



Several schoolgirls killed in Iran road accident **2**

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Iran produced 3.79 mbd of oil in August **4**

Number 5720 • Saturday September 2, 2017 • Shahrivar 11, 1396 • Zihjijah 11, 1438 • Price 5,000 Rials • 12 Pages • www.irandailyonline.ir



Iraqi forces, allies poised to launch Hawija operation **3**



10-man Iran holds South Korea **11**



Majidi's 'Beyond the Clouds' to premiere at London Film Festival **12**



REUTERS

IAEA: Iran complying with nuclear deal, no need to check military sites

Iran remains in compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Thursday.

The IAEA confirmed Iran's compliance with the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in its latest quarterly report, AFP reported.

Iran's stock of low-enriched uranium – used for peaceful purposes – did not exceed the agreed limit of 300 kilograms (661 pounds), the report said. It added that Iran "has not pursued the construction of the Arak... reactor" and has not enriched uranium above low-purity levels.

The number of enrichment centrifuges also remained as agreed, while Iran's store of heavy water, a reactor coolant, was 111.0 tonnes after it exported 19.1 tonnes.

The report comes at a time that the US has stepped up its efforts against the JCPOA.

US President Donald Trump has vowed to "dismantle" the "disastrous" accord between Iran and six major powers curtailing Tehran's atomic activities in exchange for sanctions relief. He has called it "the worst deal ever negotiated."

Trump is due in October to certify to Congress whether Iran is sticking to the nuclear deal. In July he told the Wall Street Journal he "would be surprised if they were in compliance."

The Guardian this week cited former officials and analysts as saying that US intelligence is under pressure from the White House to produce a justification to declare Iran in violation.

Last week Trump dispatched his

UN envoy Nikki Haley to Vienna. The visit was widely seen as it was aimed at getting IAEA chief Yukiya Amano to seek access to military sites in Iran.

Iran slammed Haley's trip, which came just ahead of the Agency's new report on Tehran's compliance with the deal, with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif describing it as an attempt to manipulate and press the IAEA, Press TV reported.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said it is not going to inspect Iran's military sites despite US pressures to do so.

"We're not going to visit a military site like Parchin just to send a political signal," Reuters cited an unnamed IAEA official as saying, referring to a military complex located 30 kilometers from the capital, Tehran.

Kenya court cancels election result, demands rerun

Kenya's Supreme Court on Friday ordered a new presidential election within 60 days after cancelling the results of last month's poll in a shock decision in favor of the opposition.

Joyous celebrations erupted outside the court and in opposition strongholds after the second term victory of President Uhuru Kenyatta was declared "invalid, null and void", AFP reported.

The decision came as a rare political victory for veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga, 72, who hailed a "historic" ruling which he said was a first in Africa.

Chief Justice David Maraga said a majority decision by the panel of seven judges, with two dissenting, found that Kenyatta "was not validly elected", rendering the result "invalid, null and void."

Maraga said the election commission (IEBC) had "failed, neglected or refused to conduct the presidential election in a manner consistent with the dictates of the constitution".

Kenyatta's lawyer Ahmednassir Abdullahi criticized the court's decision as "very political", but said they would "live with the consequences."

Thousands of Odinga supporters



AFF

flooded the streets of Nairobi's Kibera slum and his strongholds in the western city of Kisumu.

"This is justice for us the people of Kisumu. They (police) came to beat and shoot at us when we protested the election results, but now the truth is out," said Jackson Odour in Kisumu.

"For the first time we have got justice. They have stolen the election for long," said fishmonger Lynette Akello. Kenya has a long history of disputed votes, election violence and a lack of

faith in the judiciary's independence.

The run-up to the August 8 election was marred by the murder of top IEBC IT official Chris Msando and opposition allegations that rigging was certain.

Indee Odinga and his National Super Alliance (NASA) cried foul shortly after counting began, claiming the system transmitting votes had been hacked, and that forms from polling stations that were meant to back up the electronic results were not being uploaded.

Iran's Leader issues 2017 Hajj pilgrimage message

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei issued a message on the occasion of the Muslim Hajj pilgrimage season.

In his message, Ayatollah Khamenei urged Muslim nations to foster unity and prevent ethnic and religious militancy.

He also called for action to address "catastrophic incidents" like those in Yemen, Myanmar and the Palestinian territories, Press TV reported.

The message is as follows:

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful
All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, and peace and greetings be upon our Master, Muhammad (PBUH) – the Final Prophet – and upon his immaculate household and his chosen companions.

I thank God Almighty for bestowing, this year too, the blessing of performing Hajj on an abundant number of believers from across the world so that they can benefit from this refreshing and blessed spring and can be in the vicinity of God Almighty's House, engaging in worship, supplication, remembering God, and seeking closeness to God on the days and nights whose precious and auspicious hours can touch hearts and purify and ornament souls like a miraculous medicine.

Hajj is a mystifying act of worship, and the Noble House (the Grand Mosque of Mecca) is a place full of divine blessings and an embodiment of Allah the Exalted's signs and symbols.

Continued on Page 2

Rouhani, Erdogan warn against secessionist moves

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that secessionist moves are not in the interests of regional peace and stability, but rather to the detriment of nations.

"Some powers are applying their desires in the region to the detriment of nations," Rouhani said in a telephone conversation with the Turkish leader on Thursday, IRNA reported. The two presidents were apparently referring to Iraqi Kurdish leaders' decision to go ahead with a referendum on possible secession from the Arab country on September 25.

"Iran does not believe some of the separatist tendencies and problems that have arisen in the Persian Gulf region are ever for the sake of peace and stability in the region," Rouhani said.

The central government in Baghdad is opposed to the vote and regional players like Iran and Turkey have also voiced alarm about its consequences, arguing that it could create further instability in the region.

In his conversation, Rouhani regretted insecurity and conflicts in some regional countries, stressing that Tehran and Ankara should, more than before, play a role in restoring peace to the region.

He also voiced dismay at recent developments in Myanmar, where Rohingya Muslims are fleeing their homes in the wake of a brutal military crackdown in the Rakhine state.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran does not brook oppression against Muslims in any place of the world and condemns it," President Rouhani added. The Turkish president said he was confident that his country's cooperation with Iran would grow under the new administration in Tehran.

He also expressed regret at the ongoing crackdown against Muslims in Myanmar and underlined the need for unity between Iran and Turkey to resolve regional issues.

Talks with emir of Qatar

Separately on Thursday, Rouhani held another phone conversation with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, voicing Iran's keenness to strengthen brotherly relations among the regional Muslim countries and boost ties with Qatar. Tehran has already said it is ready to help resolve a diplomatic crisis between Qatar and the quartet of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt which have imposed a trade embargo on Doha.

Rouhani said: "The Islamic Republic of Iran regards what has been imposed on Qatar as unfair and a source of further tensions among regional countries."

Tehran, he said, does its best to cooperate with Qatar and help its nation and government cope with the situation for the sake of regional stability.

The Saudi-led quartet has accused Qatar of supporting "terrorism," which Doha rejects, saying that it is being targeted for following a foreign policy line independent of Riyadh. In his conversation with President Rouhani, the Qatari emir appreciated Iran's principled stance on the "unfair sanctions". Sheikh Tamim said the Qatari nation and government will never forget Iran's opposition to the sanctions and its decision to open Iranian airspace and its sea and land borders to his country.

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US tells Russia to close San Francisco consulate

The United States has told Russia to close its consulate in San Francisco and buildings in Washington and New York that house trade missions, the State Department said on Thursday, in retaliation for Moscow cutting the US diplomatic presence in Russia.

The announcement was the latest in tit-for-tat measures between the two countries that have helped to drive relations to a new post-Cold War low, thwarting hopes on both sides that they might improve after US President Donald Trump took office in January, Reuters reported.

Last month, Moscow ordered the United States to cut its diplomatic and technical staff in Russia by more than half, to 455 people to match the number of Russian diplomats in the United States, after Congress overwhelmingly approved new sanctions against Russia. The sanctions were issued in response to alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election and the 2014 reunification of Crimea.

"We believe this action was unwarranted and detrimental to the overall relationship between our countries," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement on Thursday, adding that the United States had completed the reduction.

"In the spirit of parity invoked by the Russians," Nauert said, the United States has required the Russian government to close its San Francisco consulate and two annexes in Washington, D.C. and New York by Sept. 2.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson informed Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov of the closures in a phone call on Thursday, a senior Trump administration official said.

Lavrov expressed regret about Washington's decision during the phone call with Tillerson, his ministry said. "Moscow will closely study the new measures announced by the Americans, after which our reaction will be conveyed," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The United States said last week that it would have to sharply scale back visa services in Russia, a move that will hit Russian business travelers, tourists and students.

The Russian consulate in San Francisco handles work from seven states in the Western United States. There are three other Russian consulates separate from the embassy in Washington. They are in New York, Seattle and Houston.

Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami said many regional conflicts take place in countries that have weaknesses and, therefore, Iran plans to export military equipment to prevent conflicts.

Muslims celebrate Eid al-Adha

Muslims in Iran and across the globe celebrated Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice), an important festival on the Islamic calendar, which marks the climax of the annual Hajj pilgrimage. During the festivities, which fell on Friday this year, Muslims paid tribute to Prophet Abraham's submission to the divine order of sacrificing his son, Press TV reported.



IRNA



AFP

Trying to perform the act of ultimate abnegation, Abraham, however, was sent a sheep through the Archangel Gabriel to sacrifice instead.

Abraham's obedience thus helped him pass the supreme test of subservience to God, and has been serving as an ageless model for the Muslim faithful.

The devotees celebrate the annual occasion by saying prayers, sacrificing sheep, and serving the meat to the needy.

In Iran, the Eid al-Adha prayers were led by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani, Tehran's interim Friday prayer leader, with massive throngs of worshippers in attendance.

The rituals constitute a high point in the Hajj rituals, which have been underway in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, since Wednesday.

An estimated two million Muslims have reached the holy city, to observe the pilgrimage – a religious duty and a display of Muslim unity – which is to last until Monday.



IRIB



IRIB

Several schoolgirls killed in Iran road accident

At least nine people, including seven schoolgirls, have been killed in a road accident in Iran's southern province of Fars early on Friday.

Some 30 others were injured and taken to hospitals, at least 13 of them in critical condition, IRNA reported.

Hassan Nouri, an emergency official, said that seven schoolgirls, a female instructor, and a male assistant driver have lost their lives, ISNA said.

The incident happened near the city of Darab, some 170 kilometers southeast of the province's capital, Shiraz.

It happened at around 4 a.m. local time when an intercity bus carrying 45 girls, mostly of junior high school age from the neighboring province of Hormozgan, overturned on the road linking Darab to Shiraz, some 1,100 kilometers south of the capital.

The girls were mainly from the cities of Minab and Rouadan, and were part of a convoy of 126 students

traveling to Shiraz to attend a conference of talented students.

Ambulances and helicopters were sent to rescue the victims.

Iran's Education Minister Seyyed Mohammad Bat'haei traveled to Fars Province.

Initial investigations indicate the crash was caused by the exhaustion and sleepiness of the bus driver.

With some 17,000 annual deaths, Iran has one of the world's worst traffic safety records.

Iran expresses sympathy with storm-stricken Americans

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi expressed sympathy with the storm-stricken Americans as well as the families of the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas, which has killed about 40 people so far.

The Iranian official on Thursday expressed regret over the deaths and the multi-billion-dollar damage caused by the monster storm, IRNA reported.

The Category Four hurricane has killed at least 44 people in Texas, officials said on Thursday, and forced 32,000 people into shelters since it came ashore last Friday near Rockport on the Gulf of Mexico, triggering unprecedented flooding.

It was the most powerful hurricane to hit Texas in half a century.



Homeland Security adviser Tom Bossert told a White House briefing Thursday that, "There are still people up to their waists in water."

Bossert estimated that 100,000 homes had been affected by flooding, with damages up to 30 billion dollars.

Iran, Russia discuss Syria as Astana talks slated for mid-Sept.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov exchanged views about important regional issues, among them the conflict in Syria.

In a statement released on Thursday, the Russian Foreign Ministry said the two officials held a phone conversation over the resolution of the Syria crisis based on the agreements made during the peace talks in the Kazakh capital, Astana, Press TV reported.

