI.

The study, which will be presented at the AAP's National Conference and Exhibition in Chicago, found that infants placed in rear-facing car seats increased from 84 percent in 2009 to 91 percent in 2015.

The percentage of toddlers aged between 12-17 months being placed in rear-facing car seats also increased dramatically from 12 percent to 61 percent during the same time period.

The study included 7,725 children at the age of 15 months and younger in motor vehicles at 25 different sites throughout Indiana.

Dr. Joseph O'Neil, medical director of the Automotive Safety Program at Riley Hospital for Children, Indiana University Health, said, "This study shows that child passenger safety education has been a success in making sure young children are positioned correctly in the car, but there is still room for improvement."

Researchers found for older children aged between four and seven, booster seat use decreased from 72 percent to 65 percent between 2009 and 2015.



The study findings suggested educational programs to improve child passenger safety could focus on the gaps identified by the study, including the recommendation to keep children rear-facing in safety seats through age 24 months, to use booster seats through age 8, and the recommendation that children sit in the back seat through age 13.

Why you should eat six meals a day if you want to lose weight

When you want to lose weight, many of us are put off by the idea of starving ourselves, spending our days with rumbling stomachs and having to resist giving in to our hunger.



independent.co.uk

But this needn't actually be the case at all, independent.co.uk wrote. In fact, according to a new study, eating six meals a day rather than three could help you stabilize your blood sugar levels, stick to your healthy eating regime and reduce hunger.

Researchers from the Agricultural University of Athens assessed 47 obese people with pre-diabetes or type two diabetes — they found that those who ate little and often had much better blood sugar control than those consumed three larger meals a day.

The participants in the study were asked to follow a special diet for six months. Everyone had the same calorie intake over the course of the day (designed to maintain their weight), but the frequency of eating varied.

Half ate three meals a day, half ate six, and the groups switched after three months.

The researchers found that the people who ate six times a day saw a decrease in their glycated hemoglobin and glucose levels, which is a sign of improved blood sugar control.

For the participants who had pre-diabetes and severely impaired glucose tolerance, eating little and often helped reduce how often they had high insulin levels and also delayed the time taken for blood glucose to peak after eating sugar.

Lead researcher Dr. Emilia Papakonstantinou said, "Using a six-meal pattern instead of three-meal, while maintaining the same overall calories, improved blood sugar control and reduced hunger in obese people with prediabetes or full-blown diabetes."

"These results suggest that increased frequency of meals, consumed at regular times, may be a useful tool for doctors treating subjects with obesity and diabetes or prediabetes, especially those who are reluctant or unsuccessful dieters."

One in three British adults are classed as having pre-diabetes, meaning they're at risk of developing the condition, and more than 3.6 million Brits have type 2 diabetes linked to obesity.

Although the study was intended to assess diabetes and blood sugar, all the participants reported reduced hunger levels when following the six-meal plan.

This suggests that eating six smaller meals a day, rather than three large ones, could help you achieve your weight-loss goals as well as improving your blood sugar levels.

Diabetes UK warned people to check with a doctor before changing their eating patterns.

Skin patch to shrink unwanted fat works on mice

Imagine using a medicated skin patch to burn off areas of unwanted fat, including those "love handles". Scientists are doing just that — in mice.

A skin patch designed to convert unhealthy white fat into energy-burning brown fat was effective in rodents, according to researchers at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, UPI reported.

They said the patch could help reduce unwanted fat in specific areas of the body, which could aid in treating problems related to obesity and diabetes. "Love handles" — the fatty bulges along the sides of the torso — might be one of the targets.

Researchers for years have sought to find a viable way to convert white fat to brown fat, a process called browning. Browning can occur naturally when the body is exposed to cold temperatures.

Study co-leader Li Qiang, an assistant professor of pathology and cell biology, said, "There are several clinically available drugs that promote browning, but all must be given as pills or injections."

"This exposes the whole body to the drugs, which can lead to side effects such as stomach upset, weight gain and bone fractures. Our skin patch appears to alleviate these complications by delivering most drugs directly to fat tissue."

Qiang hopes people understand the intrinsic value of the research, not just the potential cosmetic benefits.

Qiang said, "Many people will no doubt be excited to learn that we may be able to offer a noninvasive alternative to liposuction for reducing love handles."

"What's much more important is that our patch may provide a safe and effective means of treating obesity and related metabolic disorders such as diabetes."

The patch has not been tested in humans. And often, results obtained in animal studies are not replicated in studies with people. The study was published in the journal ACS Nano.



UPI

Scientists have identified a set of neurons deep in the brain that controls the critical instinct of thirst.

When the researchers used optogenetics, or light stimulation, to inhibit these brain cells, mice reduced their water consumption, according to the study published in issue of the US Journal Science.

In contrast, activation of the neurons cause the mice to drink even though they are water satiated, xinhuanet.com reported.

The researchers made these findings by looking at a certain region of the brain, the median preoptic nucleus (MnPO), which previously has been linked to the sensation of thirst.

Liquan Luo, a professor of biology at Stanford, who co-led the study with his colleague, Karl Deisseroth, a professor of bioengineering and of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, said, "Vast majority of behavioral experiments are done by making animals thirsty, and using water as reward to train animals for specific tasks. So thirst has a very strong motivational drive."

How brain cells drive, quench your thirst uncovered



xinhuanet.com

"However, as the animals become less thirsty, their performance deteriorates."

"My (team was) interested in asking why water is so rewarding to thirsty animals and why the motivation is lost when they are less thirsty."

The team utilized a new method developed by themselves, called TRAP2, which allows them to capture neuronal populations that are activated

by a specific stimulus — in this case, water deprivation.

Luo said, "These experiments suggested that activation of these neurons provides a thirst motivational drive."

"Furthermore, we can train mice to turn off optogenetic stimulation of these neurons by pressing a lever, suggesting that

activation of these neurons is aversive to mice, and they work to turn off the stimulation.

"These experiments provide neurobiological support for a psychological theory known as 'drive reduction theory of motivation'."

"The theory was proposed in the 1940s as a unifying theory to explain motivated behavior, but went out of fashion later on for lacking neurobiological support."

