



Shamkhani: Iran only recognizes united Iraqi government

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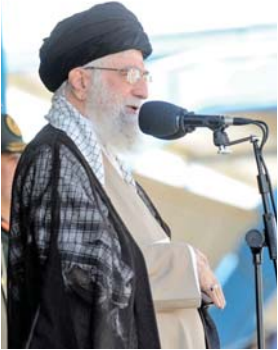
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Iran to honor bard Shahriar on Day of Persian Poetry

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leader.ir

Leader: Iran will respond to any 'wrong move' on JCPOA

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei warned that Iran will stand on its "honorable and dignified positions" regarding its nuclear accord with the P5+1 group of countries, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and firmly respond to any "wrong move."

"The Iranian nation has stood firmly and any wrong move by the hegemonic system on the JCPOA will draw a reaction from the Islamic Republic," the Leader said at a graduation ceremony of Iran's police cadets in Tehran on Sunday, Press TV reported.

Referring to American officials' "brazen and shameless" measures with regards to the JCPOA, the Leader said, "They show wickedness and mischief with regard to this issue every day, which proves what our honorable Imam [Khomeini] said about America being the Great Satan is true, and the regime of the United States of America is really the most evil of evils."

Ayatollah Khamenei stated that Iran started its nuclear program because, according to experts' estimates, the country needed to generate at least 20,000 megawatts of nuclear power, but the United States opposes Iran's nuclear program as it is basically opposed to the scientific progress of the Iranian nation.

"The country's officials reached the conclusion that they should negotiate, ignoring some of their rights, so that sanctions [imposed on Iran on account of its nuclear program] would be removed. But today, we see that despite all agreements and promises, and many discussions during the negotiations, America treats these negotiations and their outcome in a totally oppressive and bullying manner," the Leader noted.

The Leader added that in the face of the United States' measures to scuttle the nuclear deal, Iranian "officials must prove to the corrupt leaders of the regime of the United States of America that they rely on their own people and the Iranian nation, which is a powerful nation, thanks to Islam, and will never submit and bow to them."

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president.ir

Rouhani heads to New York for 'very important' talks

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said the landmark nuclear deal reached between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries is in the interests of regional and global peace and stability.

Rouhani made the remarks in Tehran on Sunday, before leaving for New York, to attend the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

"Today, there is a consensus in the world that the JCPOA benefits security, stability and development in the region and the world," he said, referring to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as the nuclear accord is officially called, Press TV wrote.

"The opponents of the JCPOA are restricted to two or three countries, including some in the US, who feel cheated. They believe that a feast has been set out but that they are deprived of going to the table and having some-

thing," Rouhani said.

"This is while they can also choose the right path, enter the room and go to the table; that would be fine with us," the president said, using an uncharacteristically figurative language.

Rouhani said his planned meetings on JCPOA in New York are "very important," adding there is need for clarifications which have to be made about the nuclear accord.

Apart from the JCPOA, the president will also talk about bilateral ties with various countries, regional issues as well as international developments including the ongoing crisis in Myanmar.

The foreign ministers of Iran and the six other P5+1 countries are likely to meet to discuss the nuclear deal on the sidelines of the General Assembly meeting.

President Rouhani further said regional issues have no military

solutions; there is need for political solutions with the participation of other countries.

He also cited terrorism as a major problem which all countries should join hands to eradicate in order to return peace and security to the world.

US President Donald Trump is fiercely opposed to the nuclear accord with Iran.

He will reportedly be embarking on a whirlwind series of meetings at the United Nations General Assembly to ask allies to hold the line against Iran's nuclear program.

According to NBC News, Trump plans to sign a new Iran policy ahead of his first appearance at the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday. The US president is seeking to take a more aggressive approach, according to administration officials.

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Iran edges France to collect first world volleyball medal



fivb.com

Iran narrowed France 3-2 (38-36, 25-23, 22-25, 25-27, 15-11) to finish with a bronze medal in the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Grand Champions Cup at the Osaka Municipal Central Gymnasium on Sunday.

Five of Iranian players scored in double figures led by Amir Ghafour, who chipped in 24 points, fivb.com reported.

Seyed Mohammed Moosavi and Mohammad-Javad Manavinejad notched 20 and 19 points, respectively, while Milad Ebadipour and Saman Faezi added 12 points each. France also had five double-digit scorers, led by Trevor Clevenot and Stephen Boyer, who made 25 and 21 points, respectively.

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UN chief: 'Last chance' for Suu Kyi to halt Rohingya crackdown

Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi has "a last chance" to halt an army offensive that has forced hundreds of thousands of the Muslim Rohingya to flee abroad, the UN head warned on Sunday.

Guterres' warning came after Bangladesh said it was now limiting the movement of more than 400,000 Rohingya who have fled from Myanmar. Bangladeshi police said Rohingya would not be allowed to travel



AFP

Antonio Guterres told the BBC ahead of this week's UN General Assembly that unless she acted now, "the tragedy will be absolutely horrible."

The United Nations has warned the offensive could amount to ethnic cleansing.

Guterres said Suu Kyi had a last chance to stop the offensive during her address to the nation on Tuesday.

"If she does not reverse the situation now, then I think the tragedy will be absolutely horrible, and unfortunately then I don't see how this can be reversed in the future."

The secretary general reiterated that the Rohingya should be allowed to return home.

He also said it was clear that Myanmar's military "still have the upper hand" in the country, putting pressure "to do what is being done on the ground" in Rakhine state.

Suu Kyi - a Nobel Peace Prize laureate - is facing growing criticism over the Rohingya crisis.

She will not be attending the UN General Assembly in New York, and has claimed that the crisis is being distorted by a "huge iceberg of misinformation."

anywhere outside of their allocated homes, not even to live with family or friends.

Transport operators and drivers have also been urged not to carry refugees, with landlords told not to rent out any property to them.

Bangladesh also announced plans to build shelters for up to 400,000 people near the city of Cox's Bazar.

Analysts say the government wants to stop the Rohingya from disappearing into the general population and to keep them visible, in the hope of returning them to Myanmar - or even a third country.

The Rohingya, a Muslim minority in Buddhist-majority Rakhine, have long experienced persecution in Myanmar, which says they are illegal immigrants.

Some who fled from Rakhine state earlier this month told horrible stories about killings, rape and even massacres, while inside Rakhine.

A new Human Rights Watch report released on Friday accused the Myanmar military of an "ethnic cleansing campaign" and detailed scores of villages targeted with arson attacks.

Syrian Army, allies close in on Daesh in Deir ez-Zor

Syrian troops seized a suburb of the city of Deir ez-Zor in eastern Syria on Sunday, tightening the noose around Daesh terrorists, a military source said.

Oil-rich Deir ez-Zor Province, which borders Iraq, is Daesh's last major foothold in Syria. The Syrian Army pushed into Deir ez-Zor city this month, with Russian air power and militias, breaking a Daesh siege of an enclave that had lasted three years, Reuters reported.

Russia's RIA news agency cited an unnamed source as saying that the Syrian Army cut Daesh's main supply line in the city on Sunday after taking control of the Al-Jafra district.

The Syrian military source said the army and allied forces captured Al-Jafra on the western bank of the Euphrates. Daesh terrorists could only escape across the river.

"They have no outlet except crossing the Euphrates toward the eastern bank and fleeing towards the desert, or (the towns of) Al-Bukamal and Al-Mayadin," the source told Reuters.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the army and its allies took Al-Jafra and other villages near the city's air base overnight.

Daesh terrorists still hold nearly a third of the city, the war monitoring group said. Russian jets pounded movements across the river as Daesh terrorists tried to escape in ferries, it added.



REUTERS

Many civilians had tried to flee through the river in recent days, the monitor said.

Separate airstrikes by Russia and by the US-led coalition had killed more than 30 people across Deir ez-Zor Province over the past day, it said.

Daesh has fallen back on towns downstream of Deir ez-Zor and controls much of the desert region around the city, near the border with Iraq. Its terrorists have also come under attack there from a separate US-backed offensive.

Iran's nuclear chief departs for Vienna to attend IAEA conference

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi traveled to Austria on Sunday to attend the 61st International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference, scheduled to be held on September 18-22.

Salehi, heading a delegation, is scheduled to address the IAEA's annual conference and hold meetings with his counterparts on the sidelines of the event, IRNA reported.



TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

According to the IAEA website, the weeklong event is "to deliberate on key elements of the agency's priorities and work toward the peaceful use of nuclear technologies."

Representatives of 168 member states will discuss a range of topics from increasing international cooperation on nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, to reinforcing the IAEA's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications, and its technical cooperation program.

They will also discuss boosting nuclear security and improving the efficiency of the IAEA safeguards.

IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano will report on the nuclear agency's work and achievements in the past year.

Leader: Iran will respond to any...

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Ayatollah Khamenei then noted that the increasing hostility toward Iran was because the Iranian nation "is a source of inspiration for other nations," adding, "The corrupt, lying and dishonest officials of America brazenly accuse the Iranian nation and the Islamic Republic establishment of lying, while the Iranian nation moves honestly and will honestly continue on its path to the end."

Explaining about the existing insecurity in the region, Ayatollah Khamenei mentioned "wicked and mischievous interventions" by the United States and the Zionist regime of Israel, who want to meet their own illegitimate interests and weaken regional nations, as being the main reason behind insecurity in the Middle East.

The Leader stated that if regional nations and governments wanted to block the infiltration of hegemonic powers like the United States into the region, they must believe in their ability to do so, warning: "If we step back, the enemy will step forward."



Shamkhani: Iran only recognizes united Iraqi government

A senior Iranian official warned that any "illegal" separatist move in Iraq would escalate insecurity in the country and across the region, saying the Islamic Republic only recognizes a united, undivided and federal Iraqi government.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani on Sunday expressed the Islamic Republic's opposition to a referendum on the independence of Iraq's semiautonomous Kurdistan region, saying the plan would fail to safeguard this region's interests, Press TV reported.

He added that the referendum would lead to the emergence of new threats against the Kurdistan region and make the situation a lot more complicated.

At a time when Iraq is nearing the final phase of the full elimination of Takfiri terrorists thanks to the efforts and sacrifices of the country's people, including the Arabs, Kurds and Turkmens, such illegal measures would undoubtedly have negative impacts on the security of the country, particularly the Kurdistan region, and the entire region, he pointed out.

Shamkhani said Iran has an "unchangeable" stance on the importance of maintaining Iraq's territorial integrity and unity, adding, "Any disruption to this strategic principle would lead to the review of and serious shift in the trend of the existing cooperation between Iran and Iraq's Kurdistan region."

He emphasized that the legitimacy of Iran's border crossings with the Iraqi



Kurdistan region hinges only upon the fact that the Kurdish areas are a part of an undivided Iraq and said the Islamic Republic would shut all border crossings and terminate military and security agreements if the semiautonomous region secedes from Iraq.

The plebiscite is scheduled for September 25 to gauge support for the possible secession of Iraq's Kurdistan re-

gion.

The Iraqi Parliament voted on September 12 to reject a Kurdish independence referendum, requiring Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and the central government in Baghdad to "take all steps to protect the unity of Iraq and open a serious dialogue" with Kurdish leaders.

On Friday, Iraqi Kurdish lawmakers

approved holding the secession vote in the face of fierce opposition from the central government in Baghdad, the United Nations and the US.

Regional powers like Iran and Turkey have repeatedly expressed concerns about the planned referendum by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), arguing that it could create further instability in the region.

