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# IRAN DAILY



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## French state bank BPI to fund projects in Iran

B pifrance, the country's state investment bank, will finance investment projects of French companies in Iran from 2018, granting up to 500 million euros (\$598 million) in annual credits, its CEO said in a newspaper interview on Sunday.



"Excluding a force majeure case, we will be on their side in early 2018. We are the only French bank that can do it without risking US sanctions for a possible breach of remaining embargo rules," Nicolas Dufourcq told Le Journal du Dimanche.

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## FM: Iran not buying so-called beautiful weapons from US

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Iran is developing its own defenses instead of buying billions of dollars worth of the so-called beautiful military equipment from the US.

Zarif was referring to US President Donald Trump's remarks before a meeting with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani back in May, when he said, "One of the things we will discuss is the purchase of lots of beautiful military equipment because nobody makes it like the United States."

"We have said time and again and we have proven that our missiles are for defense," Zarif said in an interview with the US news network CNN aired on Sunday.

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Iran said on Sunday that it has halted all flights to and from Iraq's Kurdistan at the request of Baghdad, a day before the autonomous region holds an independence referendum, opposed by Tehran.

"At the request of the central government of Iraq, all flights from Iran to Sulaymaniyah and Erbil, as well as all flights through our airspace originating from the Kurdistan region, have been stopped," said Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) spokesman, Keivan Khosravi, according to IRNA.

The air embargo is the first concrete retaliatory measure against Monday's Kurdish referendum, which is rejected by the government in Baghdad and by Iraq's powerful neighbors, Iran and Turkey.

Khosravi added that the decision had been made during an emergency session of the SNSC earlier in the day after Iran's "political" efforts proved ineffective in the face of Kurdish officials' "insistence" on holding a planned referendum on the independence of the Iraqi Kurdistan region. He did not specify how long the ban

would stay in place.

Tehran and Ankara fear the spread of separatism.

Iran warned last week that independence for the region would mean an end to all border and security arrangements.

There are several regular flights every week from Iranian cities to the Kurdistan region in Iraq.

The news comes hours after Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) began military exercises along the border with Iraqi Kurdistan.

## Trump cranks up N. Korea threats as Pyongyang holds anti-US rally

US President Donald Trump dialed up the rhetoric against North Korea again at the weekend, warning the country's foreign minister that he and leader Kim Jong-un "won't be around much longer," as Pyongyang staged a major anti-US rally.

North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho told the United Nations General Assembly on Saturday that targeting the US mainland with its rockets was inevitable after "Mr. Evil President" Trump called Pyongyang's leader a "Rocket Man" on a suicide mission, Reuters reported.

"Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at UN. If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!" Trump said on Twitter late on Saturday.

Trump and Kim have traded increasingly threatening and personal insults as Pyongyang races toward its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the United States - something Trump has vowed to prevent.

Analysts say the escalation in rhetoric is increasing the risk of a miscalculation by one side or the other that could have massive repercussions.

North Korea's state-run television, KRT, aired a video on Sunday showing tens of thousands of people attending an anti-US rally at Kim Il-sung Square in Pyongyang.

The North's official KCNA news agency

said more than 100,000 people gathered for the rally on Saturday and delivered speeches supporting comments made by Kim earlier in the week.

"We are waiting for the right time to have a final battle with the US, the Evil Empire, and to remove the US from the world," KCNA quoted Ri Il-bae, a commanding officer of the Red Guards, as saying. "Once respected Supreme Commander Kim Jong-un gives an order, we will annihilate the group of aggressors."

Kim said the North would consider the "highest level of hardline counter-measure in history" against the United States and that Trump's comments had confirmed his nuclear program was "the correct path."

Kim's comments came after Trump threatened in his maiden UN address on Tuesday to "totally destroy" the country of 26 million people. North Korea conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear bomb test on Sept. 3rd, prompting another round of UN sanctions. Pyongyang said on Friday it might test a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific Ocean.

"It is only a forlorn hope to consider any chance that the DPRK (North Korea) would be shaken an inch, or change its stance due to the harsher sanctions by the hostile forces," Ri told the UN General Assembly on Saturday.

US Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers, escorted by fighters, flew in international airspace over waters east of North Korea on Saturday.



REUTERS

## Germans warned against apathy as Merkel heads for fourth term

Turnout slipped slightly in Germany's election despite politicians warning that apathy could beset the far-right, expected to return to parliament after a half century's absence, overshadowing Chancellor Angela Merkel's expected victory.

After shock election results last year, from Britain's vote to leave the European Union to the election of US President Donald Trump, many look to Merkel to rally a bruised liberal Western order, tasking her with leading a post-Brexit Europe, Reuters reported.

Some 41.1 percent of voters had cast ballots by 1200 GMT, the Federal Returning Officer said in a statement, down from 41.4 percent at the same time four years ago, suggesting not all had heeded the advice of President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

"It has perhaps never been as clear that the elections are about the future of democracy and Europe," he wrote in mass-market newspaper Bild am Sonntag, amid polls showing that as many as a third of Germans were undecided.

"If you don't vote, others decide." In Germany's proportional election system, low turnout can boost smaller parties, such as the hard-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), giving them more seats from the same number of voters.

In regional elections this year, Merkel's conservatives suffered setbacks from the AfD,

which profited from resentment at her 2015 decision to open German borders to more than one million migrants.

But with the migrant issue under control this year, Merkel has overcome earlier doubts over running and thrown herself into a punishing campaign schedule, presenting herself as an anchor of stability in an uncertain world.

Visibly happier, Merkel campaigned with renewed conviction: a resolve to re-tool the economy for the digital age, to head off future

migrant crises, and to defend a Western order shaken by Trump's victory last November.

The overall fall in turnout masked great regional variation. North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state,

reported a 3 percent increase in turnout, while the city of Munich saw a 10 percent increase. In some of the eastern states where the AfD is strong, turnout held steady.

Both Merkel and her main challenger, Social Democrat leader Martin Schulz have warned that low turnout could help extreme parties, especially the AfD, whose arrival in parliament could signal a break from the steady, consensus-based politics that has marked Germany's prosperous post-war period. Schulz, who on Friday described the AfD as "gravediggers of democracy," on Sunday told reporters he was still optimistic that his party, a distant second in polls, would pick up the votes of the undecided.



REUTERS

## UK negotiator dismisses reports of £40bn Brexit bill

Brexit negotiator David Davis on Sunday dismissed a report that Britain was prepared to pay a £40 billion (\$54 billion, 45 billion euros) divorce bill on leaving the European Union.

"The Times quoted a 'Brussels source' in their story on Saturday, but Davis told BBC television that 'they sort of made that up'.

"I'm not going to do an actual number on air, it would be ridiculous to do that, but we have a fairly clear idea where we're going on this," he said.

He called EU claims for Britain to contribute to the bloc's future pension pot as "debatable to say the least."

"The last time we went through line by line and challenged quite a lot of the legal basis of these things and we'll continue to do that."

British Prime Minister Theresa May on Friday revealed plans for a transition period of around two years after it officially leaves in 2019, during which time Britain would still largely be under current EU rules.

Davis stressed that Britain "would not under any circumstances" accept the supremacy of the European Court of Justice after the transition period, a key issue for Brexit hardliners.

He added that it was "quite likely" that a joint system of EU-UK courts will be agreed in order to resolve disputes.

May's cabinet is divided over certain key issues of Brexit, particularly on what terms Britain wishes to access the EU's single market after it has left.

The pro-EU faction of her government, led by finance minister Philip Hammond, want close ties with the bloc, while Brexit campaigner and foreign minister Boris Johnson is pushing for a cleaner break.

Johnson heightened tensions last week with a newspaper article spelling out his vision, and the latest edition of the Sunday Telegraph reported he had set down further demands.

He said Britain should not adopt any new EU rules made during the transition period and wants London to be able to sign trade deals with countries outside the EU during the two-year period, according to the paper.

Davis denied Johnson's article had changed the content of May's speech, saying the "policy in the prime minister's speech had been coming for a long time."

"I don't think there's been any change of policy in the last few weeks."

Davis will head to Brussels on Monday to re-launch Brexit negotiations with the EU.



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Iran's 'Violinist' receives Japanese Kumamoto City Prize 12

Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani on Sunday appreciated President Hassan Rouhani for due response to the US president's hollow words in his address at the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

### Iran, India, Oman discuss relations

Foreign ministers of Iran, India, and Oman held a meeting in New York to explore avenues for closer relations among the three Asian nations, with the focus on cooperation in the energy sector.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj, and Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah met on Saturday on the sidelines of the 72nd regular session of the United Nations General Assembly, Tasnim News Agency reported.



Talking about the latest regional and international developments, the three top diplomats also discussed ways to enhance cooperation among Tehran, New Delhi and Muscat in the energy sector.

Zarif has held a host of meetings with foreign counterparts and top officials in New York in recent days.

The latest status of implementation of the Iran nuclear deal, the situation in Syria, Myanmar and Yemen, as well as joint economic and political interaction have been the main topics of the Iranian foreign minister's meetings.

### Iran blocks flights to Iraq's Kurdistan region ahead of referendum

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Such exercises are common in the region, due to the persistent threat posed by Kurdish separatists, who regularly carry out cross-border attacks against Iranian security forces.

Turkey, meanwhile, said on Sunday that its aircraft launched strikes against Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) targets in northern Iraq's Gara region on Saturday after spotting militants preparing to attack Turkish military outposts on the border.

"Turkey will never ever tolerate any status change or any new formations on its southern borders," Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said. "The KRG will be primarily responsible for the probable developments after this referendum."

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has resisted calls to delay the referendum by the United Nations, the United States and Britain, who fear it could further destabilize the region.

The vote, expected to result in a comfortable 'yes' to independence, is not binding and is meant to give the KRG a legitimate mandate to negotiate the secession of the autonomous region with Baghdad and the neighboring countries.

# Army, IRGC begin military drills near western border



Political Desk

The ground forces of Iran's Army and Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) have started military drills in the country's western area. IRGC's security drills, codenamed Moharram, started on Sunday, with Brigadier General Hossein Salami, the IRGC's second-in-command, and Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, who commands the corps' ground forces in attendance, Press TV reported.

The exercises are part of annual events held in Iran to mark Iraq's invasion of Iran

in 1980, which led to an eight-year war.

The maneuvers, centered in the Oshnavieh border region, will include artillery, armored and airborne units, state broadcaster IRIB reported.

The main part, which is already underway, involves practicing of defensive preparedness by infantry, armored, electronic warfare, and rocket units, as well as the ground-operating squadrons of the IRGC.

The Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shohadah Base of the IRGC ground forces plays the central part in the maneuvers.

The country's northwest has repeatedly witnessed inroads by terrorist and anti-re-



TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

volutionary elements and hence constitutes a focus of the IRGC's counter-terrorism operations. Clashes with PJAK militant groups based in Iraq are a frequent occurrence in the border area.

Concurrent with the IRGC drills, the ground forces of Iran's Army also started "Heydar-e Karrar" military maneuvers in the country's western border.

Also on Sunday, Iran's Army unveiled three new achievements in the area of artillery fire, named Heydar 7, 41, and 44 Projects, in the presence of Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari, the commander of the army's ground forces.

The Heydar 7 comprises an eight-wheel drive vehicle, equipped with a new turret and a 23-millimeter gun.

The Heydar 41 features a 122-millimeter Howitzer, fitted with an automatic magazine loader, shorter combat readiness process, and remote activation capability.

The Heydar 44 has witnessed a 122-millimeter rocket launcher system, made smart and automated, resulting in faster and more precise fire, as well as being interconnected with frontline surveillance drones, suitable for installment on all artillery systems.

## Envoy: Iraq cannot defeat enemies without Iran

The Iraqi ambassador to Iran praised the Islamic Republic for its continued support for the Arab country's campaign against terrorism and said Baghdad cannot defeat its enemies without Tehran.

Iran is helping to resolve problems facing the Islamic world, including Iraq, through providing defense and scientific support, Rajeh Sabar Abboud al-Mousavi said in a speech in the Iranian central city of Qom on Sunday.

"For that reason, Iraq is always indebted to Iran," the diplomat added. Iraq has been facing the growing threat of terrorism, mainly posed by the Daesh terrorist group. Daesh terrorists made swift advances in much of northern and western Iraq over the summer of 2014, after capturing large swaths of northern Syria.