"In essence, a deviation of homeostasis (such as water deprivation), creates a negative drive (thirst), which motivated behavior to reduce this negative drive (search for water and drink) to restore homeostasis."

"In another words, thirst makes the animals feel bad, and water is rewarding to thirst animals because it makes them feel less bad and thus rewarding."

Eating too much salty food could raise diabetes risk

Eating too much salty food dramatically raises the risk of diabetes, warned new research.

A study of almost 3,000 people found those who consumed the most salt were almost twice as likely to develop diabetes, express.co.uk wrote.

And the risk rose almost four-fold for those genetically predisposed to the condition, according to the research.

Just under half a teaspoon (2.5g) extra a day increased the risk of type 2 diabetes, the form linked to obesity, by 65 percent.

Participants with the highest consumption — one-and-a-quarter teaspoons or more — were 72 percent more likely to develop it than those with the lowest.

The risk of developing LADA (Latent Autoimmune Diabetes in Adults), a form of type 1 diabetes, was even greater, increasing 82 percent rise for each 2.5g consumed daily.

And it nearly quadrupled for those who ate lots of salt and carried specific gene

mutations.

Dr. Bahareh Rasouli, of The Institute of Environmental Medicine at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, said, "We confirm an association between sodium intake and type 2 diabetes."

"High sodium intake may be a risk factor for LADA, especially in carriers of high risk HLA genotypes."

Unlike type one diabetes, which usually is diagnosed in children, LADA is slow developing and often makes its first appearance in adulthood.

Variants in HLA (human leucocyte antigen) genes have been shown to increase the risk of developing diabetes.

Rasouli added, "These findings may have important implications in the primary prevention of diabetes with adult onset."

There are currently around 4.5 million people in the UK who now have diabetes, with 90 percent of cases thought to be type 2. But the condition can be very significantly improved through a



doctormurray.com

simple, healthy diet.

The National Health Service (NHS) advises adults should eat no more than 6g of salt a day, about a teaspoon, and children even less.

The research, presented at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes in Portugal, is the strongest yet to link diabetes with high salt consumption, which is known to be bad

for health by increasing blood pressure.

Rasouli and colleagues, whose findings are also published in the journal Diabetologia, believe sodium — which makes up 40 percent of salt — makes the body resistant to the glucose controlling hormone insulin.

So for every 2.5g of salt consumed, 1g is sodium.

A team of German and Swedish scientists have identified a new long-necked marine reptile species of the early Jurassic.

Brain halves increase communication to compensate for aging

Increased communication between distant brain regions helps older adults compensate for the negative aspects of aging, reported a new study published in Human Brain Mapping.

The aged brain tends to show more bilateral communication than the young brain, according to medicalxpress.com.



New marine reptile

While this finding has been observed many times, it has not been clear whether this phenomena is helpful or harmful and no study has directly manipulated this effect, until now.

Lead author Simon Davis, PhD, said, "This study provides an explicit test of some controversial ideas about how the brain reorganizes as we age."

"These results suggest that the aging brain maintains healthy cognitive function by increasing bilateral communication."

Davis and colleagues used a brain stimulation technique known as transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) to modulate brain activity of healthy older adults while they performed a memory task.

When researchers applied TMS at a frequency that depressed activity in one memory region in the left hemisphere, communication increased with the same region in the right hemisphere, suggesting the right hemisphere was compensating to help with the task.

In contrast, when the same prefrontal site was excited, communication was increased only in the local network of regions in the left hemisphere.

This suggested that communication between the hemispheres is a deliberate process that occurs on an 'as needed' basis.

Furthermore, when the authors examined the white matter pathways between these bilateral regions, participants with stronger white matter fibers connecting left and right hemispheres demonstrated greater bilateral communication, strong evidence that structural neuroplasticity keeps the brain working efficiently in later life.

Davis said, "Good roads make for efficient travel, and the brain is no different. By taking advantage of available pathways, aging brains may find an alternate route to complete the neural computations necessary for functioning."

These results suggest that greater bilaterality in the prefrontal cortex might be the result of the aging brain adapting to the damage endured over the lifespan, in an effort to maintain normal function.

Future brain-stimulation techniques could target this bilateral effect in effort to promote communication between the hemispheres and, hopefully, engender healthy cognition throughout the lifespan.



Wax could help roads de-ice themselves

A wax additive could allow roads to de-ice themselves during bouts of cold, snowy weather.

UPI

A simple wax additive could keep roads and sidewalks ice-free during a winter storm.

According to new research, wax added to concrete can store energy until it needs to be released. The released energy can warm the concrete and de-ice the road, UPI reported.

Scientists detailed the potential of phase change materials (PCM) like paraffin oil in a new paper, published in the Journal Cement and Concrete Composites.

Yaghoob Farnam, an assistant professor of engineering at Drexel University, said, "Phase change materials can be incorporated into concrete using porous lightweight aggregate or embedded pipes and when PCM transforms from liquid to solid during cooling

events, it can release thermal heat that can be used to melt ice and snow.

"By inhibiting the formation of ice and snow on the pavement or bridge surface, the use of PCM may reduce or eliminate the need for deicing chemicals/salts, snowplowing or both — thus saving money and positively influencing the environmental impact of such operations."

Paraffin oil is a common ingredient in wax products like candles, polishes and cosmetics.

The material is cheap and chemically stable. As it turns from a liquid to a solid, it releases thermal energy.

The oil can be fine-tuned to solidify at certain temperature ranges, so the additive could be designed to release energy during cold weather.

Researchers tested the de-icing capabilities of concrete slabs featuring paraffin-filled pipes and a light-weight paraffin-treated aggregate. During testing at temperatures between 35°F and 44°F, snow on the control slab remained frozen, while slabs intersected by paraffin melted away the snow within 25 hours.

In the first round of testing, paraffin-filled pipes were more efficient than the paraffin aggregate.