MPs urge action against US move to ban aircraft sales to Iran



Senior Iranian lawmakers called for action after the US House approved new measures on Wednesday that block the sales of commercial aircraft to the Islamic Republic.

The measures would specifically prevent the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) from clearing licenses for aircraft sales and prohibit the use of funds for financial transactions, Press TV reported.

Lawmakers in the Republican-dominated US House of Representatives have adopted new measures to ban commercial aircraft sales to Iran.

Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Alaeddin Boroujerdi on Sunday called the move a "clear violation of the JCPOA," referring to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as the nuclear accord with Iran is known.

"It should be acknowledged that the sale of aircraft to Iran is specified in the JCPOA text and annex," Boroujerdi said.

He reminded that the measures had to go through the Senate and also be signed by the US president before becoming law, "but

the whole issue is wrong in the first place and needs to be corrected."

The rest of the countries, which have signed the nuclear deal — the UK, France, China, Russia, and Germany — as well as the United Nations Security Council which has approved the JCPOA, should also protest the US move, Boroujerdi said.

The lawmaker further urged the Iranian committee tasked with monitoring the accord's implementation to make "a serious decision" versus the violation.

Under President Donald Trump, the US has imposed several rounds of new sanctions against Iran in a move which many believe are aimed at provoking the Islamic Republic to abandon the nuclear accord.

Alireza Manzari, a former deputy chief of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, said Boeing had signed contract for the sales of passenger aircraft to Iran Air before the new sanctions were imposed, and that the new US law may potentially not affect past agreements.

Nevertheless, the US company could refrain from turning over the aircraft if the law is retroactive, he added.

Iran's aid for Rohingya reaches Bangladesh border with Myanmar

Forty tons of Iran's relief aid has reached the Bangladesh border with Myanmar, where tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslims are stranded after fleeing what has been called "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing" by the UN.

The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, Morteza Salimi, who was on board the flight to the southeastern city of Chittagong, Bangladesh, announced before the flight that Iran was ready to send another 160 tons of aid for the fleeing Rohingya minority, and is also prepared to construct emergency camps for the refugees on Bangladesh's border with Myanmar, Press TV reported.

Also on board the humanitarian aircraft operated by Iran's Army was Ebrahim Rahimpour, the deputy for Asia and Pacific affairs at Iran's Foreign Ministry. Rahimpour told reporters before the flight that due to the nature of the flight route, the Iranian Embassy in Bangladesh has made efforts to facilitate the delivery of goods.

He also expressed hope that Iran's assistance would continue and that easier routes via maritime transport would be added for

aid shipments to those fleeing to Bangladesh from Myanmar's atrocities.

According to latest estimates, more than 400,000 Rohingya refugees have crossed into Bangladesh since violence erupted



IRNA

three weeks ago, making it one of the fastest growing refugee crises in recent years.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini, had said earlier last week that "the situation [in Myanmar] seems a textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

Rouhani heads to New York...

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While there is broad consensus that Iran is abiding by the agreement with the US, Russia, China and three European powers, some American officials have hinted that Trump would decertify the deal when it comes up for renewal in mid-October.

European governments, however, stand firmly behind the deal, and European companies have pursued a series of partnerships inside Iran now that major sanctions have been lifted.

Observers say Europeans would be furious at Trump for possibly wrecking the

agreement, warning that would result in a diplomatic crisis. Moreover, the US would not be able to count on the EU to reimpose sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

"The Iran deal is a good and robust agreement that serves the interests of all parties," EU foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, said in a statement.

"It is not an agreement between two countries — it is a commitment undertaken by the entire international community on one side, and Iran on the other, supported by a resolution of the UN Security Council," she added.

Iraq says may use force if Kurdish referendum turns violent

Iraq is prepared to intervene militarily if the Kurdish region's planned independence referendum results in violence, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi told AP in an exclusive interview Saturday.

If the Iraqi population is "threatened by the use of force outside the law, then we will intervene militarily," he said.

Iraq's Kurdish region plans to hold the referendum on support for independence from Iraq on Sept. 25 in three governorates that make up their autonomous region, and in disputed areas controlled by Kurdish forces but which are claimed by Baghdad.

"If you challenge the constitution and if you challenge the borders of Iraq and the borders of the region, this is a public invitation to the countries in the region to violate Iraqi borders as well, which is a very dangerous escalation," Abadi said.

The leaders of Iraq's Kurdish region have said they hope the referendum will push Baghdad to come to the negotiating table and create a path for independence. However, Abadi said such negotiations would likely be complicated by the referendum vote.

"It will make it harder and more difficult," he said, but added, "I will never close the door to negoti-

tions. Negotiations are always possible."

Iraq's Kurds have come under increasing pressure to call off the vote from regional powers and the United States, a key ally, as well as Baghdad.

In a statement released late Friday night the White House called for the Kurdish region to abandon the referendum "and enter into serious and sustained dialogue with Baghdad."

"Holding the referendum in disputed areas is particularly provocative and destabilizing," the statement read.

Tensions between Erbil and Baghdad have flared in the lead-up to the Sept. 25 vote.

When asked if he would ever accept an independent Kurdistan, Abadi said, "It's not up to me, this is a constitutional matter."

"If (Iraq's Kurds) want to go along that road, they should work toward amending the constitution," Abadi said. "In that case we have to go all the way through Parliament and a referendum to the whole Iraqi people."

"For them to call for only the Kurds to vote, I think this is a hostile move toward the whole of the Iraqi population," he said.



Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Baghdad, Iraq, on September 16, 2017.

Washington withdrawal?

The White House insisted Washington will withdraw from the Paris climate accord unless it can reenter on more favorable terms.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The big question as UN gathers: What to make of Trump?

By Peter Baker

Every year, the president heads to New York to welcome world leaders to the United Nations General Assembly. He gives a speech and meets with an endless string of foreign potentates to discuss a dizzying array of complicated, often intractable issues.

The days are "kind of like speed dating from hell," as one analyst put it, and the evenings are "the world's most tedious cocktail party." In other words, not exactly President Trump's favored format.

But when Mr. Trump attends the first United Nations session of his presidency this coming week, all eyes will be on him as counterparts from around the globe crane their necks and slide through the crowd to snatch a handshake — and, in the process, try to figure out this most unusual of American leaders.

"The world is still trying to take the measure of this president," said Jon B. Alterman, a senior vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington and author of the speed-dating analogy. "For a number of leaders, this is going to be their first chance to see him, to judge him, to try to get on his good side."

In some places, there has been an instinct to dismiss Mr. Trump as a bombastic, Twitter-obsessed political and diplomatic neophyte. "But the fact is you can't write off the American president," Mr. Alterman said.

One of Mr. Trump's primary tasks will be to define how his America First approach — which has led him to pull out of international agreements on free trade and climate change — fits into the world-first mission of the United Nations.

His challenge is "to describe the Trump Doctrine on US global leadership and engagement," said Zalmay Khalilzad, ambassador to the United Nations under President George W. Bush. "The perception in many parts of the world, including the UN, is that President Trump is unilateralist and isolationist. Trump has the opportunity to present and describe his vision and strategy. The world will be all ears."

Mr. Trump arrives in New York at a time of crackling tension over North Korea's provocative actions and deep uncertainty about what he will do with President Barack Obama's nuclear agreement with Iran. While foreign leaders once feared that an erratic American presidency was taking shape, they have been reassured, to some extent, that Mr. Trump is settling into a somewhat more conventional foreign policy than many had anticipated, analysts said.

The president has not launched an all-out trade war with China, ripped up the Iran deal or the North American Free Trade Agreement, or moved the American Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem [Beit-ul-Moqaddas], at least not yet. He has belatedly reaffirmed support for NATO and agreed to send more troops to Afghanistan.

"But America's friends still see dysfunctionality at the heart of the Trump administration, as key advisers come and go through the revolving door," said Peter Westmacott, a former British ambassador to Washington. "They remain disheartened by Trump's announcements on climate change and trade policy." And "they fear that the fighting talk of this impulsive president could make things worse rather than better on the Korean Peninsula."

Previewing the week, Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster, the president's national security adviser, said Mr. Trump would stress "sovereignty and accountability." Sovereignty is a term that appeals to American conservatives skeptical about the United Nations.

Mr. Trump will emphasize longstanding efforts to reform what many Republicans see as the sclerotic and inefficient United Nations organization, but aides would not say whether he would commit to the traditional level of American financing as Washington remains in arrears. "You'll have to wait and see," said Nikki R. Haley, the ambassador to the United Nations.

Mr. Trump's advisers made little mention of United Nations priorities like the so-called Global Goals set in 2015 to eliminate poverty and hunger, improve health and the environment, and reduce inequality and gender discrimination by 2030.

"The train has left the station, and he wants the train to come back to the station," said Sarah E. Mendelson, an ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council under Mr. Obama. "It's going to go on regardless of what the president does or doesn't say."

Mr. Trump will begin the week on Monday with a meeting on United Nations reform. He will meet with the leaders of France and Israel and host a dinner with Latin American leaders. On Tuesday, he will deliver his centerpiece speech to the General Assembly, have lunch with António Guterres, the United Nations secretary general, and meet with Miroslav Lajcak, the president of the General Assembly. He will also meet with the emir of Qatar and host a diplomatic reception.

On Wednesday, Mr. Trump will meet individually with the leaders of Britain, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority and host a luncheon with African leaders. On Thursday, he will meet with the leaders of Turkey, Afghanistan and Ukraine and host a lunch with the leaders of South Korea and Japan.

Ms. Haley said Mr. Trump would use his speech to lay down markers. "I personally think he slaps the right people, he hugs the right people, and he comes out with the US being very strong in the end," she said.

North Korea will be "front and center," Ms. Haley said, just days after the Security Council escalated sanctions in response to its latest nuclear and missile tests. "And at that point, there's not a whole lot the Security Council is going to be able to do," she said, and "I have no problem kicking it to General Mattis, because I think he has plenty of options," she added, referring to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

The lunch with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and President Moon Jae-in of South Korea could help determine the next steps. "They will also be looking to see if Trump is looking towards a long path with North Korea and looking towards diplomacy eventually," said Lisa Collins, a Korea scholar at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The president's schedule offers various subplots. While Mr. Obama used his first United Nations visit to bring together Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, Mr. Trump will meet with them separately on different days, and aides played down expectations of progress in his peacemaking initiative. Indeed, aides said the meeting with Mr. Netanyahu would probably focus more on Iran, with the Israeli leader pressing Mr. Trump to revise or scrap the nuclear agreement.

Mr. Trump will not meet with Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the new prime minister of Pakistan, after recently increasing pressure on the American ally to crack down on Taliban elements operating out of its territory. Instead, Vice President Mike Pence will take that meeting. Likewise, Mr. Trump is not scheduled to attend a meeting on climate change.

Many will watch Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson, who has been overshadowed by Ms. Haley, to see if he has influence or is on the way out. Mr. Tillerson is scheduled to meet with leaders or foreign ministers from Iraq, India, Russia and Myanmar, among others.

But to the extent world leaders evaluate the new president, Ms. Haley said they should be impressed. "They're going to find out we are going to be solid, we're going to be strong," she said. "No one is going to grip and grin. The United States is going to work."

The above article was taken from The New York Times.

British police arrest second man over London train bombing

A second man has been arrested over Friday's bombing of a London commuter train that injured 30 people and Britain remained on its highest level of alert on Sunday with soldiers helping provide security.

The 21-year-old man was detained under Britain's Terrorism Act in the west London suburb of Hounslow just before midnight on Saturday, the Metropolitan Police said in a statement, Reuters reported.

