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Rouhani: US to destroy its credibility if quits Iran deal

Political Desk

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani lashed out at his US counterpart after Donald Trump called the Iran nuclear deal "an embarrassment to the United States."

Addressing the UN general assembly on Wednesday he said if the US backs out of the 2015 nuclear agreement, it will destroy its credibility.

"By violating its international commitments, the new US administration only destroys its own credibility and undermines international confidence in negotiating with it, or accepting its word or promise," Rouhani said. The Iranian president called

Trump and his administration "rogue newcomers to the world of politics" who seek to dismantle the landmark deal.

He said "Iran will not be the first country to violate the agreement but it will respond decisively and resolutely to its violation by any party."

Rouhani noted that "the deal is the outcome of two years of intensive multilateral negotiations, overwhelmingly applauded by the international community and endorsed by the Security Council as a part of Resolution 2231. As such, it belongs to the international community in its entirety, and not to only one or two countries."

Under the framework of agree-

ment between Iran and six world powers — the US, the UK, France, China, Russia and Germany — Tehran agreed to curb its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of some economic sanctions.

Trump and his top diplomats have threatened to withdraw from the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Rouhani hailed the JCPOA, saying it "can become a new model for global interactions; interactions based on mutual constructive engagement."

The Iranian president referred to Trump's anti-Iran remarks at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday as "ignorant, absurd and

hateful rhetoric, filled with ridiculously baseless allegations".

He underscored that Iran's defense capabilities, including its missiles, are "solely defensive deterrents for the maintenance of regional peace and stability and the prevention of adventurist tendencies of irrational aspirants".

Rouhani maintained that Iran never seeks to "achieve deterrence through nuclear weapons."

He also said the US "should explain to its own people why, after spending billions of dollars of the assets of the people of America and of our region, instead of contributing to peace and stability, it has only brought war, misery, poverty and the rise of terrorism and extremism to the

region".

Elsewhere in his remarks, Rouhani "moderation is the inclination as well as the chosen path of the great Iranian people".

"The path of moderation is the path of peace; but a just and inclusive peace; not peace for one nation, and war and turmoil for others. Moderation is freedom and democracy; but in an inclusive and comprehensive manner: not purporting to promote freedom in one place while supporting dictators elsewhere. Moderation is the synergy of ideas and not the dance of swords and finally, the path of moderation nurtures beauty. Deadly-weapons exports are not beautiful; rather, peace is."

Iran FM: Trump's UN speech 'belongs in medieval times'

France's Macron defends 'robust' deal with Iran

US envoy: Trump's speech no indication of canceling JCPOA



REUTERS

Political Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said that US President Donald Trump's UN address is not worth a reply.

"Trump's ignorant hate speech belongs in medieval times — not the 21st century UN — unworthy of a reply," Zarif tweeted on Tuesday.

"Fake empathy for Iranians fools no one," he stressed, as reported by Press TV.

Since Trump took office, the US has launched an attack against the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), threatening to abandon it on multiple occasions.

Trump on Tuesday devoted much of his address at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to denouncing Iran, calling the seven-nation agreement on Tehran's nuclear program championed by his predecessor Barack Obama an "embarrassment to the United States."

"Frankly, I don't think you've heard the last of it," the US President added.

The US president repeated baseless allegations against Tehran, accusing it of engaging in "destabilizing activities" in the region.

Trump claimed that Iran's "support for terror is in stark contrast to the recent commitments of many of its neighbors to fight terrorism and halt its financing."

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Mexicans dig through collapsed buildings as quake kills over 200



AFP

Police, firefighters and ordinary Mexicans dug frantically through the rubble of collapsed schools, homes and apartment buildings early Wednesday, looking for survivors of Mexico's deadliest earthquake in decades as the number of confirmed fatalities stood at 217.

Adding poignancy and a touch of the surreal, Tuesday's magnitude-7.1 quake struck on the 32nd anniversary of the 1985 earthquake that killed thousands. Just hours earlier, people around Mexico had held earthquake drills to mark the date, AP reported.

One of the most desperate rescue efforts was at a primary and secondary

school in southern Mexico City, where a wing of the three-story building collapsed into a massive pancake of concrete slabs. Journalists saw rescuers pull at least two small bodies from the rubble, covered in sheets.

Volunteer rescue worker Dr. Pedro Serrano managed to crawl into the crevices of the tottering pile of rubble that had been Escuela Enrique Rebsamen. He made it into a classroom, but found all of its occupants dead.

"We saw some chairs and wooden tables. The next thing we saw was a leg, and then we started to move rubble and we found a girl and two adults — a

woman and a man," he said.

"We can hear small noises, but we don't know if they're coming from above or below, from the walls above (crumbling), or someone below calling for help."

A mix of neighborhood volunteers, police and firefighters used trained dogs and their bare hands to search through the school's ruins. The crowd of anxious parents outside the gates shared reports that two families had received WhatsApp messages from girls trapped inside, but that could not be confirmed.

Rescuers brought in wooden beams to shore up the fallen concrete slabs so they wouldn't collapse further and crush whatever airspaces remained.

The federal Education Department reported late Tuesday that 25 bodies had been recovered from the school's wreckage, all but four of them children. It was not clear whether those deaths were included in the overall death toll of 217 reported by the federal civil defense agency.

Pena Nieto had earlier reported 22 bodies found and said 30 children and eight adults were reported missing. In a video message released late Tuesday, Pena Nieto urged people to be calm and said authorities were moving to provide help as 40 percent of Mexico City and 60 percent of nearby Morelos state were without power. But, he said, "the priority at this moment is to keep rescuing people who are still trapped and to give medical attention to the injured people."

Angry protests in Barcelona as Spain rounds up Catalan officials

Thousands took to the streets of Barcelona on Wednesday as Spanish police detained 13 Catalan government officials in a crackdown ahead of an independence referendum which Madrid says is illegal.

With tensions mounting, separatist organizations called for more people to protest as leaders in the north-eastern region pressed ahead with preparations for the October 1 vote despite Madrid's ban and a court ruling deeming it unconstitutional, AFP reported.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy called for calm, urging "a return to normality and a return to common sense because the referendum cannot take place."

But Catalan President Carles Puigdemont accused Madrid of imposing a "de facto" state of emergency to try and stop the referendum.

Among those arrested by the Guardia Civil police was Josep Maria Jove, secretary general of economic affairs and Catalonia's deputy vice president, a regional government spokesman said.

The others work in various Catalan government departments, including its economic and budget affairs departments, a local Guardia Civil spokesman said.

The reason for the arrests was not immediately clear, but Spain's central government has warned that officials who help stage the referendum



AP

could face criminal charges.

Police said they staged 22 search operations.

'They declared war'

In central Barcelona, thousands of protesters gathered near Jove's office, many draped in red and yellow Catalan flags, chanting "Independence!" and "We will vote!"

An influential pro-independence citizens' organization, the Catalan National Assembly (ANC), urged Catalans to hit the streets in protest.

"Let's go out to defend our institutions in a non-violent way. They made a big mistake, we wanted to vote and they declared war," its president Jordi

Sanchez said in a statement.

The police operation comes a day after officers seized a trove of documents related to the independence referendum from the offices of Unipost, a private delivery company, in Terrassa near Barcelona.

Police scuffled with dozens of pro-secession protesters who gathered outside Unipost's office to keep officers from entering the building.

Madrid has also threatened to arrest mayors who facilitate the vote, has seized posters and fliers that promote the plebiscite and has tightened its control over the region's finances.

It says the constitution stipulates that a Spanish region does not have the right to call a referendum.

Hossein Maleki, a member of Iran's mission to the UN, hit back at the Israeli premier for his "unfounded" allegations against Iran, saying Benjamin Netanyahu took the podium at the UN to deceive the public opinion.

French president: No "efficient" solution in Syria without Iran

The French president emphasized the influential role of Iran in the Syria peace process, saying no "efficient" solution could be found to the six-year-old crisis in the Arab state without the Islamic Republic.

"If we do not resolve the Syrian problem with Iran around the table, then we will not have an efficient response, because Iran today is among the powers that have an influence on the ground," Macron told reporters in New York on Tuesday, Press TV reported.

Macron pointed to Paris' efforts to set up an international contact group on Syria to revive the UN-led peace talks in the Swiss city of Geneva.



un.org

"Noting the US refusal today, I want that the contact group advances and that the United Nations and France can serve as intermediaries with Iran," Macron said.

Since January, Iran, along with Russia and Turkey, has been mediating a peace process between the Syrian government and the opposition in the Kazakh capital, Astana.

The Astana negotiations were launched after Russia and Turkey helped broker a nationwide cease-fire between Syria's warring sides in a process supported by Tehran.

The latest round of the talks in Astana saw the signing of a document on the boundaries of a fourth de-escalation zone. Iran and Russia, Damascus' allies in the negotiations, and Turkey, which backs several militant groups, had already agreed on three such safe zones in the previous rounds.

A parallel peace process is also underway under the auspices of the United Nations in the Swiss city of Geneva.

The Geneva talks have not made much progress compared to the negotiations in Astana. That has angered some of the backers of the militants operating in Syria, which would not like to see the Astana talks succeed.

Besides the diplomatic front, Iran has also stood by the Syrian nation on the battleground against terrorist groups, providing its army with advisory support at the request of the Damascus government.

Backed by Iran and Russia, Syrian government forces have dealt heavy blows to Daesh terrorists and other terrorist groups operating across the Arab country.



May: UK determined to keep JCPOA



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (R) meets British Prime Minister Theresa May on the sidelines of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly in the US city of New York on September 20, 2017.

Political Desk

The British Prime Minister Theresa May in a meeting with President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday said that she has clearly stated in the UN that the JCPOA is an important agreement, adding that UK is determined to keep it.

Theresa May also stressed the importance of banking relations for development of important economic cooperation. The meeting was held on the sidelines

of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly in the US city of New York.

Rouhani said in the meeting that Tehran was ready to strengthen relations with London in all fields.

Iranian president welcomed the support by the European Union and the United Kingdom of the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, saying that all sides involved in the agreement should maintain the agreement by fulfilling their commitments.

President Rouhani hoped to see the es-

tablishment of appropriate banking relationships for the development of economic ties between the two countries.

Endless tensions

In a separate meeting with senior members of the American media on Tuesday, President Rouhani stressed that any change in geographical borders will lead to tensions that would have no end.

Rouhani was responding to a question about the planned independence referen-

dum in Iraq's Kurdistan which is scheduled on September 25.

"Geographical borders should not be changed. Any change against the Constitution and territorial integrity will be dangerous for security and peace in Iraq and in the entire region as well," he said while addressing senior members of the American media, IRNA reported.

The Iraqi Kurdistan region has decided to hold a referendum on September 25 despite opposition from the central government in Baghdad and warnings from neighboring countries on its repercussions.

Iran-Boeing deal

Touching upon the US move against the aircraft deal with Tehran, the Iranian president said that recent measures taken by the US House of Representatives to prevent the sale of aircraft to Iran is the repetition of defeated policies adopted by Washington.

"The US could seize the opportunity created after the 2015 nuclear deal but it is acting in the opposite direction," Rouhani said.

On September 13, the US House of Representatives voted in favor of new measures that block sales of commercial aircraft to Iran.

Commenting on the current chaotic situation in the world, Rouhani said the present circumstances in the world are a result of a series of wrong decisions and policies. He further said that the media play an influential role in the process of decision-making, telling the truth, and defending the rights of nations.

Mogherini reiterates EU's continued support for nuclear deal

Political Desk

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, reiterated the bloc's continued support for the 2015 nuclear agreement between Tehran and P5+1 group.

She made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

Both officials also discussed expansion of bilateral relations.

Her comments came after US President

Donald Trump told the UN General Assembly on Tuesday that the nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is an "embarrassment" to the United States.