The Astana discussions have brought representatives from the government in Damascus and opposition groups to the negotiating table in a bid to end the foreign-backed conflict in Syria, which broke out in March 2011.

The intra-Syrian talks resulted in an agreement on four de-escalation zones across Syria, with Russia, Iran, and Turkey serving as guarantor states.



Three of the zones have been created to date in Syria's central province of Homs, in the Eastern Ghouta area of the southern Rif Dimashq Province, and a southwestern terrorist-controlled stretch along the border with Jordan. They have sharply reduced fighting in the conflict zones.

The next round of Astana talks will take place on Sept. 14-15, the Kazakh Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

"According to the information from the guarantor states, during the upcoming meeting they plan to review several documents covering the work of de-escalation control forces, and continue work on agreeing the makeup of control forces in Idlib," the ministry said in a statement.

The top Iranian and Russian diplomats also discussed the implementation of the landmark nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was reached between Tehran and the P5+1 group of countries in 2015.

Iran's Leader issues 2017 Hajj pilgrimage message

From Page 1

Hajj can help pious, humble and wise servants of God achieve spiritual heights. It can make them become lofty and enlightened individuals. It can make them become insightful and courageous elements who are prepared to take action and engage in jihad (endeavor for the sake of God). Both spiritual and political, in individual and social aspects, are completely outstanding and visible in this unique obligation; and today the Muslim community is in dire need of both of these aspects.

On the one hand, the magic of materialism is busy beguiling and annihilating [humanity] by using advanced instruments; on the other hand, the policies of the system of domination are instigating sedition and fueling the fire of discord among Muslims and turning Islamic countries into an inferno of insecurity and disagreement.

Hajj can be a cure for both of these grave maladies that the Islamic Ummah is suffering from. It can purge hearts of impurities and enlighten them with the light of piety and understanding; it can open eyes to the bitter realities of the world of Islam; it can strengthen one's determination in order to confront those realities; it can make one's steps firm and prepare hands and minds to take action.

Today, the world of Islam is suffering from insecurity; moral, spiritual and political. This is mainly due to our negligence and the brutal invasion of the enemies. We, as Muslims, did not carry out our religious and rational duties in the face of the invasion of the vicious enemy. We forgot to be both "strong against unbelievers" and "compassionate with one another" [The Holy Qur'an, 48:91].

This has led to the Zionist enemy provoking sedition in the heart of the Muslim world, while we as Muslims – by ignoring the definite duty of saving Palestine – are busy with the domestic wars in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Bahrain, and with confronting terrorism in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the like.

The heads of Islamic countries and political, religious and cultural figures in the world of Islam have heavy responsibilities on their shoulders; The responsibility of creating unity while preventing everyone from [engaging in] ethnic and religious militancy; the responsibility of informing nations of the enemy's methods and the treachery of arrogance and Zionism; the responsibility of equipping everyone for the purpose of confronting the enemy in the various arenas of hard and soft wars; the responsibility of urgently preventing catastrophic

incidents in Islamic countries – the bitter examples of which, such as the events in Yemen, are today a source of sorrow and protest throughout the world; the responsibility of supporting firmly the oppressed Muslim minorities, such as those in Myanmar; and most importantly, the responsibility of defending Palestine and offering unconditional cooperation and assistance to a people who have been fighting for their usurped country for nearly 70 years.

These are important responsibilities that fall on our shoulders. Nations should demand their fulfillment from their governments, and outstanding figures should try to achieve them with firm determination and pure intentions. These tasks are the definite embodiment of helping God's religion, which will definitely be followed by divine assistance on the basis of God's promise.

These are parts of the lessons of Hajj and I hope that we can understand and act on them.

I pray that God accepts your Hajj. I would like to commemorate the martyrs of Mina and Masjid al-Haram, and I ask God the Merciful and the Benevolent to elevate their ranks (in Heaven).

Greetings and Allah's mercy be upon you.
Seyyed Ali Khamenei

Colombia's former rebel group FARC announced its new name, however retaining the acronym, now standing for the Alternative Revolutionary Force for the Common People.

Iraqi forces, allies poised to launch Hawija operation

An Iraqi military official said government forces, backed by allied fighters from Popular Mobilization Units, are preparing to launch a major military operation aimed at liberating the town of Hawija in the oil-rich northern province of Kirkuk from Daesh Takfiri terrorists any time soon.

The unnamed official told Arabic-language Al-Araby al-Jadeed news website on Friday that Iraq's Joint Operations Command (JOC) has formed a new force, dubbed Operation "We Are Coming, Hawija" to retake the town, located 45 kilometers west of the provincial capital city of Kirkuk, Press TV wrote.

He added that Iraqi army units, members of the Federal Police Force and Counter Terrorism Service (CTS), the Interior Ministry's Rapid Response Forces as well as volunteer fighters, commonly known by the Arabic word Hashd al-Shaabi, will participate in the battle.

The officer described the offensive to retake Hawija as difficult, pointing to the intense concentration of Daesh leaders and elements in the town plus the high number of civilians, whom the terrorists have held as human shields.

The remarks came as Iraqi military aircraft dropped thousands of leaflets across Hawija last night and early in the morning, announcing the imminent launch of the military operation to recapture the town.

Hawija is one of four Iraqi towns still controlled by Daesh. The other three towns northwest of the capital Baghdad near the Syrian border, Anah and Rawa are in the western province of Anbar.



sputniknews.com

Daesh terrorists took control of Hawija after capturing Mosul and several other Iraqi cities in mid-2014.

The Takfiris have frequently carried out mass executions in Hawija. On August 6, 2016, they were said to have executed at least 100 people in one single incident.

Tal Afar liberation

On Thursday, Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said the northern city of Tal Afar and the entire Nineveh Province

have been purged of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group.

"Tal Afar has been liberated. We say to Daesh terrorists: Wherever you are, we are coming for you and you have no choice but to surrender or die," Abadi said in a statement released on Thursday.

The recapture of Tal Afar was made possible with the help of the Iraqi army, Federal Police, counterterrorism units, volunteer troops, and Rapid Response Forces, Abadi said. "Our happiness is complete victory has arrived and the province of Nineveh is

now entirely in the hands of our forces," the premier added.

Abadi also expressed Baghdad's resolve to liberate all Iraqi territory and keep up its firm stance against terrorists who pose a threat to the entire region.

Announcing that Tal Afar had "regained its place in the national territory," Abadi noted, "We pledge to you, our people, that we will continue to liberate every inch of Iraq."

Iraqi forces launched the Tal Afar liberation operation on August 20.

Nearly 400 die as Myanmar steps up crackdown on Rohingya

Nearly 400 people died in fighting that has rocked Myanmar's northwest for a week, new official data show, making it probably the deadliest bout of violence to engulf the country's Rohingya Muslim minority in decades.

Around 38,000 Rohingyas have crossed into Bangladesh from Myanmar, United Nations sources said, a week after attacks on police posts and an army base in Rakhine state, prompting clashes and a military counteroffensive, time.com reported.

"As of August 31, 38,000 people are estimated to have crossed the border into Bangladesh," the officials said on Friday, in their latest estimate.



AP

The army says it is conducting clearance operations against "extremist terrorists" and security forces have been told to protect civilians. But Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh say a campaign of arson and killings aims to force them out.

The treatment of Myanmar's roughly 1.1 million Rohingyas is the biggest challenge facing national leader Aung San Suu Kyi, accused by some Western critics of not speaking out for a minority that has long complained of persecution.

The clashes and ensuing army crackdown have killed about 370 Rohingyas, but also 13 security forces, two government officials and 14 civilians, the Myanmar military said on Thursday.

By comparison, communal violence in 2012 in Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine, led to the killing of nearly 200 people and the displacement of about 140,000, most of them Rohingyas.

The fighting is a dramatic escalation of a conflict that has simmered since October, when attacks on security posts prompted a brutal military response dogged by allegations of rights abuses.

Myanmar evacuated more than 11,700 "ethnic residents" from the area affected by fighting, the army said, referring to the non-Muslim population of northern Rakhine.

About 20,000 more Rohingyas trying to flee are stuck in no man's land at the border, the UN sources said, as aid workers in Bangladesh struggle to alleviate the sufferings of a sudden influx of thousands of hungry and traumatized people.

While some Rohingyas try to cross by land, others attempt a perilous boat journey across the Naf River separating the two countries.

Bangladesh border guards found the bodies of 15 Rohingyas Muslims, 11 children among them, floating in the river on Friday, area commander Lt. Col. Afril Islam told Reuters.

The total of Rohingyas known to have died by drowning comes to about 40.

Official: Russian forces destroy chemical arms bases in Syria

The head of the Russian military's branch for protection from chemical weapons said his forces dismantled two chemical weapons facilities in the formerly terrorist-held areas in war-torn Syria.

Major General Igor Kirillov said on Friday that Moscow will provide the data to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), without elaborating on the exact location of the facilities that were destroyed this month, Press TV reported.

The two bases were the last of the 27 chemical weapons sites in Syria, Russian media reported.

The Syrian government turned over its entire chemical stockpile under a deal negotiated by Russia and the US back in 2013.

The OPCW oversaw the operations to remove the chemical arsenal from Syria and destroy it.

Friday's development raises doubts about the West's claims that the Syrian Army is in possession of chemical weapons.

On April 4, an alleged gas attack hit the town of Khan Shaykhun in Syria's Idlib Province, killing more than 80 people.

The Western countries rushed to hold Damascus responsible for the incident, with the US launching a missile attack against Shayrat Airbase in Syria's Homs Province on April 7.

Washington claimed that the air field targeted in the missile raid was the origin of the April 4 purported chemical attack.

Syria rejected the accusations, saying that terrorists, not pro-Damascus forces, were using chemical arms.

Also on Friday, the head of the Russian General Staff's Main Department estimated that over 9,000 Daesh terrorists and more

than 15,000 members of the Al-Nusra Front terrorist group, recently renaming itself Fatah al-Sham, were operating in Syria.

Lieutenant General Igor Korobov said that the Daesh elements mainly active in Syria's central and eastern parts.

He further noted that the Nusra Front terrorists were operating in the provinces of Idlib, Homs, Quneitra and Daraa as well as the suburb of the Eastern Ghouta region.

Over the past few months, Daesh has retreated from much of the territory under its control amid sweeping gains made by Syrian Army soldiers and allied fighters against the terror outfit.

Russia has been conducting air raids against Daesh and other terrorist groups in the Middle Eastern country at the Damascus government's request since September 2015.

US police officer: We only kill black people

A police department in Georgia is firing one of its officers after he was recorded on a dashboard camera trying to convince a white woman that she had nothing to worry about during a traffic stop because she was not black.

The video, obtained by WSB Channel 2 Action News in Atlanta, shows Lt. Greg Abbott of the Cobb County Police Department standing at the side of a car during a traffic stop last year. He told the woman, a passenger, that she could use her cellphone, nytimes.com reported.

"It's in your lap right there," he said. She replied that she did not want to move her hands, saying she had seen "way too many videos" about how the police behaved at traffic stops.



topganz.net

"But you're not black," Lieutenant Abbott replied. "Remember, we only kill black people. Yeah. We only kill black people, right?"

WSB-TV published an excerpt from the interaction on Thursday after it obtained the video through an open-records request.

At a news conference Thursday afternoon, Chief Mike Register of the Cobb County Police Department said the comments were "inexcusable and inappropriate."

"I've known Lieutenant Abbott for a number of years, and I've always perceived him to be an honorable man. But he made a mistake," Chief Register said, adding that the department had begun the process of firing him.

Ben Williams, the president of the Cobb County chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, praised the decision at the news conference.

"There will be other instances of police misconduct," he said. "But we have hope here in Cobb that we have a chief and leadership that is serious about bringing this department to be one of the better ones in the nation."

Chief Register was appointed to lead the department in June.

The police in Cobb County, which is northwest of Atlanta and is Georgia's third most populated county with about 741,000 people, have come under scrutiny for race relations in the past. A report by the International Association of Chiefs of Police gave the department a high community approval rating, but also mentioned a perception of discriminatory and biased policing, WSB reported.