However, a combination of concentrated attacks by the Iraqi military and the volunteer forces have blunted the edge of Daesh offensive.

Amid tensions in Iraq, Iran is known as the main country to help the Arab country and has always voiced support for Iraq's solidarity and prosperity.

## Iran calls for confronting genocide in Myanmar

Iran's Attorney General Mohammad Jafar Montazeri called on his counterparts in some regional countries for their seriousness in confronting the ongoing genocide of Muslims in Myanmar.

In separate messages to his Turkish, Qatari, Malaysian, Indonesian, Omani, Pakistani and Russian counterparts, Montazeri expressed his grave concern over the conditions of Myanmar Muslims, IRNA reported.

"Documented reports on crimes against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, as it is cited by official statements of international bodies, clearly show that the threats and violence have targeted a particular community," the letters read.



AFP

Widespread violence against the Muslim community in Myanmar began more than a month ago. The heavy-handed suppression of the minority has forced more than 400,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee to neighboring Bangladesh.

Around 400 Muslims have been killed in the recent wave of violence in Myanmar, with satellite images showing that 214 villages have been totally destroyed.

"Obviously, the threat will never remain limited to an ethnic group or region, and can turn into a serious threat for the entire world," he added, urging all the governments, judiciary institutions, international bodies, and rights groups to take immediate action for putting an end to the violence.

He also emphasized the role that the Islamic states can play in pursuing the goal through some actions.

## FM: Iran not buying so-called beautiful weapons from US

From Page 1

During the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran in the 1980s, Zarif noted, Iranian cities were being "showered" by missiles of the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, who was a "sweet-heart" of the US and Western countries.

At that time, Iran did not have a single missile to use as deterrence, he said. Zarif was asked about Iran's reaction to Trump's possible withdrawal from the agreement or its decertification.

The foreign minister said if the US withdrew from the 2015 multilateral nuclear deal, the Islamic Republic could walk away from the accord and resume its peaceful nuclear activities.

"Iran has a number of options, which include walking away from the deal and going back with greatest speed with its nuclear program, which will remain peaceful but which will not address and accept the limitations that we voluntarily accepted over our nuclear program."

The Trump administration has twice certified Iranian compliance with the deal in notifications to the US Congress under an American law. But it has signaled that a third verification — due in mid-October — would not be forthcoming.

Zarif told CNN host Fareed Zakaria that the certification is not part of the deal, but rather a US internal procedure, adding that the only authority that has been recognized to verify the nuclear deal is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China — plus Germany signed the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in July 2015 and started implementing it in January 2016.

Under the deal, Iran applied some limits to its nuclear program in exchange for the termination of all nuclear-related sanctions against it.

All the parties to the deal are determined to sustain it except Washington, which seems to be planning a unilateral withdrawal.

Last week, Trump said the JCPOA was "an embarrassment to the United States" and "one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into."



**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

Greenfield Ahwaz Airport Development Project  
Planning, Design, Finance, and Construction Services  
on Build-Lease-Transfer (BLT) Basis

Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company is seeking to identify Respondents interested in responding to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to provide planning, design, finance and construction services for the Greenfield Ahwaz Airport Development Project on BLT basis.

Respondents interested in performing the above mentioned services are encouraged to complete a Statement of Qualification (SOQ) in response to the RFQ #1396 AAD available on the Authority's website at <https://tenders.airport.ir>. The completed SOQs will be used to prequalify Respondents for receipt of Request for Proposals (RFP) for the performance of the subject services. If you have any technical problems accessing the RFQ documents online, email us at [tenders@airport.ir](mailto:tenders@airport.ir) or call (+98 21) 63148568 for assistance. Your email should include the RFQ#1396AAD, your firm name, email address, contact person, mailing address and telephone number.

SOQs are due by 1:00 p.m. local time on December 23, 2017. Submissions must have the RFQ number and full Respondent name clearly indicated on the outside package.

Send your SOQ to: Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company, Airport Operation Department, Meraj Street, Mehrabad International Airport, Tehran, Iran

# UN medics see evidence of rape in Myanmar Army 'cleansing' campaign

Doctors treating some of the 429,000 Rohingya Muslims who have fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar in recent weeks have found evidence of women with injuries consistent with violent sexual attacks, UN clinicians and other health workers said.

The medics' accounts, backed in some cases by medical, lend weight to repeated allegations, including gang rape, leveled by women from the minority group against Myanmar's armed forces, Reuters reported. Myanmar officials have mostly dismissed such allegations as militant propaganda designed to defame its military, which they say is engaged in legitimate counterinsurgency operations and under orders to protect civilians.

Zaw Htay, spokesman for Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, said the authorities would investigate any allegations brought to them. "Those rape victim women should come to us," he said. "We will give full security to them. We will investigate and we will take action."

Suu Kyi herself has not commented on the numerous allegations of sexual assault committed by the military against Rohingya women made public since late last year.

Violence erupted in Myanmar's northwestern Rakhine state following attacks on security forces blamed on Rohingya last October. Further attacks on August 25 provoked a renewed military offensive the United Nations has called "ethnic cleansing."

Reuters spoke with eight health and protection workers in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district who between them said they had treated more than 25 individual rape cases since late August.

The medics say they do not attempt to establish definitively what happened to their patients, but have seen an unmistakable pattern in the stories and physical symptoms of dozens of women, who invariably say My-



REUTERS

anmar soldiers were the perpetrators.

It is rare for UN doctors and aid agencies to speak about rape allegedly committed by a state's armed forces, given the sensitivity of the matter.

## "Inhuman attack"

Doctors at a clinic run by the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) at the Leda makeshift refugee camp said they treated hundreds of women with injuries they said were from violent sexual assaults during the army operation in October and November. There have been fewer rapes

reported among the influx of refugees since August, said Dr. Niranta Kumar, the clinic's health coordinator, but those they have seen have injuries suggesting "more aggressive" attacks on women.

Several health workers suggested that, whereas in October many women had initially remained in their villages believing the army sweeps were only targeting Rohingya men, this time most had fled at the first sign of military activity.

## "Massive int'l assistance"

The head of the UN refugee agency

said Bangladesh needs "massive international assistance" to feed and shelter the Rohingya who have fled Myanmar in recent weeks.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said on Sunday there were "immense" challenges after visiting the overflowing camps around Cox's Bazar in southern Bangladesh, according to aljazeera.com.

"I was struck by the incredible magnitude of their needs. They need everything — they need food, they need clean water, they need shelter, they need proper health care," he said.

## Report: Israel detains hundreds of Africans without trial each year

Israel detains hundreds of African asylum seekers without trial every year, the approval of its top authorities, the Haaretz daily reported, citing data released recently. New official figures show that the Israeli regime has put a total of 311 African refugees behind bars without trial in the past 15 months, Press TV cited the paper said on Sunday.



African refugees clash with Israeli soldiers after they left Holot detention center in the Negev Desert on June 27, 2014. TSAFFIR ABAYOV/AP

According to the figures, 223 Eritrean and Sudanese refugees were held without trial at the request of Israeli police between January 2016 and March 2017 and an additional 88 remained in detention after serving out prison sentences.

Israeli authorities justify the detentions by a law that allows the confinement of an individual whose release allegedly endangers their security, public safety or public health.

Israel's top court has criticized the practice of denying freedom to the refugees who cannot be deported legally but has not prohibited the refugees' detention without trial. Executive director of the Hotline for Refugees and Migrant Workers, a human rights organization, said Israel had deprived 311 people of the right to due process over the past months.

"That means 311 people did not receive legal counsel or representation and were not brought to court," Reut Michaeli said.

Tel Aviv "created a separate justice system for people with a different skin color. ... If you're an African asylum seeker, your liberty is simply worth less," she added.

Meanwhile, Michal Pomerantz, a lawyer representing an African refugee in Israeli detention, said placing refugees under the so-called administrative detention instead of taking them through legal criminal proceedings infringes on their rights to fair trial.

The detention is a form of imprisonment without trial or charge that allows Israel to incarcerate people for up to six months.

Pomerantz further noted that Israel denies refugees the right to a public defender and to court supervision.

"This is especially egregious in light of the fact that these are people who cannot afford a private lawyer and cannot defend themselves."

## Car bomber hits NATO convoy in Afghanistan

A car bomber attacked a Danish convoy belonging to the NATO-led military mission in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Sunday, wounding a number of civilians but leaving international forces unharmed, security officials said.

A Danish military spokesman said some civilians may have been killed but Afghan officials reported no fatalities. Security officials say five civilians had been wounded while the interior ministry put the figure at three, Reuters reported.

Captain William Salvin, a spokesman for NATO's Resolute Support mission, confirmed an attack had occurred and said a team was on the scene to recover the vehicle.

"There are no Resolute Support casualties as a result of the explosion," Salvin said.

The Danish spokesman said the Danish soldiers were part of a security team normally engaged in protecting advisers traveling to and from the Afghan military academy near Kabul.

NATO personnel traveling by road normally travel in convoys of three heavily armored personnel carriers which can resist all but the heaviest explosions.

Past suicide attacks on such convoys have usually caused casualties among nearby civilians while leaving their targets relatively unharmed. NATO personnel now often travel even short distances in Kabul by helicopter.

The Taliban said 16 Americans had been killed and three armored vehicles destroyed. It said it was preparing to step up the pace of attacks on foreign forces in Afghanistan.

## Kenya's chief prosecutor orders investigation into election board

Kenya's chief prosecutor directed the department of criminal investigations and the anti-corruption commission to investigate election board officials over possible offenses in the invalidated August 8 presidential vote, he said in a letter.

Keriko Tobiko, the director of public prosecutions, also asked the two agencies to examine allegations that two senior opposition officials gained illegal access to servers of the election commission as the poll results were being tallied, Reuters reported.



Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta delivers a statement to members of the media at the State House in Nairobi on September 21, 2017. BAZ RATNER/REUTERS

The Supreme Court annulled the reelection of President Uhuru Kenyatta on September 1, citing irregularities and illegalities in the transmission of results, and ordered a repeat election within 60 days.

In its detailed ruling last Wednesday, the court said it had not found evidence of individual culpability among election board officials, adding the failings were institutional.

Tobiko said in the letter that the court not finding individual culpability did not stop him from carrying out an investigation.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga, who petitioned against Kenyatta's win, has said he will not participate in the re-run scheduled for October 26 if officials at the election board are not sacked and prosecuted.

The election board got the backing of Africa's Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The group, whose observation mission gave last month's poll a clean bill of health, said it was confident the board could manage a repeat election well, warning against attempts to prevent it from carrying out its mandate.

"Sabotaging IEB (election board) or boycotting the elections will put Kenya in a constitutional crisis and likely on a path to unconstitutional change of government," IGAD said in a statement published in local newspapers.

Tobiko ordered that 11 officials at the board, including its chief executive and a commissioner, be investigated over possible crimes and a report sent to him within 21 days.

He also ordered that Odinga's lead lawyer in the petition, James Orengo, and Musalia Muidavadi, one of Odinga's top campaigners, be investigated for allegations of illegally accessing the election board's servers and threatening Kenyatta's chief agent during last month's vote.

On Sunday, the local Standard newspaper reported that Kenyatta's legal team was preparing to lodge an application for a judicial review of the ruling that overturned his win.

Citing a top official of Kenyatta's Jubilee party, the paper said the move was informed by details contained in two dissenting opinions from the six judge bench that heard the case.

Kenyatta's team will seek a recount of the ballots since the court, in the majority of four ruling, annulled the vote on a basis other than a dispute over the number of votes each candidate got, The Standard reported.

## Hurricane-hit Puerto Rico facing crisis

Puerto Rico is facing a growing crisis in the wake of Hurricane Maria, which knocked out water, electricity, and telephone services.

The entire population is still without power and engineers say it could take months to be restored. A dam remains in danger of collapsing, BBC wrote.

Shipments of food, water and generators are starting to arrive at the main port in San Juan, which has reopened.

At least 13 people have died since Maria ripped through Puerto Rico.

The storm, which is now heading to the open waters of the west Atlantic, has caused severe flooding and structural damage.