Police arrested an 18-year-old man in the departure lounge of Dover port earlier on Saturday in what they called a "significant" step and then raided a property in Sunbury, a town near London and about four miles (six kilometers) from Hounslow.

The homemade bomb shot flames through a packed train carriage at west London's Parsons Green Tube station during the Friday morning rush hour but apparently failed to detonate fully.



A forensic investigator walks away from a property being searched after a man was arrested in connection with an explosion on a London underground train on September 16, 2017.

Daesh claimed responsibility, as it has for other attacks in Britain this year, including two in London and one at a concert in Manchester in May.

Interior Minister Amber Rudd said on Sunday the second arrest indicated it was not a "lone-wolf" attack, but there was no evidence Daesh was involved.

"It is inevitable that Daesh will

reach in and try to claim responsibility. We have no evidence to suggest that yet," she told the BBC's Andrew Marr Show.

"But as this unfolds, and as the police do their investigations, we will make sure that we find out exactly how he was radicalized, if we can."

The bomb struck as passengers were traveling toward the center

of the British capital. Some suffered burns and others were hurt in a stampede to escape. Health officials said none was thought to be in a serious condition.

Prime Minister Theresa May put Britain on its highest security level of "critical" late on Friday, meaning another attack might be imminent. Soldiers and armed police were deployed to strategic locations such as nuclear power plants.

On Saturday, armed police patrolled the streets near government departments in Westminster and guarded Premier League soccer grounds hosting matches.

The last time Britain was put on "critical" alert was after a suicide bomber killed 22 people at the Ariana Grande concert.

On that occasion, the threat level remained at critical for four days while police established whether the bomber had worked alone or with others. Prior to that it had not been triggered since 2007.

A dozen Yemeni civilians killed in Saudi-led raid

Twelve Yemeni civilians including women and children have been killed in an air raid by the Saudi-led coalition northeast of the capital Sana'a, an official, residents and media said Sunday.

A local official told AFP the coalition air raid hit a vehicle carrying the 12 civilians in Hareeb al-Qaramessh in Marib Province, about 70 km (43 miles) northeast of Sana'a, AFP reported.

The news agency Saba also reported the attack, saying the vehicle was destroyed and all passengers killed.

Residents said four children and two women were among the victims.



AFP

The Saudi-led coalition, which has been waging a war against the Houthis since March 2015, has been repeatedly criticized for attacks on civilians.

Nearly 13,000 people have been killed, and millions displaced in the conflict which has pushed the impoverished country to the brink of famine.

A cholera outbreak has also claimed the lives of more than 1,800 people since April, with 400,000 suspected cases across the country, according to the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The United Nations warned in July that 80 percent of Yemen's children desperately needed aid in what the organization has called the "largest humanitarian crisis in the world."

Japan's PM Abe mulling snap election as early as Oct.: Media

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is considering calling a snap election as early as next month to take advantage of an uptick in approval ratings and disarray in the main opposition party, domestic media reported on Sunday.

Abe's ratings have recovered to the 50 percent level in some polls, helped by public jitters over North Korea's missile and nuclear tests and chaos in the opposition Democratic Party, struggling with single-digit support and defections, Reuters reported.

Abe told the head of his Liberal Democratic Party's junior coalition partner, the Komeito party, that he could not rule out dissolving parliament's lower house for a snap poll after the legislature convenes for an extra session from Sept. 28, public broadcaster NHK reported, citing unidentified informed sources.

"Until now, it appeared the election would be next autumn, but ... we must always be ready for battle," media quoted Komeito party chief Natsuo Yamaguchi as telling reporters on Saturday during a visit to Russia.

Speculation has mounted over a snap election on Oct. 22, when three by-elections are scheduled, although other possibilities are later in October or after US President Donald Trump makes a likely visit in early November, media said.

Abe's ratings had sunk below 30 percent in some surveys in July, battered by suspected cronyism scandals and a perception that he had grown arrogant after more than four years in office.

His popularity rebounded a bit after an early August cabinet reshuffle and has since been helped by worries over a vola-

tile North Korea, which on Friday fired a ballistic missile over Japan, its second such move in less than a month.

"If we have a snap election now, we need to explain it to the public, including how we will cope with the threat from North Korea," said Koichi Hagiuda, a senior LDP executive, according to NHK. As Japan faces its first impending major security crisis since World War II, it is vital to secure public understanding, he said.

No general election need be held until late 2018, and calling a snap poll could spark criticism that he was creating a political vacuum amid rising regional security tensions.

But an early vote would not only take advantage of Democratic Party disarray but also dilute a challenge from an embryonic party that allies of popular Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, an ex-LDP lawmaker, are trying to form.

Abe's coalition would likely lose its two-thirds "super majority" in the lower house, but keep a simple majority, political sources have said.

Loss of the two-thirds grip would dim prospects Abe can achieve his controversial goal of revising Japan's pacifist constitution to clarify the military's role. Any constitutional amendment requires approval by two-thirds of both chambers and a majority in a public referendum.

That risk could make Abe hesitate.

"I am skeptical about the consensus that Abe will call a snap election because doing so poses a risk, albeit small, to his agenda of constitutional revision," said Jeffrey Kingston, director of Asian studies at Temple University Japan.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Iran's light crude rises to \$53 per barrel

Prices for Iran's light crude climbed by more than one dollar trading at \$53 per barrel in the week leading to September 8.

Iran's Oil Ministry reported that in the seven days to September 8, light crude prices went up by \$1.48 climbing to reach \$52.41 per barrel while the average figure for Iranian crude has remained at \$49.17 since the beginning of 2017, Mehr News Agency wrote.



energyfuss.org

In the meantime, price figures for Iran's heavy crude moved up to \$50.69 indicating a \$2.18 upswing compared to prices for the earlier week.

The price of OPEC basket also rocketed by 2.12 cents surging to a \$51.68 per barrel.

Over the same time span, West Texas Intermediate and Brent crude oil prices grew by \$1.64 and \$1.66 to stand at \$48.34 and \$53.94 respectively.

Dubai and Oman crude oil barrels were also traded at \$52.52 and \$52.38 in the week to September 08 after respectively snowballing by \$2.15 and \$2.26 cents.

Official: Iran starts handicraft exports to US, Europe

Iran has recently begun exporting handicrafts to some Western countries, including the United States and Britain, announced an official with Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) on Saturday.

Director General of ICHHTO's Handicrafts Exports Department Pouya Mahmoodian told Trend News Agency that Iran has managed to record a 'dramatic' increase in the export of handicrafts not only to the Persian Gulf littoral states but also to some European countries, according to Tasnim News Agency.



majlesta.ir

"Among the European Union countries, Germany holds the biggest share of our handicraft exports," she noted.

"After many years, we succeeded in exporting products to the US, Britain, the Netherlands, and Spain," she added.

Iran has stepped up efforts in recent years to increase non-oil exports and cut dependence on oil revenues.

There was also a boom in Iran's service exports in diverse sectors, including tourism, engineering, and transit.

IME weekly trading records 14% growth

Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) announced that commodities valued at over \$295.5 million and weighing over 506,830 tons were traded in its domestic trading and exports halls showing a growth of 14 percent and eight percent respectively in value and volume during the working week which ended on September 14.

The exchange said its domestic and exports halls traded in 98,910 tons of bitumen, 62,203 tons of polymer products, 18,959 tons of chemical products, 4,700 tons of sulfur, 622 tons of insulation and 20 tons of argon during the period, ISNA reported.

In addition, its agricultural trading hall also dealt in 3,500 tons of sugar, 667 tons of feed barley, 26,050 tons wheat and 110,500 day-old chicks valued at over \$9.8 million during the week.

Also, the exchange conducted transactions in 158,945 tons of steel products, 3,200 tons of copper, 140 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 4,000 tons of aluminum valued at \$138 million in the past week.

The IME was set up on September 20, 2007 in accordance with Article 95 of the new law of Securities Market of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the merger of agricultural and metal exchanges of Tehran.

The merger marked a new chapter in Iran's capital market providing endless trading opportunities for customers both at home and abroad.

Iran's biggest car producer gears up for hybrid, electric cars

Iran's largest car producer, Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), is planning to launch the production of hybrid and electric cars in the near future, said an official with the company.

Speaking to Trend News Agency, Head of IKCO's Public Relations Office Morteza Aghaei said, "Iran Khodro has concluded a multilateral deal with several domestic universities and state bodies as well as foreign partners, including Italy's Pminfarina, to manufacture hybrid and electric cars."

The company hopes to launch the production of the hybrid and electric cars within the next three years.

The key players of the automotive industry have recently voiced interest in putting an end to the production of diesel and gasoline cars.

Earlier this month, China signaled that it might soon join the UK and France in prohibiting combustion engine cars.

Iran's sedan car output registered a rise of 20 percent during the five months to August 21 to stand at 496,833 units.

According to the Industry Ministry, Iran Khodro accounted for 273,441 units of the total number of cars manufactured during the five-month period which is an increase of 16.8 percent year-on-year.

Meanwhile Saipa, the second largest Iranian auto-maker, manufactured 134,684 units recording a rise of 21 percent compared to the figure for the same period of the preceding year.



MEHR NEWS AGENCY

Iran cuts rail freight tariffs to benefit India-Russia route

Iran has reduced tariffs for goods transportation by 50 percent in order to attract cargo transportation via the International North-South Transport Corridor-Express from India to Russia, said a senior official in Islamic Republic of Iran Railways.

According to Mehr News Agency, Iranian Railroad Company's Director General for International Affairs, Abbas Nazari told a conference on INSTC in India on Saturday, "It is clear to all that the North-South Corridor, with agreement of Iran, India and Russia, was defined 17 years ago while goods and commodities are presently being transported to Europe via the Suez Canal."

He added, "Due to ongoing problems in Yemen, insurance for goods transport has increased on the rail route."

He said the Astara route has been completed in Azerbaijan territory, adding, "Astara bridge has been constructed on Astara-Astrakhan River connecting the two countries as well as that the Astara route on the Iranian side will soon come on stream."

Nazari said the Qazvin-Rasht route extending for 163km has witnessed a physical progress of 96 percent and the remaining section will be completed within three months.

He underlined that the construction of Astara-Rasht railroad involved an investment of \$1 billion.

The official stated that several meetings had been held with Azerbaijani and Russian railway authorities which led to the signing of a number of documents and mem-

oranda for 2017 and a five-way memorandum of understanding has been recently inked between Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Ukraine and Poland for transportation on the route.

The official pointed to the need for unified management of the corridor for its operation and then economic, and said it was necessary to specify the volume of cargo to be transported along the corridor, type of goods, origin and destination, as well as all relevant information.

INSTC is a 7,200-km multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road route for moving freight between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia. The route primarily involves moving freight from India, Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia via ship, rail and road.

The objective of the corridor is to increase trade connectivity between major cities such as Mumbai, Moscow, Tehran, Baku, Bandar Abbas, Astrakhan, Bandar Anzali, etc. Dry runs of two routes were conducted in 2014 -- the first was Mumbai to Baku via Bandar Abbas while the second was Mumbai to Astrakhan via Bandar Abbas, Tehran and Bandar Anzali.

The study aims to identify and address key bottlenecks. The results showed that transportation costs were reduced by \$2,500 per 15 tons of cargo.



Regus launches first flagship location in Tehran

Regus launched their first flagship location in the Iranian capital in partnership with EDGE Business Group.

Regus Tehran just opened on the top floor of the prestigious Sayeh Tower on Valiasr Avenue, which is considered one of Tehran's main thoroughfares and commercial centers. Benefits of the local area include five-star hotels, top restaurants, banks and shopping centers in addition to Mellat (Nation) Park just opposite the building.