Iran and the P5+1 - Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany - reached the 159-page nuclear deal in July 2015 and implemented it in January 2016.

Since the historic deal was signed in Austria, the International Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly confirmed Tehran's compliance with its commitments under the JCPOA.



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Iran FM: Trump's UN...

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'Robust' deal

French President Emmanuel Macron stood firm on Tuesday that the landmark agreement with Iran would not change as he nudged Donald Trump to return to the fold.

Macron said that the 2015 deal - reached between Tehran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany - was a "solid, robust agreement," AFP wrote.

"To reject it now without proposing anything else would be a grave error, and not respecting it would be irresponsible because it is a good accord," Macron told the UNGA.

He called for diplomacy to address the issues, saying, "Let's be stricter, but let's not unravel agreements that have already brought security."

The French leader stressed that he made this point to both Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, whom he met on Monday in New York.

No plan to jettison deal

US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley, however, said that Trump's harsh UN speech does not mean that Washington plans to exit the nuclear agreement.

Trump's words were "not a clear signal that he wants to withdraw, but it is a clear signal he is not happy with the deal, and that the United States is not safer because of it," Haley told CBS on Wednesday.

UN inspectors say that Iran is complying with the agreement including its restrictions on uranium enrichment.

US law requires the president to certify every 90 days that Iran is in compliance and Trump has signaled he will either not do it when the next deadline arises in mid-October, or will pass the decision to Congress where criticism of Iran is high.

Iranian Army, IRGC stage joint aerial drills

The fighter jets of the Iranian Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) held a joint military exercise in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas.

The final stage of the joint aerial parade of the IRGC Aerospace Force and the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) was held on Wednesday in Bandar Abbas as part of preparations for nationwide parades to mark the Sacred Defense week, due to be held this Friday, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The military drills were staged with a number of senior IRGC and Army officials, including Lieutenant Commander of the IRIAF Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, in attendance.

During the Sacred Defense Week, different units representing the Army, the IRGC, the Law Enforcement (police), and the Defense Ministry take part in the parades in Tehran and other provincial capitals.

The most recent achievements of the Ira-

nian Armed Forces in the missile industry, equipment for the ground, naval and air defense forces are put on display in the parades.

In Iran, the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war is



known as the Sacred Defense, and the Sacred Defense Week is held on the anniversary of the beginning of the war.

It begins on Shahrivar 31 in the Iranian calendar (September 22 this year), which is the day Iraq invaded Iran and began the imposed war on the country in 1980.

Turkey threatens sanctions over Kurdish independence vote

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened to impose sanctions against Kurdish northern Iraq over a planned independence vote, piling economic pressure on Kurdish authorities after Turkish troops deployed near the main commercial border crossing.

Turkey, home to the largest Kurdish population in the region, has warned that any breakup of neighboring Iraq or Syria could lead to a global conflict, and is due to prepare a formal response on Friday, three days before the referendum, Reuters reported.

Erdogan said the Turkish cabinet and security council would discuss Ankara's options. They will "put forward their own stance on what kind of sanctions we can impose, or if we will," he told reporters in New York, according to Anadolu news agency.

"But these will not be ordinary," Erdogan said.

Iraqi Kurdish authorities have defied growing international pressure to call off the vote, which Iraq's neighbors fear will fuel unrest among their own Kurdish populations.

Western allies say it could detract from the fight against Daesh.

On Monday, the Turkish Army launched a highly visible military drill near the Habur border crossing, which military sources said was due to last until Sept. 26, a day after the planned referendum.

Around 100 tanks and military vehi-



ADEM ALTANI/AFP

cles, backed by rocket launchers and radar, deployed in open farmlands near the frontier, guns pointed south toward the Kurdish mountains.

The military buildup hit the Turkish lira, which weakened on Tuesday beyond 3,500 to the dollar, before recovering on Wednesday to around 3,465. But it has so far had little impact on lines of trucks queuing to cross into territory controlled by the Kurdish Regional Government in north Iraq.

units operating from the mountains of northern Iraq, and limited detachments of Turkish infantry have made forays across the frontier in the past.

Turkey stationed troops in Basijah near Mosul, ignoring protests from Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, ahead of the military campaign to drive Daesh out of the northern Iraqi city.

Ankara also sees itself as protector of Iraq's Turkmen ethnic minority, with particular focus on the oil city of Kirkuk

which Kurds seized in 2014 as Iraqi troops retreated in the face of Daesh advances.

Erdogan said Kurdish determination to hold the referendum disregarded Turkey's support for KRG leadership until now.

"We will announce our final thoughts on the issue with the cabinet meeting and national security council decision," Erdogan said. "I think it would be better if they saw this."

UK police arrest three in Wales over London train bomb attack

British police arrested three men in south Wales over last week's bombing of a busy commuter train in west London, meaning five people are now being questioned by detectives over the attack which injured 30 people.

A 25-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday evening in Newport, while two others, aged 48 and 30, were detained at another address in the Welsh town in the early hours of Wednesday, London police said, according to Reuters.

"This continues to be a fast-moving investigation. A significant amount of activity has taken place since the attack on Friday," said Commander Dean Haydon, head of London police's Counter Terrorism Command.

"We now have five men in custody and searches are continuing at four addresses. Detectives are carrying out extensive inquiries to determine the full facts behind the attack."



REUTERS

Police officers stand at either end of a street as officers search a house after three men were arrested in connection with an explosion on the London Underground, in Newport, Wales, Britain, on September 20, 2017.

The homemade bomb went off on Friday during the morning rush hour on a packed train at Parsons Green underground station, engulfing the carriage in flames, although it appeared that the device did not fully explode.

In the aftermath, the authorities raised Britain's threat level to its highest rank of critical, meaning an attack was considered imminent, but lowered this after arresting two men on Saturday.

An 18-year-old was arrested in the departure lounge at the port of Dover on Saturday and another suspect, 21, was detained hours later in the west London suburb of Hounslow.

Both were said by local media to have links to a property in Sunbury-on-Thames, a town just outside London, where police were carrying out a major search.

The house belongs to a couple who have fostered hundreds of children, including refugees. The leader of the local authority was quoted as saying the 18-year-old was an Iraqi who had come to Britain as a refugee.

Daesh terrorists said they were responsible for the attack although both British and US officials have cast doubt on the claim, saying there was no evidence any recognized terror group had ordered or organized the bombing.

Friday's bombing was the fifth major attack regarded by authorities as a terrorist incident in Britain this year which have claimed the lives of 36 people.

Kenya Supreme Court criticizes election board in verdict on polls



REUTERS

Kenya's Supreme Court on Wednesday criticized the election board for failing to verify official results of last month's presidential election before announcing them but stopped short of saying there was rigging.

The court was offering a detailed ruling as to why it annulled the August 8 election and ordered a fresh presidential vote within 60 days. The September 1 decision was the first of its kind in Africa, Reuters reported.

Election board officials had said incumbent President Uhuru Kenyatta won the contest by 1.4 million votes. Opposition leader Raila Odinga rejected that result and said he had won.

He has also said the previous two elections were stolen from him.

Kenya has the region's richest economy and is a diplomatic, trade and security hub for East Africa so the court's ruling, as well as the fresh election currently scheduled for October 17, is being closely watched.

On Monday, the French technology company supporting the election said it would be nearly impossible to be

ready for that date.

The court on September 1 identified some procedural problems in a brief ruling but the key finding against the election board on Wednesday was that officials had announced results before being able to verify them.

Kenya used two parallel systems: A quick electronic tally vulnerable to typos and a slower paper system designed as a verifiable, definitive backup. The official results were based on the electronic tally before the paper results were fully collated, the judges said.

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Trump: Persian Gulf crisis can be 'solved pretty quickly'

Shortly after addressing the United Nations General Assembly, US President Donald Trump and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met in New York to discuss the Persian Gulf's major diplomatic crisis.

On June 5, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt and Bahrain cut ties with Qatar and imposed a land, air and sea blockade on it, accusing Doha of supporting "terrorism." Qatar has strongly and repeatedly denied the allegation, aljazeera.com reported.

The US president said after Tuesday's meeting that he believed the dispute could be solved quickly.

"We are right now in a situation where we are trying to solve a problem in the Middle East and I think we will get it solved. I have a very strong feeling that it will be solved pretty quickly,"



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Trump told reporters.

Qatar is home to the largest US military base in the Middle East.

Trump had initially sided with the Saudi-led group and called Qatar a "funder of terrorism." Yet, some other

China, Russia denounce Trump's North Korea remarks

China rebuked UK President Donald Trump on Wednesday after he threatened to "totally destroy" North Korea if necessary.

Beijing has consistently blamed not just Pyongyang but also Washington for what it sees as its hostile policies toward North Korea, washingtonpost.com reported.

"Trump threatens DPRK with 'total destruction', while China calls for peaceful settlement," the online English-language edition of the People's Daily newspaper headlined an op-ed, referring to the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



latimes.com

"Trump's political chest-thumping is unhelpful, and it will only push the DPRK to pursue even riskier policies, because the survival of North Korea is at stake," it wrote.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Lu Kang, was more restrained, but nevertheless conveyed a similar message.

In imposing economic sanctions on Pyongyang, the United Nations Security Council has agreed that the North Korea issue should be solved through "political and diplomatic means," he said.

"The Peninsula situation is still in a complex and sensitive state," he said. "We hope that relevant parties could maintain restraint while completing United Nations Security Council resolutions, and take more correct actions which are helpful in easing the situation."

Russia reaction

Leading members of the Russian foreign policy establishment said that Trump's statements echoed his inexperience and were potentially dangerous for US allies, according to chicagotribune.com.

"Any military conflict means deaths of civilians. It is especially odd as the US considers South Korea and Japan its allies and they could be affected in case of a strike," Andrei Klimov, chairman of the Foreign Affairs committee in Russia's upper house of parliament, told the Interfax news agency in an interview on Tuesday.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, Trump derided Kim Jong Un, North Korea's leader, as a "rocket man" as the president warned that he may be forced to "totally destroy" the nation.

Powerful Hurricane Maria makes landfall on Puerto Rico

Hurricane Maria roared ashore in Puerto Rico on Wednesday after lashing the US Virgin Islands and devastating a string of tiny Caribbean islands, killing at least one person.



seattletpi.com

Packing 155 mile per hour (250 kph) winds and driving high storm surges, Maria made landfall near Yabouca, the National Hurricane Center said. It was heading northwest, on a track directly over the island of 3.4 million people, Reuters reported.

It struck just days after the region was punched by Hurricane Irma, which ranked as one of the most powerful Atlantic storms on record, which left a trail of destruction on several Caribbean islands and Florida.

US officials, including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, adopted a more measured tone.

Over the past few weeks, Trump has also worked to broker a way out of the dispute, and in his meeting with Sheikh Tamim, he made no mention of his past claim that Qatar was funding "terrorism."

Earlier on Tuesday, in his address to the UN General Assembly, Sheikh Tamim criticized the countries behind the blockade on Qatar.

"The countries which imposed the blockade on the state of Qatar interfere in the internal affairs of many countries; they accuse all those who oppose them, domestically and abroad, with terrorism. By doing so, they are inflicting damage on the war on terror," he said.

Iran Marine Industrial Company is building 10 offshore gas platforms of which 3 will be ready for installation by March 20 2018, said Hessamoddin Amiri, a director of Pars Oil and Gas Company.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Oil exports rising as joint fields produce more

Iran's oil exports, currently more than 2.6 million barrels per day (mbpd) including gas condensate, will increase in the six months from September 23 amid a rise in production capacity, a senior official said.

"At present, the country's crude oil production exceeds 3.8 mbpd, which according to plans, will rise to 4.96 mbpd by the end of the year (in March 20, 2018)," Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Ali Kardor said, Press TV reported.