It damaged telephone masts across the island, and officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency say they will take satellite phones to towns and cities which have been cut off.

Fallen trees are blocking main highways, while neighborhoods remain flooded and many homes are without roofs.

Meanwhile, officials say there is still a risk of flooding on a Puerto Rico river "due to the threat of a

failure" of a dam.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has extended flash flood warnings for two areas downstream of Guajataca Dam.



news.sky.com

All 70,000 residents in the areas under threat were initially told to flee but there are reports that the evacuation zone has since been narrowed.

Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello tweeted (in Spanish) that he had assessed the damage to the

dam by flying over the area.

Rossello reiterated an earlier call from the authorities for local residents to leave their homes.

The Guajataca Dam, at the northern end of Lake Guajataca in the north-west, began to show signs of failing on Friday, operators said.

The NWS on Saturday warned of flash flooding in Isabela and Quebradillas areas.

The agency has been urging residents to move to higher ground in an alert posted on its website.

Rossello earlier called Maria the worst hurricane in a century, warning it could take months to restore electricity to all 3.4 million of the US island territory's residents.

Maria, a category three storm with maximum sustained winds of nearly 185km/h (115mph), was about 1,030km south-south east from Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, the National Hurricane Center said in its latest update. The hurricane has claimed more than 33 lives across the region, and is the second devastating storm to hit the Caribbean this hurricane season.

The first was category five Irma earlier in September.

Iran's polymer production is expected to reach 12 million tons by the end of the Sixth Five-Year Economic Development Plan (2022) said Deputy Oil Minister for Petrochemical Affairs Marzieh Shahdaei.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Expert: Environment protection essential for economic prosperity

Economic growth would be constrained if countries do not manage and protect their environmental assets, as a strong natural capital base is necessary for economic prosperity, said an environment expert.

Cameron Hepburn, a professor of environmental economics at Oxford University and the London School of Economics and Political Science told IRNA that environmental economics can play a significant role in coordinating the economic progress and environmental measures.

He added there are three ways in which the science can contribute to the goal.

"First, researches show that up to a certain point, countries can grow and develop by exploiting their natural resources. However, wealthy countries carefully manage and protect all of their environmental assets, because a strong natural capital base is necessary for economic prosperity.

"Second, it has long been understood by environmental economists that if precious natural assets have no economic value — no price — or a price that is too low, they are often over used or destroyed. Classic example is that frequently water is priced too low (which seems to be the case also in Iran) and where resource rich economies price their oil and gas too cheaply and hence much of it is wasted.

"Third, we have found that environmental technological innovations are important in creating value, whether in increasing energy efficiency, in using satellites to monitor natural assets, or in the progress in materials science that is leading to such dramatic falls in the cost of solar energy. We discussed these in some depth at the Pasargad Summer School at Khatam University on Sunday. This should be a real win for Iran given you have such an abundant solar resource."

Describing water and natural resources as two factors underpinning human existence and wellbeing, the expert said that greater economic growth does not necessarily mean more pressure on the natural environment if we do things in a clever way. At the same time he underlined, "Without structural changes to the model of economic growth, greater growth implies greater natural resources use and greater risk of environmental problems."

The main challenges we have, are with the resources that are underpriced, such as climate stability, ecosystem function, clean air and clean water, not those that are priced, the expert added.

"If we do not tackle these problems, including by either employing allowance trading systems and/or adopting other government regulations, growth will eventually be constrained," he said.

On the Paris Agreement, signed by 194 parties, Hepburn said, it was a 'helpful start' that addresses climate change, and, so far, has included pledges from countries that represent a first step towards limiting extreme heat waves, droughts and other water-related problems, such as those relating to Lake Orumieh.

He also admired Iran's environmental efforts at the international level, particularly since the historic nuclear agreement with major world powers in 2015.

"Iran still has some important challenges in its energy system, on local air pollution and on water availability, and it is encouraging to see that you are starting to make some efforts to improve these problems. However, a great deal more needs to be done," he added.

On the revival of Lake Orumieh, Hepburn said that Iran needs to "build trust with the key stakeholders — including in the agricultural sector who are using water for production — to build a shared understanding of the problem and then to craft an agreement on a set of changes that will make almost everyone better off."

This requires more than merely technical economics and policymaking, but efforts at outreach, conversation, education and listening to build the social consensus around a set of solutions that are right for the country, the Oxford University professor added.

Germany seeking to regain Iran market share

Germany is seeking to retake its share of the Iranian market, said the manager of Germany's Verband Deutscher Maschinen- und Anlagenbau (VDMA) — also called Mechanical Engineering Industry Association.

Thorsten Kuhnmann told IRNA on Sunday that small and regional German banks have resumed ties with their Iranian counterparts.

Germany and the European Union are eager for greater presence in Iran's 80-million-strong market and 46 VDMAD affiliated companies are taking part in the 11th International Exhibition of Plastic Rubber, Machinery and Equipment, called Iran Plast 2017, which opened in Tehran on Sunday.

He also commented on the resumption of relations between Austrian Oberbank and the opening of the one-billion dollar-L/C for Iran.

Kuhnmann said in addition to attending Iran Plast 2017, the German delegation's trip to Iran is aimed at transferring modern technologies to the country and training manpower.

First VP: Boosting foreign investment in petchem sector, Iran's priority



EHSAN NADERI-POUR/IRNA

Domestic Economy Desk

A priority of the Iranian government is to attract more foreign direct investment (FDI) for development projects in the petrochemical industry, said the first vice president.

Es'haq Jahangiri, who was addressing the opening ceremony of 11th International Exhibition of Plastics Rubber, Machinery and Equipment, called Iran Plast 2017 in Tehran on Sunday, noted

that Iran has attracted some \$14 billion in FDI following the July 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with the P5+1, IRNA reported.

He added petrochemical production, which is Iran's main industry, is highly dynamic and in compliance with state policies.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, Deputy Oil Minister for Petro-

chemical Affairs Marzieh Shahdaei and a number of Iranian MPs as well as senior directors from the petrochemical industry.

Petchem projects

Speaking at the same ceremony, Zanganeh said Iran is expected to launch three major petrochemical projects by mid-March 2018.

He listed the projects as Kaveh, Phase

3 of Pardis and Bushehr petrochemical projects, all to be implemented in south Iran.

Once operational, the projects will add 5.5 million tons to the country's annual petrochemical production capacity.

Zanganeh called on Iranian companies to grasp the opportunity provided by the presence of foreign investors in Iran to boost the value of their productions, transfer modern technologies to the country and produce more value-added products, while refraining from production of low quality items and those with low value-added.

Representatives of 600 domestic firms and 524 foreign companies from 23 countries are taking part in the expo.

The number of domestic and foreign participants in this year's exhibition has witnessed a 39-percent and 21-percent growth compared to the previous edition of the event.

The four-day expo being held at Tehran International Fairgrounds is scheduled to continue until September 27.

The event is Iran's biggest exhibition showcasing latest products and achievements in the polymer and plastic industries. The motto of this year's expo is 'Improving Job and Business Market in Iran's Processing Industries in the Fields of Producing Plastic and Petrochemicals'.

The foreign companies are from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, India, Serbia, Italy, South Korea, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Spain, the UK, Thailand, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Turkey, Taiwan, China, Japan and the UAE.

The expo has three sections: 1. Raw Materials and Services, 2. Finished and Semi-finished Products and 3. Machinery and Equipment.

Iran named world's third largest gas producer

International Energy Agency (IEA), in its latest report on the status of the global energy market, said that Iran was the world's third largest producer of natural gas in 2016.

The IEA in its report said Iran produced 190 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas last year which it said was 5.3 percent of world total, Press TV reported.

The agency further said the US and Russia were the leading gas producers over the same period adding that their outputs stood at 749 bcm (20.7 percent) and 644 bcm (17.7 percent), respectively.

In subsequent positions were Canada with 174 bcm and Qatar with 165 bcm accounting for 4.8 percent and 4.6 percent respectively of the total global output.

The IEA identified Iran as the world's



tasnimnews.com

fifth producer of crude oil in 2016. Topping the list in the same category was Saudi Arabia followed by Russia, the US and Canada.

French state bank BPI to...

From Page 1

The deal Iran struck in 2015 with six major powers lifted many sanctions against the country in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear activities and paved the way for international business deals, Reuters reported.

But many banks have stayed away for fear of inadvertently breaking remaining US sanctions, which could lead to huge fines.

Because the BPI has no operations abroad, notably in the United States, it is not exposed to possible fines for US sanctions breaches.

Several Franco-Iranian deals were announced during President Hassan Rouhani's official visit to Paris in January last year. These included a joint venture between carmakers PSA Peugeot Citroen (PEUPPA) and Iran Khodro, as well as plans for Iran to buy Airbus (AIR. PA) aircraft to update its ageing fleet.

There were also deals in the oil, shipping, health, agriculture and water sectors.

US President Donald Trump has created new uncertainties over the US stance towards the Iran nuclear agreement.

Trump told reporters this week that he had made a decision on what to do about the agreement, but would not say what he had decided.

Exports to Iraq from western border up fourfold

Domestic Economy Desk

Exports to Iraq from Sumar border market in the western Iranian province of Kermanshah witnessed a fourfold growth in value during the six months to September 23, 2017, said a local official on Sunday.

Governor of Gilan-e Gharb Country in Kermanshah Province Farhad Hemmati put exports to Iraq during the same period at \$310 million, irfbnews.ir reported.

He added that in terms of weight, exports to Iraq in this timespan increased 2.5 times.

Hemmati put the number of export items at 60, listing them as carpet, decorative accessories, dynamo, engines for water irrigation systems, meat and dairy products, non-alcoholic beverages, white Portland cement and plaster.

He said banking operations



IRNA

worth close to \$4,300 are conducted in the border market's sole active banking branch.

Hemmati added currently, up to 250 trucks carry goods from Iran to Iraq daily through the border. Located 155 kilometers and

230 kilometers from Baghdad and Karbala in Iraq, respectively, the border market was opened in April 2015 in a ceremony attended by Iranian and Iraqi officials.

Sumar has a population of about 20,000.

Switzerland annual growth

The annual economic growth of Switzerland in 2017 is expected to be below one percent after revision, possibly the slowest since 2009, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs said.



# UK restaurant jobs unfilled as EU workers leave

TOLGA AKMEN/AFP

As EU nationals leave Britain in ever greater numbers ahead of Brexit, restaurants like pizzeria chain Franco Manca are reporting shortages that could spell trouble for a sector that relies on immigrant labor.

The number of EU nationals leaving Britain, most of them from central Europe, rose by 33,000 to 122,000 people during the 12 months to March, according to the latest data following last year's Brexit referendum, AFP wrote.

Franco Manca's parent company, Fulham Shore, said the prospect of new controls on immigration when Britain leaves the bloc was "already affecting the availability of skilled European restaurant staff".

The company, where only 20 percent of the staff are British, said it was implementing "a number of incentive schemes" to persuade Europeans to stay. Owners worry that British workers may not be able or willing to fill the gap left by departing Europeans. The hospitality industry currently has the highest proportion of unfilled jobs in Britain, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

And the situation is worsening, with 4.3 percent of hospitality jobs vacant in June to August 2017, compared with 3.5 percent a year earlier.

**Difficult\* to find British staff**

Alex Wrethman, the head of Charlotte's group of bistros in west London, said EU nationals were being put off by the sharp fall in the value of the pound against the euro since the Brexit vote.

The currency devaluation was "effectively a pay cut for them" as it decreased the value of remittances. Wrethman said he struggled to find Britons who were as committed to the job as their European colleagues.

"It's difficult to find a British person to get out of bed to wash dishes," said Wrethman, who started working in the restaurants he now owns as a teenager.

"It's tied up with something historic. It's a class thing," Wrethman said.

On a break from chopping avocados and smoked salmon for brunches, the head chef of Charlotte's newest

restaurant complained of a 'bleak time for the industry', where he thinks his British background and willingness to work long hours make him a rarity.

Mike Carter, a freelance travel writer, said, "We're very reliant on Eastern Europeans. There's very few British chefs."

"I genuinely believe the industry is two or three years away from imploding."

Leaked government proposals for restricting the stay of low-skilled EU workers to just two years, would be "catastrophic" for the industry, according to trade body, the British Hospitality Association.