The center will meet the growing demand for world-class office space in what many business analysts call the world's largest untapped market since the fall of the Soviet Union.

GDP growth in the MENA region's second largest economy is expected to hit 4.5 percent by the end of the year and as Iran's economy goes from strength to strength after the landmark nuclear deal in 2016, it is becoming one of the most exciting markets for foreign companies and global brands.

For both new and established busi-

nesses, workspace can be a big challenge both in terms of cost and long-term commitment. Businesses in the bustling capital Tehran will now be able to enjoy the benefits of flexible working as Regus adds Iran to its global network of over 120 countries.

"It is exciting to see Regus coming to Iran and its presence there is testament to Iran being a thriving hub for business. Both local and international businesses will be able to benefit from this high quality and ultra-modern workspace, whether they are looking to expand an existing business or start up a new one," said Dr. Mohsen Talea, a senior board advisor to Edge Business Group, Regus's local partner in Iran.

Workspace costs can be 5-10 percent of a company's turnover but through a flexible working solution they will be able to set up quickly and conveniently in a modern and engaging environment that provides all the facilities they need on top of a high level of service. With no long-term leases to worry about,

any business looking to expand or grow in this market can scale up and down quickly based on their needs.

Mark Dixon, chief executive of Regus, said: "Modern, dynamic businesses need to be able to work where they want and when they want, so I am very excited we are adding Iran to a growing global network. Whether you are multinational global corporation or a start-up, more than ever before you need flexibility, agility and the right location to succeed. Now firms in Iran or visitors can join over two million Regus customers who enjoy those benefits as part of our international network of over 100 countries."

Regus Iran is proud to offer comprehensive business solutions in partnership and collaboration with EDGE Business Group to all local and international companies with businesses in Iran.

The official launch ceremony took place on September 13, 2017 attended by government leaders, local business leaders, foreign companies' representa-

tives and guests from the chambers of commerce and foreign diplomatic corps in Tehran.

About Regus

The Regus Group is the world's largest provider of outsourced workplaces for more than three million corporate companies of any size including some of the most successful entrepreneurs, individuals and multi-billion dollar corporations and more than half of 500 fortune companies such as Microsoft, Google, AOL, Amazon, General Electric, IBM, SAP, HP and etc. The Regus network includes almost 3000 business centers, spanning almost 900 cities across 120 countries. Through our range of office formats, as well as our growing mobile, virtual office, and workplace recovery businesses, we enable people and businesses to work where they want, when they want, how they want, and at a range of price points.

Austria's present strong economy will continue into autumn, though growth momentum appears to have reached its peak, Bank Austria stated in a press release.

Weakest eurozone economies on long road to recovery



forex.info

President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker's hailing of Europe's economic recovery came in terms that would have been unimaginable at the height of the eurozone debt crisis in 2010.

Back then, the focus of concern was on a handful of countries that ultimately required bailouts — Greece, Portugal and Ireland — or hovered on the edge of needing rescue, in the case of Spain and Italy. Here is the current state of play with those countries' economies. The Guardian wrote.

Portugal

As it leaves behind the painful memory of its €78 billion bailout in 2011, Portugal is on the brink of the fastest economic expansion for two decades. For the government of Prime Minister António Costa, economic success came after relinquishing the austerity straitjacket imposed by the EU and International Monetary Fund between 2011 and 2014.

Public sector wages and pensions have been restored to pre-crisis levels but the government is likely to face future conflict with the EU, as Brussels seeks action to reduce Portugal's debts.

Ireland

Despite the storm clouds of Brexit on the horizon,

the Bank of Ireland continues to forecast growth for the Irish economy, albeit at a lower rate. Under the bonnet, however, not everyone is convinced by this growth story. Former prime minister Enda Kenny was voted out of office this year because not enough voters sensed a recovery.

A growth spurt of 26 percent in 2015 was branded 'leprechaun economics'. Large multinationals seeking to protect their profits moved intellectual property into Ireland, with no change in the real economy. Ireland's exchequer remains highly dependent on a few large companies, leaving the economy in a vulnerable position.

Greece

Take a snapshot of Greece and it might appear the economy is on the mend: Factories are expanding production, people are finding jobs. But a closer look reveals the country is scarred by the economic crisis that saw its economy contract by 25 percent.

More than a fifth of working-age adults and 45 percent of young people are out of work. Greece's colossal debt burden weighs on the economy, while creditors' demands for high budget surpluses are deemed unrealistic by many economists. Despite hopes of light at the end of the austerity tunnel, true recovery looks set to remain elusive.

Spain

Spain is one of the brightest spots in the eurozone: In July 2017, the bloc's fourth-largest economy returned to its pre-crisis size. Unemployment is falling rapidly, although at 17 percent it remains high. Some economists cite Spain as a model for France, after Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy introduced reforms that made it easier to fire workers (seen as a stimulus for hiring by some experts).

But Spain still has the highest unemployment rate in Europe barring Greece. Inequality has risen and wage growth remains depressed.

Italy

The eurozone's third-largest economy is benefiting from the upswing across the continent, but concerns have not disappeared. In Italy, unemployment is falling and factories are stepping up production, thanks to stronger demand.

Meanwhile, the bailout of Italy's oldest bank and the rescue of two lenders has boosted confidence. The economy, however, is still weighed down by bad debts: the total of non-performing loans amounts to €174 billion (€153 billion), according to Bloomberg.

A bigger question is whether Italy, facing elections in 2018, can forge a political consensus to undertake long-sought reforms, such as improving productivity, reducing debts and increasing funds for universities.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	83916.6	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	72945.1	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	91224.6	3826	4.27
First Market Index	58292.2	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	185659.9	2030.5	1.14

Overall Index details on 20170917

First	83683.3	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	83916.6	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	83732.0	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	83916.6	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

Industry Index details on 20170917

First	72722.0	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	72945.1	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	72675.1	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	72945.1	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

Free Float Index details on 20170917

First	91189.2	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	91224.6	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

Main Board Index details on 20170917

First	58215.6	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	58292.2	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	58292.2	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

Secondary Index details on 20170917

First	184800.7	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	185659.9	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	185659.9	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2235.2		

Nearly 40 percent of small businesses never reopen after a disaster like a hurricane. Disaster planning can make a difference.

One of the hard lessons many small businesses are learning after the devastating impacts of hurricanes Harvey and Irma is that a disaster plan is essential — even if you think you'll never need to use it, CNBC wrote.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), almost 40 percent of small businesses never reopen their doors after a disaster. Recent data from a CNBC/SurveyMonkey Small Business Survey also shows that most small business owners don't spend too much time thinking about the environment as a critical factor.

Eight percent of business owners in the second quarter survey said the environment is the factor that most matters to them.

The percentage goes down for business owners in the South Atlantic (five percent) and West South Central (six percent). Jobs and the economy, healthcare, terrorism, immigration and "other" ranked higher.

Meanwhile, business owners in the South Atlantic (64 percent) and West South Central (62 percent) said they expected revenue to increase in the next year, the highest level of sales confidence among owners in all US regions.

Having a disaster plan in place might not prevent the worst-case scenario, but it could increase a company's odds of survival.

A little bit of work now can pay off down the road. Here are some things a

Hurricane alert: Why 40 percent of small businesses never recover from a disaster



bradenton.com

small business may want to focus on.

Keep your company records in the cloud

Some disasters, like a hurricane, give you time to collect important items before you flee. Others, like a fire, offer no warning whatsoever. Things like invoices, contracts, tax returns, budgets and insurance policies are essential to businesses, though. And some will be critically important when you're dealing with an

insurance company or applying for relief funds.

Mike Crincoli, president of The Neat Company, a document scanning/cloud storage company that caters to small businesses, said, "A lot of small businesses don't have a process to protect themselves. Things like expenses and contacts and client data are very important, so it's essential they have a system to protect their records," he said.

"It's very important to stay ahead of it."

Establish policies for employees, vendors, customers

The ripple effect of a disaster on a business can be easily overlooked, as owners focus entirely on rebuilding or reopening. Insurance might cover your immediate financial losses, but you'll also need to have a plan in place to hang onto customers and other business relationships during that rebuilding phase.

And you don't want to lose your best employees either, even if you're unable to pay them during the closure.

The Department of Homeland Security's Ready.gov website said, "News travels fast and perceptions often differ from reality. Businesses need to reach out to customers and other stakeholders quickly. Customers expect delivery of products or services on time. If there is a significant delay, customers may go to a competitor."

The American Red Cross suggested three separate plans for employees, suppliers and clients. For customers, be sure to have contact numbers for everyone and set up a communications infrastructure. Also, have a clear plan that's communicated to your workers on how their payroll and leave would be affected by a disaster.

Develop a continuity plan

The heart of a disaster plan is a continuity plan, since it helps businesses continue operating even after an emergency. First, identify which operations are essential (or time-critical), and designate which employees will carry those out. This may require some cross-training of employees in advance (which can also come in handy if you an essential staffer leaves for another job).

World Chinese entrepreneurs meet in Myanmar for business convention

The 14th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) kicked off on Saturday, gathering more than 2,000 overseas Chinese business leaders to discuss plans of business expansion.

Vice President of the China Overseas Exchange Association Xu Yousheng read out a congratulatory message from Yu Zhengsheng, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Xinhua reported.

Myanmar, located along the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, is linked with China by mountains and rivers, and has forged the "paokhaph" or brotherly

friendship with China, Yu said in the message.

Under the theme of 'An Opening Economy in Myanmar, A New Epoch in History', the four-day convention is hosted by the Myanmar Chinese Chamber of Commerce with Wu Jiyuan (U Myint Shwe) as general chair.

With strong support from the Myanmar government, the WCEC is aimed at pushing the regional economic development in line with the world's changing economy and bridging world's Chinese entrepreneurs for cooperation.

It is also set to make use of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the China-proposed

'Belt and Road Initiative' to jointly explore the future development trend and space of Chinese businessmen as well as the world and Myanmar's economy.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Myanmar First Vice President U Myint Swe expressed delight at seeing the overseas Chinese entrepreneurs in Myanmar making linkages with business contacts in various countries around the world and contributing to the economic development of Myanmar.

Noting that Myanmar is participating in the 'Belt and Road Initiative', U Myint Swe said the strategic location of Myanmar will contribute to the success of the initiative.

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

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was commemorated in Tehran on Sunday (September 17) in a ceremony attended by senior state officials and the UN representative in Iran.

Electric car prototype is built for Africa's rural roads

With a few exceptions, most electric cars are delicate, expensive creatures designed for paved streets and well-heeled early adopters. And that makes them ill-suited to rural Africa — many roads away from the cities aren't paved at all, and just about any EV would be out of reach.



alocdn.com

That's where the Technical University of Munich comes into play. It recently revealed a prototype electric vehicle, the aCar, that's designed for both the conditions and uses of rural Africa, engadget wrote.

It has a rugged, four-wheel drive design that can handle dirt roads and off-roading. It only has about 50 miles of range, but the very nature of an electric motor makes it both well-suited to clearing obstacles (since it always has full torque) and more reliable. Also, it's modular — it can switch between carrying passengers and cargo, and you can even use the battery to power a winch or other equipment beyond the car.

The aCar completed real-world tests in Ghana this July, and it's already expected to go into production (eventually in Africa) with a target price below €10,000 (about \$11,944). That's not a trivial expense, but it's far more affordable than the Nissan Leaf and other vehicles that wouldn't be as well-suited to the African landscape.