The traffic stop took place on July 10, 2016, at about 3 a.m. on Interstate 75 near Marietta, the county seat. The male driver was pulled over on suspicion of driving under the influence, his lawyer, Surinder Chadha Jimenez, said in a telephone interview on Thursday. The woman was a passenger in the car, he said.

Chadha Jimenez said he had watched the video to prepare for his client's case. He said that it appeared the officer "didn't like the way" the woman was talking to him during the arrest of the man, and that "they kept going back and forth."

"From my perspective of the video, she was being truthful about her fear and the cop took it as a joke or an insult," he said. He added that he did not think the officer had "meant malice" and that he had "made a bad joke."

"The Cobb County police are addressing it appropriately," Chadha Jimenez said.

Lieutenant Abbott's lawyer, Lance LoRusso, said in a statement that the 28-year veteran of the force was cooperating with the internal investigation, Channel 2 reported. He could not be reached for comment on Thursday.

"He was attempting to de-escalate a situation involving an uncooperative passenger," LoRusso said. "In context, his comments were clearly aimed at attempting to gain compliance by using the passenger's own statements and reasoning to avoid making an arrest."

At the news conference on Thursday, Chief Register said Abbott's comments might have been made "from a sarcastic standpoint," but were inappropriate regardless of context.

Texas City loses water as Harvey death toll rises to 44

A flood-hit southeast Texas City lost its drinking water supply and police and soldiers rescued thousands still stranded on Thursday after powerful storm Harvey killed 44 people and displaced more than a million on the Gulf Coast.

Some 779,000 Texans have been told to leave their homes and another 980,000 fled voluntarily amid dangers of new flooding from swollen rivers and reservoirs, according to Department of Homeland Security acting secretary Elaine Duke, CNBC wrote.

The city of Beaumont, about 80 miles (130 km) east of Houston, had its water supplies cut off and was threatened by a rising river that forced the evacuation of its hospital and residents in neighboring Orange County.

There were explosions at a chemical plant about 25 miles (40 km) east of Houston after it was engulfed by floodwater.

The loss of water and health risks from

flooding were among hazards emerging in the aftermath of Harvey, which roared ashore late last Friday as the most powerful hurricane to hit Texas in half a century. It has since been downgraded to a tropical depression as it heads inland, leaving devastation across more than 300 miles (480 km) in the southeast corner of the state.

At least 44 people were dead or feared dead in six counties including and around Houston, officials said. Another 19 remained missing.

In the US energy hub of Houston, firefighters conducted a house-by-house search to rescue stranded survivors and recover bodies as some residents began to return to their homes to assess the damage.

Seventy percent of Harris County, which encompasses Houston, was covered with 18 inches or more of water, county officials said.



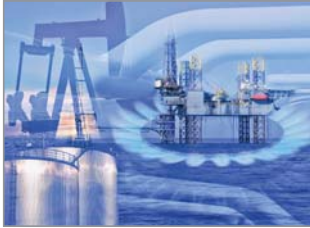
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SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Japan's METI requests 11% hike in budget for Iran, others' opportunities

Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry has requested an 11-percent hike in its budget for acquiring exploration and upstream development-stage assets in fiscal 2018-19 (April-March) as the country is looking at opportunities in Iran, Russia and the US, a ministry official said Friday.



In a plan submitted Thursday to the Ministry of Finance, METI has asked for a 60.9-billion-yen (\$552.8 million) budget for exploration and upstream oil and natural gas assets in fiscal 2018-19 — up 10.5 percent from the 55.1-billion-yen budget in the previous year, Platts reported.

The requested increase in the budget came at a time when Japanese companies are looking at upstream tender opportunities in Iran, as well as considering explorations and surveys in Russia, as well as studying US shale assets, the official said.

In a related development, METI has earmarked 150-billion-yen budget to support Japanese companies' acquisitions of foreign upstream companies via state-owned Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp., the official said.

An amendment to a Jogmec law — which came into effect in November 2016 — allows it provide financial support to domestic companies for the acquisition of stakes in, or the whole of, foreign upstream companies, as well as provide Japanese companies with additional financial support through the development stage of their projects.

Jogmec can now also acquire shares in state-owned national oil companies. Earlier, Jogmec did not provide any financing for Japanese companies' projects that were at the development stage, except for providing loan guarantees for the development costs.

For fiscal 2018-19, METI has requested a 26.5 percent increase in its budget used to enhance relationships with oil and gas producers such as Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi — Japan's top two crude suppliers — for ensuring stable supplies to 4.3 billion yens, the official said.

Central Bank of Croatia keen on boosting Iran ties

Governor of Central Bank of Croatia said that the biggest bank of the country is seeking to develop and deepen relations with Iran.

In a meeting with Central Bank of Iran Governor Valliollah Seif, Boris Vujčić said that the two countries have a good record of cooperation in throughout history, but commercial and economic relations are not at an acceptable level and should be improved, IRNA reported.

Describing exports as the main impetus for economic growth in Croatia, he said that currently the country has desirable economic growth, which is a double-digit figure.

Vujčić further said that visits by delegations from Iranian companies to his country provide a suitable opportunity for broadening cooperation.

Seif referred to extensive political ties between the two countries and called for developing banking relations between the two sides.

Pointing to the desirable standards of Croatian banking system, he said that Iran is keen on forging suitable relations with that country's banks.

Describing banking ties as prerequisite to economic relations, he said that banks from both countries can have cooperation in various forms such as joint investment and setting up branches.

Iran welcomes boosting cooperation between the two countries, he said, noting that at present, there are capacities for promoting collaboration.

Seif also hoped that Iranian traders' upcoming visit to Croatia would help enhance economic and trade relations.

He said that Croatian banks can first shape their brokerage relations with Iran's state-run banks and then promote communications with other Iranian banks.

Seif noted that further acquaintance of conditions in Iran will help foster commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Lack of familiarity about Iranian banking system has prompted countries such as Croatia to develop mentalities about Iranian banks' compliance with international standards, he said, noting that Iranian banks are working hard to keep up with international standards.

Iran produced 3.79 mbd of oil in August



SHANA

Iran produced 3.79 million barrels per day (mbd) of crude oil in August, according to a Reuters survey published on Thursday.

In an effort to prop up prices, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries started reducing output by about 1.2 mbd on January 1 in its first supply cut since 2008.

The August survey indicates output from the 13 OPEC

members originally part of the deal fell by 170,000 bpd from July. Supply from the 11 members with production targets under the original accord declined by 60,000 bpd.

Compared with the levels from which they agreed to cut, in most cases their October 2016 production, the 11 members have reduced output by 1,038 mbd of the pledged 1,164 mbd. That equates to 89 percent compliance, up from 84 percent in July. The figures for July

were not revised.

OPEC target based on the 32.50 mbd ceiling was announced on November 30, 2016.

Iran is allowed a slight increase in the deal. Equatorial Guinea joined OPEC in May. The country is required to limit output but OPEC has not published a production target or an updated overall target since it became an OPEC member.

Iran envoy encourages more cooperation of French firms with Tehran

French companies could guarantee their long-term cooperation with Tehran by investing in and transferring state-of-art technologies to Iran, said Iran's ambassador to France on Thursday.

Ali Ahani was speaking in a meeting organized by France's

Bruno Foucher, IRNA reported.

Ahani underlined that in order to guarantee long-term cooperation, French firms should invest on joint ventures and transfer technology to Iran.

Expressing satisfaction over

On August 1, Chairman of the French-Iranian Trade Promotion Center (CPCFI) Mohsen Rashidi said French companies are eagerly looking for investment opportunities in the Iranian market, as the country today is in a position to choose from amongst an array of trade

Armenia to construct free economic zone on Iran border

Armenia plans to begin construction of a free economic zone in the southern town of Meghri on the border with Iran in November, its Economic Development and Investment Minister Suren Karayan said on Thursday.

Earlier this month Suren Karayan and Iranian President's Advisor and Secretary of Free Trade Zones Coordination Council Akbar Torkan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to broaden cooperation between Iran's Aras and Armenia's Meghri free trade zones, ARKA reported.

The agreement is meant to step up potentials of cooperation between the free trade zones of the two countries.



IRNA

largest employer federation, MEDEF (Mouvement des Entreprises de France) in Paris which was also attended by representatives of over 100 French companies as well as French Ambassador to Iran

expansion of Iran-France relations, Ahani hailed MEDEF's 'conscientiously made efforts and initiatives' to expand economic ties with Tehran amid mounting pressures and threats.

offers. In such an atmosphere, it is possible for Iran to establish effective relations with the world and benefit from opportunities to expand ties in every sector, Rashidi said.

Iran's five-month imports top \$19b

Iran imported 48.041 million tons of goods, worth \$19.442 billion, in the five months to August 22.

This indicates a growth of 16.49 percent in terms of value compared to the figure for the same five months last year, said a report by Iranian Customs Administration, according to Trend News Agency.

Average price per ton of imported goods in the mentioned period was around \$1,367 — indicating a rise of 8.84 percent year-on-year.

The top imported item was rice with imports reaching \$963 million in the five-month period.

Corn fodder (\$612 million), cars with 1,500-2,000 cc engines (\$515 million), auto parts (\$434 million) and soybean meal (\$410 million) ranked after rice as the main imported goods during the five-month period.



China was the main exporter of goods to Iran in the mentioned period with imports reaching \$4.256 billion.

After China, the UAE (\$3.341 billion), South Korea (\$1.346 billion), India (\$1.266 billion) and Turkey (\$1.138 billion) were largest exporters of goods to Iran.



TASS

The establishment of the free economic zone in Meghri is estimated to cost \$32 million, of which \$28 million are capital expenditure.

The free economic zone is to create 2,500 jobs and increase Armenian exports by 30 percent.

According to the Armenian government, the main purpose of the free economic zone is to help boost trade and economic relations with Iran and other countries of the region, help the development of the southern Armenian province of Syunik, as well as position Armenia as a link between Iran and members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and Georgia.

Earlier this week, an advisor to the head of the North Caucasus Development Corporation said that Development of Russian ports in the Caspian Sea will attract investors from Iran to North Caucasus.

Nurali Rezanov added, "Iranian investors will be coming to the region, as Caspian ports are developed and trade relations with Iran and Middle Eastern countries are deepened."

He added, that many joint Russian-Iranian enterprises in Russia's Astrakhan Region demonstrate the trend. The advisor noted that China is also taking interest in the direction, as Silk Road project progresses.

According to Rezanov, it takes time and effort to get investors involved.

"It is necessary to bring investors and convince them. Still, it is a fact that the foreign business is interested. I also think it is necessary to engage local (investors) as well," he said.

The strategy for development of Russian ports in the Caspian Sea and railroad and highway links to them until 2030 was submitted for the Russian government's consideration in July 2017.

The project will be implemented after a respective roadmap is developed and adopted.

China's property market has become a major source of financial risk, a central bank official said on Friday, according to China Finance, a publication under the People's Bank of China.

Africa needs more engineers and makers

Africa needs more engineers and makers, the head of Gearbox — Nairobi's leading maker-space — has told the TEDGlobal conference in Tanzania.

Kamatu Gachigi said that by 2050 Africa's population is projected to have doubled and needs to build economies to sustain that level of growth, according to BBC.

Digital fabrications labs such as Gearbox were vital to this, he said.

Such labs need to start building more Africa-specific hardware, he added.

"These labs help people become more practical and more productive. We need many more people to develop their potential and contribute to society."

He spoke about how young engineer Simon Wachira had used the lab to create a robotic tool that could cut both metal and wood, which is now creating

parts for car giant General Motors.

Another project saw 24-year-old Esther help design sanitary towel dispensers which can be put up in schools to avoid the issue of girls missing school when they have their period.

And a third saw a pharmacy student design 3D models of CT scans that surgeons can use to

practice operations before they operate on real tumors.

"He is making money selling these models to surgeons. It saves up to 60 percent of operation time and that means insurance companies are interested. He now has a business and doesn't need to go back to university," said Gachigi.

Many speakers at the conference drew attention to the lack of manufacturing in Africa and the need to change that.

Joel Jackson is part of the small Nairobi manufacturing scene, making low-cost Jeeps with local staff and materials.

Mobius is a low-cost stripped-down car designed for Africa's often rugged terrain. The firm sold 50 of them in 2015 and now,

with a few tweaks based on customer feedback, is due to launch a second generation model next year.