BHA chief Ufi Ibrahim told AFP, "Reports of hospitality businesses struggling to recruit new staff are becoming increasingly common."

"The decline in the value of the pound is a factor, but so too is the prospect of a more restrictive immigration regime."

A BHA-commissioned KPMG survey warned that if EU immigration is halted after Britain's EU exit in March 2019, the sector would face a 'recruitment crisis' and an annual shortage of 60,000 workers.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	85588.8	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	74557.6	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	93494.1	3826	4.27
First Market Index	59575.7	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	188707.4	2030.5	1.14

Overall Index details on 20170924

First	85785.8	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	85820.2	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	85820.2	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	85588.8	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

Industry Index details on 20170924

First	74765.8	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	74770.4	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	72675.1	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	74557.6	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

Free Float Index details on 20170924

First	93567.7	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	93494.1	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

Main Board Index details on 20170924

First	59841.6	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	59855.1	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	59575.7	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

Secondary Index details on 20170924

First	188444.6	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	188782.3	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	188707.4	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2235.2		

Italy raised its forecasts for economic growth this year and next and said it would cut the budget deficit by less than previously promised.

The brighter outlook may help the ruling Democratic Party ahead of national elections early next year if voters notice an improvement in living standards, though Italian growth continues to lag most of its euro zone partners, according to Reuters.

Gross domestic product will rise by 1.5 percent in 2017, the Treasury said, raising its previous projection of 1.1 percent made in April to reflect better than expected data in the first two quarters and buoyant business sentiment.

Next year, growth is expected to be 1.5 percent, according to the Treasury's Economic and Financial Document (DEF), up from the previous forecast of 1.0 percent.

Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoa-Schioppa told reporters after a cabinet meeting approved the document, "Growth of 1.5



# Italy hikes growth forecasts

wallpaperawesome.com

percent is penciled in also for 2018 and 2019. These are forecasts that some people may regard as too optimistic, but I think they are totally justified."

The new forecasts are slightly more upbeat than those made last week by employers' association Confindustria, which estimates 1.5 percent growth in 2017 and 1.3 percent growth the following year.

The Paris-based

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development forecast Italian growth of 1.4 percent this year and 1.2 percent in 2018, compared with eurozone growth of 2.1 percent in 2017 and 1.9 percent in 2018.

Despite the strengthening economy, the government of Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni gave itself more spending room ahead of the election by raising the forecast for next year's

budget deficit to 1.6 percent of GDP from 1.2 percent.

The deficit would be lower than this year's goal of 2.1 percent, but the new 2018 target will still need the agreement of the European Commission, which may ask Italy to make more of a deficit-cutting effort.

The government will present its 2018 budget next month and it must be approved by parliament by the end of the year.

Padoa said that the budget would eliminate so-called 'safeguard clauses', by which the government has promised the EU to either raise sales tax or find alternative means of reducing the deficit. That means the sales tax will not be raised next year.

Brussels may not demand too much of Gentiloni ahead of the election, due by May 2018, fearing the rise of the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement which leads in most opinion polls and said it would sharply hike the deficit if it wins power.

The commission has allowed Rome to repeatedly raise its deficit targets in recent years, after negotiations that have normally resulted in a compromise.

Brussels' main concern is Italy's huge public debt, which is the largest in the eurozone after Greece's and which successive governments have promised to bring down but failed to do so.

The DEF set this year's debt target at 131.6 percent of GDP, slightly down from 132.0 percent last year, and said it would fall next year to 130 percent.

# South Korean companies unprepared for fourth industrial revolution

South Korea's export and import firms are woefully unprepared to cope with the fourth industrial revolution that is expected to bring about profound changes to the global economy, a poll by an international traders organization said on Sunday.

According to the Korea International Trade Association (KITA) findings, 83.3 percent of trading companies acknowledged that the ongoing revolution will affect corporate management systems and the way they do business, but only 5.1 percent said they are meeting the challenges, Yonhap reported.

The fourth revolution is characterized by many technologies in such areas as the digital, biological and artificial intelligence fields all being merged together to bring about economic systems that are different from what people are used to at present.

The findings were based on surveys carried out on 611 companies that shipped more than \$500,000 worth of goods annually.

"Of those that said they are aware of the impact, 38.4 percent confirmed they are feeling the effects or expect change within two years, with 44.8 percent expecting shifts and advances three years from now," KITA said.

In particular, 60 percent of companies engaged in mobile phones, shipbuilding, consumer electronics and computer chips said they are aware of the effects of the fourth industrial revolution or expect profound differences to take place within two years time.

The trade association said that because of various reasons, very few local companies are prepared at the moment, with those that think they will be ready in the next one to two years standing at only 11.6 percent.



wikimedia.org

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2888	Chinese Yuan	0.1517
Euro	1.1950	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.3495	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3135
Australian Dollar	0.7964	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0089	Saudi Riyal	0.2665

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$50.66	Silver	\$17.03
Gold	\$1300.50	Platinum	\$933.00
Copper	\$2.95	Wheat	\$449.75

Challenge posed by climate change requires more 'serious action than talk', said Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, asking the leaders of the developed world to help the less fortunate ones through technology transfer.

## No-tillage not sufficient alone to prevent water pollution

A new IUPUI study funded by the US Department of Agriculture answers a long-debated agricultural question: whether no-tillage alone is sufficient to prevent water pollution from nitrate. The answer is no.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY/PHYS.ORG

Researchers in the Department of Earth Sciences in the School of Science at IUPUI conducted a meta-analysis to compare runoff and leaching of nitrate from no-till and conventional tillage agricultural fields. Surface runoff and leaching are two major transportation pathways for nitrate to reach and pollute water, phys.org wrote.

Due to its mobility and water solubility, nitrate has long been recognized as a widespread water pollutant. Lixin Wang, an assistant professor and corresponding author of the paper, said, "What we found is that no-till is not sufficient to improve water quality. In fact, we found that no-till increased nitrogen leaching."

The study suggests that no-till needs to be complemented with other techniques, such as cover cropping and intercropping or rotation with perennial crops, to improve nitrate retention and water-quality benefits.

After studying concentration of nitrate — nitrate amount per water volume unit — and nitrate load, or total amount of nitrate, researchers found surface runoff from no-till fields to contain a similar nitrate load to surface runoff from conventional tillage fields.

In contrast, nitrate load via leaching was greater with no-till fields than with conventional tillage fields.

## Plastic chunks on Arctic ice show how far pollution has spread



nasa.gov

A British-led expedition has discovered sizeable chunks of polystyrene lying on remote frozen ice floes in the middle of the Arctic Ocean.

The depressing find, only 1,000 miles from the North Pole, is the first made in an area that was previously inaccessible to scientists because of sea ice. It is one of the most northerly sightings of such detritus in the world's oceans, which are increasingly polluted by plastics, according to The Guardian.

A team of scientists drawn from the UK, US, Norway and Hong Kong, headed by marine biologist Tim Gordon of Exeter University, said the discovery confirmed just how far plastic pollution has spread.

It has prompted fears that plastic waste is flowing into the Arctic as the ice melts because of climate change. The thaw is simultaneously releasing plastic that has long been trapped in the ice.

The scientists, who were on the explorer Pen Hadow's Arctic

Mission attempt to sail to the North Pole, were surprised to discover the blocks of polystyrene many hundreds of miles from land in areas that were, until recently, covered by ice all year round.

They found two large pieces on the edge of ice floes between 77° and 80° north, in the middle of the international waters of the central Arctic Ocean.

Hadow, the only person to have trekked solo, without resupply, from Canada to the geographic North Pole, said, "For the 25 years

I have been exploring the Arctic I have never seen such large and very visible items of rubbish. The blocks of polystyrene were just sitting on top of the ice."

Gordon said, "Finding pieces of rubbish like this is a worrying sign that melting ice may be allowing high levels of pollution to drift into these areas."

"This is potentially very dangerous for the Arctic's wildlife."

The pioneering expedition — using two yachts — sailed further into the international waters of

the Central Arctic Ocean than any previous navigation attempt without icebreakers.

Rates of ice melt have increased dramatically due to climate change, with 40 percent of the central Arctic Ocean now navigable in summer.

Estimates suggest that there are more than five trillion pieces of plastic floating on the surface of the world's oceans. It has been claimed that there is now enough plastic to form a permanent layer in the fossil record.

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و مدیران شرکت‌های بین‌المللی  
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک میله و غیر میله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا  
و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفیر، تاجران و شرکت‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

مالکین محترم  
ساختمان در دست در مناطق شمال تهران  
جهت اجاره به یک سفیر تخانه  
و کمیته‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

Multiple sclerosis (MS) can be inhibited or reversed using a novel gene therapy technique that stops the disease's immune response in mouse models, researchers found.

# No, a standing desk isn't as unhealthy as smoking

By Suzi Gage\*

Standing at work is 'as unhealthy as a cigarette a day', citing a new study published in the American Journal of Epidemiology.

Illustrated with a picture of a woman bent over her standing desk clutching at her back, we're instructed to 'sit back down', theguardian.com reported.

But a closer look at the research in question reveals very little to do with standing desks.

In fact, the study did not look at standing desks at all. The research was conducted on a sample of 7,320 residents of Ontario, Canada, followed up for over a decade.

And its findings are striking — people whose job requires them to stand for long periods of time, were twice as likely to contract heart disease compared to those who do jobs that predominantly involve being seated.

So should we all lower our standing desks and recover our office chairs from wherever we've stashed them? I am not going to rush to do so (at this point I should fess up and say I have used a standing desk for the past three years and I love it).

Firstly, did the researchers ask people whether they stood or sat at work? No, they did not. People were categorized by the job they did. This immediately means that if you're an office worker with a standing desk, you'll be categorized as a sitter, because that's predominantly what office workers do.

The supplementary table of the paper lists a number of common jobs and how they were categorized for the study.

Seated jobs included truck drivers, administrative officers, secretaries, professional occupations in business services and accounting clerks.

Standing jobs on the other hand included retail salespersons, cooks, food and beverage servers and machine or tool operators.

Now here we get on to the classic problem with observational epidemiology. People who work different types of jobs are going to be different in loads of ways other than their jobs, all of which might also impact on risk of heart disease.



store.focalupright.com

This is called confounding. The authors of the study take a number of these in to account, for example pre-existing health conditions, whether the person smokes, whether they were obese and various others. But it's very hard to be sure that you've taken all of the potential confounding factors like these in to account.

There could very easily be other differences rather than just whether a person is more likely to be standing or sitting.

For example, how much they exercise could have a big impact. Perhaps, as one person on Twitter suggested to me, after a day on your feet you're less inclined to go for a run of an evening.

Also, as can be seen from the list of jobs they've included in each group, there might be socio-economic differences between people who do jobs that require standing at work and those who are more likely to sit — and these might be related to how good your diet is, how much disposable income you have, all things that sadly are associated with ill

health. Even if you attempt to take these factors in to account in a statistical model, if you're relying on self-reported or large scale data it's almost impossible to be sure you've really accounted for all the variability.

So while this study is really interesting, and might indicate that jobs where you're more likely to stand are linked to an increased risk of heart disease, personally I think there's a little more going on than simply that we should all sit down at work if we want to protect our hearts.

Not to mention that this study has absolutely nothing to do with standing desks, and didn't actually ask the individuals included whether they did stand or sit at work, but inferred it from the type of job they did. I'm not lowering my standing desk just yet.

\* Suzi Gage is a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Bristol, investigating associations between substance use and mental health.

## High blood pressure: What is the condition and how you can check it

High blood pressure, a condition also known as hypertension, rarely has any noticeable symptoms — but it affects hundreds of Britons. How to lower your blood pressure with diet and foods explained.

High blood pressure is a condition thousands suffer with and it can, at times, lead to more serious conditions, according to express.co.uk.

### How to lower your blood pressure with diet

What you eat can help your blood pressure readings. Spinach — which is rich in magnesium — can help muscles relax and may help with high blood pressure.

Equally, adding raw garlic to your meals might not sound appealing but it has been proven to be a natural antibiotic.

It's been linked to blood pressure reading improvements but only when eaten in serious amounts — add it to salad dressings and watch the numbers change.