Marivan, Sirjan registered as world cities of handicrafts

World Crafts Council has registered the Iranian cities of Marivan and Sirjan as well as the village of Kalporgan for their well-known handicrafts.

Bahman Namvar-Modaq, deputy head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, said on

Sunday that the World Crafts Council had sent inspectors to Marivan in the western province of Kurdistan, Sirjan in the southern province of Kerman and to Kalporgan in the south-eastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province to conduct studies, presstv.ir wrote.

Following reports submitted

by the inspectors, the council members voted to register Marivan and Sirjan as the world cities of rugs and traditional shoes known as 'kalash' respectively, as well as Kalporgan as the world village of pottery, he said.

The official hoped that other Iranian cities would be nominated for the title in the future.

Mashhad, Lalejin, Isfahan and Tabriz were earlier recorded as the world cities of gemstones, pottery, handicrafts and hand-woven carpets, respectively.

Iran now holds the first rank in terms of the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council.



aranick.com



cdninstagram.com



heravi-carpet.ir



wikimedia.org



givedoz.ir

Time ticking as nations meet on Paris climate deal

Environment ministers from some 30 countries gathered in Montreal to push forward on implementing the Paris climate accord without the United States, three months after President Donald Trump walked out on the deal.

Called by Canada, China and the European Union, the summit was taking place 30 years to the day after the signature of the Montreal

Protocol on protecting the ozone layer — which Canada's environment minister hailed as a multi-lateral 'success story' by governments, NGOs and ordinary citizens jointly tackling a major global threat, phys.org wrote.

Catherine McKenna said, "We have an opportunity to accomplish even more with the Paris agreement. 'Changes are real, extreme

weather events are more frequent, more powerful and more distressful.' She pointed at the devastation wrought by mega-storms such as Harvey and Irma which many climate scientists believe are boosted by global warming.

"We are here together and we need to act together," the Canadian minister said.

The summit was attended by more

than half the G20 members as well as some of the nations most vulnerable to climate change — from the low-lying Marshall Islands and Maldives to impoverished Mali and Ethiopia.

Nearly 200 countries agreed in Paris in December 2015 to curb carbon dioxide emissions with the aim of limiting the rise in average global temperatures to 1.5°C by 2050, compared to preindustrial levels.



phys.org

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

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Apt in Diplomatic Tower in Elahieh
8th floor, 140 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., fully furn, nice balcony, spj gym saloon, parking, lobby security, \$3600
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Apt in Mahmoodieh
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Ms.Sara 09128103207

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Beautiful Apt in Zafaranieh
5th floor, 350 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., nice furn, unbelievable view balcony with flower boxes spj, diplomatic, \$7000
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Villa

Villa in Zafaranieh
600 sq.m, 5 Bdrs., fully furn renovated, outdoor pool \$8000
Suitable for Embassy & Residency
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Villa in Shahrak Qarb duplex villa, 630 Sq.m, 5 Bdrs., one extra Suit with 300 sq.m apt with 3 Bdrs., garden, outdoor pool, renovated, too many parking spaces, security furn & unfurn \$15000
Suitable for Residency & Embassy
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Duplex Villa in Mahmoodieh
550 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., parking & sauna, with convenient access to Valiasr and Palladium \$7000
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Villa in Dibaji
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Suitable for Residency
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Suitable for foreign companies
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Whole building in Jordan
each floor 126 sq.m, duplex store open space, full glass, smart AC furn/unfurn, storage, 900 sq.m pkg, suitable for companies to use as Office
Each floor available for Sale & Rent
Ms.Sara 09128103207

New Whole Building in Elahieh
5th floor, totally 9 Apts, 9 Bdrs., equipped kitchen, parking, good access to highway, \$15000
Suitable for Residency & Embassy
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Luxury Office in Valiasr Jordan
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Nice Apt in Zafaranieh
4th floor, 130 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., completely renovated, luxury furn, cozy & diplomatic, near to Paladium, \$2300
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Super luxury new Apt in Elahieh
2nd floor, 140 sq.m, 2 master rooms, nice view, full of diplomats, spj, gym saloon lobby, green garden furn/unfurn, parking, \$3700
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1st floor, 270 sq.m, 3Bdrs., fully furn, diplomatic, nice and cozy \$3000
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Apt in Zafaranieh
260 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., nice furn quit & cozy, parking, \$3300
Suitable for Foreigners
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Office in Valiasr
from 250 sq.m up to 7000 sq.m commercial office, ready for renting to foreign companies lobby, parking lot, good access to highway
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مالکین محترم
ویلاي شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر
و مدیران شرکت های بین المللی
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

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

Monitoring hypertension

Having a lower education level and no spouse is associated with a lower frequency of home blood pressure monitoring, according to new research.

Study warns of danger of riding playground slide with children



womansday.com

A new study found that while young kids may feel safer going down a slide on a parent's lap, this common practice actually raises their risk for harm.

Quoting lead researcher Dr. Charles Jennissen, a pediatric emergency staff physician at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, UPI reported, "Many parents and caregivers go down a slide with a young child on their lap without giving it a second thought.

"And in most cases I have seen, the parents had no idea that doing so could possibly give their child such a significant injury.

"They often say they would never

have done it had they known."

For the study, the researchers checked a national database of injuries treated in emergency departments across the US.

The investigators identified more than 350,000 playground slide injuries involving children younger than six years old that occurred from 2002 through 2015.

Of these injuries, 59 percent involved boys. Some of the children had cuts. More than one-third of children who landed in the ER after going down a slide on an adult's lap had broken a bone, the study showed.

The researchers noted these breaks

usually involved the child's lower leg.

Lower leg injuries can result when a child's foot gets caught on the edge or the bottom of the slide, causing it to twist or bend backwards, according to the researchers.

In most cases, these injuries involve toddlers aged 12 months to 23 months, the study authors found.

Slide injuries are more likely to occur when children are riding with a parent because the added weight of an adult increases their forward momentum.

If children use a slide alone, however, their smaller size and weight are unlikely to result in a severe leg

injury, Jennissen and colleagues explained.

Adults and teens should not go down slides with a child on their lap, the researchers advised.

Those who choose to do so anyway should be particularly careful about making sure children's feet do not get caught on any part of the slide.

The study findings were scheduled for presentation at the American Academy of Pediatrics meeting in Chicago on September 18.

Findings presented at meetings should be considered preliminary until they've been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Dietary habits to blame for toothache

Your mother was right: The condition of your teeth depends on your dietary and oral hygiene habits, not your genes, according to a new study that looked at the role that genes and the oral microbiome play in the formation of cavities.

Quoting senior author Karen Nelson, president of the J. Craig Venter Institute, news.xinhuanet.com wrote, "Limiting sugar consumption and acid buildup in the mouth have been part of the dogma of the dental community for some time.



consumeronlinereport.com

"This work introduces specific taxa of bacteria that can be acquired through the environment and that have the ability to induce cavities."

For a long time, Streptococcus bacteria in the mouth have been linked to the formation of cavities.

In the new study, the investigators took a closer look at specific taxa that are important by profiling the oral microbiomes of 485 twin pairs — 280 fraternal twins and 205 identical twins — between the ages of five and 11.

Identical and fraternal twins are a popular method used to separate the role of heritability versus the environment.

Identical twins result from one egg that's been split in two at some time during early pregnancy, whereas fraternal twins result from two separate eggs.

Nelson explained, "We decided to focus on children because we hypothesized two things — that the oral microbiome rapidly changes with age and also that child twin pairs are likely to have a shared environment.

"This allowed us to better control the influence of shared and unique environments."

Their results showed that identical twins had oral microbiomes that were more similar to each other than those of fraternal twins, indicating that there is genetic contribution to which kinds of bacteria are likely to be present in the mouth.

However, the taxa that were linked most closely to heritability were not the ones that play a role in cavity formation, they noted.

In addition, they found that the heritable strains of bacteria decrease in abundance as people get older, whereas the ones linked to the environment increase.

The team said, "An important additional finding was the link between certain bacterial species and sugar consumption.

"Bacteria that were associated with fewer cavities were in lower abundance in twins who had a lot of added sugar in their food and drinks."

"In contrast, bacteria that are more common in children who consume a lot of sugar were associated with having more cavities."

The team planned to continue studying the twins over repeat visits to examine changing patterns in the oral microbiome.

They are also looking at functional differences in the oral microbiomes of identical and fraternal twin pairs that have various states of oral health.

Flu Jab: Is it useless for older people?



biocareusa.com

The annual flu jab can offer little or no protection against the virus in older people, research suggested.

Figures published in the British Medical Journal indicates the £160 million winter public health campaign may have been a waste of money for those over 65, its principal target, express.co.uk wrote.

Now the government's Joint Council on Vaccination and Immunization is discussing plans to abandon the jab for pensioners and replace it with something it hopes will be more effective.

The present vaccine has components altered each year to bring about immunity to the three strains that are most likely to be circulating.

Now experts are considering introducing a boosted jab

with more active ingredients.

This follows Public Health England figures, revealed in a recent BMJ paper, which show having the vaccine did not reduce the chance pensioners developing the illness at all last year.

In 2015-16, the same government data source showed the vaccine was more effective, reducing the risk of an elderly person having the virus by 29 percent.

But the year before — 2014/15 — their risk was reduced by just three percent.

Minutes of the last meeting of the joint council suggested a new vaccine would be considered for next year concluding in those aged between 18 and 64, vaccine effectiveness was 'modest for all strains', and those aged 65 years and

over 'effectiveness was even lower.'

Professor Robert Dingwall, an expert in influenza and social sciences at Nottingham Trent University who has examined the latest figures, said, "We need to take this seriously and ask some critical questions about what is going on here.

"The evidence vaccine prevents older people getting influenza is not good enough and the vaccination program may be wasting valuable NHS money."

Andrew Easton, a professor of virology at Warwick, said, "A judgement should be made about replacing this vaccine in the current climate of limited the National Health Service (NHS) budget."

Dr. Richard Peabody head

of respiratory viruses and influenza Public Health England, said that the recommendation remained that people over 65 have the current flu jab.

He said it did provide important protection.

"The vaccine didn't work as well as we'd hoped last year, but we know season on season the effectiveness of the vaccine varies.

"There is currently work going on to understand what happened and to use better vaccines but the vaccination program is important in that it will provide some protection and we recommend the over 65's get your jab."

The news comes as the NHS braces for a major flu outbreak amid fears of a virulent strain brought in from Australia.

Stop hitting the snooze button and get better sleep

Hitting the snooze button repeatedly inflicts 'cardiovascular assault' on the body and abuses your nervous system, a neuroscientist warned.

Professor Matthew Walker, who teaches at the University of California's Center for Human Sleep Science, has issued a slew of advice for people who struggle nod-

ding off, as it's revealed that 39 percent of Brits sleep for less than seven hours each night — despite mainstream research recommending a minimum of eight, independent.co.uk wrote.

Sleeping for less than six or seven hours a night has been linked to a myriad of health problems, including depression, Alzheimer's and anxiety.

Not to mention the numerous studies which link sleep deprivation to weight gain.

In addition to abandoning the snooze button, Walker also



zimbardo.com

combine seven hours of sleep at night with a 30- to 60-minute nap during the day.

Known in some European cultures as a siesta, Walker said that while napping may momentarily boost alertness, it cannot support complex cognitive functions — such as decision making and emotional stability — in the long run.

Walker noted, "However, hitting the snooze button on your alarm clock may be the worst offender when it comes to sleep deprivation.