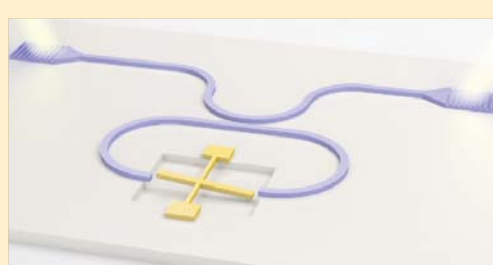
When scientists tested the different slabs at temperatures below freezing, they found the concrete aggregate treated with paraffin proved more effective at keeping the slab free of snow and ice.

Farnam said, "The gradual heat release due to the different pore sizes in porous light-weight aggregate is more

beneficial in melting snow when concrete is exposed to variety of temperature changes when snow melting or deicing is needed.

"We believe that using porous light-weight aggregate can be potential way of incorporating phase change materials in concrete as it is easy to be implemented in practice and can cover environmental conditions of various locations in the US dealing with snow, especially melting snow or deicing in roads and bridges in the Northeast."

Researchers plan to test the paraffin aggregate at larger scales. The technology could eventually be installed on highways and airport runways, but first scientists need to make sure paraffin doesn't negatively affect the pavement's durability or traction.



Schematic (animated) of torsional optomechanical resonator for sensing and frequency mixing

phys.org

New kind of optical nanosensor uses torque for signal processing

The world of nanosensors may be physically small, but the demand is large and growing, with little sign of slowing.

As electronic devices get smaller, their ability to provide precise, chip-based sensing of dynamic physical properties such as motion become challenging to develop, phys.org reported.

An international group of researchers have put a literal twist on this challenge, demonstrating a new nanoscale optomechanical resonator that can detect torsional motion at near state-of-the-art sensitivity.

Their resonator, into which they couple light, also demonstrates torsional frequency mixing, a novel ability to impact optical energies using mechanical motions. They reported their work in the journal Applied Physics Letters.

Jianguo Huang from Xi'an Jiaotong University in China, one of the work's authors, said, "With developments of

nanotechnology, the ability to measure and control torsional motion at the nanoscale can provide a powerful tool to explore nature."

"We present a novel 'beam-in-cavity' design in which a torsional mechanical resonator is embedded into a racetrack optical cavity, to demonstrate nanoscale torsional motion sensing."

Light has already been used in somewhat similar ways to detect the mechanical flexing or 'breathing' of nanomaterials, typically requiring complex and sensitive coupling to the light source.

This new approach is novel not only in its detection of nanoscale torques, but also in its integrated light-coupling design.

Using a silicon-based nanofabrication method, Huang and his team designed the device to allow light to couple directly via an etched grating to a waveguide configuration, called a racetrack cavity,

in which the nanosensor sits.

Huang said, "As light is coupled into the racetrack cavity through a grating coupler, mechanical torsional motion in the cavity alters the propagation of light and changes [the] power of output light."

"By detecting the small variation of output light, the torsional motions can be measured."

Beyond just detecting torques on their micron-length lever arms, the resonators can also affect the resulting optical properties of the incident signal.

The torsional frequency of the mechanical system mixes with the modulated optical signals.

Huang added, "The most surprising part is that when we modulate the input light, we can observe the frequency mixing."

"It is exciting for frequency mixing since it has only been demonstrated by flexural or breathing modes before."

"This is the first demonstration of torsional frequency mixing, which may have implications for on-chip RF signal modulation, such as super-heterodyne receivers using optical mechanical resonators."

This is just the start for potential uses of torque-based nanosensors.

Theoretically, there are a number of frequency tricks these devices could play for signal processing and sensing applications.

Huang noted, "We will continue to explore unique characters of this torsional optomechanical sensor and try to demonstrate novel phenomena, such as inference of dispersive and dissipative optomechanical coupling hidden behind the sensing."

"For engineering, magnetic or electrically-sensitive materials can be coated on the surface of torsional beams to sense small variations of physical fields, such as magnetic or electric fields to serve as multifunctional sensors."

Scientists map water across Moon's soil

For the first time, scientists have mapped the distribution of water across lunar soil.

The new Moon map could help scientists at NASA identify the ideal spot for a future lunar colony or research facility, UPI wrote.

Scientists calibrated data collected by NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper to determine how much water and hydroxyl, a related molecule, is present beneath the lunar surface.

Researcher Shuai Li said, "The signature of water is present nearly everywhere on the lunar surface, not limited to the polar regions as previously reported."

"The amount of water increases toward the poles and does not show significant difference among distinct compositional terrains."

Li conducted the research while doctoral student at Brown University, but now works as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Hawaii.

The Moon isn't flush with water, by any means. The wettest lunar soil, found in the Polar Regions, host just 500 to 750 parts per million — less than the dunes of Earth's driest deserts.

Still, if you're looking to establish a lunar outpost, some water is better than no water.

Ralph Milliken, an associate professor at Brown, said, "This is a roadmap to where water exists on the surface of the Moon."

"Now that we have these quantitative maps showing where the water is and in what amounts, we can start thinking about whether or not it could be worthwhile to extract, either as drinking water for astronauts or to produce fuel."

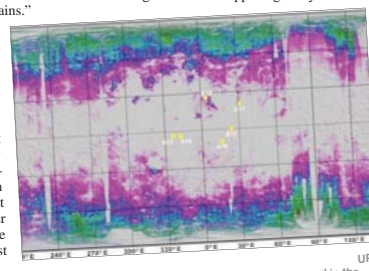
The new map offers clues as where the Moon's

water came from. Most water and hydroxyl molecules were deposited by solar wind, but a few deposits have unique origins.

The map revealed higher concentrations of water in volcanic deposits near the equator, suggesting water was brought to the surface as magma erupted from the deep-lying mantle.

Data from the Moon Mineralogy Mapper also showed lower lunar latitudes get wetter in the morning and drier in the evenings.

Milliken said, "We don't know exactly what the mechanism is for this fluctuation, but it tells us that the process of water formation in the lunar soil is active and happening today."



The new map reveals the concentrations of water trapped in the Moon's soil.

"This raises the possibility that water may re-accumulate after extraction, but we need to better understand the physics of why and how this happens to understand the timescale over which water may be renewed."

Interactions between solar winds and the lunar soil could explain the migration of water across the Moon's surface.