Further increases in production capacities will take place in the coming months in projects to boost recovery from joint oilfields, he said.

According to the Oil Ministry, 60 percent of Iran's oil exports go to Asia and the remaining 40 percent to European countries which resumed purchases from the Islamic Republic about two years ago.



Royal Dutch Shell, France's Total, Italy's Eni and Saras, Greece's Hellenic Petroleum, Spain's Repsol, and Hungary's MOL are among Iran's customers, which have lifted about 720,000 bpd of oil since the start of the year.

The Islamic Republic has painstakingly been ramping up production to regain its market share which the country lost under most intensified sanctions in 2011.

China is the largest Iranian oil customer which did not stop purchases during the years of sanctions starting in 2012, and increased imports after they were lifted in early 2016.

On average, the Chinese have shipped in more than 600,000 bpd of crude oil from Iran since mid-March this year. The biggest shipment came in August when China bought more than 700,000 bpd from the Middle Eastern country.

Beijing is estimated to raise its oil imports by another 2 mbpd and Tehran is well-placed to further boost oil sales to the world's second biggest economy.

India — the second biggest client of Iranian oil — is buying an average of 450,000 bpd since the beginning of 2017 to the end of August. Indian oil imports from Iran hit a record in July, when the country's refineries purchased 500,000 barrels a day.

Another major buyer of Iran's oil is South Korea which did not halt shipments during the sanctions despite announcing to do so. Seoul is the biggest customer of Iran's condensate with 300,000 bpd. South Korea has also taken 100,000 bpd of Iranian crude oil on average since the start of the year.

Japan, another importer of Iranian crude, has bought another 100,000 bpd during the period, according to Iran's official statistics.

Iran, on average, shipped 2.15 million barrels of crude oil and about 500,000 barrels of gas condensate in the first eight months of 2017. Its record export of 2.3 million barrels per day was registered in February.

On Tuesday, an NIOC report had informed buyers in Asia that it could reduce condensate exports in October because of maintenance work at South Pars Gas Field in the Persian Gulf.

Citing unnamed industry sources, Reuters said NIOC could trim exports by at least 1 million barrels that month. The company typically exports about 15 million barrels of South Pars condensates each month.

The drop in Iranian condensate exports in October comes as the trading arm of Asia's largest refiner Sinopec, China's Unipeck which typically halts imports in summer months due to environmental restrictions at Chinese ports, is about to resume cargo liftings from Iran in October, the report said.



The Iran project is the London-based specialist renewable energy investor's first undertaking outside Europe.



Chief Executive of Quercus Investment Partners Diego Biasi

UK's Quercus seals €500-million solar deal with Iran

Renewables investor Quercus of the UK signed a deal worth over €500 million to build and operate a 600-megawatt (MW) solar farm in Iran, the company announced on Wednesday.

The project, to be implemented in central Iran, is expected to take three years, with 100 MW phases coming online every six months, Quercus said of its first undertaking outside Europe, Press TV reported.

"As Iran opens for business, we are delighted to be taking a leading role in building the country's renewable energy infrastructure at such an early stage of its development," Quercus CEO Diego Biasi said.

The company will be responsible for the construction, development and operation of the plant, for which it will set up a specialist team based in Dubai and Tehran to help deliver the project, in-

cluding a head of engineering, financial controller, project coordinator, planning manager and procurement staff.

According to Biasi, the project by Iran's Ministry of Energy has attracted sufficient interest from private and institutional investors, including sovereign funds.

"This is a project of national interest, so we got special support. We had enough investors interested so instead of splitting that across smaller projects which wouldn't have given us the same relationship with the Ministry, we decided to go for one," he was quoted by Reuters as saying.

Under the contract, foreign investors will be treated on a par with local ones, with a guarantee that the electricity would be paid for.

Quercus prides itself on a portfolio of around 400 renewable energy plants across Europe. Biasi hoped that its first

inroads into Iran would lead to more solar projects.

Iran currently has 63 MW of installed solar capacity, chiefly in the cities of Yazd, Kerman, Isfahan and Hamadan. This figure is meager for a country with over 300 sunny days per year and an average of 2,800 hours of sunshine.

There is an ambitious plan to expand the renewable capacity in the face of an acute air pollution problem in major cities and towns. Iran's overall power capacity stands at 77,000 megawatts, which is mostly generated in thermal power plants using fossil fuel.

Contracts for about 950 MW of renewable energy projects had been signed before Quercus' announcement on Wednesday.

They are part of the plan to add 1,000 MW of renewable energy to the national grid each year in the next five years but the ultimate goal is to establish a

26,000 MW renewable capacity with \$60 billion of investment.

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

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

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

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

France grants \$70m loan to renovate Iran's transport system

The French government has granted a \$70-million loan to Iran to renovate the Middle East state's transport system, announced the minister of roads and urban development.

Abbas Akhondi was speaking in a meeting with France's Secretary of State Jean Baptiste Lemoine held at his ministry on Wednesday and attended by representa-

tives and executive officials of 14 French companies, Mehr News Agency reported.

After listening to the proposals of the French firms, Akhondi said, "Fortunately, the meetings between Iran and France have developed into continuous talks and the number of contracts between the two countries are increasing. At present, the financing of these projects is the only



important issue."

The Iranian minister added talks with the French government on financing joint

ventures have helped the two sides come up with a solution involving France granting treasury loans to Iran,

the proposal of which is to be presented clearly to Tehran by Paris.

Akhondi said, "The loan document has been signed by French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire and delivered to Iran by Lemoine. The move by the French government marked a new era of financial relations between Tehran and Paris."

He voiced optimism that the negotiations between the two governments and banking systems would lead to the adoption of positive strategies, adding, "We expect that European countries support European companies to actively participate in Iran's market."

Iran, Ukraine discuss expanding ties based on AFZ capacities

Domestic Economy Desk

Iran and Ukraine discussed new opportunities to expand cooperation with a focus on the capacities of Anzali Free Zone (AFZ).

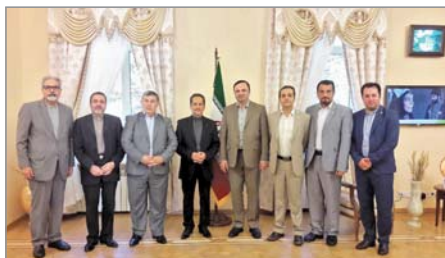
Managing Director of Anzali Free Zone Organization Reza Masroor held talks with Ukrainian officials during a recent one-day visit to Kiev which included meetings with Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Infrastructure for European Integration Viktor Dovgan and First Vice President of Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mikhail I. Nepran. The meetings were also attended by Iran's Ambassador Mohammad Beheshti Monfared and a number of Iranian traders based in the European state, according to a fax sent to Iran Daily.

Masroor also visited Iran's second exclusive exhibition which was held in Kiev during September 12-15.

The two sides stressed expansion of economic cooperation between Iran and Ukraine using AFZ's capacities and by presenting the zone's capabilities, potentials and investment opportunities in an exclusive expo.

Speaking in the meeting, Beheshti Monfared said AFZ possesses enormous capacities to promote trade.

In his talks with Dovgan, Masroor raised the issue of establishing a trade route linking the Port of Odessa in Ukraine with Poti Sea Port in Georgia, Port of Baku in Azerbaijan



Managing Director of Anzali Free Zone Organization Reza Masroor (4th R) and Iranian Ambassador to Ukraine Mohammad Beheshti Monfared (4th L) on the sidelines of a meeting in Kiev.



First Vice President of Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mikhail I. Nepran sitting next to Ukraine's flag talks with Managing Director of Iran's Anzali Free Zone Organization Reza Masroor sitting by Iran's flag.

and the Anzali Port in the northern Iranian province of Gilan.

He added that the implementation of the project can play a very significant role in fostering collaboration between the two countries which was among the aims of his visit to Ukraine.

He added his trip to the European country was also aimed at following up the negotiations and agreements held and reached earlier between the two states.

Commenting on AFZ's investment advantages and the tax exemptions for foreign in-

vestments by both states should comply with.

He added given that Ukraine ranks third in Europe in the field of information technology, the ground is prepared for Iranian and Ukrainian companies to foster collaborations in this field.

On the sidelines of his visit to Iran's exclusive exposition in Kiev, Masroor held an expert meeting with Iranian traders based in Ukraine.

The damage Latvian farmers have suffered from this fall's heavy rainfalls and subsequent flooding has reached an estimated €50 to €60 million (\$59 to \$72 million).

Global economy in better shape but geopolitical risks remain: RBA

The global economy is in better shape than a year ago, although geopolitical risks have the potential to derail its momentum, a senior Australian central banker said on Wednesday.

According to Reuters, Luci Ellis, assistant governor at the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), said, "The turning point (for economic growth) was around the end of last year. While it doesn't seem to have picked up further recently, neither is this expansion a flash in the pan."

Ellis said geopolitical risks in Asia were "low-probability, high impact events" and a danger to global growth forecasts.

In the eurozone, there was no longer an existential crisis for the European Union (EU) although it remains to be seen how Brexit plays out, Ellis noted.

There had been a groundswell of anti-euro sentiment in Italy, Greece and other eurozone states, fueled in part Britain's shock decision to leave the EU in June 2016.

But global worries have shifted to Asia, with North Korea launching intercontinental ballistic missiles in defiance of UN sanctions and amid an escalating standoff with the United States.

Domestically, Ellis noted that high household debt in Australia was a 'potential exacerbating factor' in the event of an economic shock, although it was unlikely to be a triggering factor.

The RBA has left interest rates at a record low 1.50



ftmb.tqn.com

percent after last easing in August 2016 as it balances tepid inflation and wages growth against rising household debt.

Ellis added that policy needed to remain

expansionary globally if inflation remains low despite a pick-up in economic growth. But she maintained her view that global wage growth and price pressures will rise eventually.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	85730.1	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	74724.1	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	92927.9	3826	4.27
First Market Index	59827.1	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	188193.4	2030.5	1.14

Overall Index details on 20170920

First	85287.7	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	85731.7	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	85416.4	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	85730.1	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

Industry Index details on 20170920

First	74261.2	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	74701.7	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	72675.1	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	74724.1	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

Free Float Index details on 20170920

First	92011.2	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	92927.9	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

Main Board Index details on 20170920

First	59450.7	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	59829.5	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	59827.1	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

Secondary Index details on 20170920

First	187744.3	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	188190.2	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	188193.4	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2235.2		

UK's cities where tens of thousands have problem debts

In at least 10 areas of the UK, more than a fifth of the residents are missing bill payments repeatedly, according to research.

New figures from the Money Advice Service suggest inner-city areas are the worst affected, BBC reported.

In Newham, in the East End of London, and Sandwell in the West Midlands, at least 22 percent of residents have problem debts.

In Manchester, more than 90,000 adults are struggling with repayments.

The total number of people in such difficulties has risen by about 100,000 in the past six months to 8.3 million, according to the Money Advice Service.

However, that is fewer than the 8.8 million who had problem debts in 2013.

Over-indebted individuals are defined as those who find meeting monthly bills a heavy burden, or those who miss at least three bill payments in a six-month period.



pinmeeting.co.uk

Areas where more than 20 percent have problem debt

- Newham, East London: 22.7 percent
- Tower Hamlets, East London: 22.7 percent
- Sandwell, West Midlands: 22.1 percent
- Nottingham: 21.9 percent

Government action

By contrast, 9.7 percent of the population in East Dorset has difficulty meeting bills. Residents of Surrey and Buckinghamshire also tend to have fewer difficulties.

Andrew Bailey, the chief executive of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), told The Guardian that debt was a particular issue for those with erratic incomes, such as workers in the gig economy.

"Credit is a means of smoothing (incomes), but the question is how do you structure it in a sustainable fashion?" "It needs government involvement," he said.