"If alarming your heart, quite literally, were not bad enough, using the snooze feature means you will repeatedly inflict that cardiovascular assault again and again within a short span of time."

If you use an alarm clock, the professor suggested disabling the snooze function and adapting to waking up at the first sound of your alarm.

Rise and shine, people.

Carbohydrates on the surface of malaria parasites play a critical role in malaria's ability to infect mosquito hosts, improving the only malaria vaccine approved to protect people against *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria.

Tectonic plates weaker than previously thought

A new study suggested tectonic plates are weaker than previously thought.

The findings, shared in the journal *Science Advances*, explain the discrepancy between rock strength tests in the lab and real world observations of tectonic rocks. UPI wrote.

Lab experiments suggested tectonic plates — which are composed of olivine-rich rocks — were surprisingly strong, but the test results didn't always jive with what scientists were seeing and measuring in the natural world.



UPI
New rock strength testing techniques suggest tectonic plates are weaker than previously thought.

The discrepancy has long limited scientists' understanding of how tectonic plates break and form boundaries.

Lars Hansen, an Earth scientist at Oxford University, said, "Furthermore, the estimates of rock strength from laboratory experiments exhibit considerable variability, reducing confidence in using experiments to estimate rock properties."

A new analysis method called nanoindentation helped researchers get a more accurate measurement of the strength of tectonic rocks.

The results of the new analysis showed olivine-rich rocks can appear strong at smaller scales but break more easily at larger scales.

Hansen explained, "Variability among previous estimates of strength is a result of a special length-scale within the rocks — that is, the strength depends on the volume of material being tested."

"To determine this we used nanoindentation experiments in which a microscopic diamond stylus is pressed into the surface of an olivine crystal."

"These experiments reveal that the strength of the crystal depends on the size of the indentation."

In the lab, scientists have mostly tested synthetic rocks with smaller crystals than are found in nature. As a result, many tests overestimated the strength of olivine-rich rocks.

Researchers hope the new findings will help them better understand a variety of tectonic phenomena.

Hansen said, "For instance, we now know that the evolution of stresses on earthquake-generating faults likely depends on the size of the individual crystals that make up the rocks involved."

"In addition, flexing of plates under the weight of volcanoes or large ice sheets, a process intimately linked to sea level on Earth, will also ultimately depend on crystal size."

Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi bets on spike in electric cars

The Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance is betting that mass-market drivers are going to pivot soon to electric cars, announcing plans to produce 12 new electric models by 2022 and to make electric cars 30 percent of its overall output.

The carmakers — who collectively sold more vehicles than any other company in the world in the first half of this year — also announced plans to make "robo-taxis," driverless public transport vehicles and autonomous cars aimed at middle-class consumers, according to *phys.org*.

The announcements are part of an overall strategic plan released, aimed at taking advantage of the alliance's growing reach after taking over Mitsubishi last year to consolidate its position and make electric and driverless cars more affordable.

They also unveiled a new logo for the three-way alliance and renamed it Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi.

CEO Carlos Ghosn is betting that upcoming government restrictions on diesel and gasoline cars will push drivers to go electric instead.

"We don't know how much time it's going to take... but this is coming."

Britain and France have decided to ban new diesel and gasoline car sales from 2040 and China is considering a similar move.

He added, "People are looking a little bit further in the future, saying, I am going to go electric because I don't want to have the problem with the car I have today three, four years down the road."

All major car companies are trying to position themselves to profit from the expected but unpredictable and chaotic changes overtaking the industry: Autonomous cars, connected cars that share data, car-sharing where you don't own a vehicle but order one by

app, and low-emissions vehicles demanded by the European Union to fight climate change and by China, where many cities are fighting rampant pollution.

At the Frankfurt auto show last week, several car manufacturers vied for electric and other low-emissions technology strategies.

Volkswagen AG notably announced a long-term electrification campaign, saying its brands would introduce 80 new electric vehicles by 2025.

Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi aims to increase the range of its electric cars to more than 600 kilometers, smaller batteries and speeded-up charging time.

It wants 15 minutes of charging time to allow 230 kilometers (140 miles)

of range — up from 90 kilometers (55 miles) of range now.

Nissan was at first a leader in electric car with the Leaf, but it has been overtaken by GM's Bolt in terms of range and even the new Leaf does not quite catch up.

Ghosn said electric car sales are growing by more than 50 percent annually in some European markets, and that his alliance is watching China's emissions policies closely.

At a conference in Paris, the alliance announced that through 2022 it will also expand development of vehicles with different levels of autonomous technology, starting with partial human monitoring and ending with a fully driverless car that can ride on

highways. It said it is seeking to be a 'key operator' of driverless ride-hailing services and to provide autonomous vehicles for public transit and car-sharing. It did not provide specific targets or potential partners.

Ghosn said the alliance is aiming to save \$10 billion (about \$12 billion annually) by 2022, notably by sharing more production platforms, purchasing and engineering, and through 'human resources'.

He didn't elaborate on where potential job cuts might hit.

He said that the carmakers aim to boost annual sales to \$240 billion and to sell 14 million cars a year by 2022, up from 10 million in 2016.



phys.org
Japan on September 6, 2017.
Nissan President and CEO Hiroto Saikawa unveils its new Leaf electric vehicle during the world premiere in China.

Study: Star formation influenced by environmental conditions

Scientists at Niels Bohr Institute at the University of Copenhagen have determined that new star formation is influenced by local environmental conditions.

According to the classical model, a star is formed when a prestellar core — a roundish accumulation containing 99 percent gas and one percent dust, collapses due to over-

weight — resulting in the formation of a star in the center of the collapse, UPI reported.

This is followed by the formation of a disk of gas and dust rotating around the star.

Researchers from the institute carried out computer simulations of the formation of hundreds of stars, to select nine stars representing vari-

ous regions in space for more detailed modeling.

Their findings suggest idealized models are lacking in describing details in the process of star formation.

Küffmeier added, "We started by studying the step before the prestellar cores. "And when you have a go at that via computer simulations, you will inevitably have to deal with Giant Molecular Clouds — which are regions in space dense with gas and dust; regions, where star formation takes place."

The team examined the on all sides. Küffmeier said, "The researchers analyzed the nine different stars in this giant molecular cloud and in each case we gathered new knowledge about the formation of this particular star."

"Since we worked in different regions of a giant molecular cloud, the results from the stars examined revealed differences in e.g. disk formation and disk size, which can be attributed to the influence exerted by local environmental conditions."

"In this sense we have gone beyond the classical understanding of star formation." Researchers found that the influence of magnetic fields and turbulence play vital roles in the formation of a star.

Küffmeier noted, "We are able to see how important the environment is for the star formation process. "We have thus started on the path to make realistic, quantitative models of the formation of stars and planet, and we will continue digging deeper into this."

"One of the things we would like to examine has to do with the fate of dust in protoplanetary disks — we want to know how dust and gas are separated, allowing in the end planets to form."

Researcher reveals shocking truth about electric eels

Kenneth Catania knows just how much it hurts to be zapped by an electric eel.

For the first time, the biologist at Vanderbilt University in Nashville has measured the strength of a defensive electrical attack on a real-life potential predator — himself, *sciencenews.org* reported.

Catania placed his arm in a tank with a 40-centimeter-long electric eel (relatively small as eels go) and determined, in amperes, the electrical current that flowed into him when the eel struck.

At its peak, the current reached 40 to 50 milliamperes in his arm, he reports online September 14 in *Current Biology*.

This zap was painful enough to cause him to jerk his hand from the tank during each trial.

He said, "If you've ever been on a farm and touched an electric fence, it's pretty similar to that."

This is Catania's latest study in a body of research analyzing the intricacies of an electric eel's behavior.

Jason Gallant, a biologist who heads the Michigan State University Electric Fish Lab in East Lansing, said, "The way electric eels have been described by biologists in the past has been fairly primitive."

Catania's work reveals that what the electric eel is doing is taking the electric ability that it has and using that to its absolute advantage

in a very sophisticated, deliberate way.

Electric eels use electric current to navigate, communicate and hunt for small prey.

But when faced with a large land-based predator, eels will launch themselves from the wa-

ter and electrify the animal with a touch of the head.

Using electrical measurements he collected during the eel attacks, Catania came up with an equation to estimate the amount of electric current flowing from the eel into his arm.

The electric shock was strongest when the electric eel was farthest out of the water.

That makes sense because when an eel is mostly submerged, the majority of the electricity dissipates in the water.

As the eel rises out of the water, the only place left for the electricity to flow is into whatever the fish head-bumps.

The internal resistance, or opposition to electrical current flow, may be different for a human arm than for an animal with scales or fur, like a crocodile or a dog, Catania noted.

More research is needed to understand how powerful the shock is for other land animals.

Extrapolating from his experience with a small eel, Catania estimated that a human struck on the trunk by a larger, 1.8-meter-long electric eel might endure a current of 0.24 amperes, or 63 watts of power.

That's about 8½ times as powerful as the zap from a typical law-enforcement Taser gun.



sciencenews.org
This electric eel may be relatively small, but the pain from its shock is comparable to that from an electric fence, a researcher has learned.



UPI
The golden veil of light cloaks a young stellar object known only as IRAS 14568-6304. It is ejecting gas at supersonic speeds and eventually will have cleared a hole in the cloud, allowing it to be easily visible to the outside Universe.

The Indian Health Service has set standards for patient wait times more than a year after being criticized by a government watchdog for doing a poor job tracking them.

Writing can help you stop worrying



usnews.com

Writing down the things that cause anxiety can help to alleviate stress and concerns, according to a new study carried out by the Michigan State University. Through this study, the first neural evidence of expressive writing has been shown.

People worry a lot on a daily basis, which leads to stress, anxiety and related disorders and diseases. Most of the concerns are based on feelings or future events that might never happen, pulseheadlines.com reported.

Sadly, it appears to be a condition that many people can't avoid suffering. However, this new research showed that there are simple things people can do to stop worrying.

It backed up the research developed by James Pennebaker in the 80's about the benefits of journaling to reduce pressure and improve our immune system.

Lead author of the study, Hans Schroder, who is also an MSU doctoral student in psychology and a clinical intern at Harvard Medical School's McLean Hospital, said, "Worrying takes up cognitive resources; it's kind of like people who struggle with worry are constantly multitasking — they are doing one task and trying to monitor and suppress their worries at the same time. Our findings show that if you get these worries out of your head through expressive writing, those cognitive resources are freed up to work toward the task you're completing and you become more efficient."

What does the field of psychoneuroimmunology study? In 1986, Pennebaker, author of 'Writing to Heal', developed a study about the impacts of expressive

writing on emotional health and the immune system. He asked some test subjects to write about the worst things that had ever happened to them for about 15 minutes. He also asked a group of participants to write about the most mundane and irrelevant things such as the weather.

He observed these two groups for six months, and he concluded that the first group had to go fewer times to the doctor compared to the group that wrote about unimportant matters.

Thanks to these observations, the field of 'psychoneuroimmunology' was created to find out how expressive writing improves the immune system.

Pennebaker also stated that people can understand their experiences more if they write them down.

"Emotional upheavals touch every part of our lives. You don't just lose a job, you don't just get divorced. These things affect all aspects of who we are — our financial situation, our relationships with others, our views of ourselves... [and] writing helps us focus and organize the experience," said Pennebaker.

Based on that, the Michigan State University started this new study to prove the reaction of our brains to expressive writing. This study was funded by the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health.