Some scientists believed there is a significant amount of water locked up in the form of ice hiding in the bottom of lunar craters, but the Moon Mineralogy Mapper can't analyze parts of the lunar surface that remain permanently dark.

Milliken said, "Those ice deposits may indeed be there, but because they are in shadowed areas it's not something we can easily confirm using these data."

Researchers published their new map and analysis in the journal Science Advances.

Conflicts, a key driver of severe food crisis



fbcgso.org

Exacerbated by climate-related shocks, increasing conflicts have been a key driver of severe food crisis and recently re-emerged famines, a major United Nations joint report has just revealed.

Hunger and under nutrition are significantly worse where conflicts are prolonged and institutional capacities weak, warned the first-ever UN report measuring progress on meeting new international goals pegged to eradicating hunger and malnutrition by 2030, Ipsnews reported.

A new edition of the annual report on world food security and nutrition said, "After steadily declining for over a decade, global hunger is on the rise again, affecting 815 million people in 2016, or 11 percent of the global population."

At the same time, multiple forms of malnutrition are threatening the health of millions worldwide, it added.

"The increase — 38 million more people than the previous year — is largely due to the proliferation of violent conflicts and climate-related shocks, according to the study."

Addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in conflict-affected situations cannot be 'business as usual', alerted the new edition of "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017, Building Resilience for Peace and Food Security".

It requires a conflict-sensitive approach that aligns actions for immediate humanitarian assistance, long-term development and sustaining peace, said this

year's report, which has been elaborated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the UN World Food Program (WFP), along with the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Consequences

The consequences are striking — around 155 million children aged under five are stunted (too short for their age), the report said, while 52 million suffer from wasting, meaning their weight is too low for their height.

Meantime, an estimated 41 million children are now overweight. Anemia among women and adult obesity are also cause for concern.

These trends are a consequence not only of conflict and climate change but also of sweeping changes in dietary habits and economic slowdowns.

The report is the first UN global assessment on food security and nutrition to be released following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 as a top international policy priority.

It singled out conflict — increasingly compounded by climate change — as one of the key drivers behind the resurgence of hunger and many forms of malnutrition.

And it sent a clear warning signal that the ambition of

a world without hunger and malnutrition by 2030 will be challenging — achieving it will require renewed efforts through new ways of working.

The joint report provided estimates of the number and proportion of hungry people on the planet and includes data for the global, regional, and national levels, while offering a significant update on the shifting global milieu that is today affecting people's food security and nutrition, in all corners of the globe.

Among other key findings, it reveals that in 2016 the number of chronically undernourished people in the world is estimated to have increased to 815 million — up from 777 million in 2015 although still down from 900 million in 2000.

After a prolonged decline, this recent increase could signal a reversal of trends.

"The food security situation has worsened in particular in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, Southeastern Asia and Western Asia, and deteriorations have been observed most notably in situations of conflict and conflict combined with droughts or floods."

The apparent halt to declining hunger numbers is not yet reflected in the prevalence of child stunting, which continues to fall, though the pace of improvement is slower in some regions, the report warned.

Globally, the prevalence of stunting fell from 29.5 percent to 22.9 percent between 2005 and 2016, although 155 million children under five years of age across the world still suffer from stunted growth.

Bullied for being small or fat

Children relentlessly bullied for being small or fat may not go on to be unhappy as an adult, new research suggested.

Fresh violence in CAR leads to more displaced

Expressing concern over continued violence in the Central African Republic (CAR) and the resulting 'massive new levels' of displacement, the United Nations refugee agency has underscored the need to ensure that relief workers are not made targets of hostilities and are given the humanitarian security they need to carry out their mission.

According to un.org, Andrej Mahecic, a spokesperson for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said, "Since May, fresh and fierce clashes between armed groups in the CAR have wrought increasing suffering, deaths and destruction of property."



un.org

"Many newly displaced people speak of having witnessed killings, robberies, lootings and kidnappings. Even after reaching safe locations, they often risk assault by armed groups, if they venture outside."

The crisis, well into its fourth year, has left one in every two Central African in need of humanitarian assistance or protection to survive and, if left to fester, the violence could negate the progress towards recovery in the country.

The violence has also driven over half a million people from CAR to seek refuge in neighboring countries and displaced an additional 600,000 people within the country.

The level of insecurity has also prevented UNHCR and other relief organizations to fully assess the full extent of damage or displacement from the recent violence.

"Some of our planned humanitarian deliveries by air have also been delayed or blocked, due to the armed groups' presence [and] aid agencies, including UNHCR, are increasingly among those targeted by armed groups and have, in some instances, been compelled to temporarily withdraw their personnel," said Mahecic.

"Despite the challenges, we continue to help those displaced in areas like the Haute-Kotto provincial capital of Bria, which was at the center of much of the displacement in the east," he added, noting that the UN agency's response is struggling due to lack of resources.

Earlier this year, UNHCR issued an appeal for \$209 million for its operations within the country as well as to assist refugees from the Central African Republic in neighboring countries. However, only nine percent of the appeal has been funded thus far.

Retaining older teachers for secondary education

Not all teachers succeed in staying happy with their work until the end of their career. Dissatisfied older teachers will tend to quit before reaching retirement age.

Work overload, low status of the profession, disruptive student behavior, and a poor relationship with students are reasons often mentioned for the declining job satisfaction of older teachers, phys.org wrote.



stockfresh.com

In the Netherlands, like in many other Western countries, we face a shortage of teachers. In the public debate, much attention is paid to beginning teachers. How can we keep them for the profession?

This is important. But it is equally important to keep older teachers for the profession. To this little attention is paid in the public debate, but also in research.

The purpose of this dissertation was to gain insight into the relation between the job satisfaction of older teachers and the quality of their relationship with students.

Older teachers differ in the extent to which they are satisfied with their work and the relationship with their students.

Unsatisfied older teachers name extrinsic factors as causes for their dissatisfaction, such as work overload and administrative burden.

Satisfied older teachers often name intrinsic factors, such as a good relationship with students.

Older teachers also differ in how they estimate the relationship with their students: More positively or negatively than the students.

In coaching older teachers, it is important to take into consideration the role that the relationship with students has for job satisfaction.