At a cost of \$11,000, it remains unaffordable for many Africans but the firm is already planning an even cheaper, modular vehicle which will be a basic chassis which people can effectively clip different designs

on.

Education was also a key theme at TEDGlobal and MIT professor Clapperton Mavhunga wants to see African schools radically rethink education.

"We need to teach students to think critically and solve problems but at the moment students come to class, lecturers pour information into their ears and

then they memorize that to pass exams," he said.

The trend for university students to leave their villages and often their country to work for foreign firms also needs to be reversed.

Problem-solving is fertile in villages where people have to come up with solutions to their everyday challenges, he said.

"We should turn these villages into labs. These students need to go back to their villages and work for their communities. If ten of these join up there is the beginning of a village institute."

Another issue raised at the conference was the lack of women in the technology sector in Africa.

In Nigeria, a new initiative — Nigerian Women Techsters — is aiming to change that. Launching in October, it intends to teach 7,200 women in 12 states in Nigeria to code.



huffpost.com

Eurozone inflation rate rises to 1.5%

The inflation rate in the eurozone rose to a higher-than-expected 1.5 percent in August, according to Eurostat, the European Union's statistics office.



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The preliminary estimate for the month was up from July's rate of 1.3 percent, BBC wrote.

Inflation in the 19-nation bloc remains well below the European Central Bank's target of close to, but below, two percent.

Separately, the unemployment

rate in the eurozone was unchanged at 9.1 percent in July, its lowest since February 2009, also according to Eurostat.

The biggest driver of inflation was the cost of energy, which went up by four percent. Processed food and tobacco prices increased by two percent.

Core inflation, which strips out those more volatile elements, was unchanged at 1.2 percent.

The figures could put pressure on the European Central Bank to tighten its monetary policy when policymakers meet next week.

A breakdown of the unemployment figure shows that some countries performed better than others. The jobless rate in Germany, the largest economy in the zone, fell from 3.8 percent in June to 3.7 percent in July, while Spain's jobless rate, the eurozone's highest, remained unchanged at 17.1 percent.

However, the French unemployment rate went up from 9.6 percent to 9.8 percent, while Italy's rate increased from 11.2 percent to 11.3 percent.

India economic growth slips to 57%

India's growth slumped to 5.7 percent in the first quarter of the financial year, official data showed, below predictions as a controversial banknote ban dragged further on the economy.

The figures released by the Central Statistics Office were lower than the 6.1 percent recorded in the previous quarter, and less than forecast by many economists in one of the world's fastest growing economies, AFP wrote.

The official figures show India's economic growth still lags far behind regional rival China, which expanded at 6.9 percent over the same period.



cdn.bignewsnetwork.com

Last year, India's economy clocked 7.1 percent for the first quarter.

But since then Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rolled out two large economic reforms — the introduction of a goods and services tax (GST), and the snap withdrawal of most of India's high-value banknotes from circulation.

In February, the government had forecast gross domestic product growth of between 6.75 percent and 7.5 percent for 2017-2018.

However, in a survey released August, the government warned several factors including the introduction of the GST and appreciation of the Indian currency, could drag on growth.



alternativveconomics.co

China's trade with BRICS countries up 26%

China's trade with BRICS countries experienced fast growth in the first seven months, a spokesperson with the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said.

Trade between China and BRICS countries increased 26 percent year on year to hit \$167.07 billion during the January-July period, MOC spokesperson Gao Feng said at a press briefing, Xinhua reported.

As of the end of July, China's non-financial outbound direct investment (ODI) to BRICS countries had reached \$870 million, Feng said. China's non-financial ODI dropped 44.3 percent year on year to \$57.2 billion in the first seven months of 2017, official data showed.

"There is huge investment potential among BRICS countries," said Feng.

According to him, BRICS members are expected to reach agreements on trade promotion, investment facilitation, economic and technological cooperation as well as the multilateral trading system during the upcoming summit, which will be held in China's southeastern coastal city of Xiamen from Sept. 3 to 5.

Since 2009, BRICS summits have been held annually. The foreign, finance and security ministers of the nations also meet regularly.

In past years, the five BRICS members have doubled their combined percentage of the world's GDP to 23 percent of the total.

South Korea's exports continue to rally

South Korea's exports extended their double-digit growth to eight straight months in August on record shipments of semiconductors, government data showed on Friday.

Outbound shipments came to \$47.1 billion in the month — up from \$40.1 billion tallied a year earlier — according to data compiled by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, and the Korea Customs Service, Yonhap reported.

The country's exports have been on a steady rise since November led by an upturn in oil prices and recovering global trade. August marked the eighth month in a row that exports grew by double digits.

The average export value per working day also advanced 17.4 percent on-year to \$1.96 billion to record the ninth consecutive month of growth, with womenominated shipments rising 19.4 percent.

Imports also rose 14.2 percent on-year to \$40.1 billion last month.

The country's trade surplus came to \$7 billion, marking 67 straight months that the country's exports have exceeded



GETTY IMAGES

imports, the ministry said.

"The upbeat pace in exports will likely continue for a while as the US, European and Chinese economies are growing," Deputy Trade Minister Kim Young-sam said in a briefing.

"But there are still some possible downside pressures like a slowdown in the rise

of oil prices, US monetary tightening and strengthening of trade protectionism."

The trade ministry said the pace of outbound shipments of semiconductors has played a major part in spearheading the upside cycle.

Exports of chips surged 56.8 percent on-year in August to a record \$8.76

billion, on the back of steady price hikes and the release of new smartphones such as the Galaxy Note 8 by Samsung Electronics Co.

Overseas sales of flat screens were on a roll and jumped 10.6 percent on-month to a two-year high of \$2.56 billion last month on stellar sales of organic light-emitting diode (OLED) panels, and those of vehicles vaulted 23.6 percent on demand from Europe.

Outbound shipments of petrochemicals increased 18.8 percent on an uptick in oil prices and those of steel products leaped 13.8 percent thanks to an eased global oversupply.

However, exports of wireless devices plunged 23.3 percent on-year despite the scheduled rollout of new smartphone models, while overseas sales of home appliances slumped 24.6 percent on-year in August.

Shipments of South Korea-made vessels slid 25.8 percent last month, and those of auto parts edged down 0.04 percent due to contracted demand from big markets like the United States and China.

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2897	Chinese Yuan	0.1518
Euro	1.1898	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.2923	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3126
Australian Dollar	0.7937	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0090	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$46.94	Silver	\$17.62
Gold	\$1325.30	Platinum	\$1000.20
Copper	\$3.10	Wheat	\$436.75

Rising temperatures due to global warming may ground up to a third of airplanes worldwide in the decades to come, according to a recently published analysis by Columbia University.



Protecting Africa's drylands key to the continent's future

theconversation.com

beam.usnews.com

Africa's population continues to grow, putting intense pressure on available land for agricultural purposes and life-supporting ecosystem services even as the scenario is compounded by the adverse impacts of climate change.

But the adoption of land degradation neutrality (LDN) measures is helping ensure food and water security, and contributing to sustainable socioeconomic development and wellbeing, especially for Eastern African countries that face immense challenges, IPS reported.

With over half of sub-Saharan Africa consisting of arid and semi-arid lands, the livelihoods of over 400 million people who inhabit these areas are at risk.

LDN will also help to achieve some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa's Vision 2063, launched in 2013 a strategic framework for the socioeconomic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years.

According to Economics of Land Degradation Initiative, a report by the United Nations Convention to Combat

Desertification (UNCCD) and others, land degradation and desertification are among the world's greatest environmental challenges.

It is estimated that desertification affects approximately 33 percent of the global land surface. Over the past 40 years, erosion has rendered close to one-third of the world's arable land unproductive.

Africa is the most exposed, with desertification affecting around 45 percent of the continent's land area, out of which 55 percent is at high or very high risk of further degradation.

Dry lands are particularly affected by land degradation and with over 50 percent of sub-Saharan Africa being arid and semi-arid lands, the livelihoods of over 400 million who inhabit these areas are at risk.

Ermasi Betemariam, a land health scientist at the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) with research interest in land degradation, landscape ecology, restoration ecology, soil carbon dynamics and spatial science, told IPS that increasing population is an important driver of the rising demand for

natural resources and the ecosystem services they provide, including food and energy.

"Africa, in particular, faces the critical challenge of its population continuing to grow at a rapid rate while natural resources, arable, grazing, forest lands, and water resources become increasingly scarce and degraded," he said.

Betemariam noted that food is mostly produced by small-scale farmers who may not have the resources, or be in an enabling economic and policy environment, to close the 'yield gap' between current and potential yields.

Hence the increase in food needs of the rising population in Africa has been met by expanding agriculture into new lands which are often marginal, semi-arid zones that are climatically risky for agriculture — changing the local landscape, economy and society.

Such change in land use has been recorded as a major cause of land degradation in Africa.

Betemariam explained that achieving SDG 15.3 (a land degradation neutral world by 2030) is critical for

Sub-Saharan African countries. LDN is about maintaining and improving the productivity of land resources by sustainably managing and restoring soil, water and biodiversity assets, while at the same time contributing to poverty reduction, food and water security, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

UNCCD said that so far 110 countries have committed to set LDN targets.

The Secretariat and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD are supporting governments in this process, including the definition of national baselines, targets and associated measures to achieve LDN by 2030 through the LDN Target Setting Program (TSP).

LDN is a target that can be implemented at local, national and even regional scales," Betemariam said.

"At the heart of LDN are Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices that help close yield gaps and enhance the resilience of land resources and communities that directly depend on them while avoiding further degradation."

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در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت
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و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه‌ها و شرکت‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

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

People with no calcium buildup in their arteries seem to have a significantly lower risk of heart attack and stroke, a new study found.

'Historic' new drug could redesign immune system to fight leukemia



express.co.uk

Cancer could soon be tackled by reprogramming the immune system, after experts in the US approved a pioneering new drug.

A new drug to fight cancer has just been approved in the US, *express.co.uk* reported.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has described its decision as 'historic'.

They have approved a medicine called CAR-T — the first 'living drug' for cancer — which can

successfully treat a certain type of blood cancer in 83 percent of people. It works by redesigning the patient's own immune system so it attacks acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

White blood cells are extracted from the blood and then genetically reprogrammed to find and eliminate cancer.

They are then inserted back in the patient where they will then multiply.

Unlike current treatments, such as surgery or chemotherapy, the drug can be tailored to each individual.

The treatment — which will be marketed as Kymriah — has been created by Novartis who are charging \$475,000.

Dr. Scott Gottlieb, from the FDA, said, "We're entering a new frontier in medical innovation with the ability to reprogram a patient's own cells to attack a deadly cancer."

"New technologies such as gene and cell therapies hold out the potential to transform medicine and create an inflection point in our ability to treat and even cure many intractable

illnesses."

Kymriah will be offered to patients when normal treatments fail. Researchers treated 63 patients with CAR-T therapy.

Within three months 83 percent of them were in complete remission. However the therapy does come with some risks.

It can lead to potentially life-threatening cytokine release syndrome, but this can be controlled with drugs.

The treatment could also help tackle other types of blood-based cancers.

Common antidepressant may worsen tinnitus

A study by Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) researchers indicates that a common antidepressant medication may worsen a condition, known as tinnitus that millions of people suffer.



dailymail.co.uk

People with tinnitus have the constant sensation of ringing or buzzing in the ears, creating constant irritation for some and severe anxiety for others, *xinhuanet.com* wrote.

A common class of antidepressants known as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) have been used to alleviate symptoms of moderate to severe depression and anxiety.

SSRIs work by increasing the level of serotonin, a chemical compound that acts as a neurotransmitter thought to be responsible for maintaining mood balance.

Detailed in a paper recently published in the journal *Cell Reports*, the OHSU researchers examined brain tissue in mice, specifically the dorsal cochlear nucleus where sensory integration and tinnitus occurs.

They discovered that neurons known as fusiform cells within this portion of the brain become hyperactive and hypersensitive to stimuli when exposed to serotonin.

Senior author Laurence Trussell, a professor of otolaryngology in the OHSU School of Medicine and scientist in the OHSU Vollum Institute, said they saw the activity of those neurons went through the roof.