Schroder studied college students who were identified as chronically anxious. They had to fill a computer-based 'flanker task' that tested their response accuracy and reaction times. Half of these college students had eight minutes to write about

their deepest thoughts and feelings about the task, before completing it. The rest of them had to write about what they did the day before.

While completing the flanker task, researchers measured participants with electroencephalography or EEG.

The researchers noticed that both groups had kind of the same level of speed and accuracy on the computer-based test, but the expressive writing group was more efficient as they used less of the brain resources.

The study concluded that those who identified themselves as 'worriers' can use this technique for stressful tasks in the future.

Jason Moser, an associate professor of psychology and director of MSU's Clinical Psychophysiology Lab, said, "Expressive writing makes the mind work less hard on upcoming stressful tasks, which is what worriers often get 'burned out' over, their worried minds working harder and hotter."

Tim Moran, a Spartan graduate who's now a research scientist at Emory University, "This technique takes the edge off their brains so they can perform the task with a 'cooler head'."

Both of them worked on this study. According to this study, practicing being vulnerable with others and with ourselves makes people more aware.

Bottling up fears and feelings only makes them occupy our bodies and minds.

Therefore, five minutes of expressive writing a day can liberate all the forthcoming stress people is carrying with in unnecessarily.

Kids praised as smart more likely to cheat

Children who are praised for being smart not only are quicker to give up in the face of obstacles, they also are more likely to be dishonest and cheat, a new study revealed.

According to PsychCentral.com, researchers found that kids as young as three appear to behave differently when told "You are so smart" versus "You did very well this time."

The study, published in Psychological Science, builds on work by Stanford's Dr. Carol Dweck, author of 'Mindset', who has shown that praising a child's innate ability instead of the child's effort or a specific behavior has the unintended consequence of reducing their motivation to learn and their ability to deal with setbacks.

The new study showed there's also a moral dimension to different kinds of praise.

Additionally, it found that it affects children at younger ages than previously known. Even the kindergarten and pre-school set seem to be sensitive to subtle differences in praise, according to the researchers.

Coauthor Dr. Gail Heyman, a developmental psychologist at the University of California San Diego, said, "It's common and natural to tell children how smart they are.



PsychCentral.com

"Even when parents and educators know that it harms kids' achievement motivation, it's still easy to do. What our study shows is that the harm can go beyond motivation and extend to the moral domain. It makes a child more willing to cheat in order to do well."

For their study, the international team of researchers asked 300 children in Eastern China to play a guessing game using number cards. There were 150 three year-olds and 150 five year-olds.

The children were either praised for

being smart or for their performance. A control group got no praise at all.

After praising the children and getting them to promise not to cheat, the researcher left the room for a minute in the middle of the game.

The kids' subsequent behavior was monitored by a hidden camera, which recorded who got out of their seat or leaned over to get a peek at the numbers.

Results suggest that both the three and five year-olds who'd been praised for being smart were more likely to act

dishonestly than the ones praised for how well they did or those who got no praise at all. The results were the same for boys and girls.

In another study, published in Developmental Science, the same team of researchers show that the consequences are similar even when children are not directly praised for being smart, but are merely told that they have a reputation for being smart.

The researchers believe that praising ability is tied to performance pressure in a way that praising behavior isn't.

Coauthor Li Zhao of Hangzhou Normal University said, "When children are praised for being smart or are told that they have reputation for it, they feel pressure to perform well in order to live up to others' expectations, even if they need to cheat to do so."

Coauthor Dr. Kang Lee, of the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, emphasized the takeaway for the adults in kids' lives: "We want to encourage children. We want them to feel good about themselves. But these studies show we must learn to give children the right kinds of praise, such as praising specific behavior. Only in this way will praise have the intended positive outcomes."

begins at a later age.

For example, some parents may choose to hold their children back a year, whereas others might enroll them in special programs which support students who are struggling academically.

The study's authors also analyzed data from youth detention centers in a large Florida school district.

Not only did they find that being one of the older children in a year group boosts college attainment, but they also found that it reduces the likelihood of a child's incarceration for juvenile crimes.

Call for new focus on how domestic abuse affects children

A new public information campaign is needed to raise awareness of domestic abuse, a major new report said.

According to its authors, publicity modelled on past public health campaigns would raise the profile of the issue and make perpetrators think twice before abusing partners, theguardian.com wrote.



theguardian.com

Eleanor Schooling, the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) national director for social care, said, "What we are talking about is thinking about messages in the way health have done around smoking and alcohol and other things.

"I realize that domestic abuse is of a different order and so the way that message is put across is going to have to be worked through and would be complex because you would have to target difference audience in different ways."

Past campaigns against domestic abuse have included a 2014 Women's Aid initiative working with football clubs and fans. Last year Essex police launched a new video campaign urging abusers to reflect on and change their behavior, while this month saw the release of a new video, highlighting coercive behavior, which Norfolk police will promote on social media.

The report deals with the impact of domestic abuse on children. It said, "One of the things we know is that domestic abuse can be easier to stop early on if you realize that something is having a deep effect on your children."

Schooling said one in five children had witnessed some form of domestic abuse.

"It's a vast proportion of the population — that's six children in a class of 30 for example — so this is a long-term thing, and if we are going to stop it then we need to catch it early on."

The review by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Inspectorate of Probation examined six local authority areas around England.

It concluded that, while the agencies had overcome many problems associated with the sheer volume of domestic abuse cases, "far too little" is being done in terms of prevention.

"We, other public services, people who are dealing with housing, as well as the judiciary, need to think about this in a better way," Schooling said.

"It's going to be difficult because a perpetrator might often, for example, be the owner or tenant of housing, but I think we need to look at inventive ways that can make sure families can stay where their support networks are."

Fresh thinking was needed, she said, to focus more on perpetrators than victims and develop research on interventions that are proved to work.

Hotel turns food waste into fertilizer

Diners at Grand Hyatt Singapore's restaurants have been unknowingly helping the hotel maintain its in-house herb garden every time they have a meal there.

Since mid-2016, the hotel in Scotts Road has been using a food waste management system. Instead of getting thrown away, food waste goes into a machine known as the Biomax Thermophilic Digester, straitstimes.com wrote.



straitstimes.com

Food waste such as vegetables, poultry, bones, egg shells, fruit peel — and even tissue paper — from nine in-house restaurants and kitchens are converted into pathogen-free organic fertilizers used in the hotel's rooftop herb garden.

The machine was highlighted as part of a professional sharing session by Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS) and Green Infinity, the Singapore distributor of Biomax products such as the food waste digester.

About 90 guests attended the session, including Dr. Amy Khor, adviser to WMRAS and senior minister of state for the environment and water resources and health.

Edwin Pang, executive director of WMRAS said: "Only 14 percent of food waste is recycled, so WMRAS supports efforts to convert food waste into either compost or water for discharge.

"This makes our living environment more sustainable because even if we incinerate food waste, it will produce ash for the Semakau landfill, which will run out of space by 2035 to 2040."

The amount of food waste generated in Singapore has increased by about 40 percent over the past decade, according to the National Environment Agency.

Recycling food waste has helped Grand Hyatt Singapore to save on food waste haulage fees, operational and manpower expenses, and the cost of trash bags and bins — all of which come up to about \$100,000 a year.

Over 24 hours, the hotel can recycle 500kg of food waste. Chester Chiew, assistant business development manager of slaughterhouse Sindhuh Poultry, said he is considering implementing a food waste recycling system.

Study: Children born in September are smarter

Being one of the older ones in the year group gives children an advantage in school, a new US study published in the National Bureau of Economic Research has found.

Scientists looked at the cognitive development of more than 1.2 million public school students in Florida between the ages of six and 15, all of whom were born in different months, independent.co.uk wrote.

They found that students born in the month of September, putting them at the older end of the spectrum of kids in their school year, boasted a higher yearly score average than those born in August, who would be the

youngest in their year group.

Researchers noted that the increased scores could build over time and subsequently increase September-born students' likelihood of getting into a good college.

The study, titled 'School Starting Age and Cognitive Development,' also looked at other socioeconomic factors that might contribute to a child's progression in school, such as maternal education, ethnicity and affluence.

They also noted that low-performing students from varying backgrounds can catch up before formal testing

Chelsea was held to a goalless draw at home against local rival Arsenal in the London derby which saw the Blues' David Luiz sent off in the 87th minute.

Iran edges France to collect first world volleyball medal



Iranian players and officials pose for a photo while celebrating their bronze medal at the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Grand Champions Cup in Osaka, Japan, on September 17, 2017.

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Having finished fifth in 2009 and fourth in 2013, Iran's third participation in competition led to the Asian giant's best ever finish at the World Grand Champions Cup. Iran also recorded four victories in a single edition for the first time. Iran and France had an intense duel in the opening set, which had to be decided with a two-point margin. Iran got better breaks and

closed the set 38-36. The second set saw another tight contest between the two sides, but Iran still prevailed with the contribution of Ghafour and Manavnejad. The European side retaliated with victories in the next two sets as Clevenot and Boyer persistently scored from the wings. However, Iran regained its composure in the decider and celebrated its first ever world-stage

medal triumph with the victory in the fifth set. Following the intense tie-break victory over France, Iran's coach Igor Kolakovic said that the bronze medal win is important for Iranian volleyball. "It was a very interesting and high-quality volleyball game. I'm so happy because we finished with a victory. After the game between USA and Italy, we knew we already had the bronze medal, so I

asked the players if they wanted to play or not. They told me they wanted to play because they wanted to finish the tournament with a victory. So that makes me happy," Kolakovic said.

"We've had a lot of problems with injury and not much time for recovery. But we finished the year in the best way, for Iran and the Iranian people. This is very important because the people have supported the Iran team and they deserve this medal as much as the players. This first medal for Iran is very important, so this tournament win was important for Iranian volleyball and it provides us with extra motivation for next season and for our young players," the Montenegrin added.

Mir Saeid Marouf was also delighted with his team's achievement at the end of the championships, saying, "We knew it would be a tough match. All five sets were so close and both teams played great volleyball. It was very important to finish this competition with a victory and finally take a medal. So, I'm very happy and proud of my team. We did our best. It's important for us." "Iran had success in junior world tournaments but never in a senior one, so this makes it important. Our people followed our matches and enjoyed it, but without a medal there was something wrong, but now we've done that," Iran's captain added.

Iran seals third place in World Archery Para Ch'ship



Somayyeh Abbaspour (R), Farzaneh Asgari (C) and Razieh Shirmohammadi celebrate their victory at the final of the women's compound open team contest at the 2017 World Archery Para Championships in Beijing, China, on September 17, 2017.

Sports Desk

Iran clinched the third spot at the 2017 World Archery Para Championships in Beijing, China, with five medals including two golds. On Sunday, Iranian archers put a fitting to their campaign as the trio of Razieh Shirmohammadi, Somayyeh Abbaspour and Farzaneh Asgari outpointed China 229-223 in the final to clinch the women's compound open team gold medal and equal the world record which had been set by the Russian side earlier in the day. "This gold medal shows how much we are dedicated to our country and how much we love our country," said Abbaspour. "This was a dream for me and of course any athlete who wishes to win gold. It's amazing. "The goal was to win a gold medal and

we did. China was shooting well, but we kept shooting well too. Thank God everything was perfect and my teammates shot well. Thank God we won!" the Iranian added. Also on the final day of the competitions, Iran's mixed compound open team comprising Alisina Manshazadeh and Abbaspour squared off with Russia in the final and lost 18-20 in the shoot-off to settle for the silver. There was more silverware for Manshazadeh in the day as he represented Iran in the men's compound open team final contest along with Ramezan Biabani and Hadi Nouri against Italy only to lose by a single point (225-226) and finish in the second spot. Having collected seven medals including four golds, China topped the overall medals table while Russia finished second with nine medals (two golds).