Coaching should not only be aimed at dissatisfied older teachers; coaching of (still) satisfied older teachers may be important to maintain their job satisfaction.

Older teachers often overestimate or underestimate themselves in their relationship with students. It is important to address this in coaching. In the case of underestimating, this is in the interest of the teachers themselves. In the case of overestimating it may also be to the advantage of the students.

US kids, teens going to ER with opioid addiction increasing

A growing number of children and teens are turning up in US emergency departments dependent on opioids — including prescription painkillers and heroin, a new study found.

Researchers found that in 2013, nearly 50,000 ER patients aged 21 and younger were diagnosed with opioid dependence or addiction. That was up from just over 32,200 in 2008, UPI wrote.

By that final year, roughly 135 kids were testing positive for opioid dependence each day in the nation's emergency departments, the researchers said.

Child health experts said the findings offer the latest glimpse into the national opioid epidemic — and, specifically, its impact on kids.

Lead researcher Dr. Veerajalandhar Allareddy, medical director of the

pediatric intensive care unit at Stead Family Children's Hospital, in Iowa City, said, "This is not just a problem for adults. Kids are also at risk of opioid abuse, and it's an emerging public health issue."

One doctor, who sees kids with opioid dependence, said he was not surprised by the study results.

Dr. Marcel Casavant, chief of toxicology at Nationwide Children's Hospital, in Columbus, Ohio, said, "I have no problem believing this. I can tell you this is real, based on my own practice."

"There are definitely more and younger children turning up [with opioid dependence]."

In a study published earlier this year, Casavant and his colleagues found one promising pattern: US poison control centers are seeing fewer

calls about children and teenagers who'd ingested prescription opioids — either accidentally or intentionally.

But some other trends were ominous: Among teenagers, the rate of suspected suicide by opioid overdose rose by 53 percent between 2000 and 2015.

The new study focused on opioid dependence and addiction among young people, using emergency department records from a nationally representative sample of US hospitals.

In 2008, there were 32,235 patients younger than 21 diagnosed with opioid dependence or addiction. By 2013, that had risen to 49,626, the findings showed.

The large majority of those ER visits — 88 percent — were made by 18- to 21-year-olds, while 16- and

17-year-olds accounted for over eight percent. But there was a 'handful' of cases among children younger than 12, Allareddy said.

Opioids include heroin, as well as prescription painkillers like OxyContin, Percocet and Vicodin. Starting in the 1990s, US doctors started prescribing those pain medications much more often, over concerns that patients with severe pain were not being adequately helped.

Nationwide, sales of prescription opioids rose 300 percent between 1999 and 2008, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But there was an unintended side effect: A sharp rise in painkiller abuse and 'diversion' — meaning drugs increasingly got into the hands of people with no legitimate medical need.

Cyberbullying starts early, and eight- and nine-year-olds with cellphones are especially vulnerable, new research found.

According to webmd.com, study researcher Elizabeth Engler, a professor of psychology at Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts, said, "Parents often cite the benefits of giving their child a cellphone, but our research suggested that giving young children these devices may have unforeseen risks as well."

She and her colleagues surveyed nearly 4,600 students in third, fourth and fifth grades between 2014 and 2016. Overall, about 10 percent said they'd been victims of a cyberbully. However, younger students with phones were much more likely to report electronic abuse, the study showed.

Cellphones also increased the students' odds of becoming cyberbullies themselves. This was true in all



scholastic.com

three grades, the study found.

The researchers found that older kids were most likely to have phones — about six in 10 students. But half of fourth graders and about 40 percent of third graders had them as well.

Young kids with cellphones face a hidden risk

Daredevil farmer performs unbelievable tricks on tractor

A farmer, who performs jaw-dropping wheelies on his tractor, has built up a huge fan base after videos of his skills were shared online. Gaggi Bansra, 21, has been practicing his unbelievable acts for more than four years after finding a passion for daredevil stunts while working in his father's fields in Punjab, mirror.co.uk reported.

Now, the insipid young stuntman can effortlessly maneuver the one tone tractor on its back wheels and drag it for an impressive 100 meters (328ft) at one time.

"It is a thrilling ride. It takes me to a different zone. I feel all pumped up while doing these stunts," said Bansra.

The only son of an agrarian father, Bansra, has been passionate about stunts since he was a teenager. He dreamed of owning a motorbike but could



CATERS NEWS AGENCY

never afford one and instead started practicing on the only vehicle available to him.

When he dropped out of college, Bansra started helping his father irrigating the fields and, four years ago, he began trying his hand at tractor wheelies.

He said: "I had never seen any videos of such stunts before. It just came to my mind that why not try doing some adventure with the heavy machine."

"I would be honest, I miserably failed the first day as the tractor was heavy and it did not

even come off the ground."

While the first try was a complete disappointment, Bansra was unfazed and kept his hopes high. Within three months, he mastered his act.

Once he got into the groove, the young farmer started showing off his stunts to other farmers in the field.

With growing popularity across the villages, offers from fair and films started pouring in.

He said: "People came from far and wide villages to see me doing the stunts. They found it unbelievable, because they had no clue how I could even lift the tractor off the ground."

"I get offers from various fair organizers every year. People pay as much as £176 to see me performing these stunts."

"My father had opposed my passion, because he feared that it is life-threatening and the stunts can even damage the tractor."

Rare white giraffes sighted in Kenya

A pair of rare white giraffes, a mother and child, have been spotted in Kenya and captured on video for the first time.

The unique giraffes suffer from a genetic condition called leucism, which prevents pigmentation in skin cells and results in a white, pale color, dailymail.co.uk wrote.

Unlike albinism where there is only an absence of melanin, leucism is a condition that is caused by a reduction in multiple types of pigment.

Leucism is a condition where there is loss of multiple types of pigment and results in a white, pale or patchy color. Albinism, on the other hand, is caused by a reduction in melanin pigment alone.

The main way to differentiate the two types

is through the eyes. Sufferers of albinism have a similar color loss in hair and skin but they also have this in their eyes. Pale eyes or often pink or red eyes are common as the blood vessels show through, whereas in leucism, this is uncommon.