The finding suggests that SSRIs prescribed to treat anxiety or depression may sometimes worsen patients' tinnitus, which is defined as the chronic perception of sound when there is no internal or external acoustic source.

Lead author Zheng-Quan Tang, a senior postdoctoral fellow in Trussell's lab, said that many patients reported an increase in tinnitus soon after they began taking SSRIs.

The authors are interested in exploring another area of research to focus on a type of ion channel in the membrane of neurons that is activated by serotonin.

If they can determine a way to deactivate those channels, it may be possible to allow the beneficial effects of antidepressants while limiting the severity of tinnitus.

Study shows sequencing all 24 chromosomes reveals rare disorders

Researchers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) recommend extending noninvasive prenatal testing to all 24 human chromosomes to detect genetic disorders.

The standard method of genomic testing performed during pregnancy targets extra copies of chromosomes 21, 18 and 13 but rarely includes all 24 human chromosomes, *UPI* reported.

Dr. Diana W. Bianchi, chief of the Prenatal Genomics and Therapy Section at NIH's National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), said, "Extending our analysis to all chromosomes allowed us to identify risk for serious complications and potentially reduce false-positive results for Down syndrome and other genetic conditions."



UPI

Pregnant women often request noninvasive screening to detect possible genetic abnormalities in their unborn baby.

The tests typically only focus on Down syndrome and other common trisomies, conditions where there are three copies of a certain chromosome instead of the standard two.

For the study, published in *Science Translational Medicine*, researchers analyzed DNA sequence data from 90,000 samples of maternal plasma.

The study group was made up of a US cohort of 72,972 samples and an Australian cohort of 16,885 samples.

Researchers found 328 samples in the US cohort that were classified as abnormal and 71 in the Australian cohort with 60 samples containing a rare trisomy.

Trisomy 7 was found in both cohorts along with trisomy 15, 16 and 22.

Dr. Mark Pertile, head of the division of reproductive genetics at Victorian Clinical Genetics Services, part of Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne, Australia, said, "We found that pregnancies at greatest risk of serious complications were those with very high levels of abnormal cells in the placenta."

"Our results suggested that patients be given the option of receiving test results from all 24 chromosomes."

Researchers were able to link 22 samples with early miscarriage, including 13 of 14 samples with trisomy 15 and three of five samples with trisomy 22.

What happens in the brain to make us 'catch' yawns

You may well be yawning just reading this — it's contagious. Now researchers have looked at what happens in our brains to trigger that response.

A University of Nottingham team found it occurs in a part of the brain responsible for motor function, *BBC* wrote.

The primary motor cortex also plays a part in conditions such as Tourette's syndrome.

So the scientists said understanding contagious yawning could also help understand those disorders too.

Contagious yawning is a common form of echophenomena — the automatic imitation of someone else's words or actions.

Echophenomena is also seen in Tourette's, as well as in other conditions, including epilepsy and autism.

To test what's happening in the brain during the phenomenon, scientists monitored 36

volunteers while they watched others yawning.

In the study, published in the journal *Current Biology*, some were told it was fine to yawn while others were told to stifle the urge.

The urge to yawn was down to how each person's primary motor cortex worked — its 'excitability'.



BBC

And, using external transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), it was also possible to increase 'excitability' in the motor cortex and therefore people's propensity for contagious yawns.

Georgina Jackson, professor of cognitive neuropsychology who worked on the study, said, "In Tourette's, if

we could reduce the excitability we might reduce the ticks, and that's what we are working on."

Prof. Stephen Jackson, who also worked on the research, added, "If we can understand how alterations in cortical excitability give rise to neural disorders we can potentially reverse them."

Non-drug behavioral treatment better for older adults

A new study suggested older adults with chronic conditions respond better to non-drug behavioral treatments.

Research shows nearly 70 percent of adults aged over 75 have more than two chronic health conditions and nearly 55 percent of Medicare recipients who have had a stroke or heart failure have five or more chronic health conditions, according to *UPI*.

Researchers analyzed data from 381 participants mostly in their 70s who had been diagnosed with cancer and found



UPI

that people with cancer were also diagnosed with COPD,

congestive heart failure, dementia, renal disease and other

chronic illnesses.

They analyzed results of a prior study originally designed to test how well people did after they stopped taking statin medication to lower cholesterol levels.

The most common combination of chronic illnesses was COPD, congestive heart failure and cardiovascular disease.

The study, published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, showed that having multiple chronic conditions was associated with symptoms that could negatively affect

quality of life for patients.

"Our findings support the growing evidence recommending a shift from disease-specific treatment to addressing the symptoms that result from having multiple chronic conditions," researchers reported after the study.

The study showed that the total sum of symptoms, not the combination of chronic conditions, was linked to a person's ability to function. Depression and fatigue also add to quality of life and a person's ability to function well.

New leaf sensors could help farmers keep their crops hydrated without wasting water. These sensors, which can measure a leaf's thickness and electrical capacitance, revealing whether it is parched or hydrated.

Scientists spot Martian 'spiders' in unexpected places

Bowie wasn't lying about Ziggy's bandmates — there are spiders from Mars. Sort of.

These 'spiders' aren't eight-legged arachnids. They're unique geologic formations. And it turns out, the spider web-like networks of cracks on Mars surface are more ubiquitous than scientists thought, UPI wrote.

A group of citizen scientists have identified several spiders on Mars in regions where researchers didn't expect the formations to be present.

Researchers believe the formations, called araneiforms, are created when carbon dioxide-turned-ice is heated by sunlight as winter turns to spring and gas beneath races to escape the icy layer above. As the gas rushes to escape, it erodes the Red Planet's surface, leaving behind spindly, spider leg-like streaks.



Until now, planetary scientists believed araneiforms were only found among South Polar Layered Deposits, or SPLDs, flat layers of water ice and dust.

Thousands of volunteers at the citizen science platform

Zooniverse have helped researchers scan more than 20,000 images captured by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter's Context Camera in search of spiders.

Several spiders have been identified in areas outside SPLDs. The discoveries have been confirmed by the orbiter's High Resolution Imaging Experiment camera.

Meg Schwamb, a researcher at the Gemini Observatory, said, "This was a totally unexpected find."

"By having so many eyes scouring the images, we know now that the SPLD is not the only place where spiders form."

"This will help us better understand the carbon dioxide jet formation process."

Spiders and their formation process are incredibly unique. Earth is without a similar phenomenon. Only Neptune's moon Triton features a similar geologic formation.

Thus, the phenomenon offers a window through which to view the uniqueness of the Red Planet's geology and atmosphere.

Schwamb said, "The jet process is linked to the Martian seasons and is returning carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, studying these new locales will give new insights into the Martian atmosphere."

Researchers described their discovery of unusual spider locales in the journal *Icarus*.

Ancient whales were fierce predators, not filter feeders

Whales once ignored krill, and instead stalked sizable prey, new research suggested.

Whales haven't always been predominantly filter feeders. Baleen whales — the world's preeminent filter feeders and the largest mammals in the world — used to have well-defined teeth, UPI reported.

But until now, researchers weren't exactly sure how ancient whales put their teeth to use. New analysis of ancient whale fossils suggested their teeth were surprisingly sharp.



A team of Monash University paleontologists stand next to an ancient whale skull and the 3D model of the whale's surprisingly sharp teeth.

Paleontologists at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, used 3D scanners to image ancient whale jaws and teeth from fossils collections all over the world.

The researchers used their analysis to model the teeth of ancient baleen whales, the ancestors of the southern right whale and the blue whale.

Their models revealed sharp, powerful teeth capable of chomping large fish.

Alistair Evans, an associate professor of biological sciences at Monash, said, "Predators that kill and chew their prey need sharp teeth with cutting blades."

"By contrast, species that use their teeth as a sieve have blunt teeth with rounded edges that help to filter prey from water."

"We found that ancient whales had sharp teeth similar to lions and dingoes so it likely they used their teeth to kill rather than filter."

The latest findings — detailed in the journal *Biology Letters* — suggested filter feeding emerged later in the evolution of whales.

Evans said, "Our findings provide crucial new insights into how the biggest animals ever evolved their most important trait: Filter feeding."

"Filter feeding is the defining trait of modern whales — there are few ways in which this unique strategy could have evolved from tooth-bearing, predatory ancestors, and our study firmly rules out one of them."

Robot learns to follow orders like Alexa

Despite what you might see in movies, today's robots are still very limited in what they can do.

They can be great for many repetitive tasks, but their inability to understand the nuances of human language makes them mostly useless for more complicated requests, science-daily.com reported.

For example, if you put a specific tool in a toolbox and ask a robot to "pick it up", it would be completely lost.

Picking it up means being able to see and identify objects, understand commands, recognize that the "it" in question is the tool you put down, go back in time to remember the moment when you put down the tool, and distinguish the tool you put down from other ones of similar shapes and sizes.

Recently researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) have gotten closer to making this type of request easier. In a new paper, they present an AI-like system that allows robots to understand a wide range of commands that require contextual knowledge about objects and their environments.

They've dubbed the system 'ComText', for commands in context.

The toolbox situation above was among the types of tasks that ComText can handle.

If you tell the system that the tool I put down is my tool, it adds that fact to its knowledge base. You can then update the robot with more information about other objects and have it execute a range of tasks like picking up different sets of objects based on different commands.

CSAIL postdoc Rohan Paul, one of the lead authors of the paper, said, "Where humans understand the world as a collection of objects and people and abstract concepts, machines view it as pixels,

point-clouds, and 3D maps generated from sensors.

"This semantic gap means that, for robots to understand what we want them to do, they need a much richer representation of what we do and say."

The team tested ComText on Baxter, a two-armed humanoid robot developed for

and facts are forms of 'declarative memory'.

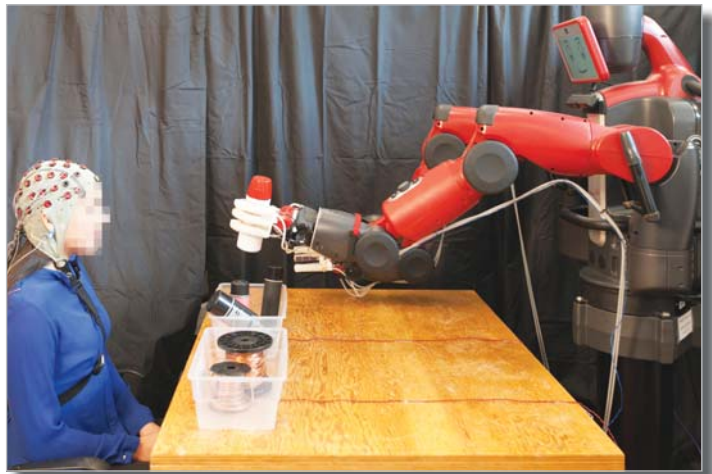
There are two kinds of declarative memory: Semantic memory, which is based on general facts like the 'sky is blue', and episodic memory, which is based on personal facts, like remembering what happened at a party.

Barbu added, "The main contribution is this idea that robots should have different kinds of memory, just like people."

"We have the first mathematical formulation to address this issue, and we're exploring how these two types of memory play and work off of each

to 'pick up the snack', the hope is that the robot could deduce that sugar is a raw material and therefore unlikely to be somebody's 'snack'.

By creating much less constrained interactions, this line of research could enable better communications for a range of robotic systems, from



news.mit.edu

Rethink Robotics by former CSAIL director Rodney Brooks.

The project was co-led by research scientist Andrei Barbu, alongside research scientist Sue Felshin, senior research scientist Boris Katz, and Professor Nicholas Roy.

They presented the paper at last week's International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) in Australia.

How it works

Things like dates, birthdays

Most approaches to robot learning have focused only on semantic memory, which obviously leaves a big knowledge gap about events or facts that may be relevant context for future actions.

ComText, meanwhile, can observe a range of visuals and natural language to glean 'episodic memory' about an object's size, shape, position, type and even if it belongs to somebody.

From this knowledge base, it can then reason, infer meaning and respond to commands.

other."

With ComText, Baxter was successful in executing the right command about 90 percent of the time.

In the future, the team hopes to enable robots to understand more complicated information, such as multi-step commands, the intent of actions, and using properties about objects to interact with them more naturally.