And another vegetable we should all be getting onboard with is beetroot. Not only is the sweet treat delicious but it also supports vasodilatation which can reduce high blood pressure.

The condition is believed to affect around one in four adults in the UK.

High blood pressure can increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. It can also increase the risk of heart disease, heart failure, aortic aneurysms, kidney disease and vascular dementia.

Having high blood pressure has been named as one of the nine factors which can cause dementia, according to a report in the Lancet.

The only way to know if you have high blood pressure is to have it checked by doctors at a GP surgery, or pharmacy or as part of a National Health Service (NHS) health check.

People can also measure their blood pressure at home. Blood pressure is recorded with two numbers.

The systolic pressure is the higher number — and measures the force at which your heart pumps blood around your body.

The diastolic pressure is the lower number — and measures the resistance to the blood flow in the blood vessels. Both are measured in millimeters of mercury (mmHg).

High blood pressure is considered to be (140/90) mmHg or higher.

Normal blood pressure is considered to be between (90/60) mmHg and (120/80) mmHg. Low blood pressure is considered to be (90/60) mmHg or lower.

High blood pressure risk is greater in people over the age of 65, or among those who are overweight or obese.

It is more common in people of African or Caribbean descent, have relatives with high blood pressure, eat too much salt, don't do enough exercise and drink too much alcohol or coffee.

People who smoke, or don't get enough sleep are also at greater risk. Dr. Anshu Bhagat, founder of doctor-on-demand app GPDO, said, "As many as seven million people in the UK are living with undiagnosed high blood pressure, without knowing they are at risk."

"Blood pressure is known as the 'silent killer' because usually there are no signs or symptoms — the only way to know whether you have high blood pressure or not is to have it measured."

"This is why it is important for you to have your blood pressure checked regularly."

"Think of it as part of a Molecular orbital theory (MOT) for your body, and a number that you should know in the same way that you would know how much you weigh or how tall you are."

"Aside from unhealthy habits and having a poor diet, I think one of the main causes of high blood pressure is the sedentary lifestyle we have all adopted — with the proliferation of technology, everything is accessible to us via our smartphones."

"Our nation is heavier than ever — Britons are now the second-fattest race in the developed world behind America and obesity rates have quadrupled in the past 25 years."

"It's serious issue — every month, 7,400 people die from heart disease or stroke."

"Persistent high blood pressure increases the risk of serious and potentially life-threatening conditions, damaging the heart, brain and kidneys."



express.co.uk

## Breathing dirty air likely to harm kidneys

Air pollution may increase the risk of chronic kidney disease, which can lead to the failure of the organ, a study warned.

Outdoor air pollution has long been linked to major health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, timesofindia.indiatimes.com wrote.

The new study by researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in the US now added kidney disease to the list.

Researchers evaluated the effects of air pollution and kidney disease on



newsy.com

nearly 2.5 million people over a period of 8.5 years, beginning in 2004.

They compared data on kidney function to air-quality levels collected by the

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as NASA.

The findings suggested that 44,793 new cases of kidney disease and 2,438 cases of kidney failure may be attributed to levels of air pollution that exceed the EPA's threshold of 12 micrograms per cubic meter of air, which is the highest level of air pollution considered safe for the public.

Airborne and invisible, microscopic pieces of dust, dirt, smoke, soot and liquid droplets often become destructive when they invade the bloodstream.

The kidneys filter the blood, and these harmful particles can disrupt normal kidney function.

## Yoga may help breast cancer patients struggling to sleep

A certain type of yoga may provide lasting benefits for breast cancer patients who have trouble sleeping, researchers reported.

The study included 227 women undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer who were randomly assigned to one of three groups, UPI reported.

One group practiced Tibetan yoga at least twice a week, another group did a simple stretching program, and the third group received usual care (the 'control' group).

The study participants were assessed one week after the end of the program, and the researchers followed up with them at three, six and 12 months later.

Women in the yoga group reported fewer sleep problems and less daytime drowsiness over the long term than those in the other two groups, the researchers said.

Study author Lorenzo Cohen, a director of the integrative medicine program at the University of Texas MD

Anderson Cancer, said, "Sleep problems and fatigue are common among cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy."

The women in the Tibetan yoga program or the stretching program had been offered four 75- to 90-minute classes during their chemotherapy treatment.

Those taking part in Tibetan yoga were taught one-on-one by a trained instructor. The women in this group were taught controlled breathing, visualization, meditation and postures, and were encouraged to practice yoga daily at home.

Cohen said, "While the effects of this intervention were modest, it is encouraging to see that the women who practiced yoga outside of class had improved sleep outcomes over time."

"Previous research has established that yoga effectively reduces sleep disturbances for cancer patients, but have not included active control groups or long-term follow-up. "This study hoped to address previous study limitations."



blogspot.com.ir

PERMIT NO: 1396/2913  
TENDER NO: 48-32-9500052  
First Announcement

NISOC

Invitation for Prequalification

National Iranian South Oilfields Company  
Intends to purchase the following goods:

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
PUMP- PLUNGER TYPE PUMP MANUFACTURER: LEWA (GERMANY)	03 NO
LIQUID: CRUDE OIL CAPACITY: 24.4M <sup>3</sup> /HR IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD IEC60034 IPS-M-EL-131(2), IPS-E-EL-110	03 St
TWO YEARS SPARE PARTS	03 St

Vendors, who intend to participate in the AM tender, are requested to send their resume and tendency letter via fax/mail to the following address not later than 14 days after the second announcement. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide a bid bond of Euro 9,648/RIs 375,000,000 in favor of NISOC. Iranian vendors shall submit their resume according to forms No. 01, 02 and 03 which are available at [www.shana.ir](http://www.shana.ir) and [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)

Foreign Purchasing Dept.  
Kouy-e Fadaean Islam (New Site)  
Bldg No. 104, Ahvaz, Iran  
Tel/Fax No.: +98-61-34457437

Public Relations Department  
[www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)  
[www.shana.ir](http://www.shana.ir)  
<http://iETS.MPORG.IR>

Scientists found a method to make stacks of semiconductors just a few atoms thick, which could expand capabilities for devices from solar cells to cell phones.

## NASA's OSIRIS-REx executes slingshot around Earth

NASA's OSIRIS-REx probe has used Earth's gravity to slingshot itself into outer space.

The spacecraft is now in route to the asteroid Bennu and is expected to encounter the space rock in August 2018, UPI wrote.

On Friday, OSIRIS-REx swung past the South Pole at an altitude of 10,711 miles. During the flyby, Earth's gravity offered the probe's speed a boost of 8,451 mph.



nasa.gov

OSIRIS-REx, short for Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer, is NASA's asteroid encounter and sample collection mission.

Once OSIRIS-REx meets up with Bennu, the probe will circle the asteroid for nearly two years.

In 2020, the probe will attempt to scoop up rock and dust samples from the surface of the asteroid.

The spacecraft will begin its return journey to Earth in 2021 and is scheduled to touch down on September 24, 2023.

Rich Burns, OSIRIS-REx project manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, said, "The encounter with Earth is fundamental to our rendezvous with Bennu."

"The total velocity change from Earth's gravity far exceeds the total fuel load of the OSIRIS-REx propulsion system, so we are really leveraging our Earth flyby to make a massive change to the OSIRIS-REx trajectory, specifically changing the tilt of the orbit to match Bennu."

Friday's flyby also offered OSIRIS-REx scientists a chance to test and calibrate the probe's instruments.

For the next three weeks, the probe's instruments will survey Earth and the moon, allowing for further calibration.

Dante Launeta, OSIRIS-REx principal investigator at the University of Arizona, Tucson, said, "The opportunity to collect science data over the next two weeks provides the OSIRIS-REx mission team with an excellent opportunity to practice for operations at Bennu."

"During the Earth flyby, the science and operations teams are co-located, performing daily activities together as they will during the asteroid encounter."

OSIRIS-REx was launched in September 2016. Scientists hope the probe's rendezvous with and sampling of 101955 Bennu will offer insights into the nature of the early solar system.

The 1,614-foot-wide space rock belongs to a collection of near-Earth asteroids known as the Apollo group.

NASA scientists chose 101955 Bennu for the OSIRIS-REx mission because of its unique supply of unadulterated carbonaceous material, one of the building blocks of life.

Researchers believe asteroid collisions may have provided early Earth with the biochemicals necessary for life.

## Trilobites had a stomach, new fossils show

Trilobites — the first ubiquitous animal in the fossil record — evolved a stomach more than 500 million years ago.

The simple organism's digestive tract was revealed in a new survey of fossil specimens recovered from China, UPI reported.

The findings — detailed in the journal PLOS ONE — suggest the first animal stomachs evolved 20 million years earlier than previously thought. Researchers identified stomachs among two early trilobite species.

Trilobite exoskeletons were rich in minerals, which is one of the reason why they preserved so well. But even among the most well-preserved fossils, it's rare for soft tissue to survive 500 million years.



UPI  
Red iron oxide reveals the preserved digestive tract, with an expanded stomach, inside an ancient trilobite found in China.

Melanie Hopkins, an assistant curator in the paleontology division at the American Museum of Natural History, said, "It's very rare to see the preservation of soft tissues like organs or appendages in trilobites, and because of this, our knowledge of the trilobite digestive system comes from a small number of specimens."

"The new material in this study really expands our understanding."

Trilobites first emerged in the Early Cambrian period and stuck around for some 300 million years, thriving throughout the lower Paleozoic era.

The horseshoe crab-like creatures were wiped out by a mass extinction event at the end of the Permian. During their reign, the marine arthropods evolved 20,000 species.

Scientists previously identified an expanded stomach, called a 'crop,' among later trilobite species.

Until now, researchers thought early trilobites had only a simple digestive tube — no crop.

But among the 270 specimens recovered from a quarry in China's southern Yunnan Province, researchers found evidence of an expanded stomach — proof the earliest stomach emerged roughly 514 million years ago.

Hopkins said, "This is a very rigorous study based on multiple specimens, and it shows that we should start thinking about this aspect of trilobite biology and evolution in a different way."

# Diamonds show Earth still capable of 'superhot' surprises

Diamonds may be 'forever', but some may have formed more recently than geologists thought.

A study of 26 diamonds, formed under extreme melting conditions in the Earth's mantle, found two populations, one of which has geologically 'young' ages, according to phys.org.

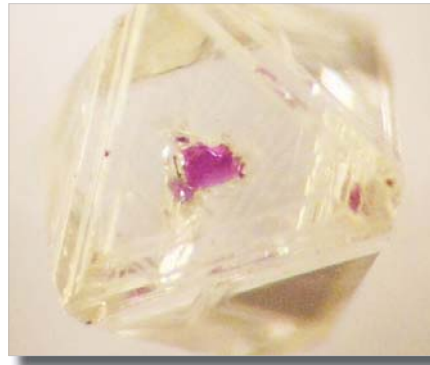
The results show that certain volcanic events on Earth may still be able to create super-heated conditions previously thought to have only existed early in the planet's history before it cooled. The findings may have implications for diamond prospecting.

Diamonds can be categorized by their inclusions: Minerals trapped within the carbon crystal structure that give clues about the conditions and the rocks in which they formed.

The studied diamonds contain harzburgitic inclusions, a type of peridotite — the most common rock in Earth's mantle — which have experienced extreme temperatures and undergone very large amounts of melting.

The study led by researchers at the Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam used radioisotope analysis to date tiny inclusions trapped in diamonds from the Venetia mine in South Africa.

Results showed that the diamonds had



phys.org  
Octahedral P-type diamond from Venetia with a garnet mineral inclusion

formed in at least two separate events. Nine of the diamonds had an age of around three billion years, and could be linked to volcanism caused by the breakup of an old continent that led to large-scale melting. However, surprisingly, ten diamonds were dated as just over a

billion years old, correlating with a giant volcanic event at Unkondo in southern Zimbabwe, 1.1 billion years ago.

Janne Koornneef, who led the study, published in Nature Communications, said, "Conventional thinking has been that the level of melting needed to

create these diamonds could only happen early in the history of the Earth when it was much hotter.

"We show that this is not the case and that some harzburgitic diamonds are much younger than assumed."

"We propose that our younger set of diamonds formed in a special environment where a major plume from the deep mantle was raised towards the surface and underwent extensive melting as the pressure reduced."