"The mother kept pacing back and forth a few yards in front of us while signaling the baby giraffe to hide behind the bushes."

According to HCP, other than the video, only two known sightings have been made in Kenya and Tanzania. The very first report of a white giraffe in the wild was in January 2016 in Tarangire National park, Tanzania and the second in March 2016 in Ishaqini conservancy, Garissa County, Kenya.



CATERS NEWS AGENCY

Man who spotted intense, bright light says UFO is from another planet

A man said he spotted a UFO 'not from our world' hovering in the sky and flashing strangely in broad daylight.

Bob Wise, 49, said he saw the bizarre object at around 12pm in Easthampsted, Bracknell, and Berkshire, the UK, on August 27, mirror.co.uk wrote.

The day was hot and sunny, with perfectly clear skies. But despite the bright sunlight, Wise said the object stood out, prompting him to take out his iPhone and capture some photographs.

Wise said: "It was stationary. Just flashing. It was dim at first, but then it got brighter and brighter, which is when I decided to take the pictures on my iPhone."

But it wasn't until Wise edited the live photos together (each photo is made up of three seconds of video footage) that he noticed how strange the object was.

Describing the UFO as the shape of a 'ball bearing', Wise said the object hovered for around six or seven minutes, before eventually moving slowly across the sky.

And he claimed that the object might not be

from our planet.

He said: "My gut reaction is that it's not ours. It was incredibly bright, it appeared to have its own life source."

"The light reminded me of being in chemistry lessons at school, like burning magnesium."

"It wasn't an electrical light. It was very odd." Wise said the airspace where he spotted the

UFO is a busy one.

He said: "I see planes and helicopters in the sky all the time. But these lights stood out."

"I just don't think it's from here. I'm open-minded about these things."

"The footage is straight from my iPhone, it hasn't been tampered with. Of course, I'm still open to the fact that it could be

some sort of atmospheric phenomenon."

Bracknell has become a UFO hotspot in recent years, with several strange sightings reported.

Wise himself said he spotted a strange cylindrical shape in the sky around five years ago.

And in 2013, an aircraft pilot was flying at around 34,000ft when he spotted a "bright, silver, rugby-ball shaped" craft approaching the plane.



GETTY IMAGES

PICTURE OF THE DAY



KEREK WONGSA/REUTERS

A baby Sumatran orangutan is bathed after arriving at a wildlife center, Ratchaburi, Thailand.

Seaside travelers

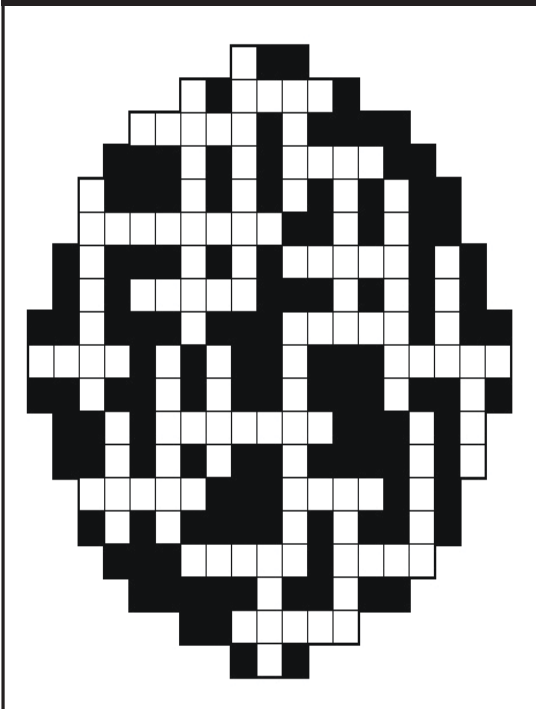


Some travelers, journeying along the seashore, climbed to the summit of a tall cliff, and looking over the sea, saw in the distance what they thought was a large ship. They waited in the hope of seeing it enter the harbor, but as the object on which they looked was driven nearer to shore by the wind, they found that it could at the most be a small boat, and not a ship.

When, however, it reached the beach, they discovered that it was only a large faggot of sticks, and one of them said to his companions, "We have waited for no purpose, for after all there is nothing to see but a load of wood."

Our mere anticipations of life outrun its realities.

Global Word-Fit



- 4 letters: BONN, DOHA, FIJI, IRAN, LIMA, MALI, OHIO, OMAN, ROME, SUVA, UTAH

- 5 letters: ACCRA, ARUBA, BOISE, IDAHO, INDIA, MALTA

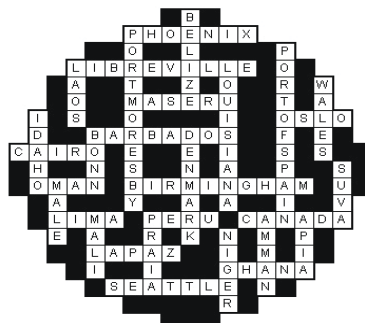
- MIAMI, PARIS, PERTH, TONGA

- 6 letters: DUBLIN, MANAMA

- 7 letters: BAHRAIN, NAIROBI, PHOENIX

- 8 letters: BRASILLIA, HONOLULU, ILLINOIS, SCOTLAND

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.

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

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

Iran's Nemati grabs world archery gold



Sports Desk

Iran's Zahra Nemati collected a prestigious gold medal at the 2017 World Archery Para Championships in China. On Saturday, the two-time Paralympics gold medalist defeated her Turkish opponent Merve Nur Eroglu by a 6-2 score line in the final contest of the women's recurve open competitions in

the Chinese capital city of Beijing to grab the gold. The Turkish Archer settled for the silver and China's Wu Chunyan took the bronze. "I'm pretty satisfied with my performance at the competitions and set some good records in both preliminary rounds and knockout stages which even bettered my tallies at the Rio Paralympics," Nemati said upon her

triumph in Beijing. There was even more glory for the 32-year-old Iranian later in the day as the pair of Nemati and Pouria Jalalipour managed to finish third in the mixed team's recurve open and pocketed the bronze medal. Italian contestants Elisabetta Mijno and Stefano Trivisan collected the gold medal followed by Thais Silva Carvalho and Francisco Cordeiro from Brazil who scooped the silver.

worldarchery.org

Iran beats Japan to stay in course for title



Iran's Amir Ghafour (R) spikes against Japan's defensive duo in the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Grand Champions Cup in Osaka, Japan, on September 16, 2017.