For example, if you tell a robot that one box on a table has crackers, and one box has sugar, and then ask the robot

self-driving cars to household helpers.

Luke Zettlemoyer, an associate professor of computer science at the University of Washington, said, "This work is a nice step towards building robots that can interact much more naturally with people."

"In particular, it will help robots better understand the names that are used to identify objects in the world, and interpret instructions that use those names to better do what users ask."

Can a cell show its biological age? And is it possible to foresee an animal's lifespan? Scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Biology of Aging in Cologne discovered a connection between the size of the nucleolus — a tiny structure in the very center of the cell — and life expectancy.

This could be used as a molecular marker for health and aging, according to phys.org.

Aging researchers have long been searching for so-called biomarkers of aging, which allow predictions about health and lifespan of organisms.

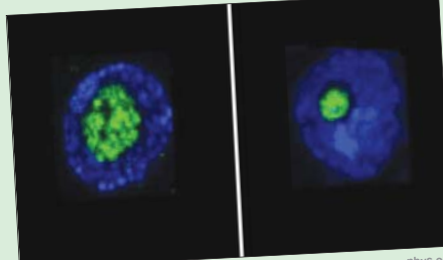
Vamsh Tiku, a scientist in the department and Director Adam Antebi at the Max Planck Institute for Biology of Aging, recently made a breakthrough discovery by studying long-lived mutants of the roundworm *Caenorhabditis elegans*.

All of the mutants showed smaller nucleoli than their shorter-lived relatives, independent of the pathway that led to their longevity.

The nucleolus is a tiny structure within the cell nucleus where special RNA molecules and proteins are assembled to form ribosomes, the protein factories of cells.

The strong correlation between nucleolar size and lifespan enables the Max Planck scientists to predict whether the

Nucleolus is a life expectancy predictor



Long-lived fruit flies (R) have smaller nucleoli than their shorter-lived relatives (L).

worm will be short-lived or long-lived.

Human muscle biopsies

Antebi explained, "We also observed reduced nucleolar size in long-lived animals from other model organisms, such

as fruit flies and mice.

"This correlation may even hold true in humans. When we analyzed muscle biopsies from individuals older than sixty years that underwent modest dietary restriction coupled with exercise — a common way to prolong lifespan and increase health — we found that they had

smaller nucleoli in their muscle cells after the intervention than before."

Chicken or egg?

But is the reduced nucleolar size actually responsible for the increased life expectancy or is it just a read-out without being causal?

Antebi said, "We think that the size of the nucleolus is not only a biomarker for longevity, but that the molecules within the nucleolus could causally impact life expectancy."

The scientists already got a glimpse that this hypothesis is correct: They observed that long-lived mutants with small nucleoli also show reduced levels of a nucleolar protein called fibrillarin, which aids in the assembly of the protein factory.

When fibrillarin was reduced, the roundworms lived longer. This suggested that levels of fibrillarin in the nucleolus regulate life span.

But do these results mean that in the future we could go to the doctor, measure our nucleoli and estimate our life expectancy?

Antebi said, "Perhaps, but there is still a lot of work to be done — more importantly, we hope that our discovery will help us to monitor interventions associated with increased health and longevity."

According to a new study, healthy adults who are slow walkers are twice as likely to die from heart disease as those who walk at a more brisk pace.

One million premature deaths linked to ozone air pollution



dailymail.co.uk

Scientists at the University of York's Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) have released new figures showing long-term exposure to ozone air pollution is linked to one million premature deaths per year due to respiratory diseases — more than double previous estimates.

In 2010, long-term outdoor exposure to ozone air pollution contributed to about one million premature respiratory deaths globally — approximately one in five of all respiratory deaths, phys.org wrote.

This is substantially larger (125 percent) than previous estimates of the global health impacts of ozone (0.4 million premature respiratory deaths).

Published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*, findings were based on results from a recent US

analysis of the association of long-term ozone exposure and respiratory mortality in 670,000 adults. This is a substantially larger number of study participants and observed deaths than a previous estimate from 2003, on which previous global ozone health impact calculations have been based.

Ozone is formed in the atmosphere from emissions of pollutants such as nitrogen oxides from vehicles, organic compounds from solvent use, and methane from agriculture. Once formed, ozone can stay in the atmosphere for weeks and travel long distances from emission sources, across countries and continents.

The largest number of ozone-attributable respiratory deaths was from Asia, accounting for about 79 percent of the total one million global estimated deaths.

India accounted for about 400,000, and China for about 270,000. Africa, Europe and North America each had between 50,000 and 60,000 ozone-attributable deaths, with fewer in Latin America and Oceania.

Chris Malley, researcher at the University of York's Stockholm Environment Institute and lead author of the study, said: "This study highlights that exposure to ozone may make a substantially greater contribution to the global burden of disease than previously thought."

"There is a degree of uncertainty in these estimates because the concentration-response function we used is based on analysis from the United States. We don't know whether the relationship is the same in other regions, such as in India and

China, where the prevalence of other risk factors for respiratory diseases varies considerably.

"We also estimated people's ozone exposure using a global atmospheric chemistry transport model, which means that we could not account for differences in ozone exposure at small geographic scales."

The analysis grew out of SEI's Initiative on Low Emission Development Pathways, which includes the development of a 'benefits calculator' to help policy-makers and planners assess the potential benefits of undertaking measures that reduce air pollution.

SEI's Policy Director Johan C.J. Kuylenstierna, coauthor of the study and a member of the CCAC Scientific Advisory Panel, said: "Our colleagues from countries such as Ghana, Peru, Nigeria and Bangladesh have

highlighted the importance of air pollution impacts on health as a motivation for reducing emissions."

"The key in reducing ozone exposure lies in addressing the sources of pollution, given that many people, particularly in the poorest and most vulnerable populations, cannot easily relocate."

"To reduce ozone pollution, you need to control emissions of different precursors from many different sources. This includes emissions from road transport, household energy use, as well as methane emissions from agriculture."

"Due to the long-range transport of ozone, it is important to realize that action is needed on local, national, regional and global scales. That means that regional cooperation is needed to solve the problem."

Women play key role in solar energy projects

Since weather affects everyone, the idea that women are more susceptible to the effects of climate change may strike some as puzzling. However, according to a United Nations report, State of the World Population, women — particularly those in poor countries — will be affected differently than men, IPS wrote.

An Environmental Justice Foundation report revealed that by 2050 the number of people fleeing the impacts of climate change could reach 150 million. And, according to the Women's Environmental Network, 80 percent of these climate refugees will be women and children.

This is primarily because women make up the majority of the world's poor, tend to have lower incomes, and are more likely to be economically dependent than men — all of which greatly limits their ability to cope with difficult climate conditions.

In addition, while extreme weather and disappearing water resources affect entire communities, women in rural areas represent 45-80 percent of the agricultural workforce and are more likely to feel the brunt.

Droughts and erratic rainfall forces women to work harder and, often, younger girls are seen dropping out of schools to help their mothers, states the report.

"This cycle of deprivation, poverty and inequality undermines the social capital needed to deal with climate change effectively."

This means that not only are women more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, they also have fewer opportunities to make decisions on how to deal with it — men have greater access to the money and education necessary to participate in climate-change decisions, policymaking, and local planning.

However, despite being often underrepresented in drafting policy and strategies to tackle the causes and impacts of climate change, many women from rural areas around the world are now actively taking the responsibility to protect the environment, their families, and livelihoods.

"A few years ago, climate change was considered gender-neutral," said Naoko Ishii, chief executive of the nonprofit Global Environment Facility, which works on climate issues.

"But when we did a gender analysis, gender neutral actually meant gender-ignorant."

In growing recognition of the connection between women's rights and climate change, Greenpeace has been working on multiple solar energy projects that assist women at community levels to implement simple, effective, and affordable sustainable solutions in rural areas in developing countries.

South Korea's population edges up 0.4% in 2016

South Korea's total population rose slightly last year, but senior people outnumbered children for the first time in history amid a rapid aging trend, a national census showed.

A total of 51.27 million people lived in South Korea as of Nov. 1, 2016, up 0.4 percent, or 200,000, from a year earlier, according to the 2016 census by Statistics Korea, Yonhap reported.

The agency started to hold a census based on the national resident registration records every year starting from 2016, with the conventional person-to-person survey to be conducted every five years.

Out of the total, the number of South Korean nationals reached 49.86 million, while foreign residents who stayed in the country for at least three months totalled 1.41 million, accounting for 2.8 percent.

Some 49.5 percent of South Korea's population lived in the capital city area that covers Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi Province.

Seoul saw its residents decline one percent to 9.8 million last year, while people in Gyeonggi Province rose 1.5 percent to 12.67 million. Busan, the country's second-largest city on the southeastern coast, was home to 6.7 percent of the population, or 3.44 million people.

The study showed that South Korea is aging at a rapid pace as people aged over 65 years rose 3.1 percent to 6.78 million last year, making up 13.6 percent of all its citizens.

It is the first time that the number of seniors surpassed that of the youth aged zero to 14, which amounted to 6.77 in 2016.

As a result, South Korea's aged-child ratio, referring to the percentage of those over 65 to children between 0 and 14, soared to 100.1 in 2016, up from 95.1 tallied a year ago.

The agency said the surge is attributable to the country's fast aging population coupled with a low birthrate, which fell to a seven-year low in 2016.

There were a total of 19.84 million households in the country last year, with an average of 2.51 members. One-member households were the main family type in 2016, accounting for 27.9 percent, while the typical four-member families took up 18.3 percent.

Nearly half of South Korean families reside in apartments, with 9.4 million households, followed by 34.3 percent living in detached houses.



A vegetable vendor in Bangalore using a solar lamp to light her stall.

SELCO/IPS

Three types of parents most likely to raise a murderer



independent.co.uk

How do you know if you're more likely to raise a killer than your neighbor?

Whether it's a question you've considered only in playful terms or not, it's a matter worth pondering, and a doctor of criminology at Birmingham City University has pointed out that there are three distinctive types of mothers that might be more likely to raise a murderer, according to *The Independent*.

After examining 10 murder cases in the US series *Murderers and their Mothers*, Dr. Elizabeth Yardley began to demystify the psyche of killers by looking closely at their maternal relations.

Debunking accusations of sexism by explaining that mothers "matter more" in the making of murderers due to the "inherently gendered nature of society", she used a blog on the Huffington Post to explain that care-giving and nurturing connotations can be taken for granted when it comes to motherhood.

The criminology professor and podcaster deems the killers' mothers behavior as a contributing factor in their actions.

"The mothers of the Fred West, Robert Black, Joachim Knychala, Leszek Pekalski and Richard Kuklinski created environments where brutality was everyday and expected," she wrote.

"They actively abused or neglected

their children, creating deviant value systems in which the abnormal became normal."

Yardley believed that each of these renowned murderers' maternal figures fall into one of three categories, which thrive respectively due to social insistences that how we raise our children is a private issue and is not talked about openly.

"Privacy can be valuable as it allows us to restrict who has access to our family places and spaces and enables us to control who knows what about our

families. However, it can also be the barrier behind which violence, abuse, neglect and denial can thrive — and the making of a murderer can begin," she wrote.

Anti-mothers

These women are typically victims of abuse themselves, hailing from brutal upbringings which prevented them from ever experiencing a happy and healthy home life. Whilst the majority of neglected and abused mothers will go

on to raise normal families, in the hope of taking back the control they lacked as children, some will recreate their childhood experiences as adults and become the very aggressors they had once loathed, Yardley explained.

Uber-mothers

For uber-mothers, the issues begin outside of the home, as they usually come from traditional and stable families. They are fiercely protective of their children, determined that they will not be restricted by labels that might've held them back in the past such as poverty and minority.

"They are the gatekeepers that hold off the outside world," revealed Yardley, "protecting their child from scrutiny as their behavior becomes increasingly deviant."

Passive-mothers

Passive mothers live in fear of being judged by society. Due to their quiet and subdued nature, when their children show any moral ineptitudes or deficiencies in school and beyond, they will respond through denial i.e. they will brush any issues under the carpet in the hope that their troubles will simply go away.

World's smallest monkey species welcome tiny twins

A zoo in England's minuscule pygmy marmoset monkey welcomed a pair of tiny twins.