The latest figures from the Bank of England indicate that the growth in consumer credit is actually slowing.

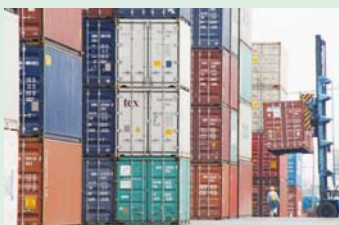
In July, annual growth fell to 9.8 percent, the slowest pace in over a year. It peaked at a rate of 10.8 percent in November last year.

However, the squeeze on living standards induced by high inflation and low wage growth could make it harder for many people to repay their debts.

Strong exports push Japan trade balance back to surplus

Japan's trade balance returned to surplus in August as exports rose 18 percent year-on-year on brisk shipments

average 7.3 percent cheaper against the US dollar in August compared to the same month the year earlier, making Ja-



asia.nikkei.com

pan's imports costlier.

The world's third-largest economy logged a surplus of 113.6 billion yen (\$1.0 billion), returning to the black after a deficit of 34.6 billion yen a year earlier, according to data from the Finance Ministry, AFP wrote.

The figure was however much lower than market expectations of a 356.7-billion-yen surplus.

Exports rose for the ninth consecutive month on robust shipments of automobiles and electronic parts including semi-conductors.

Imports grew 15.2 percent for an eighth monthly rise, boosted mainly by higher bills for coal, liquefied natural gas and crude oil.

The ministry said the yen was on

Japan's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States soared 49.6 percent to 534.7 billion yen (\$4.8 billion) on increased exports of cars and microchip-making equipment, the second consecutive monthly rise.

The nation's trade flows with the US, over which the two countries battled for decades into the 1990s, has become less of a hot-button issue under recent presidential administrations.

But US President Donald Trump has vowed to root out 'unfair' trade practices around the world, targeting countries including Japan.

Japan logged its first trade deficit in two months with the European Union, while its deficit with China decreased by 30.4 percent.

South Korean biz survival rate lower than EU's

South Korean small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have a lower survival rate than their European Union counterparts with some six out of 10 surviving more than one year and less than 30 percent past five years, data showed on Wednesday.

A total of 62.4 percent of Korean companies remained opened for more than one year as of 2015, and 27.3 percent were doing business beyond five years, according to the data by the Korea International Trade Association



wikimedia.org

(KITA), Yonhap reported.

Korean businesses' one-year survival rate is lower than Germany's 76.5 percent, France's 82 percent, Britain's 92.2 percent, Spain's 76.5 percent and Italy's 80.4 percent, the international traders organization said.

Korea's five-year survival rate came behind Germany's 39.1 percent, France's 44.3 percent, Britain's 41.1 percent, Spain's 40 percent and Italy's 44.7 percent.

More companies started new

businesses in Asia's fourth-largest economy than in the cited EU nations, but they failed to survive due to fierce competition with large enterprises and other challenges.

The proportion of startups was 14.6 percent in South Korea, higher than the average rate of the five EU nations at 9.6 percent, it noted.

Eight of 10 new businesses were in the service sector, and the rest of them were in manufacturing and other businesses.

Small companies with fewer than 10

employees accounted for 96.1 percent of them and a mere 1.6 percent exported their products overseas. SMEs in EU nations tended to export more goods.

"The ratio of small companies is much higher than other countries, posing higher risk because they are more fragile to external economic shocks," KITA said.

"To secure employment, the government needs to provide support to improve their fundamental structure and competitiveness."

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2870	Chinese Yuan	0.1522
Euro	1.2000	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.3519	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3175
Australian Dollar	0.8045	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0089	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$49.86	Silver	\$17.21
Gold	\$1317.40	Platinum	\$958.90
Copper	\$2.98	Wheat	\$445.25

Tens of thousands of the poorest children in London are facing health risks including air pollution, obesity and poverty that will leave them with lifelong health problems, according to a new report.

UK oil and gas reserves may last only a decade

The Scottish and UK oil industries are entering their final decade of production, research suggests.



telegraph.co.uk

A study of output from offshore fields estimates that close to 10 percent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remains — about 11 percent of oil and nine percent of gas resources, ed.ac.uk wrote.

The analysis also found that fracking

will be barely economically feasible in the UK, especially in Scotland, because of a lack of sites with suitable geology.

If the study's predictions are correct, the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs, researchers warn.

Instead, they recommend a move towards greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.

It is strongly urged that the UK government's ongoing energy cost report — the high-profile Helm Review — should take stock of the projected shortfall in resource availability and how this might be addressed.

Scientists from the University of Edinburgh examined the UK's likely potential for fracking and carried out a fresh analysis of the country's oil and gas production.

How do human impacts on wetlands affect animals?

A new Biological Reviews study provides a comprehensive assessment of how changes to wetlands affect animals, and the authors use their findings to provide recommendations for managing wetlands to maximize their biodiversity.

For the study, researchers characterized how animals respond to four key drivers of wetland alteration: Agriculture, mining, restoration and urbanization. Population and community-based measures within altered wetlands were largely comparable to those within reference wetlands; however, individual fitness measures — such as survival — were often lower, phys.org wrote.

Michael Sievers, lead author of the study, said, "Lots of animals live and feed in human-altered wetlands, so

often we presume they provide good habitat. But our research has found that many animals within these habitats suffer reduced survival and reproduction, due in part to high levels of pollution.

"The role of wetlands in human-



biologyclermtont.info

altered ecosystems is thus complex, as they may represent important habitat but also pose potential risks to animals."

Threatened Amazon reserve already being mined: Greenpeace



thrillist.com

A huge nature reserve in Brazil's Amazon rainforest that the government wants to open to foreign mining companies already suffers from illegal mining activity, Greenpeace said.

The environmental activist group said its investigators had flown over part of the Denmark-sized reserve known as Renca in the eastern

Amazon and found at least 14 illegal mines and eight clandestine landing strips used by miners, according to phys.org.

Greenpeace said this showed the risks faced by Renca even without President Michel Temer's proposal for ending a ban on large-scale foreign mining in the mineral-rich region.

Marcio Astrin from Greenpeace in a statement asked,

"We flew over a small part of Renca and found all these places in just one conservation unit. How many more might exist across the region?"

"If the Brazilian government can't control the illegal activity now, when this area is under protection, what will happen to Renca with commercial exploration?"

Temer's decree signed on

August 25 on opening up Renca was suspended days later after an international outcry. The government said it will allow 120 days of debate before taking a decision.

Temer argues that lifting restrictions will allow Brazil to boost its struggling economy and also push the hugely destructive wildcat mining operations out of business.

At the United Nations, Temer told the General Assembly that Brazil plays a leading role in environmental protection.

"Brazil is proud to have the largest coverage of tropical forests on the planet. Deforestation is an issue that concerns us, especially in the Amazon. To this issue we have dedicated attention and resources," he said.

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و مدیران شرکت‌های بین المللی
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

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

Engineers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have created a 3D fabrication method that can make a new drug-carrying particle to allow multiple doses of a drug, vaccine with one injection.

Kids' colds linked to subsequent asthma, lung problems

Kids who develop respiratory infections like colds or sinusitis may have a higher risk of asthma and reduced lung function later in life.

Researchers examined data from nearly 155,000 children in Europe. They were followed from birth through aged between four and 15 years, UPI wrote.

Those who had an upper respiratory infection — such as a cold, sinusitis, laryngitis and tonsillitis — by age five had an increased risk of asthma later in life. Their risk was 1.5 times higher.

Young children who had lower respiratory tract infections such as bronchitis, bronchiolitis, pneumonia and general chest infections saw their asthma risk double or quadruple.

They were also more likely to later develop reduced lung function, according to the study.

Study author Dr. Evelien van Meel, from Erasmus MC University Medical Center in the Netherlands, said, "These findings support the hypothesis that early life respiratory tract infections may influence the development of respiratory illnesses in the longer term."

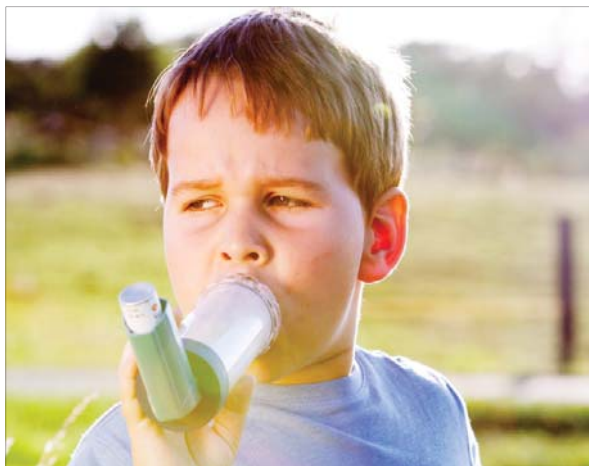
"In particular, lower respiratory tract infections in early life seem to have the greatest adverse effect on lung function and the risk of asthma."

The study was presented this week at a meeting of the European Respiratory Society, in Milan, Italy.

Van Meel said it's too soon to say if there's a cause-and-effect relationship.

More study is needed to explore whether the infections cause asthma and lower lung function, or whether wheezing and lower lung function make children more likely to get infections.

Van Meel said, "Studies that aim to prevent or



UPI

treat respiratory tract infections at an early stage, perhaps by vaccination, would also help to shed light on this."

Researchers also aim to study how medications and exposure to second-hand smoke between

respiratory infections may affect lung function and asthma.

Research presented at meetings should be considered preliminary until published in a peer-reviewed medical journal.

Starving cells of oxygen could destroy deadly tumors

Cancer remains a very deadly condition in the UK, but scientists have discovered a new way to fight tumors that is inspired by mountain climbers' altitude training.

Cancer kills someone every four minutes in the UK, according to Cancer Research UK — but scientists may have moved a step closer to finding an effective treatment for solid tumors, express.co.uk wrote.

Current ways to treat cancer include chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

However,

re-

searchers have

discovered a new way

to destroy tumors

that is similar to

the altitude training

athletes and mountain

climbers do

before visiting low-

oxygen areas.

A study by the

Weizmann Institute

of Science showed

that starving particular

cells of oxygen could

train them to fight cancer

in the same way as

people training for a

high altitude environment.

Known as T cells, they are a key part of the body's immune system.

The researchers found that they destroyed cancerous tumors much more effectively after being starved of oxygen.

Using the immune system to fight cancer is a treatment known as immunotherapy.

The approach has already saved the lives of some cancer patients in the last few years.

Previously, killer T cells have been removed from patient's blood, grown in a laboratory dish and adapted to identify and destroy cancerous cells.

They were then returned to the patient's bloodstream.

It has worked well against certain leukemias and lymphomas, but not been as successful at fighting solid tumors.

As such, the researchers have been focusing on ways to target the latter.

They discovered that oxygen-starved T cells could fight solid tumors more successfully because they had a higher amount of a destructive enzyme that penetrates and kills cancerous cells.

Professor Guy Shakhar of Weizmann Institute of Science, said, "Killer T cells are the foot soldiers of cancer immunotherapy, they are the ones to target and destroy cancerous cells, but they don't always manage to eliminate the malignancy."

"We've shown that by growing these T cells in an oxygen-poor environment, we can turn them into more effective killers."

"Just as altitude training increases endurance in humans, so putting killer T cells through a 'fitness regimen' apparently toughens them up."



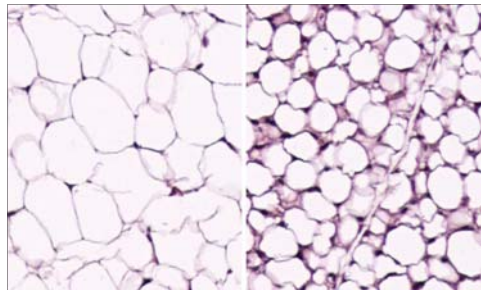
express.co.uk

Researchers find way to convert bad body fat into good fat

There's good fat and bad fat in our bodies. The good fat helps burn calories, while the bad fat hoards calories, contributing to weight gain and obesity.