Amir Ghafour topped all scorers with 23 points to boost Iran's 3-1 (21-25, 25-19, 25-20, 25-14) win over Japan in the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Grand Champions Cup at the Osaka Municipal Central Gymnasium on Saturday. Ghafour had a solid performance from the attack line as he scored 21 spikes, which went along with his contribution in defense with two stuff blocks, fivb.com reported. Iran had a total of 13 blocks, including Saman Faezi's four and Seyed Mohammed Mousavi's three. Issei Otake and Akihiro Yamauchi led Ja-

pan with 16 and 11 points, respectively. Iran and Japan most recent meeting at world level was in 2016, when Iran beat its opponent in four sets in the Olympics qualifier. In their third encounter at the World Grand Champions Cup, Iran won again with the same score line of 3-1. Japan played a fast-paced game against its Asian rival Iran in the opening set. As Masahiro Yanagida struggled on offence, setter Naonobu Fujii set up masterful plays for his other hitters, which resulted to a brilliant 25-21 first-set win.

Iranians, however, countered with solid blocks and strong spikes that rewarded them with the win. By the third set, Iran already established its ground on offence and defense that made it difficult for the host to overcome. The victory puts Iran third in the table next to Brazil and Italy to give the Asian giant the slightest of hopes of winning the title when all teams play the last round of the competition today where Iran faces France, Italy meets the US and Brazil squares off with the host Japan.

fivb.com

Real wants more from Bale, Zidane says

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said he wants more from Gareth Bale as injuries and suspensions bite ahead of the visit to Real Sociedad tonight. After a poor start to the campaign, with just one goal in his first five games, Bale was whistled by Madrid fans during home draws against both Levante and Valencia, ESPN reported. With pundits calling this the worst spell since Bale arrived from Tottenham for €101 million in 2013, the Wales international called for "calm" on Friday. Zidane also called for patience at a news conference on Saturday and argued that, after injuries last season, it will take time for Bale to return to top form. "Lately the questions are all about Gareth, but each day he feels better," he said. "He had four months out of the team, and to return to his best level he will need four more months at least. We must give him time, and we are happy with him. "The price puts you up there, you cannot do anything about that, it happened to me when I found it tough in my first months after I came here. "If Gareth scores twice tomorrow, everyone will be happy. I hope he does and we change what people are thinking about Gareth. "We want more from him on the pitch, he does too, but he will be very good very soon, for sure."

Bale will be the only member of the "BBC" strike-force available tonight, with Madrid missing the suspended Cristiano Ronaldo and the injured Karim Benzema. "Gareth will play his own role," Zidane said. "We must not think that Gareth must step up without Karim and Cristiano. "We have many players who can make the difference, each day it is someone else. The pressure does not affect him." Zidane's selection problems have heightened, with Toni Kroos and Jesus Vallejo missing training on Saturday and joining Benzema and Mateo Kovacic on the injured list. "We cannot count on someone who does not train the day before the game, and that has happened with Jesus and Toni," Zidane added. "Their problems are not too serious, but we never take risks. It is inevitable that there are moments with injuries and suspensions over a season. "So we must be patient at the moment, but tomorrow we will send out a very good team, and with good players on the bench too." Zidane said that after the two recent draws it was important not to drop more points against a La Real side alongside Barcelona at the top of the early standings. "It is an important game after losing four points, and we are playing at the home of the coleader," Zidane said.



GETTY IMAGES

"But the negative results will not change anything about what we want to do. We have not done so bad until now. It is good to say this sometimes. "It seems people think we are playing badly. But we are doing well."

IOC: Evidence found in Sochi drugs probe to charge athletes

A first batch of athletes suspected of having been part of a Russian doping ring at the Sochi 2014 Winter Games may soon be charged by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the head of the investigation said on Friday. IOC member Denis Oswald said evidence gathered so far will be combined with results of tests to determine whether urine and blood sample bottles had been tampered with, to replace positive samples with clean samples, Reuter reported. "We feel we have found a number of elements to charge a certain number of athletes," Oswald told IOC members at the body's session meeting in Lima.

"In a few days we will have the results of the first batch of 50 bottles (determining whether or not they had been tampered with) and then we can proceed." Swiss Oswald, who did not say how many athletes could be involved, said the first hearings would start in October. He added that his commission could only ban athletes from the Olympics and not impose other sanctions. "We can only disqualify athletes. We have been working closely with winter sports federations and they will be ready as soon as we have made our decision to go on with their own procedure." Grigory Rodchenkov, the former head of Moscow's discredited anti-doping labora-

tory, identified in a 2015 World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report as an "aider and abettor of the doping activities", revealed a scheme for covering up Russian competitors' positive drug samples at the 2014 Winter Olympics. This triggered a number of investigations, including Oswald's on behalf of the IOC, to determine whether Russia had manipulated their athletes' samples at those Olympics three years ago. The participation of Russian athletes at next February's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics depends on the results of the Oswald report, which he said would be completed before the end of the year. "The WADA board meeting in Seoul in November could recommend that RUSADA becomes compliant," he said, criticizing a group of the world's leading national anti-doping organizations (NADOs) who this week called for Russia to be excluded from Pyeongchang.



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Leo Tolstoy:

I think... if it is true that there are as many minds as there are heads, then there are as many kinds of love as there are hearts.

Canoe unearthed by Hurricane Irma could be hundreds of years old

A Florida photographer on an early-morning bike ride the day after Hurricane Irma ravaged the coast stumbled upon a dugout canoe that may be hundreds of years old, according to officials.

"As soon as I saw it, I knew exactly what it was," Randy Lathrop, a self-proclaimed history buff, told ABC News of his unusual discovery.