Coutinho insists his focus is firmly on Liverpool



Philippe Coutinho said that he has "no problems" with anybody at Liverpool despite the club blocking a move to Barcelona. Coutinho was the subject of three bids from Barcelona and he handed in a transfer request in an attempt to leave Anfield, ESPN reported. The 25-year-old received a warm reception from Liverpool supporters on Saturday afternoon, but he was unable to help the Reds avoid a frustrating 1-1 draw with Burnley. "The whole world knows what happened," Coutinho said in his first interview since the transfer saga. "From the first moment I played here and in the last game. I was very well received - like I always have been for the past four or five years. "The respect I have for them [the fans] and the respect they

have for me appears to be maintained. What I need to do is to work hard and to always do my best to help the team. "I received a job offer, like in life whatever work you do. Sometimes you're interested and sometimes you're not. In this case, like you all know, I was interested. My family too. "But it's like I always said... it's a great honor to receive an offer for a great club like that. But it's also a great honor to be here. Liverpool is a great club. I'm here and I'm going to give it my best as always. "It was a complicated month for me, but like I said I'm here now. It's an honor to receive an offer like that, but it's also an honor to be here. "I've never had any problems with anyone here. I've always respected

the support very much of the groups. The players, the directors, the technical staff. And that hasn't changed at all. Like I said, whatever job offers you get, some interest you and others don't." When asked whether he felt hurt with the way events turned out, Coutinho insisted the ordeal is in the past and that he is focusing on having a successful 2017-18 season. "No. It's all done now," he added. "I have to work. I'm focused on working hard and to have a good year if possible. In the end, I have to help my team." Coutinho played 78 minutes against Burnley before being substituted, with manager Jurgen Klopp confirming the playmaker was suffering from cramp.

Golovkin, Alvarez deliver a classic middleweight fight

Three-belt champion Gennady Golovkin and Canelo Alvarez look set to rule the resurgent middleweight division for years to come after their 12-round slugfest on Saturday which fittingly ended in a stalemate. "It was a great fight," said boxing promoter Oscar De La Hoya. "This is one of the best fights we have seen in recent years," AFP reported. Golovkin, who was making his Las Vegas debut, and Mexico's biggest star Alvarez delivered on all levels as two of boxing's pound-for-pound best met at the T-Mobile Arena Saturday in a highly-anticipated fight that was two years in the making.

and Alvarez will make \$5 million. Golovkin is considered one of the fittest athletes in boxing and he needed every ounce of that conditioning and every extra breath of air to withstand the force of Alvarez's body and head punches. Alvarez said he would use his rematch clause for a second fight against knockout king Golovkin, who has now gone the distance his last two fights. In March, he had his streak of 23 consecutive knockouts snapped when he outpointed Daniel Jacobs. Some said Golovkin was showing his age as Jacobs had an unexpected surge over the final three rounds before losing by a narrow decision.

tie Bernard Hopkins for the most middleweight title defenses in a row at 20. Golovkin waited a long time to get his first fight on boxing's biggest stage in the US. He has fought in 22 cities and seven different countries but never before in Sin City. This fight should have already happened and Golovkin had to push hard to get a deal. But it was left to marinate until there was no other option for Alvarez, who was fighting for just the second time over 155-pounds. Golovkin wasn't going to let anything distract him while training for this fight. He even missed the birth of his daughter on September 8 because he was in



Gennady Golovkin (R) connects with a right hook against Canelo Alvarez during their WBC, WBA and IBF middleweight championship fight in Las Vegas on September 16, 2017.

The evenly-matched fight ended in a draw which meant Kazakhstan's Golovkin would keep his World Boxing Council, World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation belts. "We knew going into this it would be a war," said Golovkin's trainer Abel Sanchez. Golovkin will earn a \$3 million purse

Alvarez did not think Golovkin is ripe for the picking but said he might have lost some of the fear factor. "He has a different power than others I have faced," Alvarez said of Golovkin. "But he is not the monster everybody is talking about. I didn't feel that." Golovkin has 19 straight title defenses and now needs just one more victory to

the gym training for the fight. His wife, Alina, gave birth to the couple's second child. While Golovkin plans to enjoy more time with his expanding family, Alvarez is going to take several months off. "I am going to rest for the rest of the year and we will fight again next year," he said.

George Hickenlooper:

I always say be humble but be firm. Humility and openness are the key to success without compromising your beliefs.

IRNA, Xinhua to hold joint photo exhibit in Tehran

Art & Culture Desk

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and the Chinese Xinhua News Agency will organize a joint photo exhibition at Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art from September 19.



The exhibition will be held on the sidelines of the China Cultural Week which opens today, IRNA reported.

The cultural event aims to increase media cooperation and promote cultural relations between the two sides.

Iranian and Chinese news agencies earlier held a joint photo exhibition at the 24th Beijing Book Fair in which over 100 photos on cultural, political, social, historical, touristic and sport topics were put on view.

Portraits of 24 veteran Iranian literati were displayed at the Chinese photo exhibition.

'Invisible Man' reveals how he disappears into his works

Nicknamed 'the Invisible Man', Liu Bolin has spent over a decade trying to disappear and gains global fame in the process.

Most artists won't admit it but public recognition is important when it comes to becoming an established name in the art world. However, if you're Liu Bolin, being noticed would be a sign he's really messed up.

The Chinese artist is known around world as 'the Invisible Man'. He's spent over a decade trying his best to disappear, news.sky.com reported.

The idea came about when, in 2005, authorities in China demolished the studios he'd been working in. His way of protesting was to have his friends paint him among the rubble.

Everything — his clothes, face, hair — were painstakingly covered to identically match the background behind him. The finished photo is incredibly powerful, the insignificance of the individual being swallowed up by the surrounding world is apparent.

Since then Liu has 'disappeared' around the world, including in New York, Paris and Venice.

"It's asking the basic philosophical question of where we all came from," Liu explains through a translator at the Saatchi Gallery in London.

As his pieces aren't overtly political, at his studio in Beijing, he says he's largely left alone by the authorities as his photos subtly explore everything from the rise of modern China to global capitalism.

"I started out in China as an opposition to the government, but I've been doing it for so long, not only at home, because every single country has its own problems and so I decided to make this more international."

At the START Art Fair in London, for the first time he's allowing members of the public to watch how he does it.

It is day three of a five-day process when I meet him. Three London-based artists, specially selected to paint Liu, are blocking out colors onto a pair of trousers and a jacket using grids.

Tanja Hassel, who is one of them, explains they're constantly making checks from a fixed position to ensure Liu will blend-in correctly.

Once complete, Liu should disappear completely in front of the giant sculpture of sunflowers made from Lego bricks. The sunflower is a symbol of obedience in China. The use of the iconic child's toy explores how China has 'embraced consumer culture'.

Jagroop Mehta, a director at art consultancy Mehta Bell, helped orchestrate Liu's UK performance.

"It's proven to be very engaging for an audience," she said.

"We live in such a digital age, (the finished photos) could easily have been done by Photoshop, and our minds are almost so lazy these days that it reads it as that."

"To actually have it in front of you, that insight into his practice and performance, it really makes you aware of the level of physical work that goes into this."

When the piece is finally finished, all that an audience should see is a shadow of Liu. It is a thought-provoking concept, designed to question if any of us can ever really make much of a mark on society at large.

Liu's performance is taking place at the START Art Fair at London's Saatchi Gallery. It ended on September 17.

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Iran to honor bard Shahrir on Day of Persian Poetry

Compiled from Dispatches

September 18 is marked in Iran as the 'Day of Persian Poetry and Literature' to coincide with the death anniversary of the legendary Iranian poet Shahrir.

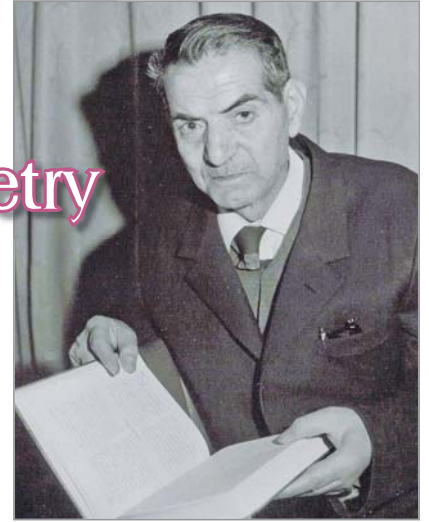
Poetries of Mohammad-Hossein Behjat-Tabrizi, whose pen-name was Shahrir, is still alive and prevailing with the passage of 70 years since his famous poem praising Imam Ali (PBUH) and it is still recited in mosques, literature workshops, universities and other forums and each time it seems more vivid. This is the main element in the great poet's Persian folk poems. The poet's most famous works are 'Heidar Babaya Salam', a poem dedicated to his birthplace, and 'The Blessed Bird of Good Omen', which is about Imam Ali (PBUH), the first Shia Imam.

Published in 1954, 'Heidar Babaya Salam' is

about a mountain where the poet spent his childhood and has been translated into more than 30 languages.

His poems are mainly influenced by the well-known Iranian poet Hafez. His most famous Azari language poem 'Heidar-Baba' has so far been translated into 90 languages.

Shahrir was the first Iranian to write significant poetry in Azarbaijani language. He published his first book of poems in 1929, with prefaces by Mohammad-Taqi Bahar, Saeed Nafisi, and Pejman Bakhtiari. Shahrir (1906-1988) has seen the three eras of Qajars, Pahlavi, and Islamic Republic. A more profound look into his poetry reveals his objection to injustice and narrow-mindedness. He was a gigantic figure indeed who supported his people at critical times such as the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war when he reinforced the morale of Iranian soldiers through his poems.



Tehran Inter-Orchestra, a private ensemble established by musician Vahid Eftekhari-Hosseini and conducted by Nader Mashayekhi, a former conductor of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, had a concert at Tehran's Vahdat Hall.

Iran's '21 Days Later' to compete in Australia 65 days later

Iranian feature film '21 Days Later', directed by Mohammadreza Kheradmandan, will compete in the 11th Asia Pacific Screen Awards in Australia. Kheradmandan's film is a melodrama revolving around the life of a teenager named Morteza who has faced numerous challenges in realizing his dreams, Mehr News Agency wrote.

'21 Days Later' is to compete for the Best Youth Feature Film award. Asia Pacific Screen Awards takes place in Brisbane, Australia on November 23, 2017.

Meanwhile, Iranian animation 'Release from Heaven' by Ali Noori-Oskoui has also been accepted into the screening program of the Australian film event.



Set in a war-torn country, 'Release from Heaven' narrates the story of a female writer and teacher who has to accompany two of her students on a life-changing journey.

In the earlier edition of the APSA, 'Starless Dream' by Mehrdad Oskoui won the Best Documentary Feature Film award, while the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Film in the Asia Pacific region was presented to Iranian producer Manouchehr Mohammadi.

Established in 2007 and headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, Asia Pacific Screen Awards, an international cultural program driven by Brisbane City Council through Brisbane Marketing is endorsed by UNESCO and FIAPF — the International Federation of Film Producers Associations.

According to the festival's website, APSA covers one-third of the Earth, the 70 countries and areas of the Asia Pacific stretch from Egypt in the west to the Cook Island in the east. From Russia in the north to New Zealand in the south. They are home to 4.5 billion people and produce half the world's films.

Weather