Now, new research at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis has identified a way to convert bad, white fat into good, brown fat, at least in mice, according to medicalpress.com.

The findings raise the prospect of developing more effective treatments, in people, for obesity and diabetes related to weight gain.



Above are white fat cells from a normal mouse (L) and from a mouse lacking the PexRAP protein, which interferes with the conversion of calorie-storing fat cells into calorie-burning cells. medicalpress.com

The study was published in the journal Cell Reports.

White fat stores calories and pads our bellies, hips and thighs. In contrast, brown fat, found near our necks and shoulders, burns calories through a process that generates heat.

The researchers found that blocking the activity of a specific protein in white fat triggered the fat to begin to brown into beige fat, a type of fat in between white and brown. Blocking the protein to create beige fat caused the fat cells to heat up and burn calories.

First author Irfan J. Lodhi, PhD, said, "Our goal is to find a way to treat or prevent obesity. "Our research suggested that by targeting a protein

in white fat, we can convert bad fat into a type of fat that fights obesity."

"Beige fat was discovered in adult humans in 2015. Though it is almost like an intermediary between white fat and brown fat.

"It functions more like brown fat and can protect against obesity."

His team conducted a series of experiments in mice, creating a genetic strain of animals that didn't make a key protein in their white fat cells.

Those mice had more beige fat and were leaner than their littermates, even when they ate the same amount of food as other mice. They also burned more calories.

He said, "Mice normally have very low levels of the protein, called PexRAP, in their brown fat."

"When we put the mice into a cold environment, levels of the protein also decreased in white fat, allowing that fat to behave more like brown fat."

"Cold induces brown and beige fats to burn stored energy and produce heat."

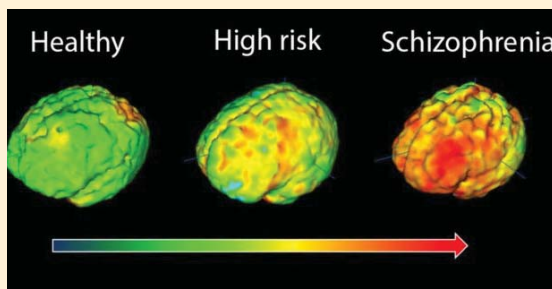
When Lodhi's team blocked PexRAP in the animals, the mice converted white fat into beige fat that could burn calories.

More than two-thirds of adults in the US are either overweight or obese. Some 30 million people have diabetes.

These findings study suggest that if therapies could help convert their bad fat into good fat, those numbers might start to decline.

Lodhi said if the PexRAP protein could be blocked safely in white fat cells in humans, people might have an easier time losing weight.

"The challenge will be finding safe ways to do that without causing a person to overheat or develop a fever, but drug developers now have a good target."



Brain scans have discovered higher activity levels in part of the brain's immune system in schizophrenia patients than in healthy volunteers. BBC

Have you got the wrong impression about schizophrenia?

Schizophrenia does not mean you have a split personality or automatically become violent, a mental health charity warned.

Rethink Mental Illness said a survey of 1,500 people showed that the condition is widely misunderstood, BBC reported.

Schizophrenia commonly causes hallucinations, such as hearing voices, or delusions and can make people lose interest in life.

The charity said, "But it should not be 'a dirty word or a term of abuse.'"

The organization warned such myths are dangerous.

One in 100 people is affected by schizophrenia during their life, but 45 percent of those surveyed thought the illness was much more common.

Half mistakenly thought the illness was defined by a split personality and a quarter believed it definitely led to violent behavior.

But the reality is very different, a new campaign by the charity claims.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists said on its website, "It is not true that someone with schizophrenia can appear perfectly normal at one moment, and change into a different person the next."

And although there is a higher risk of violent behavior if you have schizophrenia, it does not necessarily make people dangerous.

Comparatively, drugs and alcohol cause far more violence.

The psychiatrists said, "People with schizophrenia are far more likely to be

harmed by other people than they are to be harmed by them."

Schizophrenia can affect the way individuals think, feel and behave.

Experiencing hallucinations is common and people often hear voices, which can sound very real and be critical and abusive, although they are all in the mind.

Delusions can occur too, which means believing something completely and feeling like no-one else sees the world in the same way.

Other symptoms can include depression, loss of concentration and feeling uncomfortable around other people. Some people also have painful feelings in their body.

The Rethink Schizophrenia campaign said that the illness can affect other aspects of life

too — for example people with schizophrenia die 15 to 20 years earlier than the rest of the population on average.

And only eight percent of those with the illness who want to work are currently employed.

The charity said this is because physical health problems are often missed or attributed to mental illness, and the side-effects of medication can cause complications.

Brian Dow, director of external affairs at Rethink Mental Illness, added, "It's about time we all got to grips with what schizophrenia is and what it isn't."

"Schizophrenia can be treated and managed, just like many other illnesses. It's not a dirty word or, worse, a term of abuse."

"Myths stopped people from getting jobs, forming relationships and getting access to the healthcare they needed."

"The symptoms of schizophrenia don't fit neatly into a box, everyone will experience it differently."

"However, we can all play a role in rethinking schizophrenia, and helping to change attitudes, by learning to separate the myths from the facts."

Professor Wendy Burn, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said, "It was 'astounding' that schizophrenia was still so widely misunderstood."

"To tackle the stigma that so many living with schizophrenia face, we have a huge task ahead of us in informing and educating the public."

"We also need to ensure that more medical students choose psychiatry so that those living with schizophrenia have specialist doctors available to treat them."

Scientists have identified a new carrier of Chagas disease. *Tayra*, a weasel-like species, hosts and carries the protist parasite that causes the disease.

Rogue wave could have downed El Faro cargo ship

New research suggested the ocean conditions during Hurricane Joaquin could have produced a rogue wave capable of downing El Faro, a merchant vessel that sank just east of the Bahamas in 2015.

Researchers used a new computer model, combined with weather and sea data from the time and place of El Faro's sinking, to determine whether a rogue wave might explain the deadly wreck, UPI reported.



theinertia.com
New research could help scientists better predict rogue waves.

Their analysis — detailed in the journal *Scientific Reports* — revealed a one-in-130 chance that the ocean conditions produced a rogue wave measuring 14 meters in height.

Thirty-three crew members were killed when El Faro sank as it traveled from Jacksonville, Florida, to Puerto Rico.

The rogue wave investigation was initiated by the National Transportation Safety Board and carried out with the assistance of researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Francesco Fedele, an associate professor of engineering at Georgia Tech, said, "Hurricanes produce very extreme conditions with strong winds, so you have very energetic sea states that can increase the probability of these events."

"We believe this first study of rogue waves occurring over space and time during hurricanes will help improve real-time forecasting for shipping companies and other organizations that need to understand the risk of extreme events in the oceans."

Unlike tsunamis, rogue waves come and go in less than 20 seconds.

They don't travel long distances, but can seemingly arise out of nowhere. They're formed by a wave phenomena called constructive interference and unique oceanic conditions.

Constructive interference described the joining together of two smaller waves to form a much larger wave.

Fedele and his colleagues developed a rogue wave prediction model that accounted for the effects of space and time.

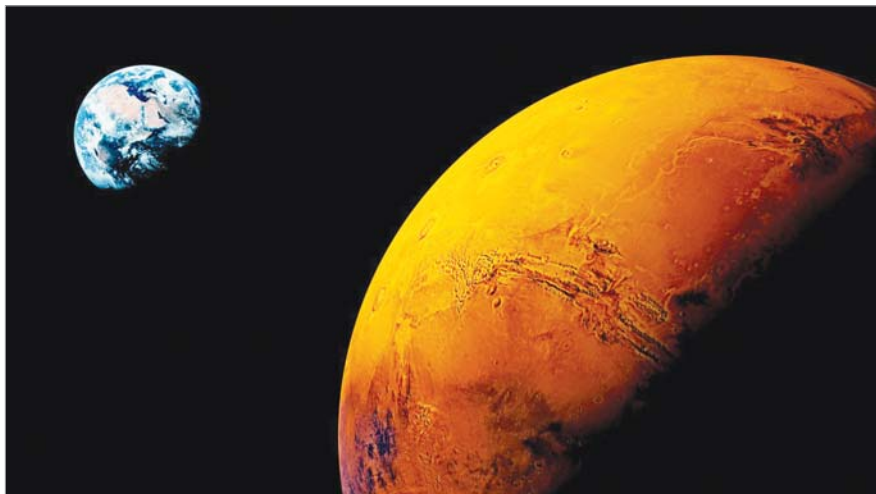
The model was inspired by models used to calculate the likelihood of surfers encountering a large wave as they paddle around a group of smaller waves near a beach — as opposed to staying in one location. Before it sank, El Faro drifted for roughly an hour after losing engine power.

Fedele said, "A ship moving along a navigation route covers more space-time area, increasing the probability that it would encounter a large wave."

"We simulated the ocean state at the time of the sinking, and to that we added predictions of the ocean conditions. We did wave simulations based on those to understand the kind of conditions the ship encountered."

Researchers believe their model could be used to better predict extreme waves and provide warnings to shipping companies when the likelihood of a rogue wave spikes.

More evidence of water on Mars



greenandgrowing.org

River deposits exist across the surface of Mars and record a surface environment from over 3.5 billion years ago that was able to support liquid water at the surface.

A region of Mars named Aeolis Dorsa contains some of the most spectacular and densely packed river deposits seen on Mars, sciencedaily.com wrote.

These deposits are observable with satellite images because they have undergone a process called "topographic inversion".

Where the deposits filling once topographically low river channels have been exhumed in such a way that they now exist as ridges at the surface of the planet.

With the use of high-resolution images and topographic data from cameras on orbiting satellites, Benjamin T. Cardenas and colleagues from the Jackson School of Geosciences identify fluvial deposit stacking patterns and changes in sedimentation styles controlled by a migratory coastline.

They also develop a method to measure river paleo-transport direction for a subset of these ridges.

Together, these measurements demonstrate that the studied river deposits once filled incised valleys.

On Earth, incised valleys are commonly cut and filled during falling and rising eustatic sea level, respectively.

Cardenas and colleagues conclude that similar falling and rising water levels in a large water body forced the formation of the paleo-valleys in their study area.

Cross-cutting relationships are observed at the valley-scale, indicating multiple episodes of water level fall and rise, each well over 50 meters, a similar scale to eustatic sea level changes on Earth.

The conclusion that such large water level fluctuations and coastline movements were recorded by these river deposits suggests some long-term stability in the controlling, downstream water body, which would not be expected from catastrophic hydrologic events.



phys.org
Scanning electron micrograph of a polymeric WGM split-disk cavity: Two opposing half-disks ($R=25\mu\text{m}$) with an intermediate air gap of several microns are structured onto an elastomeric PDMS substrate with direct laser writing.

New technique promises tunable laser devices

Whispering gallery mode (WGM) resonators are used to make tiny micro-lasers, sensors, switches, routers and other devices.

These tiny structures rely on a phenomenon similar to an effect observed in circular galleries, such as in some cathedrals or museums, where sound waves travel across the gallery and are reflected and refocused tightly enough that a whisper on one side can be heard on the other, phys.org reported.

The same phenomenon applies to light. When light is stored in ring-shaped or spherical active resonators, the waves superimpose in such a way that it can result in laser light.

This week in APL Photonics, investigators reported a new type of dye-doped WGM micro-laser that produces light

with tunable wavelengths.

Not only is the tuning range of the new devices broader than has been possible in the past, it is completely reversible.