Gareth Davies, coauthor of the study, commented, "This is a fascinating insight into the inner workings of planet Earth."

"While young diamonds are formed in other types of rocks and conditions in the mantle, it's much unexpected to find harzburgitic diamonds linked to relatively recent geological activity."

"As harzburgitic rocks are important markers for diamond prospecting, the findings may have implications for the geological environments where we look for new diamond mines."

The analysis of the diamonds at VU Amsterdam was funded by Europlanet 2020 Research Infrastructure and the research was funded by the European Research Council. The De Beers Group of Companies donated the diamonds used in this study.

Oceanographers from University of Washington (UW) are working with a company to develop a simple new technique that could track seafloor movement in earthquake-prone coastal areas.

The project aims to address the fact that deep below the ocean's surface, shielded from satellite signals, the gradual movement of the seafloor, including along faults that can unleash deadly earthquakes and tsunamis, goes largely undetected, news.xinhuanet.com reported.

In reality, scientists know distressingly little about motion along the fault that lies off the US Pacific Northwest coast.

The new project calls for using water-pressure sensors to measure gradual swelling of the seafloor over months to years.

If successful, the innovative hack could provide new insight into motion along the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a convergent plate boundary that stretches from northern Vancouver Island in Canada to northern California in the US, and similar faults

## Researchers working on new approach to track seafloor motion along faults



asreanft.com

off Mexico, Chile and Japan.

The data could provide clues about what types of earthquakes and tsunamis each fault can generate, where and how often.

The concept began with a workshop in 2012 that brought together Jerry Paros, the founder of Paroscientific, Inc., a company based in Bellevue, Washington State, with UW geoscientists.

Paros' company manufactures sensors used to measure pressure at the bottom of the

ocean with high precision, which are used by the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, for its tsunami sensors.

The instruments can measure seafloor pressure, or the weight of water above the sensor, to an extremely precise fraction of a millimeter.

But the readings lose accuracy over time, and the error is proportional to the quantity measured.

On the ocean floor, where

pressures are tens to hundreds of times that on the surface, the readings can change by 10 centimeters — or three inches — per year.

In between major earthquakes, this is much more than the seafloor might shift up or down due to tectonic forces.

Last year, engineers at the UW Applied Physics Laboratory modified an existing pressure sensor from Paros' company.

The sensitive quartz crystal that measures the seafloor

pressure can now be connected to measure pressure inside its titanium instrument case, with a known pressure and another barometer to check the value.

The prototype instrument was attached in mid-June to a cabled seafloor observatory that lets researchers communicate directly with the instrument.

If the modified sensors can do the job, future work might place a network of them along Cascadia or other subduction zones, in which a seafloor plate plunges beneath a continental plate.

Measuring motion along different parts of these faults might answer questions about how and where a fault ruptures.

William Wilcock, a UW oceanography professor, said, "We are trying to find a pattern of which areas are going up and which areas are going down, and how quickly, which can potentially tell us where the (Cascadia) subduction zone fault is located."

"But we can't yet do that with a conventional pressure sensor."

## Gene variant linked to Alzheimer's a triple threat

A genetic risk factor for Alzheimer's disease is a double, make that triple, whammy.

In addition to speeding up the development of brain plaques associated with Alzheimer's, a gene variant known as APOE4 also makes tau tangles — another signature of the disease — worse, sciencenews.org wrote.

APOE4 protein also ramps up brain inflammation that kills brain cells, neuroscientist David Holtzman of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and colleagues have discovered.

For more than 20 years, researchers have known that people who carry the E4 version of the APOE gene are at increased risk of developing Alzheimer's.

A version of the gene called APOE3 has no effect on Alzheimer's risk, whereas the APOE2 version protects against the disease. Molecular details for how APOE protein, which helps clear cholesterol from the body, affects brain cells are not understood.

But Holtzman and other researchers previously demonstrated that plaques of

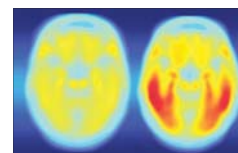
amyloid-beta protein build up faster in the brains of APOE4 carriers.

Holtzman said, "Having A-beta plaques isn't enough to cause the disease."

Tangles of another protein called tau are also required. Once tau tangles accumulate, brain cells begin to die and people develop dementia. In a series of new experiments, Holtzman and colleagues now show, for the first time, that there's also a link between APOE4 and tau tangles.

In one experiment, mice that had no A-beta in their brains developed more tau tangles if they carried the human version of APOE4 than if they had the human APOE3 gene. That finding indicates APOE4 affects tau independently of A-beta. Brains of people who died from various diseases caused by tangled tau had more dead and damaged cells if the people carried APOE4.

The researchers also tracked 592 people who had low levels of A-beta in their cerebral spinal fluid — a clue that plaques have formed in the brain — and who showed symptoms of Alzheimer's.



sciencenews.org  
The brain of a person with Alzheimer's disease symptoms (R) is laden with tau protein (red), while a person with no symptoms (L) has little tau.

Over a five- to 10-year period, the disease progressed 14 percent faster in people with one copy of APOE4 and 23 percent faster in people with two copies than in people who didn't have that version of the gene.

Those worsening symptoms are presumed to be caused by more rapid buildup of tau tangles in the APOE4 carriers.

APOE4 also seems to make Alzheimer's worse by causing inflammation, the researchers found. Two kinds of mouse glial brain cells, microglia and

astrocytes, making different versions of the APOE protein were grown with brain nerve cells, or neurons, that make disease-causing forms of tau.

Mouse neurons grown with glia making no APOE grew well, even though they were making abnormal tau. But neurons grown with glia making APOE4 often died. APOE4 provoked inflammation responses in the normally friendly astrocytes and microglia, leading those cells to kill neurons, the researchers found. Such inflammation can make brain degeneration worse.

Molecular neurobiologist Sangram Sisodia of the University of Chicago, said, "The data linking the APOE4 gene to tau tangles and brain inflammation is 'super tight'."

"But the molecular details behind how APOE4 protein causes these effects are still vexingly absent."

Much more work is needed to uncover which molecules APOE4 interacts with, so that researchers can devise ways to counteract its negative effects in the brain.



Women-only parks

Development of female-only parks, which helps women experience the freshness of clean weather and sunlight freely, is a national advantage, said Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Masoumeh Ebtekar.

# Rohingya children recall horror of losing parents



aljazeera.com

About 1,400 Rohingya children have crossed the Myanmar border to Bangladesh without their parents, many of them orphans. Kutupalong, Cox's Bazar — Rashid is only 10 years old, but his little shoulders carry a heavy responsibility — he has to take care of his six-year-old sister Rashida, aljazeera.com reported. They are among about 1,400 Rohingya children who have arrived in Bangladesh near the Myanmar border without their parents, who were either killed or are missing in the wake of a brutal military crackdown in western Rakhine State.

Rashid is mourning the loss of his parents — father Zahid Hossain and mother Kamija Khatun, who, he said, were killed by the Myanmar military.

The Rohingyas accuse the Myanmar army, with a history of committing atrocities against the ethnic community, of using an attack by a Rohingya armed group as a pretext to force the community out of Myanmar.

The Child Friendly Space (CFS) at Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar was abuzz with activity. More than 60 children were busy coloring, drawing and playing with toys.

Rashid was quiet and his feeble voice was often drowned out by the sound of tambourines enthusiastically played by the children.

He lived with his parents and six siblings in Shikderpara Village in Maungdaw until August 25, when the army attacked his home as part of its campaign that included mass killings

and — burning swaths of Rohingya villages — an act seen by the United Nations as 'textbook ethnic cleansing'. "It was Friday, I grabbed my sister's hand and ran towards the nearby hill. After the army departed, I came back to find my parents dead," he said.

He had little time to mourn in his village. He found his neighbors near the hill and tagged along with them for the rest of the journey.

"I walked for three nights to reach the Bangladesh border. I crossed the Naf River to enter Bangladesh on September 1," he said.

Rashid has no clue about the whereabouts of his other siblings. "I heard that all my brothers and sister were killed."

The distraught boy stays with his neighbors, who, he said, have been kind to him, as well as his sister.

The CFS centers, supported by UNICEF in collaboration with local aid agencies, have become a sanctuary for children in trauma, with many of them too young to even understand the enormity of the tragedy.

Faria Selim, communication specialist at UNICEF Bangladesh, said, "When he [Rashid] came on the first day, every few minutes he would come to me and say his parents are dead."

"He has eased up a bit in the past few days after he started to come here," she said.

Rashid said he had dropped out from his school in Myanmar, but he likes the CFS, which opens six days a week. Selim informs that there are 42

CFSs in Ukhaia and Teknaf, places hosting almost all of the 429,000 Rohingya refugees, who have arrived since August 25.

"Here there is no chance of being attacked. No one is keeping an eye on us. Everybody is free to do anything," Rashid told Al Jazeera.

He wants to be a teacher so that in the future he could teach other Rohingya children.

Dilara Begum, 11, and Ajija Begum, nine, too, have lost their parents. The elder sister is still in shock and barely speaks.

"It was just before lunchtime. My mother Hamida Begum asked me to play at the premises of our house so that my father [Mahumud Hussain] could get ready for work," said Ajija.

While Ajija was playing with her sisters Dilara and Mushtakim she heard the sound of gunfire. Scared, she ran into a bush near their house in Bar-gojib Village in Maungdaw.

"Hiding behind the bush, I saw the military firing at my parents. Later, they slit my father's throat and stabbed my mother in the stomach with a big knife," Ajija said, wiping her tears, while Dilara looked lost.

Ajija did not return and in the chaos, she lost her sisters. "At the hill area, my neighbors offered me a lift after hearing that my parents were killed," she said.

She was united with her sisters at the camp in Kutupalong. Mushtakim, who is mentally challenged, is now recovering from a bullet injury. Eight of her siblings were also killed in the attack.

## Ofsted demands power to break into UK illegal schools

Give inspectors the power to break into suspected illegal schools in the UK, an Ofsted chief has demanded as he warns that "flimsy" laws mean that children are left in "shocking" conditions.

Matthew Coffey, the chief operating officer at Ofsted, said that the individuals running unregistered schools are escaping prosecution, despite inspectors identifying hundreds of suspected illegal premises. The Telegraph wrote:

He said that inspectors need to gather enough evidence to show that individuals are breaking the law, but their efforts are hampered by a lack of powers and poorly worded legislation.

"We are really frustrated," he said. "There are a number of things. I don't have powers to force entry. So in those very rare occasions where children are at risk and I need to get in there...I can't, I have to phone the police and they may well be busy doing other things."

Coffey said on one occasion, he accompanied a team of inspectors to a suspected illegal school, and only after breaking in could they discover the extent of the horrifying conditions.

In January 2016, the Department for Education set up a special task force dedicated to investigating illegal schools.

"We went into this school, we had to break in with the police so we smashed our way in," he said.

"This is where we saw filthy, dirty beds and mattresses on

floors, we saw absolute segregation, barred up windows, no running water in toilets. Just filthy, dirty conditions.

"Some of these things are really frustrating, and some of my inspectors go and see this stuff and get really upset. It's shocking, some of it really is dreadfully shocking. And we need to stop that from happening."

Coffey, who manages all of Ofsted's operations across the country, said that inspectors need the powers to enter related premises, since illegal schools often have an 'escape route' to a nearby building.

"If we are really worried about where [children] are, but we know that the owner of the building we are in owns the building next door...I don't have the investigative powers to go next door."

"That can be a source of frustration because people can jump from one building to another very quickly, especially if they have basements with interconnecting doors — I have seen some of that."

Coffey said that inspectors are also held back by their inability to seize evidence.

"We have the power to photocopy evidence and that's great if there is a photocopier available — but some of these places don't have photocopiers."

"So we are having to use phones to take screenshots of some of the dreadful literature about the role of men and women in society and [the way] women should be treated, and some really difficult things."



wikimedia.org

By Sanjukta Nair\*

This nugget is from The Stories Behind The Data 2017, a new report on global progress released by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation about global effort to fight poverty and disease.

The report tracked 18 data points that were included in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). We compared India's performance with the global average on certain health indicators, business-standard.com wrote.