Chester Zoo shared video of Audrey the pygmy marmoset's two .53 ounce (1.5kg) babies which just recently became large enough for visitors to see, UPI reported.

"Audrey's new twins are the finest of tiny arrivals!" Chester Zoo said.

The twins were born July 25, weighing a fraction of their mother's weight, and will only grow to be about five inches (12.7) long.

Nick Davis, the zoo's deputy curator of mammals, told ITV, "Pygmy marmosets actually have relatively large babies for their tiny size. An adult will only weigh up to around 150 grams and so each baby equates to around 10 percent of its body weight."

The twins' father, Gumi, has assumed most of the parental duties while Audrey rests following



CHESTER ZOO

the birth.

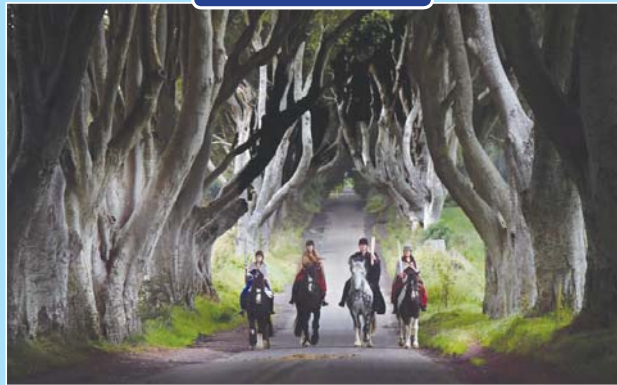
"After giving the babies their regular feeds, mum Audrey, like all other female eastern pygmy marmosets, steps aside while dad

Gumi for long periods of time as mum takes a well-deserved break."

Davis said.

"The youngsters can therefore often be seen being carried by dad Gumi for long periods of time as mum takes a well-deserved break."

PICTURE OF THE DAY



CHARLES MCCULLAN/GETTY IMAGES

Four actors on horseback dressed in Game of Thrones-inspired costumes carry the Queen's baton through the Dark Hedges in Antrim, Northern Ireland, the UK.

Bentley unveils new Continental GT

The most hi-tech Bentley ever has been launched with the world's first three-way rotating dashboard that takes its inspiration from James Bond's famous revolving number plate.

A clever triangular 'Toblerone-style' device showing three different dashboard 'faces' allows the driver to choose which one to view, dailymail.co.uk wrote.

The new model is due to go on sale next year with a £160,000 price tag, it will be capable of smashing through the 200mph barrier and will be built exclusively in the UK.

There are plenty of new features for the revised 2018 Continental GT, but let's start with the car's clever new part-piece dashboard.

At first glance the fascia of the sporty new Bentley displays a clear smooth wood veneer. But fire up the engine and the middle of the dash 'glides silently forward and rotates' to reveal a 12.3-inch display screen with three 'windows' for navigation, telephone and general media.

At the flick of a switch, the driver can spin it again to reveal a third 'face' — showing three analogue dials displaying outside temperature, a compass and a chronometer.



It is inspired by the rotating number-plate gadget used in the James Bond movie 'Goldfinger' on 007's gadget-laden Aston Martin DB5 — using three-sided faces, like on the distinctive triangular packaging of the Toblerone bar of chocolate.

Explaining how the Bond-like rotating dashboard display works, a Bentley spokesman said: "Forty moving components make up the mechanism, which is bespoke to Bentley."

"Small electric drive motors linked to a series of tiny gear-boxes are controlled by a dedicated electronic control unit or 'brain'." "To provide the rotation whilst maintaining extremely tight tolerances (less than 0.5mm for each of the sides), three separate but linked motors are required.



BENTLEY

"The first moves the unit in to the dashboard to provide clearance for the second stage — rotation — before the unit is then moved back in to a flush position."

The system even has built-in cooling fans to manage motor

and screen temperatures.

Bentley said: "It's the most technologically advanced Bentley ever. And the rotating dashboard does add a little bit of James Bond magic."

Away from the spinning display, Bentley said the new third-generation Bentley Continental GT will cost £160,000 when it goes on sale next year and is being built in Britain at the firm's factory in Crewe which employs 4,000 people.

Since it first launched in 2003, some 66,000 Continental GTs have been sold, with the second generation car arriving in 2011.

Bentley said big steps have been made and the new Continental GT is the 'most technologically advanced car' they have ever produced — with 2,300 circuit boards, five miles of wiring (8km), 92 electronic control units, and 100 million lines of computer code, some 15 times the amount on a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, to make it all work.

Details of the new Bentley 'Grand Tourer' have been revealed ahead of its global launch at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September ahead of first deliveries from spring next year.

Coffee drinkers could be less likely to die

In a breakthrough, life-changing study, researchers have found that drinking coffee is linked to living longer.

The study, presented at the European Society of Cardiology, found that people who drink four cups of coffee or more a day have a lower risk of death than their caffeine-free friends, mirror.co.uk wrote.

Spanning 10 years, nearly 20,000 participants were quizzed on their health in conjunction with their coffee consumption.

In the end, researchers discovered those who consumed large amounts of the sweet elixir that is coffee were 64 percent less likely to die of any cause during the period of the study compared to those who said they never or almost never drank coffee.



bloomberg.com
A new study links coffee with longer life.

It's important to note that the study was completely observational. Meaning, it hasn't been proven drinking coffee equals living longer. It was found to merely be a

link.

Still, while we're not encouraging you all to go out and consume a diet completely consisting of Arabica, now you've got a worthwhile excuse to tip that bearded hipster barista at your local cafe.

They may, just may, be helping you live longer.

There's no need to even leave the house to partake in the glory that is cafe-standard coffee in order to live longer, though.

Their Extra Special coffee pods are compatible with Nespresso machines and come in four different flavor profiles.

So whether you like smooth, strong, full-bodied or delicate, you can team coffee pod with taste.

Global Word

- 4 letters
- APIA
- BONN
- LAOS
- LIMA
- MALE
- MALI
- OMAN
- ROME
- SUVA
- TOGO
- UTAH

- 5 letters
- JAPAN
- KABUL

- LA PAZ
- LIBYA
- PARIS
- YUKON
- ZAIRE

- 6 letters
- ANKARA
- KIGALI
- NORWAY
- PRAGUE
- ROSEAU

- 7 letters
- AUGUSTA
- JAMAICA

- MONTANA

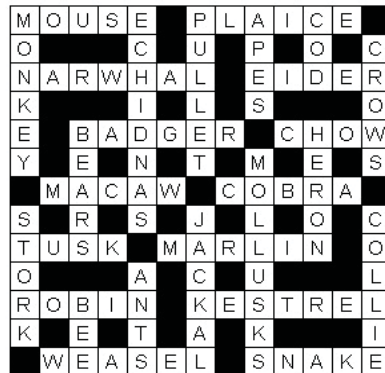
- 8 letters
- CHEYENNE

- 9 letters
- NEW JERSEY
- PORT LOUIS

- 11 letters
- KUALA LUMPUR

- 13 letters
- CZECH REPUBLIC

Thursday's solution



Sudoku

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

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

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

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 78th international goal through a hat-trick in Portugal's 5-1 win over Faroe Islands in a World Cup qualifier on Thursday, surpassing Pele's 77 on the list of top international goal scorers.

Nadal recovers early setback, Federer wins 2nd five-setter

Roger Federer was taken to five sets for the second time in three days before overcoming Russia's Mikhail Youzhny at the US Open.

The five-time champion was two sets to one down but eventually came through 6-1, 6-7 (3-7), 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 in New York, BBC reported.

Top seed Rafael Nadal required four sets to see off Japan's Taro Daniel in the night session.

The Spaniard, 31, trailed by a set and a break before two fizzing forehands turned the second set around and he went on to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

"It's true that I didn't play very well tonight but at the same time it's true that I'm through to the next round," said the two-time champion.

Nadal will play Argentina's Leonardo Mayer in the last 32.

It is the first time Federer has played five-set matches in the first two rounds of a Grand Slam.

"I think because you're on a high, you're thrilled that you got through, so you don't look at the negative," Federer said.

"Or I don't. Yes, I might feel more tired than I normally would going into a third round, but that's OK."



Rafael Nadal celebrates his second-round victory over Japan's Taro Daniel at US Open in New York on August 31, 2017.

"My preparation hasn't been good at all here. I knew I was going to maybe struggle early on. Maybe I struggled more than I would have liked to."

"But I'm still in the draw, which gives me a chance."

The Swiss third seed goes on to face Spanish 31st seed Feliciano Lopez in round three at Flushing Meadows.

'This match wasn't about the back'

Federer remains unbeaten in Grand Slam play this year, having won his 18th and 19th major titles at the Australian Open and Wimbledon, and skipped the French Open.

However, Federer's preparation for Flushing Meadows was disrupted by a back injury and he has been taken to the limit in his opening two matches.

American teenager Frances Tiafoe forced a fifth set in Tuesday's night session, before Youzhny led by two sets to one on Thursday afternoon.

"This match wasn't about the back, which is good. This is more just a grind," Federer said after winning in three hours and eight minutes.

"I felt different, completely different, the way it played and everything. But I'm really, really happy I got through."

"These five-set battles are actually quite a lot of fun and I feel quite warmed up by now."

His backhand, such a strength for much of the year, was particularly wayward and he finished with 35 errors off that side in a total of 68.

The Russian was having his own problems, requiring visits from the doctor in the fourth and fifth sets and falling to the court, apparently with cramp, early in the decider.

A tired double fault saw Youzhny fall behind at 4-2 in the fifth set and Federer quickly saw the match out against an opponent now unable to move freely, finishing with a smash.

"I haven't played a lot of guys with cramps in the last decade or so and the rules have changed, you're not allowed to get any help from the physio," added Federer.

"We've played a bunch of times and this was probably our best match."



Iran's Ramin Rezaeian (R) battles Hwang Hee-chan for the ball in the 2018 World Cup Asian qualifiers in Seoul World Cup Stadium, South Korea, on August 31, 2017.

10-man Iran holds South Korea

Korea Republic was unable to break down 10-man Iran in Group A of the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 qualifiers on Thursday as a 0-0 draw with the group winner leaves the table firmly in the balance ahead of the final round of fixtures next week.

In a frantic opening 20 minutes at Seoul World Cup Stadium, the host should have taken the lead on 18 minutes but Jang Hyun-soo headed wide from just a few yards out, before Iran's Reza Qoochamejad shot over from a similar distance soon after, the-afc.com reported.

But six minutes after the interval, the visitor was reduced to 10 men when Saïd Ezzatollahi saw red for making contact with Kim Min-jae in an off-the-ball incident to hand Korea Republic the momentum.

The home side then took control of the game but Iran's defense remained resolute and Kwon Chang-hoon curled his free-kick just over with 12 minutes remaining as Shin Tae-yong's team desperately sought the all-important goal.

Veteran striker Lee Dong-gook was brought on to a

standing ovation in the dying minutes but the Taeguk Warriors were unable to find the breakthrough as Iran maintained its record of having yet to concede in qualifying.

The draw leaves Korea Republic two points above both Uzbekistan and Syria after the Uzbeks lost 1-0 to China and Syria defeated Qatar 3-1 in simultaneous kickoffs with the Koreans now needing a win in Tashkent to guarantee their progression to a ninth successive FIFA World Cup.

'Iranians deserve world's recognition'

Carlos Queiroz was full of praise for his players after the goalless which draw in Seoul stretched Iran's unbeaten run to nine games.

"It was very tough, I don't know if it was a great game but it was a wonderful fight," said Queiroz, who has guided Iran to successive FIFA World Cups for the first time in its history.

"Especially in the second half when they were a man down, I was very proud because it is unbelievable the way we have grown as a team with a sense of togetherness."

"We don't think about [the unbeaten run], it is only an outcome of our performances. We try to defend well, we try to attack well and when you saw the character of our players today, things become easier."

In his six-and-a-half-year spell in charge of Iran, Queiroz has also seen his team become the highest-ranked Asian side in the FIFA World Rankings.

The current campaign began with a 2-0 victory over Qatar, with five wins and three draws following as Iran has proven the dominant force in Group A and now sits seven points clear in the standings.