A unique feature of the design, according to lead author Tobias Siegler of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany, is that tuning is made possible by changing the size of a flexible substrate.

Stretching the substrate changes the distance between the two sides of the split disk in the resonator and thus, the wavelength of the light produced.

The disk itself is typically about 25 microns across, with an initial gap between its two halves of roughly 2.5 microns, just three percent the diameter of a typical human hair.

The disk is mounted on an elastomer,

or stretchy plastic substrate, which can be pulled in a direction perpendicular to the disk's split, decreasing the gap size.

The light produced by these micro-lasers shifts toward the blue range of the spectrum when the gap size decreases.

They observed wavelength shifts of several nanometers in the visible range.

Siegler said, "Our new design provides a broad tuning range that cannot be easily achieved with other WGM resonators. Additionally, the tuning mechanism is completely reversible."

This feature allows the device to be used in fundamental optics research. Another feature of the split-disk technology is enhanced sensitivity in refractive index sensing.

"For a gap width of 1.4 microns, the sensing performance is increased by 65 percent," Siegler said, when comparing to a reference disk resonator without a gap.

The most useful devices have a low lasing threshold, since this allows the use of small amounts of energy.

A low threshold reduces or prevents photo-bleaching of the dye molecules used in the device and increases its expected lifetime.

The investigators tested their design and found low-threshold lasing for split disks fabricated using a 3D or electron-beam lithography technique.

Another quantity they studied is the quality, or Q factor, which corresponds to the photon storage time in the laser cavity.

A high Q value is desirable, and although investigators found that their split-disk design reduced Q somewhat, the lasing threshold was within an appropriate range, making the design valuable.

Future work will be focused on developing tunable coupled resonator waveguides, which can be used as optical delay lines or filters and in other applications.

Proteins have 'add-ons', just like web browsers

New research proves cellular proteins identify and communicate with one another using molecular "add-ons". Scientists liken the protein add-ons to web browser plug-ins.

Slowly, researchers are beginning to understand how proteins develop to perform specific functions, UPI wrote.

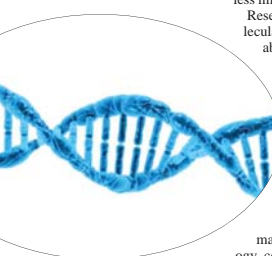
Many proteins work only in tandem with another specific proteins, or must communicate with another protein to carry out their task. But until now, scientists weren't sure how different proteins find each other inside a cell.

The latest discovery — detailed in the journal *PNAS* — suggested proteins use their add-ons to identify one another.

Researchers discovered the add-ons, bits of molecular materials on the outside of protein molecules, using computer models designed to analyze the evolutionary development of related proteins.

Scientists analyzed proteins among 15,000 bacterial genomes, sorting different proteins into family tree-like groupings based on their genetic sequences.

The analysis revealed interface structures present on some proteins but not on others. Researchers realized the so-called add-ons could explain the diversity of protein functionality.



UPI
There are more than 1,000 basic protein structures, composed of different combinations of some 20 amino acids. New research suggested 'add-ons' offer proteins even greater diversity and functionality.

While only about 1,000 basic protein structures have been identified by scientists, research shows cellular proteins have evolved the ability to perform thousands of specialized tasks.

Maximilian Plach, a biochemist at the University of Regensburg, said, "Much work has been put into analyzing how proteins

interact with each other and what the interfaces look like, how they are constructed, and how they evolved.

"But the peripheral regions of interfaces have not received as much attention. I think the novelty in our approach was to look at regions that have been, as yet, regarded as less important."

Researchers manipulated molecular add-ons to see how their absence might affect bacterial colonies.

They found the deletion of one particular add-on hampered the growth of *Bacillus subtilis*.

Vicki Wysocki, a molecular biologist at Ohio State University, added, "We're really pleased that our native mass spectrometry technology could help identify the role of these interface 'add-ons' — a way for a protein to find its critical partner protein even in a crowded cellular environment with similar structures present."

The new findings were made possible by large databases of protein and bacterial genomic data.

Florian Plach, a postdoctoral researcher in biochemistry at Ohio State, said, "I consider our work to be an important example of how to make use of publicly available data in order to understand fundamental principles in nature, and I think that data mining will become increasingly important in the biomedical field in the future."

A group of consumer goods makers and retailers plans to simplify and standardize food date labels to reduce wastage.

Domestic abuse: Focus more on children



bbc.com

For kids, it is daunting. They come into a refuge, move schools and move again, and move schools again. A survivor of domestic abuse explains how children's schooling can be disrupted when a family has to move homes because of domestic violence, BBC reported. Now the watchdog, Ofsted, is calling for greater awareness of how these issues affect children's wellbeing. In a new report it said schools in England must prioritize education about healthy relationships. It also calls for a new public information campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse. Official figures suggested domestic-abuse-related crimes accounted for one in 10 of all crimes in 2015-16. The Ofsted report acknowledges that domestic violence is a 'complex area',

with drug and alcohol abuse a common factor in a number of the cases it reviewed. But it said focusing on the needs and experiences of children is critical. "A failure to adequately focus on the experiences and needs of children means there is a high risk that the emotional and mental impact of domestic abuse will go unaddressed." "Children and young people who have lived with domestic violence for several years frequently experience intense feelings of responsibility, guilt, anger and a sense of despair and powerlessness over their lives." The watchdog said schools have 'an essential role' in educating children about domestic abuse. "Education for children about healthy relationships is already part of the cur-

riculum, but it is often not part of the curriculum that is prioritized by schools," the report warned. **What is domestic abuse?** A new law of 'controlling or coercive behavior in an intimate family relationship' came into effect in England and Wales in December 2015. It said: "Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behavior, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been family members regardless of gender or sexuality." "The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: Psychological; physical; sexual; financial, and emotional." Statistics suggested that 6.5 million adults in England and Wales have

experienced domestic abuse. Eleanor Schooling, Ofsted's national director for social care, said that while there was a lot of good work being done, more must be done to stop abuse happening in the first place. "That's why schools have an essential role in educating children about domestic abuse. I want to see a new approach to tackling domestic abuse — one which focuses more on prevention and repairing long-term damage to child victims." "A widespread public service message is needed to shift behavior on a wide scale." The Ofsted report inspected six areas: Bradford, Hampshire, Hounslow, Lincolnshire, Salford and Wiltshire. It was written and researched in conjunction with HM Inspector of Constabulary and the Care Quality Commission.

Worldwide attitude towards gender changes

A new Havas survey of more than 12,000 people in 32 countries revealed a shift in consumer attitudes towards gender. Brand owners should follow the lead already taken by Target in the US and John Lewis in the UK to combat gender stereotyping by de-gendering their products, packaging, in-store experience and other marketing communications — including advertising, new research published this week suggested, fastcompany.com wrote. A worldwide shift in consumer attitude towards gender is revealed by The Future is FeMale, a new survey by more than 12,000 men and women in 32 countries commissioned by Havas.



pining.com

One of the most striking findings is the significant number of those surveyed who endorse an 'agendered' — or gender-neutral — approach to raising future generations: 61 percent of women and 46 percent of men believe children should be raised in a gender-neutral way as possible to guard against rigid gender restrictions. Also notable is the extent to which the way we think about gender is changing, however. When asked whether certain traits or attributes applied more to men or women, significant overlap between the genders was evident. For example, 75 percent of both men and women believe the two sexes are equally valuable to society; 69 percent of men and 71 percent believe the sexes are equally smart; 64 percent of men and 68 percent of women believe they are equally intellectual; and 63 percent of both men and women believe they are equally trustworthy. Notably, barely half the global sample — 55 percent of men and 54 percent of women — believe parenting comes more naturally to women than men. Gender distinctions are rapidly blurring, the findings showed. A majority of women (52 percent) and 44 percent of men surveyed agreed with the statement that, "I do not believe in set genders; gender is fluid and people can be what they feel they are." In developed markets, meanwhile, barely half the sample (52 percent) believe 'a man should be masculine,' and just 48 percent believe a woman should be feminine. Even so, equality between the sexes remains elusive. Nearly half of the global sample agreed with the statement that, "women today have rights but no real power". A majority of men and women — 52 percent and 64 percent, respectively — believe there are not enough women in executive positions and when asked why prevents women earning as much as men, the greatest obstacle cited by both sexes is gender bias. The findings come at a time when concerns about gender stereotyping and the de-gendering of products, product presentation and other forms of marketing communication is fast-moving up brand owners' agenda.

Opioid overdoses shorten US life expectancy



djrumpnetwork.com

at age, you can expect to live another 19.4 years. Again, women fare slightly better: 20.6 years vs. 18 years for men. Drug overdose deaths are expected to

continue to reach new record highs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expects drug overdose deaths to top 64,000 in 2016 when the numbers are finalized — that's more than the number of American troops lost during the Vietnam War. Most of these overdoses involved an opioid. Since 1999, the number of opioid-related drug deaths has more than quadrupled. While prescription opioids like oxycodone or hydrocodone were considered to be driving factors in the increasing rates of overdose in the early part of the 2000s, heroin and illicit fentanyl have become the drivers for opioid overdose deaths in recent years. In fact, the number of overdose deaths related to fentanyl is expected to more than double, from an estimated 9,945 in 2016 to 20,145 in 2017, the CDC said. For the first time, fentanyl will be the leading cause of opioid overdose. On the heels of the release of a draft report of the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis, over the summer, President Donald Trump said, "The opioid crisis is an emergency, and I am saying, officially, right now, it is an emergency. It's a national emergency." He added, "We're going to spend a lot of time, a lot of effort and a lot of money on the opioid crisis." "It is a serious problem the likes of which we have never had." Yet, five weeks have passed since Trump's statement, and the White House has yet to make any sort of formal announcement of a national emergency.

Opioid drugs — including both legally prescribed painkillers such as oxycodone and hydrocodone, as well as illegal drugs such as heroin or illicit fentanyl — are not only killing Americans, they are shortening their overall life spans. Opioids take about 2½ months off our lives, according to a new analysis published in the medical journal JAMA. In 2015, American life expectancy dropped for the first time since 1993. Public health officials have hypothesized that opioids reduced life expectancy for non-Hispanic white people in the United States from 2000 to 2014. Researchers have now quantified how much opioids are shortening US life spans, CNN reported. The researchers noted that the number of opioid overdose deaths are probably underestimated because of gaps in how death certificates are completed. From 2000 to 2015, death rates due to heart disease, diabetes and other key causes declined, adding 2¼ years to US life expectancy. But increases in deaths from Alzheimer's disease, suicide and other causes offset some of those gains. On average, Americans can now expect to live 78.8 years, according to data from 2015, the most recent data available. That's a statistically significant drop of 0.1 year, about a month, from the previous year. Women can still expect to live longer than men — 81.2 years vs. 76.3 years — but both of those estimates were lower in 2015 than they were in 2014. Life expectancy at age 65 remained the same in 2015. Once you've reached

Taking a break from dieting could be key to weight loss



wolvesfitness.co.uk

Two groups of participants took part in a 16-week diet — while one group maintained the diet continuously for 16 weeks, the other maintained the diet for two weeks, then broke from the diet for two weeks.

Participants who took a two-week break from their dieting regimes not only lost more weight but also gained less weight after the trial finished. They also maintained an average weight loss of eight kilograms more than the continuous diet group. "This 'famine reaction', a survival mechanism which helped humans to survive as a species when food supply was inconsistent in millennia past, is now contributing to our growing waistlines when the food supply is readily available," Byrne added. While researchers in the past had shown that as dieting continued weight loss became more difficult, the latest study looked more closely at ways to lessen the famine response and improve weight loss success. Moreover, other popular diets which included cycles of several days of fasting and feasting were not any more effective than continuous dieting, Byrne said.