By 2013, India's maternal mortality ratio was lower than the global average. From 254 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2004-06, the ratio fell to 167 in 2013; the global average in 2016 remains higher at 179. The percentage of institutional deliveries in India rose from 39 percent in 2005-06 to 79 percent in 2015-16, according to NFHS data.

In 1990, the global maternal mortality ratio was 275 deaths



Child mortality rate in India lags world

business-standard.com

per 100,000 live births. For a few years, the ratio remained the same till it declined to 179 in 2016. The fall has been attributed to the increasing number of women giving birth in health facilities, where they have access to skilled obstetric care, instead of at home, according

to the report. At the current rate, the global Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) is projected to reach 138 in 2030, the report projected. The SDGs set a target of less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030. India's National Health Plan

2017 targets a rate of 100 by 2020.

In 1990, India's neonatal mortality rate — infant deaths within 28 days of birth per 1,000 births — was 52, while the global average was 32.

India's rate reduced nearly 50 percent to 28 in 2013, but is still higher than the global average (17 in 2016). The report projected that the global neonatal mortality rate will fall to 11 in 2030, or by another 50 percent to nine if efforts improve.

Poor health infrastructure, poor availability of human resources, anemic Indian adolescents and excess physical activity in poor women are some of the reasons for the slow decline in neonatal mortalities, IndiaSpend reported in June 2017. India's National Health Plan 2017 targets a rate of 16 by 2025.

\*Sanjukta Nair is a graduate in economics and statistics from Mumbai University and is an intern with IndiaSpend.

## Can technology prevent most roadkill accidents?

Scientific American reports that one to two million animals are killed by motorists every year in the United States — the equivalent of one collision every 26 seconds. That doesn't include all the raccoons, skunks and other smaller animals that usually go unreported when hit.

These accidents have far-ranging consequences. They threaten endangered species like wolves, tortoises, crocodiles and panthers. They also threaten another potentially endangered species: Humans. The Federal Highway Administration said that 90 percent of deer collisions and nearly 100 percent of collisions with elk and moose result in vehicle damage, human injuries and deaths at a cost — according to the Insurance Information Institute — of nearly \$3.6 billion a year, daillyherald.com reported.

Many technologies that try to reduce roadkill accidents are in use today — from electromagnetic detectors under roads in Colorado to 'toad tunnels', 'bat bridges', 'scent fences' and radio sensors. Carmakers like Volvo have installed their own wildlife detection systems on some of their vehicles. But most of these solutions are focused on much larger animals and many fall far short of truly addressing the problem.

However, a Brazilian start-up might be on to something.

In Brazil, roadkill accidents are a big problem. For example, the Brazilian state of São Paulo alone has recorded more than 23,000 accidents between drivers and animals in the eight-year period between 2005 and 2013, and that's just what we know about. Fortunately, a Brazilian start-up called Via-Fauna has developed a technology that the founders believe could eliminate roadkill accidents by more than 90 percent.

The company, with the help of government research grants, has developed a proprietary electronic roadside animal detection system that will alert for both large and smaller animals.



wikimedia.org

The system uses solar-powered motion sensors placed in roadkill 'hot spots' a short distance apart that can transmit and receive an infrared light that humans and animals can't detect. But when the beam is interrupted an electronic message or beacon light would alert drivers. It's like a speed trap for wildlife.

Fernanda Delborgo Abra, one of the company's founder said, "Our detection system warns drivers hundreds of meters or even a kilometer or two ahead of an actual animal crossing, giving them time to take precautions."

She helped come up with the idea as part of her graduate school research.

"This system is far more effective than a mere sign warning that wildlife may cross the road."

## Street children offered job to clean up Kenya's capital



kenyachildrenofhope.org

The governor of Kenya's capital Nairobi has offered to pay a month's rent for street children if they join an operation to clean up the city.

Mike Sonko told a group of street children at the City Hall that the offer is on the table only if they stop abusing drugs, quit crime and promise not to return to the streets, local media Daily Nation reported.

"I hope when I hire you, you will not disappoint me because I am committed to working with you... I will pay your rent for one month but make sure you do not come

back to the streets," he said.

According to africanews.com, there are hundreds of street children in Nairobi who are actively involved in crime and the city council has failed in several attempts to get rid of them.

Rehabilitation programs were instituted and children were taken off the streets in massive operations, yet they return.

Sonko hoped to succeed in getting rid of them as well as clean up the city in the recently launched operation to make Nairobi the cleanest city in Africa.

# Happy autumnal equinox 2017!

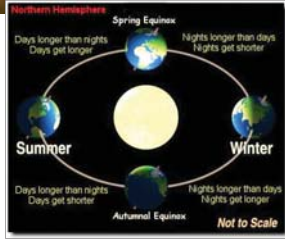
You may have noticed that the days have been getting shorter, and the nights have been drawing in. That's because September 22 was the autumnal equinox — which officially marks the end of summer in the Northern Hemisphere, [mirror.co.uk](http://mirror.co.uk) wrote.

An equinox occurs when the Sun passes directly over the Earth's equator, resulting in a day and night that is equal in length.

There are two equinoxes every year — one around March 22 and one around September 22. In the Southern Hemisphere the seasons are flipped, and the September equinox marks the start of spring.

This year, the autumnal equinox took place on Friday, September 22.

After this point, the days will get shorter and the nights will get longer until the winter solstice on December 21, when the pattern will reverse.



[mirror.co.uk](http://mirror.co.uk)

### What the experts say

Jay Holmberg, a senior research scientist at the lunar and planetary lab at the University of Arizona, said, "The Earth's orbit is [only] about three percent out of round."

"So in the northern winter — in December — the Sun is actually closest to the Earth by a small amount, and in the summer it's actually farther away."

Matthew Holman, an astrophysicist at Harvard University, said, "The equinox is defined as the time of an event. It's really not when the day and the night are of equal length, although that's what we think of — it's really that moment is when the Sun is on the equator at local noon."

### Google doodle

Google is marking the change of season with one of its special animated doodles.

The doodle, which is visible on Google's home page in most countries in the Northern Hemisphere, shows a mouse with a red scarf jumping through fallen leaves, before entering his underground burrow and taking a sip from a steaming cup of tea. Google has also created a doodle for users in the Southern Hemisphere, to mark the first day of spring.

The doodle shows the same mouse waking up from hibernation, rushing outside to pick a daffodil, bringing it inside his burrow and putting it in a vase of water.

### Why does the equinox happen?

The equinox occurs because of the tilt of the Earth in relation to the Sun. This is what causes the seasons.

The Earth's tilt is 23.5 degrees relative to the plane of its orbit and means that, although one revolution of the planet takes 24 hours — it's different depending on the time of year.

During the summer time, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun. So we get

longer days as more light falls on this part of the surface.

In the winter time, it's the Southern Hemisphere that gets the majority of the light.

### 'Equal night'

On the autumnal equinox, the Earth hits the turning point in its orbit where neither the North nor the South poles are tilted towards the Sun.

This means the amount of daylight and night time is the same at all points on the Earth's

surface. The word equinox is Latin for 'equal night'.

Meteorologists use it as the official turning point in the seasons because, although it can vary from year to year, it allows for the most accurate record-keeping.

It is celebrated around the world, notably at the Aztec monument Chichen Itza in Mexico.

During the equinox, a sliver of light makes its way down the monument at sunset, drawing in crowds of onlookers.



GETTY IMAGES

## Loads of mini sausage dogs raced each other in fancy dress outfits



Dogs are all blessed creatures. But dachshunds are something else.

They waddle along, close to the ground like little sausages escaping from their packaging. The sight of one of them rolling around is enough to bring a tear of joy to even the stoniest heart, metro.co.uk reported.

So imagine seeing hundreds of the little fellas running around — in fancy dress.

This weekend is the annual Teckelrennen

Hophaus Dachshund Race in Melbourne. The 'running of the Wieners' is held every year to celebrate Oktoberfest in the city and part of the proceedings includes a Best Dressed Dachshund Costume Competition.

And while dressing dogs up might not be everyone's tastes, this kind of pureness is something of a comfort on a miserable Saturday afternoon. After all, dogs are life. Particularly speedy sausage dogs.

### PICTURE OF THE DAY



MATTHIAS SCHRADER/AP

Bavarian herdsmen drive their cattle on return from summer pastures in Thalkirchdorf, Germany.

## The oak and the reeds

A very large oak was uprooted by the wind and thrown across a stream. It fell among some reeds, which it thus addressed: "I wonder how you, who are so light and weak, are not entirely crushed by these strong winds."

They replied, "You fight and contend with

the wind, and consequently you are destroyed; while we on the contrary bend before the least breath of air, and therefore remain unbroken, and escape."

Stoop to conquer.



### Octo-Cross

1	2	3	4		5	6	7
8					9		
10					11		
			12	13			
14	15	16					
17				18	19	20	21
22				23			
24				25			

- DOWN**
- Evergreen tree
  - Consumed
  - Beverage
  - Vacant
  - In addition
  - Horned ruminant
  - Aquatint
  - Command
  - Rise rapidly
  - Elaborate song for solo voice
  - Limited period of time
  - Flightless bird
  - Part of a pen
  - Attempt
- ACROSS**
- Destiny
  - Mature
  - Distinct part of a group
  - Entire collection
  - Harvest
  - Pouch
  - Molar
  - Woodland deity
  - Mineral
  - Surface impression
  - Atmosphere
  - Ruler or chieftan
  - Male sheep
  - Gem

### Yesterday's solution

N	O	T	E		A	D	O
A	R	E	A		T	O	P
P	E	E	R		O	D	E
				L	E	M	O
V	I	N	Y	L			
I	C	E			U	G	L
S	O	W			D	O	O
A	N	T			E	D	G

### 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.

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

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

# Moradi breaks world record, claims Ashgabat weightlifting gold

Sports Desk

Iran's Sohrab Moradi broke the 18-year-standing world record to clinch the gold medal at the weightlifting competitions of the 5th edition of Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

On Saturday, Moradi took part in Group A of the men's 94kg contests and tallied a total of 413kg to better the Georgian-Greek weightlifter Kakhi Kakhiashvili's record by one kilogram, having been set at the 1999 World Weightlifting Championships in Piraeus, Greece.

The 29-year-old Iranian lifted 185kg in his third attempt to finish first in the snatch contests, followed by athletes from Uzbekistan and China.

Having failed to raise the 220kg weight in his first effort in the clean & jerk competitions, Moradi then went on to lift 228kg above his head in his last attempt to top the top rankings.

As well as being a breakthrough moment for the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, it was an achievement Moradi had long worked toward.

"This is the result of many years of work and I am very happy and delighted for my efforts," said Moradi, who had celebrated his 29th birthday the previous day.

"One of my goals as an athlete was to win an



Iran's Sohrab Moradi lifts the 228kg weight at the clean & jerk contests of the men's 94kg weightlifting competitions at the Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on September 23, 2017.

Olympic champion. This is important. But this one is also important because I really wanted to do it. I am happy to do this," the 2016 Rio Olympics gold medalist added.

The Uzbek weightlifter Farkhodbek Sobirov claimed the silver with a total of 391kg as Hao Liu from China settled for the bronze with a 387kg-overall-tally.

## James calls Trump a 'bum' as president's dispute with sports stars continues

Donald Trump sparked an angry response from NBA legend LeBron James, who called him a 'bum' after he rescinded Stephen Curry's White House invitation.

US President Donald Trump criticized protests by NFL players for a second straight day and rescinded NBA star Stephen Curry's White House invitation in a series of tweets that outraged football and basketball stars and even prompted LeBron James to call the president a "bum", SBS reported.

Trump started by announcing that Curry, the immensely popular

two-time MVP for the Golden State Warriors, would not be welcome at the White House for the commemorative visit traditionally made by championship teams.

Later, Trump reiterated what he said at a rally in Alabama the previous night that NFL players who knelt for the national anthem should be fired, prompting immediate condemnation from a handful of team executives, the league commissioner and its players' union.

The Warriors said it was made clear to them that they were not welcome at the White House.

They said that when they go to Washington this season they will instead "celebrate equality, diversity and inclusion - the values that we embrace as an organization."

Curry had said he did not want to go to the White House anyway, but the Warriors had not made a collective decision before Saturday.