Iran will next return to Tehran for its final fixture against Syria on Tuesday and will be looking to round off a memorable year ahead of a World Cup where the Asian giant will fancy its chances of springing a few surprises.

PSG seals deadline deal for Mbappe

Paris Saint-Germain clinched a sensational deal to prize wonder kid Kylian Mbappe away from Monaco on Thursday in a move scheduled to become the second most expensive transfer in history.

Less than a month after the world-record arrival of Brazilian icon Neymar in the French capital, and only hours before a record-breaking transfer window closed, 18-year-old Mbappe joined PSG on a season-long loan, AFP reported.

The France striker is expected to sign a permanent deal for €180 million (\$215 million) next year in a move designed to prevent PSG falling foul of UEFA's Financial Fair Play regulations.

"It is with great joy and pride that I join Paris Saint-Germain," said Mbappe, who scored his first France goal in a 4-0 World Cup qualifying win over Netherlands shortly after the deal was announced.

"I really wanted to be a part of the club's project, which is one of the most ambitious in Europe."

PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi hailed Mbappe, who exploded onto the scene last season during Monaco's run to the French title, as a star of the future.

"Among players of his age, he is without doubt the most promising in the world," he said.

"Under our colors, in the midst of truly great players, Kylian will continue his progression in a way that will also benefit the French national team in the months and years to come. With his arrival, more than ever, our supporters will have plenty to cheer about." PSG president added.



Kylian Mbappé celebrates his goal for France in a 4-0 victory over Netherlands in the World Cup 2018 European qualifiers at the Stade de France in Paris on August 31, 2017.

Uruguay, Argentina finish goalless in South American qualifiers

Uruguay and Argentina drew 0-0 in an uninspiring but hotly contested World Cup qualifier in Montevideo on Thursday, a result that leaves both sides still needing points to guarantee a place at Russia 2018.

The home side had the better of the first half and Argentina was on top during the second period but neither team posed much of a goal threat in a typically tense encounter, Eurosport reported.

Argentina coach Jorge Sampaoli made his disappointment clear with the result.

"We played against a side that was always trying to shut us down ... It's a bitter taste not winning," he told reporters, adding that his side must be "more aggressive" in the final third of the field when they play last-placed Venezuela next week.

The draw means Argentina lies in fifth place in the South American qualifying table with 23 points, behind Chile on goal difference.

Uruguay, which has now gone six games without a win, is a point above Chile in third.

The top four teams qualify automatically for Russia 2018 and the fifth-placed side goes into a playoff against a rival from the Oceania confederation.



Barcelona teammates Lionel Messi (R) and Luis Suarez pose wearing jerseys to promote their countries joint bid to host the 2030 World Cup before the goalless draw in Montevideo, Uruguay, on August 31, 2017.

Nelson Mandela:
It always seems impossible until it's done.

Art & Culture

Actor Anderson, boss of 'Six Million Dollar Man', dies

Richard Anderson, who played the boss of both 'The Six Million Dollar Man' and 'The Bionic Woman' in an onscreen career stretching some 50 years, died on Thursday, a family spokesman said. He was 91.



FRED PROUSER/REUTERS

Anderson died from natural causes at his home in Beverly Hills, California, surrounded by his family, publicist Jonathan Taylor said. Memorial services will be private, he added, Reuters reported.

The imposing 6-foot-3-inch (190-cm) actor often appeared on screen as an authority figure — politicians, government officials and policemen — but also played his share of cowboys and criminals. His roster of guest appearances included many popular shows still airing in syndication such as 'The Big Valley', 'Ironside', 'Murder She Wrote' and 'Dynasty'.

Anderson played the police chief in the Burt Reynolds' detective series 'Dan August' (1970-1971), and a police lieutenant in the last season of the long-running legal drama 'Perry Mason'. Two decades later, he had a prominent guest role in the 1985 TV movie 'Perry Mason Returns', which reunited original series cast members Raymond Burr and Barbara Hale.

In the 1967 two-part finale of 'The Fugitive', Anderson played the husband of Dr. Richard Kimble's sister. The climactic episode in which Kimble, played by David Janssen, finally cleared his name in the killing of his wife after four seasons on the run, was at the time the most-watched series program in TV history.

But it was as US intelligence official Oscar Goldman that Anderson left his most lasting mark on television. Goldman was the chief of Steve Austin, a secret agent with enhanced bionic powers after reconstructive surgery in the 1974-1978 hit series 'The Six Million Dollar Man', starring Lee Majors.

Anderson became one of the first actors to play the same character simultaneously on two shows on different networks when he reprised his Goldman role in the 1976-1978 spinoff 'The Bionic Woman', starring Lindsay Wagner.

"It was a time when everything was down. The Vietnam War had just ended and everybody was down and we came in with a hero," Anderson told Hollywood Exclusive in 2009 when asked about the shows' popularity.

In the late 1980s, Anderson persuaded studio executives to reunite the two bionic heroes, which led to three television movies in which he reprised his Goldman role and helped produce.

Born in Long Branch, New Jersey, on August 8, 1926, Anderson began his acting career as an MGM contract player in the last days of the studio system. Among his many film credits were 'Forbidden Planet' (1956), Stanley Kubrick's 'Paths of Glory' (1957), and 'The Long Hot Summer' (1958).

He made the leap into television in the early 1950s, becoming one of the medium's most familiar faces through a stream of character roles over five decades.

"When I went into television, that's where the audience was. And in my opinion, still is," Anderson said in a Canadian radio interview.

Iran's 'Malaria' wins two awards at Russian fest

Iranian feature film titled 'Malaria', co-directed by Parviz Shabbazi and Masoud Radaei, won two prizes at the 10th International Film Festival 'East&West', in Orenburg, Russia.

The film won the 'Best Film' and 'Best Actress Performance' awards at the filmfest, Mehr News Agency reported.

'Best Actress Performance' went to Saghar Qana'at.

The cast of the flick included Qana'at, Saied Soheili, Azarakhsh Farahani and Azadeh Namdari.

Malaria narrates the story of a young woman who elopes with her fiancé to Tehran. To cover her tracks, she tells her father she has been kidnapped. With her family in hot pursuit, the couple takes up with a band of bohemian street musicians and forms an elaborate plan for a more permanent escape. Mixing real-life on-the-streets footage with a tense lovers-on-the-run drama, Festival alum Shabbazi crafts a lively look at the cultural clashes that exist deep within Iranian society.

The feature film made its international debut at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival in Italy.

Receiving the award, Radaei said, "The true winners and heroes are the peaceful people of Iran and the proud youths of the country such as Martyr Mohsen Hojaji, to whom I offer the award."

Martyr Hojaji was a member of an Iranian advisory team who was beheaded by Daesh terrorists in Syria.

IRAN DAILY

Add.: Iran Cultural & Press Institute, #208 Khorramshahr Avenue Tehran/Iran

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 » Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88755761-2
 » Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88761869
 » Subscription Dept. Tel: +98 21 98521954, +98 21 88748900
 » ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548992, 8
 » Advertising Dept. Tel & Email: +98 21 8850067- irandaily@iranaghiha.com
 » Website: http://www.irandailyonline.ir
 » Email: irandaily@icpi.ir
 » Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Majidi's 'Beyond the Clouds' to premiere at London Film Festival

Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi's India-set project 'Beyond the Clouds' will make its global premiere at the upcoming 61st BFI London Film Festival. Featuring actor Shahid Kapoor's brother Ishaan Khatter and Malavika Mohanan in lead roles, the film covers the nuances of an adorable brother-sister relationship, and has been fully shot in India.

The festival, which will run from October 4 to 16, will screen 242 films with 29 world premieres, 8 international premieres and 34 European premieres, reported deadline.com.

'Beyond the Clouds' is an official selection in the competition category, which is scheduled for October 13 and 14. The lead cast along with Majidi and Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman is expected to attend the festival along with producers Shareen Mantri Kedia, Kishor Arora and Zee Studios, read a statement. Clare Stewart, Festival Director, BFI London Film Festival, has praised the film.

"Acclaimed Iranian director Majid Majidi brings a powerful outsider eye to Mumbai in this compelling, visually stunning film driven by an extraordinary debut performance from Ishaan Khatter. Anil Mehta's breathtaking cinematography and the evocative score by Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman bring additional depth to Majidi's visionary

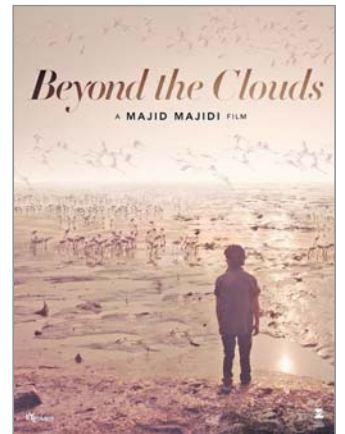
filmmaking," Stewart said.

"We are very proud to present its World Premiere in Official Competition at the BFI London Film Festival," she added. The film wrapped up in April this year and is into its post-production at the moment. Majidi has decided to make three languages — Hindi, Tamil and English as a part of the script. The film will see an amalgamation of three languages instead of it being shot and dubbed separately. Each language will form a major part of the film and will be used in the scenes and setups that befit those languages.

Vibha Chopra, Head Zee Studios international, said, "The film based in Mumbai masterfully captures the depth and simplicity of human emotions. A project which is completely a 'Make in India' film helmed by Majidi proves that human emotions know no barriers of language and geography."

The first look of the film was unveiled at the Berlin Film Festival in February, and the second poster was released at the Cannes Film Festival this year. Majidi's 'Children of Heaven' (1997) won the Best Picture award at the Montreal International Film Festival and was nominated for the Best Foreign Film at the Academy Awards.

He is also internationally known for his other masterpieces 'The Color of Paradise' and 'Baran'.



The Seventh National Festival and the First International Course on Daf (frame drum) was held in Sanandaj in the western Iranian province of Kurdistan from August 30 to September 1, 2017.

Farabi Cinema Foundation sold rights for 64 Iranian films in four years

Art & Culture Desk

Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation (FCF) has sold the rights for 64 Iranian films to international customers since the beginning of President Hassan Rouhani's first term in office (in 2013), said the foundation's managing director.

Alireza Tabesh added the rights included those pertaining to screening the flicks in movie theaters, broadcasting them on TV, sharing them on the Internet, distributing their copies and showing them during flights, Mehr News Agency reported.

The contracts for selling the rights of the films to foreign companies were signed following the decision by the 11th Iranian government to promote art diplomacy and interactions with other countries in the field of cinema, he said.

Tabesh noted that the rights for 17 Iranian features films have been sold to Emirati, Turkish, Omani, Qatari and Indian airlines. They include 'Mina's Choice' by Kamal Tabrizi, 'Azar, Shahdokht, Parviz and Others' by Behrouz Afkhami, 'Tajrish... An Unfinished Story' by Pourya Azarbayjani, 'Tragedy' by Azita Moghie, 'Colorful Island' by Khosrow Sinaei, 'Houra' by Gholam-Reza Saqarchian and 'A house on 41st St.' by Hamid-Reza Qorbani.

The other films were 'The Long Farewell' by Farza Motamen, 'The Dream of Water' by Farhad Mehranfar, 'So Close, So Far' by Reza Mirkarimi, 'Trapped' by Parviz Shabbazi, 'Taken' by Bijan Mirbagheri, 'Bench Cinema' by Mohammad Rahmani, 'Night Shift' by Niki Karimi, 'Sensitive Floor' by Kamal Tabrizi and 'Ghashang & Farang' by Vahid Mousaiean.

He said FCF has made arrangements to screen a limited number of Iranian features in five countries including Australia, Italy, Germany, Canada and the US. He put the number of the flicks at eight, adding they include 'Reclamation' by Ali Ghafari, 'Tragedy', 'The Love Story' by Ahmad Ramezan-Zadeh, 'A house on 41st St.', 'Taken', 'Cyanide' by Behrouz Shoabi, 'Bench Cinema' and 'Night Shift'.

Tabesh said his foundation has also sold television rights for 25 Iranian flicks to Slovakia, Albania, Brazil, Bosnia, Turkey, Tunisia, Romania, Croatia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Vietnam, India and Bangladesh.

He added the rights of 21 films have been sold to foreign firms for online broadcast.



MASOUD SAKI/mehrnews.com

Weather