Struggling hard to lose weight even with a controlled diet? Avoid continuous dieting and take a two-week break as this may help keep the kilos off, suggested a new study. According to researchers, dieting altered a series of biological processes in the body, which led to slower weight loss and possibly weight gain, news18.com wrote. Lead author Nuala Byrne, professor at the University of Tasmania in Australia, said, "When we reduce our energy (food) intake during dieting, resting metabolism decreases to a greater extent than expected, a phenomenon termed 'adaptive thermogenesis' — making weight loss harder to achieve." In the study, published in the International Journal for Obesity, the researchers investigated the body's 'famine reaction' to continued dieting and its impact on weight loss in people with obesity.

Quarter of 14-year-old girls 'have signs of depression'

A quarter of girls and nearly one in 10 boys show signs of depression at the age of 14, said UK researchers. The findings come from more than 10,000 young people who shared their worries and emotions, BBC wrote. Surveys with their parents, however, suggested many were not attuned to the true anxieties of their teenage sons and daughters. Parents often underestimated daughters' stress and had concerns about that the boys themselves did not voice. Lead investigator Dr. Praveetha Patalay, from Liverpool University, said teenagers, and particularly girls, were facing more mental health difficulties than previous generations. Many factors could be contributing, including exam stress and worries about body image, experts believe. • The Millennium Cohort Study survey suggests: Teenage girls report more anxiety and depressive symptoms than boys. • 14-year-olds from poorer socioeconomic backgrounds are more likely to report depressive symptoms than peers from better-off families. • Girls from mixed and white ethnic backgrounds are the most likely to report high depressive symptoms. • Black African girls are least likely to report high depressive symptoms at this age. • For boys, those from mixed and other ethnic groups are at greatest risk of depressive symptoms. • Bangladeshi and Indian boys are the least likely to report these symptoms. • Agreement between self- and parent-reported emotional symptoms of 14-year-olds is weak.

Half of all cases of adult mental illness start by the age of 14, and it is important they are diagnosed and treated early. Demand for specialist services is growing, but child and adolescent mental health teams are overstretched and turn away nearly a quarter of the young patients referred to them, said the National Children's Bureau, which has published the survey findings. Its chief executive, Anna Feuchtbaum, said: "With a quarter of 14-year-old girls showing signs of depression, it's now beyond doubt that this problem is reaching crisis point. "Worryingly, there is evidence that parents may be underestimating their daughters' mental health needs. "Conversely, parents may be picking up on symptoms in their sons, which boys don't report themselves."

Dog interrupts Argentinean soccer match

Forget Neymar. Forget Edinson Cavani. Forget PSG. The best on-field dispute over a free kick in soccer this weekend occurred on Saturday night in Argentina. It featured one San Lorenzo player ... and a dog.

According to UPI, a jumpy perro somehow found its way onto the pitch during a match between San Lorenzo and Arsenal while San Lorenzo prepared to take a corner, and even got a few quality touches in! Seriously, this ball-control is impressive.

Two Arsenal players tried to bargain with the dog, while one picked up the ball and tossed it over to the corner flag. But the pup only had eyes for the ball, and raced over to the corner, where it seemed intent on taking the set piece. Unfortunately, it lost the argument with San Lorenzo's



TWITTER/@TYCSPORTS

And yes, it sunk its teeth in to the microphone.

There's a rich, storied history of animal involvement at soccer matches, and specifically of dog intrusion. Earlier this year, a lower-division English game was delayed for a full seven minutes.

But a destructive post-match interview? Surely that's a first.

All in all, an eventful evening in Buenos Aires.

Alexis Castro, who tried (and failed) to lift the dog up and remove it from the pitch. Eventually, two men on the sideline realized that the best way to allow the players to get on with the game would be to get a second ball to distract the dog.

But after the match, our canine friend didn't appear too pleased with the resolution.

Yes, that's the same dog. Yes, a local TV station jokingly tried to interview it.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



MEHEDI HASAN/NURPHOTO
A Bangladeshi hairstylist cutting hair with fire in his hair shop at Dhaka.

The hunter and the woodman



A hunter, not very bold, was searching for the tracks of a lion. He asked a man felling oaks in the forest if he had seen any marks of his footsteps or knew where his lair was. "I will," said the man, "at once show you the lion himself."

The hunter, turning very pale and chattering with his teeth from fear, replied, "No, thank you. I did not ask that; it is his track only I am in search of, not the lion himself."

The hero is brave in deeds as well as words.



Life in the freezer: Siberian tribe preserve reindeer species

A British photographer has captured life at the 'edge of the world'.

Timothy Allen, best known for his work on BBC's Human Planet, trekked through the freezing Siberian wilderness for 16 days as he joined part of an 800km migration of reindeer in the Yamal-Netets region, a name that roughly translates to 'edge of the world', daily.mail.co.uk wrote.

The stunning pictures feature the nomadic Nenets tribe, who survive in -45°C (-49°F) temperatures.

Timothy's epic journey, which will be revealed in an eight-minute documentary on Animal Planet USA, saw him travel across

the bleak terrain of the frozen Ob River with the Nenets people in December last year.

The Nenets, also known as Samoyeds, are an indigenous people in northern Russia.

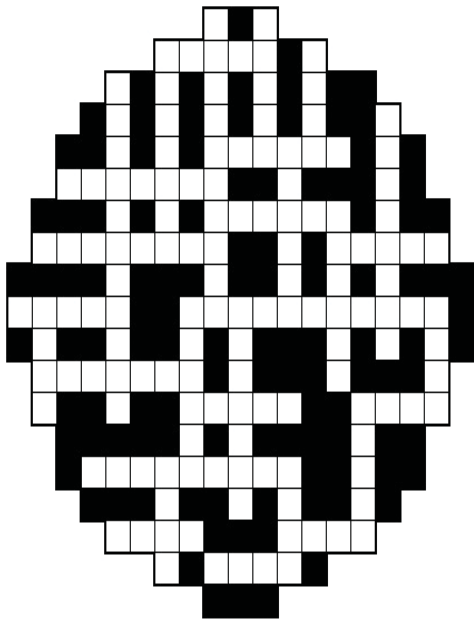
They are the last people left in the world who preserve this unique style of reindeer herding in which they move huge herds of reindeer from summer pastures in the north to winter pastures just south of the Arctic Circle.

It is unknown whether the people guide the reindeer or whether the animals lead the people.



BARCROFT PRODUCTIONS

Global Word-Fit



- 4 letters
APIA
BONN
DOHA
LIMA
MALE
MALI
OHIO
OMAN
UTAH

- 5 letters
ARUBA
GHANA
LIBYA
PARIS

- QUITO
SPAIN

- 6 letters
BELIZE
DUBLIN
LISBON
NASSAU
RUSSIA

- 7 letters
ALGIERS
GEORGIA
MANAGUA
ONTARIO

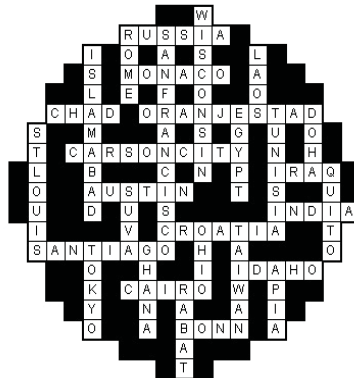
- 8 letters
DELAWARE
HONDURAS

- 9 letters
SAN MARINO

- 10 letters
BANGLADESH

- 11 letters
MINNEAPOLIS
RHODE ISLAND

Yesterday's solution



Sudoku

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

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

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

Iran finishes third in Asian Junior Wushu Ch'ships



Iran's boys and girls pose for a photo with their medals at the Asian Junior Wushu Championships in Gumi, South Korea, on September 19, 2017.

Sports Desk

Iran sealed the third place in the 9th Asian Junior Wushu Championships in South Korea with a medals tally of 22 including seven golds.

Having collected four golds and two silvers, Iran clinched the runner-up spot in Sanda competitions as wushu giant China finished first with a seven-medal asset including five golds.

India collected two gold, two silver and three bronze medals to secure the third place.

On Wednesday, Iran's Hassan Khamdi outpointed his Indian counterpart to grab the gold medal of the boys' -80kg in Sanda contests at Park Chung Hee Gymnasium in the South Korean city of Gumi.

The other gold medal of the day went to Ali Mohammadi (-65kg) who prevailed over the Vietnamese contestant in the final showdown.

Mohammadi's compatriot, Alireza Rigi also beat a Chinese athlete in the boys' -60kg final to secure Iran's third gold in Sanda category.

Ahmad Vahedi also triumphed over his Malaysian opponent in the boys' -75kg and struck another gold for Iran.

Meanwhile, the Iranian girls' duelist Taolu team picked up the gold medal with a total score of 9.46 points.

Earlier in the day, Zahra Kiani had tallied 9.51 points in the final competition of Changshu form in the girls' 15-18 age category to snatch the gold medal.

Also in the girls competitions, Fatemeh Vaisi (-52kg) and Shaqayeq Pashaei (-60kg) collected two silver medals for Iran.

Additionally, Mina Panahi collected 9.44 points to claim the silver medal in the Nandao form of Taolu competitions in the girls' 12-15 age division.

Iranian duo of Amir Hossein Soltani and Seyed Mohammad Hosseini also took part in the boys' duelist Taolu team contests and bagged the silver, having earned 9.50 points. Malaysia team took the gold medal with a total score of 9.54 points.

China garnered 22 gold medals and two silvers to top the overall medals table of both Taolu and Sanda competitions while Hong Kong finished second with eight golds and nine silvers.

Ancelotti hails influence of Rodriguez in Bayern win

Carlo Ancelotti praised James Rodriguez's performance as Bayern Munich cruised back to the top of the Bundesliga table with a comfortable 3-0 win over Schalke on Tuesday.

James moved to Bayern this summer on a two-year loan deal from Real Madrid and he played a key role on his first Bundesliga start, ESPN reported.

The Colombia international was involved in all three goals for the German champion, which is chasing a sixth Bundesliga title in succession.

Ulreich told Sky after the final whistle, "I am pleased with the clean sheet and it's always good to win three points away in Schalke. It's never easy to win here so I am happy. We made a few mistakes in our build-up play, but we scored some good goals and deservedly won."

"You have to feel for Manu. I wish him all the best for a quick recovery and everything goes well. Of course, the team is disappointed and we hope he comes back soon."

The former Stuttgart keeper added, "Of course, I'm happy to be getting some



James Rodriguez (3rd L) celebrates with Bayern Munich players after scoring in the 3-0 beating of Schalke in Veltins-Arena in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, on September 19, 2017.

Robert Lewandowski opened the scoring from the penalty spot on 25 minutes after James's cross hit the hand of Schalke defender Naldo from close range. James doubled the lead four minutes later, before laying on a third for substitute Arturo Vidal with 15 minutes remaining.

"James played very well, with good combinations for the benefit of the team. Physically, he is still not at 100 percent yet though," Ancelotti said after the final whistle.

"We played well from start to finish, with high intensity and defended compactly. But today they were all strong so it's difficult to single out a player. I'm happy with everyone."

Back-up goalkeeper Sven Ulreich filled in for captain Manuel Neuer who has been ruled out for the rest of the year following surgery on a broken foot on Tuesday.

games, I'd be lying if I said I'm happy to be sat on the bench. I'm pleased to be playing and will do my best to fill in for Manu to the best of my ability. I want to help the team to be successful in the coming weeks."

Ahead of Bayern's trip to face Paris Saint-Germain next week in the Champions League, Ulreich said, "Of course, I am looking forward to the challenge of playing against world-class players. But we are a world-class team as well."

Teammate Joshua Kimmich echoed Ulreich's sentiment about the impact of Neuer's injury.

"It's brutal. He was injured for four months, fights his way back and gets injured again. That's hard to take and it's difficult for the team to have our captain missing. Manu is a big personality and we will miss him a lot," he said.