The canoe washed up from the Indian River, north of Cocoa, Florida, along what locals have dubbed Florida's 'Space Coast' for its proximity to the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

"I can look across the river and see the launch pad and the vehicle assembly building. It's a real contrast," Lathrop said of the area where the canoe was found, which is steeped in Native American history.



REUTERS

He immediately contacted the Florida Division of Historical Resources before someone could mistake it for debris and throw it away.

"It looked just like a log," said Lathrop. "My main concern was to secure it from harm's way. I was able to go half a mile away and get my friend with a truck and we struggled to get into the back of the truck. It weighs almost 700 pounds, but to me, it might as well have weighed 1,000 pounds. It's been water soaked for years."

The 15-foot-long canoe could be anywhere from several decades to several hundred years old, according to Sarah Revell, a spokeswoman with the department. Carbon dating will help to narrow down the boat's age.

"Florida is a treasure trove of unique history and we are excited about the recent discovery of the dugout canoe," Revell told ABC News. "As we continue to evaluate and learn more about the canoe, our goal is to ensure it is preserved and protected for future generations in the local community and across Florida to learn from and enjoy."

The canoe has a squared off form, which Revell said is commonly seen in the historic period (from 1513 to about 50 years ago in Florida), but there are several uncommon features on it too: Compartments, square nails and what appears to be a seat.

"The compartments are a bit out of the ordinary," she said. "The square nails are cut nails. Cut nails were first in production in the early 19th century so that helps to indicate it is a historic canoe."

Lathrop said he was excited to get the canoe off the road to save it for the public.

"It belongs to the state, it belongs to the people of Florida. That's the law," he said.

Revell said the canoe was evaluated by a professional archeologist based in Canaveral on September 14. It is currently being kept wet in an undisclosed safe place.

Berlin museum hails graffiti as art form

Many cities around the world view graffiti as nothing less than vandalism — a form of pollution that must be removed from the streets.

But a new gallery in the German capital is celebrating it as an art form.

The Urban Nation Museum for Urban Contemporary Art is opening in Berlin, a city famous for its street art.

The showcase, featuring the works of 150 international and local artists, is being described as the first of its kind in the world.

"Urban contemporary art is the logical next step to follow what is happening on the street," museum Director Yasha Young told Reuters.

"This house can be an archive that tells the story [of street art] for the first time, from the beginning until now," she said. Many of the artworks featured in the museum have been exhibited on the façade and surrounding streets ahead of the formal launch of the inaugural display.

It is illegal to daub graffiti on Berlin's buildings without the permission of the owner.

But the city has also introduced measures to help street artists carry out their art legally.

British artist Louis Masai, whose work is exhibited in the new museum, welcomed Saturday's opening.

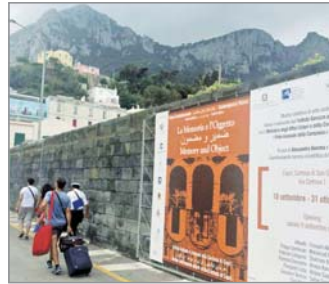
"It means that the artists who have been a part of this scene and movement for a long time are now getting the respect that they deserve," he said.

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honaronline.ir

Iranian-Italian artworks on view

Art & Culture Desk

An art exhibition 'Memory and Object', featuring the works of 14 Iranian and Italian artists, is underway at Italy's Certosa of Capri.

Organized by Iran's Art Center and Italy's Garuzzo Institute for Visual Arts, the fourth edition of the exhibition will continue until September 31, honaronline.ir reported.

Seven Iranian artists and seven Italian artists have put

their artworks on display to analyze the past and the present and eventually boost cultural ties.

Head of Art Center galleries Vahid Malek said that Iran and Italy are the manifestations of Western and Eastern civilizations, adding, "Both countries have a lot of commonalities which are even illustrated in the colors of the two countries' flags."

Rosalba GARUZZO, founder of the Garuzzo Institute for Visual Arts stated that the exhibition is verily an instance of

cooperation between two countries with different features under the name of art and culture.

Iranian artists whose works are on display at the event are Alireza Saadatmand, Firoozeh Akhlagi, Mohammad-Hadi Fadavi, Shahram Karimi, Alireza Karimpour, Sahar Salehi and Amir-Bakhtiar Sanjabi.

The Italian artists include AfterAll, Afilippo Centenari, Fabrizio Cotognini, Pamela Diamanter, Pierpaolo Lista, Giovannij Termini and Ciro Vitale.



Iranian artist Nasrin Atiqechi is holding a painting exhibition at Tehran's Golestan Gallery until September 20, 2017.



SAEED RABEI/honaronline.ir

'The Rock' docu to vie in Estonia

Iranian documentary 'The Rock', directed by Hamid Jafari, was accepted into the screening program of 15th Matsalu International Nature Film Festival in Estonia.

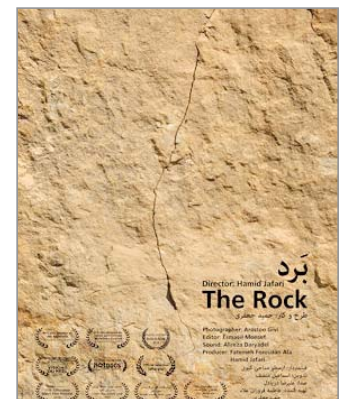
'The Rock' is a 25-minute documentary which narrates the story of a woman who lives nearby the South Western city of Ramhormoz. Every day, she goes to the mountain with a sledgehammer and a crowbar in hand to smash and break the rocks so that she can sell them to provide for her family, Mehr



News Agency reported.

So far, 'The Rock' has had several international screenings which include Switzerland's Visions Du Reel, Britain's Hot Docs, Netherland's IDFA and France's Silhouette and has won various awards in both national and international festivals.

The 15th Matsalu International Nature Film Festival, as one of the renowned and respected festivals in the film world, will take place in Tallin, the capital of Estonia, from September 20 to 24, 2017.



MEHR NEWS AGENCY

» Weather



30 16

Tabriz



29 9

Kerman



32 19

Behshahr



34 13

Kermanshah



30 16

Karaj

30 ^

v 19

Tehran



28 17

Kiev



28 16

Medina



24 17

Barcelona



22 11

Addis Ababa



18 11

Melbourne