Messi, Paulinho symbolize Valverde's Barcelona

A new FC Barcelona is starting to take shape. Ernesto Valverde's side has played five and won five so far in La Liga and on Tuesday, the Blaugrana hit six superb goals at Camp Nou – inspired mainly by two men: Lionel Messi and Paulinho.

Messi's magic is expected at Barca's famous home and it was there in abundance again as the Argentine hit an amazing poker to surpass 300 goals at the stadium for the Catalan club, goal.com reported.

cord summer signing Ousmane Dembele is sidelined for the remainder of 2017 with a thigh injury.

Gerard Deulofeu was willing in Dembele's position, but the Catalan winger is still not quite up to speed with the rest of his teammates since returning to the club in the summer.

Denis did well, though, and scored for a second successive match – just like Paulinho – to show he can be an important player for Valverde in 2017-18



Barcelona's Lionel Messi (L) celebrates with Paulinho and Denis Suarez after scoring his side's fifth and own third goal against Eibar in Camp Nou on September 19, 2017.

And Paulinho, on his first start for the Blaugrana, was also on target in an effective display.

Eibar pressed persistently in the first half and gave Barca plenty to think about. Valverde's side needing a penalty from Messi won by Nelson Semedo to open the scoring, before Paulinho made it two when he headed home a corner.

The Brazilian midfielder, an unpopular signing when he arrived for €60 million from Guangzhou Evergrande last month, silenced some of his critics with an impressive winner late on against Getafe on Saturday and scored here for the sec-

ond match in a row.

It was difficult to see in the first half just what Paulinho offered to Barca's creative play in midfield. However, the 29-year-old is a physical presence who can cover plenty of ground and he is also a useful goal threat for the Liga leader.

In the second half, however, Paulinho showed he can link up intelligently as well. The Brazilian's brilliant dummy set Messi free in the lead-up to Barca's third, which was

and beyond.

"It's a pleasure to watch Messi play and to play with him," he said afterwards.

"He's the best in the world." And on Paulinho, he added, "He scored a good goal from a header, which is a speciality for him, and he worked hard all night."

With Dembele sidelined and Luis Suarez rested, Denis has emerged as an excellent stand-in, while it already looks like Messi and Paulinho are the symbols of Valverde's new-look Barca team in a mixture of brilliance, brawn and effectiveness. Beauty and the beast.

Phelps has 'no desire' to make another comeback



Michael Phelps insisted that he has 'no desire' to return to competitive swimming.

The American, who won 23 golds and 28 medals in total in an astonishing Olympic career, wants to stay in the sport and help out those coming through, but his desire to return to action was not increased by watching the World Championships in Budapest in April, Eurosport reported.

Phelps, who came out of retirement to snare five golds and a silver medal at the Rio Olympics last year before stepping aside again, is expecting his second child with wife Nicole. They already have a 16-month-old son called Boomer.

And the 32-year-old insisted family is now his focus during an interview with AP.

"For me, it's about being happy where I am and happy where my family is," Phelps said. "We have more goals we want to accomplish outside the sport."

"I've got no desire – no desire – to come back."

Phelps added that "it's time to kind of move on and watch other people come into their own" – something he saw with Caeleb Dressel's run of form in Budapest as the 21-year-old American won seven golds to become the sport's newest star.

"I'm happy Caeleb decided to go off this

year instead of last year," joked Phelps.

"I'm kind of happy to see him swimming so well when I'm not there."

Phelps also revealed that his son could have a future in the pool as well.

"He skipped the walking part and went right to running," he added of Boomer. "He just scoots around the house. It's funny when we get him in the pool. He basically just splashes around the whole time."

"He's literally nonstop. As soon as he wakes up from a nap or his night's sleep, he's just go, go, go. There's no time for slow moving in our family. He likes to go fast. I guess that's a good thing."

Art & Culture

'Spoon' picks up best documentary award in Zimbabwe

Iranian documentary 'Spoon', directed by Jalal Veisi, won the Best Documentary award at the 19th Zimbabwe International Film and Festival Trust held early September in the African country.

'Spoon' unfolds the story of the children and young adults who are punished by their parents as part of their upbringing, Mehr News Agency reported.



MEHR NEWS AGENCY

Other notable documentaries in 32-year-old Veisi's filmmaking career are 'To the Horizon' and 'Gerrus Ritual'. Zimbabwe International Film Festival was established in 1997, and converted to the Zimbabwe International Film and Festival Trust (ZIFFT) in 2000. As a non-profit organization, ZIFFT is dedicated to the discovery and development of filmmakers, artists, and audiences; and contributing to vibrant, socially and politically relevant, African story-telling through cinema.

The festival featured 200 films from 42 countries in its current edition.

2,350-year-old goods unearthed in Antalya reveal ancient way of life

More than 200 utensils that are 2,350 years old, including a bronze mirror frame and a fork, was unearthed in the ancient city of Patara, located in the Kaş district of Turkey's Antalya Province. Excavation works in Patara started in 1988 and are being continued by the head of Akdeniz University's Archaeology Department Prof. Havva İşik and her team.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency, İşik said Patara is one of the most important ancient cities of the Mediterranean region. Implying that Patara was the prophecy center of Apollo — the god of art, music, sun, poem and fire in mythological sources — İşik said Saint Nicholas, who is an important figure in the Christian world, was also born there, and he created his teachings in Myra.

She added that they have focused on the area around the Nero Hamam this year, and the excavation works in the basilica and Tepecik Acropolis in the heart of the city are ongoing.

Tepecik Acropolis, which is the most important area of the excavations, houses the earliest settlement. This is why the most important findings have been found there," İşik said. She indicated that they are trying to reveal the Hellenistic and classical period with the findings there.

Noting that they discovered many interesting artifacts in the excavations of the Tepecik acropolis, İşik said more than 200 works have been found in a construction site that was demolished because of an earthquake or fire.

The goods, which have been found together in the same area including meal bowls, weights, sculptures and coins, are in good shape.

"This house is a think tank for us. These works are important since they provide information about the Hellenistic period. They bring important information about daily life," İşik indicated.

Noting that the earthenware baby bottle, bronze mirror frame and iron fork were important findings, vice head of the Patara excavations Associate Professor Sekt Aktaş said, "We think these findings belong to an important figure. We have found more than 200 household goods together. They date back to 2,350 years ago. We date them at the end of the Hellenistic period and the beginning of the Classical period. We generally discover broken pieces in excavations.

"However, it was so exciting that we have found them simultaneously and in preserved shape."

Explaining that the baby bottle was used for fluids like milk, Aktaş implied the importance of these findings to understand the family structure of the period.

Starting from the bronze mirror frame, he also commented that these goods possibly belong to someone rich because ordinary people from this period didn't use mirrors.

In order to show the importance of the findings to get information about the daily life of the period, Aktaş gave the example of weaving looms. Many weaving looms dating back to 350 BC have also been found in the excavations but their wooden parts were unable to last over the years.

Additionally, in Patara, the parliament building of the Lycian League, which is accepted as the first democratic parliament of the world, was opened to tourism after reparation by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in 2011.

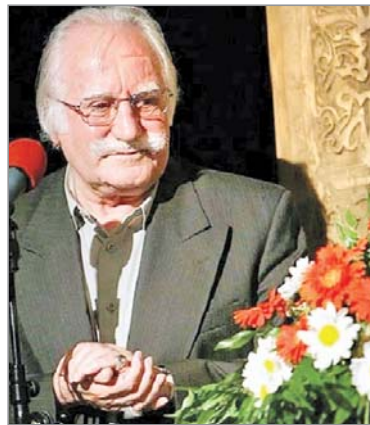
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Farshchian's latest works to be unveiled



Latest works by Iran's painting and miniature virtuoso Mahmoud Farshchian is set to be unveiled in a written collection on September 21.

The maestro will also be honored in the Thursday unveiling ceremony to be held at Vahdat Hall in Tehran. The written collection encompasses, among others, some drawings by the maestro himself, IRNA reported.

Master Farshchian was born in Isfahan on January 24, 1930. He is the founder of his own school in Iranian painting, which adheres to classical form while making use of new techniques to broaden the scope of Iranian painting.

He has created many masterpieces with a focus on Iranian and Islamic concepts.

The prominent Iranian artist has showcased his masterpieces at solo and group exhibitions in Iran and other countries. The representations were warmly received by art experts and lovers of Iranian miniature paintings worldwide.



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International tourism to US declined in early 2017

Fewer international travelers came to the United States during the first few months of this year than over the same period last year, confirming concerns of some in the travel industry.

New figures released by the US Department of Commerce show a drop in international visitors to the US by close to 700,000 in the first quarter of 2017 compared to the figure for the previous year. European countries were down 10.1 percent, and Mexico was off 7.1 percent in the quarter. The largest drops were from the Middle East and Africa, though they represent a much smaller percentage of overall travel to the US, nytimes.com reported.

Overall, 697,791 fewer foreigners visited the US in the first three months of the year — down 4.2 percent to 15.8 million. According to Tourism Economics, a branch of Oxford Economics based in Wayne, Pa., that analyzes travel data, the drop represents a loss of nearly \$2.7 billion in spending.

However the data tracks with a decline in US favorability abroad. In June, the Pew Research Center found that 49 percent of those surveyed in 37 nations had a positive view of the US, versus 64 percent at the end of President Obama's term in office.

Last week, Pew reported that nearly two-thirds of Mexicans held a negative opinion of the US, more than double the figure of two years ago, which stood at 29 percent.

"It's not a reach to say the rhetoric and policies of this administration are affecting sentiment around the world, creating antipathy toward the US and affecting travel behavior," said Adam Sacks, the president of Tourism Economics.

In response to a Facebook post by The New York Times, European readers overwhelmingly cited the Trump administration and its policies as reasons for avoiding or canceling trips to the US.

This has been a strong year for the US dollar, which

4½ million tourists last year, making its slowdown significant. (Asian tourism was about the same as last year — up .6 percent — mainly due to a surge of South Korean travelers, up over 15 percent in the first quarter.)

A report released in April by the World Economic Forum showed the United States falling two spots in its rankings of the top 10 most popular countries for tourism in the world. The US fell to number six, passed by both Japan and Britain.

The economic picture is less straightforward, however. The Commerce Department's National Travel and Tourism Office reported a 2.5 percent increase in spending by international visitors to \$83.4 billion in the first four months of the year compared to the same period in 2016.

Some of the decline in first quarter results may be because of the shift of the Easter and Passover holidays, when travel usually spikes. Those occurred in March of 2016 and April this year, possibly skewing first quarter figures.

April figures ease the overall decline of foreign visitors to the US from 4.2 percent to 1.2 percent. A boost in arrivals from Canada — up 7.8 percent through April after two years of declines — helped offset slowdowns from Mexico at 4.9 percent for the first four months of the year and Britain at 6.9 percent for the same period.

Factoring in the April figures brings the overall decline of foreign visitors to the US from 4.2 percent to 1.2 percent. A boost in arrivals from Canada — up 7.8 percent through April after two years of declines — helped offset slowdowns from Mexico at 4.9 percent for the first four months of the year and Britain at 6.9 percent for the same period.

Security concerns may be another factor. Through government travel advisories, countries including New Zealand and Britain have warned their citizens that travel within the US represents some risk based on the threat of terrorist attacks.



As points of comparison, the first quarter of 2013, after the reelection of Obama, international tourism was up 6.4 percent, and the first quarter of 2009, after President Obama's first election (and during global recession that began at the end of 2008), it was down 14.3 percent.

The question of whether the results prove a ripple effect from President Trump's proposed travel ban on visitors from six majority-Muslim countries, an expanded wall along the Mexican border and anti-immigrant statements remains unanswered.



Weather

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