"U bum Stephen Curry already said he ain't going!" James tweeted in a clear message to the president - a post that Twitter officials said was quickly shared many more times than any other he's sent.

"So therefore ain't no invite. Go-

ing to White House was a great honor until you showed up!"

James also released a video on Saturday, saying Trump has tried to divide the country.

"He's now using sports as the platform to try to divide us," James said. "We all know how much sports brings us together... It's not something I can be quiet about."

Warriors general manager Bob Myers said he was surprised by the invitation being pulled while Golden State coach Steve Kerr, after his team's first practice of the season said, "These are not normal times."

# Iran cruises into futsal final in Ashgabat

Iran showed its attacking prowess as the Asian giant beat Afghanistan 8-2 in the Ashgabat 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games men's futsal semifinal on Sunday.

The defending champion is on course for a fifth consecutive futsal crown after outplaying Abdul Razaq Momrak's men early on, firing six goals in the first half, the-afc.com reported.



Intensity was high from the start as Iran got its goals from Abolqasem Orouji in the third, Ahmad Esmailpour (fourth), Hossein Tayebi (eighth), Saied Abbasi (11th), Mahdi Javid (13th) and Hamid Ahmadidazaj (14th).

Afghanistan responded with two of its own through Akbar Kazemi in the 17th -

his 10th goal of the tournament - and Ali Jafari in the 25th to put the score at 6-2 at

half-time. There was no respite for Afghanistan as Iranians piled on more pressure after the break.

Javid completed his hat-trick with goals in the 36th and 37th - to lead the scoring charts with 11 goals.

## Man-marking Messi helped Barca win, Valverde says

Lionel Messi endured a frustrating night as he was man-marked by on-loan Manchester City defender Pablo Maffeo in Barcelona's 3-0 win over Girona, but his manager Ernesto Valverde believed the tactic helped the rest of the team.

Barca made it six wins from six in La Liga this season courtesy of own goals from Aday Benitez and Gorka Iraizoz, with Luis Suarez's second strike of the season completing the scoring, ESPN reported.

Valverde acknowledged that Girona minimized Messi's threat, but felt that it meant more space for his side in other areas.

"The man-marking was clear and we had to find the place where to put Messi to move that player [Maffeo] and to get the most out of the situation," he said in his postgame news conference.

ing the ball. It's difficult, not just in terms of the football, but psychologically. I am grateful for the confidence the coach showed in me."

'Ronaldo relaxed despite goal drought'

Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane had no concerns over Cristiano Ronaldo's form despite the forward failing to score for a second straight match on Saturday. The champion bounced back from his shock midweek loss to Real Betis by seeing off Deportivo Alaves 2-1, courtesy of Dani Ceballos' double.

Madrid's victory would have been more comfortable had Ronaldo not hit the post twice in his second La Liga outing of the season, with the 32-year-old having now mustered 18 shots without finding the net in the



NICK POTTS/PA

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said his side is "feeling better" about its title challenge this season on a day when the Premier League's top three all won.

City, which defeated Crystal Palace 5-0, leads Manchester United - 1-0 winner at Southampton - on goal difference, with Old Trafford boss Jose Mourinho claiming that the race to be crowned champion will be between six teams.

The Manchester clubs have a three-point lead over champion Chelsea after its 4-0 win at Stoke - Blues boss Antonio Conte challenged striker Alvaro Morata to continue his good form after the Spaniard scored a hat-trick.

Tottenham Hotspur sit fourth after holding on to win 3-2 at West

Ham, while Liverpool is up to fifth after a thrilling victory by the same scoreline at Leicester City.

Pep feeling better a year on

Guardiola enjoyed a scintillating start to life as City boss at the beginning of last season, winning his first 10 matches in charge across all competitions.

But, from a four-point lead at the top of the Premier League at the end of September, City fell away to finish 15 points behind Chelsea.

An unbeaten start has City top again this season, with Guardiola saying he feels more comfortable this term after five wins and a draw, despite not matching last year's 100 percent start from seven matches.

"We have less points than last season now but I think we have more goals and conceded less," he said. "The feeling I think is a little bit better, but it's just September."

Their hammering of Palace made it 11 goals in two Premier League games, with Raheem Sterling netting twice at Etihad Stadium in addition to strikes from Leroy Sané, Sergio Aguero and Fabian Delph.

'Six teams for the title'

Going into this weekend's games, City and United were level at the top with identical records of points, wins, goals scored and goals conceded.

United lost ground on its fierce rival in terms of goal difference, but

the 1-0 win at Southampton pleased Mourinho because of its hard-fought nature.

Romelu Lukaku scored in his sixth successive league game in the first half, only for Saints to improve in the second and have chances to take a share of the points.

Last season on this type of fixture we would have given away maybe five or six points, so we are better," said Mourinho, who claimed he did not know why he was sent to the stands by referee Craig Pawson late on.

"It's just the beginning. I think six teams are going to fight for the title." Sixteen points from the opening six games is United's best start to a Premier League season since 2011-12.



AS

"You have to take advantage of the situation. We tried to get the better of them by playing in the space and taking advantage of Leo's movement."

"I think Messi was fine. It's true that when you're man-marked it can be uncomfortable, but it also has advantages, not for him, but for the team. I think he was relaxed about it all."

"It was a difficult game because it was a derby, because of the atmosphere and the tension, but I think we managed it well. Maybe we struggled to finish the game off, but we've got the win."

Maffeo, 20, spent the game so close to Messi that there was even time for some small talk with the Argentine international.

"Messi asked me a couple of things: if I was on loan from Man City and how old I was," the full-back told reporters.

"He was very humble. We were talking because I was stuck to him the whole match. There were no bad feelings or anything funny. He's the best player in the world and if you don't stick to him, he can score at any moment."

"I had to be with him and to stop him touch-

top flight in 2017-18.

The Portugal star also cut a frustrated figure in the 1-0 defeat to Betis but Zidane insists there is little cause for panic. "When you do not score, you are frustrated. But Ronaldo is calm," he said at his post-match news conference.

"He wants to score and he had the chances to do so. In the end, we always know he will make a difference eventually."

Alaves looked set to extend Madrid's patchy start to the season when captain Manu Garcia equalized before the break, but Ceballos quickly responded with his second to help secure just a third win in six league matches. Zidane hailed Ceballos' attitude and promised further first-team chances for the 21-year-old midfielder.

"I am very happy for the player, as he is ready to play and did very well today getting both goals," he said.

"I am happy for him because he is a boy who wants to learn and he will have more opportunities."

"More than just the goals, he has played a great game."

## Art & Culture

### London opens landmark exhibition of Johns' works

The Royal Academy of Arts in London is presenting a landmark exhibition of the Honorary Royal Academician, Jasper Johns.

This is the first comprehensive survey of the artist's work in the UK in 40 years. The exhibition is featuring over 150 works including sculpture, drawings and prints, together with new work from the artist.



artdaily.com

According to artdaily.com, Johns is recognized as one of the most significant and influential artists of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and the exhibition spans over 60 years from his early career, right up to the present time, bringing together artworks that rarely travel from international private and public collections.

The title of the exhibition comes from a statement by Johns in 2006: 'One hopes for something resembling truth, some sense of life, even of grace, to flicker, at least, in the work'.

Widely known for his iconic images of flags, targets, numbers, maps and light bulbs, Johns has occupied a central position in American contemporary art since his arrival in New York in the 1950s.

By 1955 his use of accessible and familiar motifs established a new vocabulary in painting. Johns' treatment of iconography and the appropriation of objects and symbols made the familiar unfamiliar, achieving this through the distinctive, complex textures of his works.

Through his ground-breaking paintings and sculptures, Johns established a decisive new direction in an art world that had previously been dominated by Abstract Expressionism.

Johns' 'Something Resembling Truth' reveals the continuities and changes that have occurred over the past six decades, and the curiosity and experimentation that Johns continues to apply to his current practice.

During the 1960s he added devices within his works such as objects from his studio, imprints and casts of the human figure. It was during this time that he started to explore printmaking and is now considered one of the most celebrated printmakers of modern times. The works of the 1970s are dominated by an abstract pattern, referred to as 'crosshatchings'.

During the 1980s he introduced a variety of images that engaged with the ambiguities of perception and ongoing themes involving memory, sexuality, and the contemplation of mortality.

From this time, Johns increasingly incorporated tracings and details of works by artists including Matthias Grünewald, Pablo Picasso and Edvard Munch. The works of the 1990s built on the increasing complexity of subject and reference, and by the early 2000s Johns had embarked on the pared down and more conceptual Catenary series which, along with other recent works such as five Postcards, 2013 (Private collection) and Regrets, 2013 (Private collection) shows the rich productivity and vitality of this late phase of his career.

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## Iran's 'Violinist' receives Japanese Kumamoto City Prize



focus-on-asia.com

### Art & Culture Desk

Iranian film 'Violinist', directed by Mohammad-Ali Talebi, won the Kumamoto City Prize at the Focus on Asia Fukuoka International Film Festival in Japan.

The Kumamoto City Prize is presented as one aspect of collaboration between Fukuoka City and Kumamoto City. It was established to further contribute to the growth of the film festival, which is regarded as a distinguished film festival in Asia. The Prize is presented as a runner up prize to the Audience Award. focus-on-asia.com wrote.

Receiving the award certificate, the supplementary award and trophy, film director Talebi expressed his joy, saying, "Words cannot describe how overjoyed I feel about accepting this award. The award means something really special to me, especially since it comes from everyone in the audience. This is my fourth participa-

tion in this festival but I am truly grateful on this occasion to be able to receive this award."

The film is about a teen called Kianush who plays violin to earn a living. The theme is social and is based on reality.

Since 2006, the Focus on Asia Fukuoka International Film Festival has presented its 'Fukuoka Audience Award' where a film is selected based on votes cast by the audience. This year 20 titles representing 19 nations and regions competed for the 'Fukuoka Audience Award' which was presented to the film with the highest audience evaluation based on motion pictures shown at the festival.

This year's Fukuoka Audience Award went to the Thai film 'Bad Genius'. After a drum roll, KUBOTA Isao, chairman of the Focus on Asia Fukuoka International Film Festival Executive Committee announced the award-winning film.



## Rostam and Esfandiar to battle in Armenia

Iranian director Dariush Nassiri is slated to participate in the 15th High Fest International Performing Arts Festival in Armenia with his epic 'Rostam and Esfandiar's War'.

Directed, written and acted by Nassiri, 'Rostam and Esfandiar's War' performance is getting ready to attend the main section of the Armenian festival, due on October 6.

The epic is based on a tragedy in Ferdowsi's 'Shahnameh' (The Book of Kings), which tells the story of a battle between Esfandiar and Rostam — two Iranian heroes, Mehr News Agency reported.

The show will be performed in the Iranian performing styles (narrative and ta'zieh) and monodrama (theatrical or operatic piece played by a single actor).

Esfandiar is an invulnerable prince and the son of Goshtash, the Kiani King, who repeatedly promises the handing over of the kingdom to his son, but does not keep his promise, but later Esfandiar successfully fulfills his father's orders.

Finally, Goshtash asks Esfandiar to go to Zabol and bring Rostam bound. Esfandiar rejects this at first but accepts after discussing it with his father and prepares himself to go to Zabol. Following the battle between Esfandiar and Rostam, Simorgh shows Rostam how to kill Esfandiar, and teaches him how to make an arrow hit Esfandiar's eyes — his weak spot — and Esfandiar is killed by Rostam.

The 15th High Fest International Performing Arts Festival will be held from October 1 to 8, in Yerevan, this year.

Performance groups from Brazil, Argentina, Russia, Finland, Germany, Austria, Greece, Italy, Sweden, Estonia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia and Iran will participate in this art event.

## Archeologists uncover secrets of how Egyptians built Great Pyramid

The secrets behind the construction of the oldest and only survivor of the Seven Wonders of the World have been locked within its limestone and granite walls for centuries.

But now archeologists believe they have finally uncovered how Egyptians were able to lug millions of 2.5 ton blocks 500 miles to create the Great Pyramid of Giza, mirror.co.uk reported.

Built as a tomb for Pharaoh Khufu in about 2,600 BC over 20 years, the 481-ft tall structure was the largest of all the pyramids and was, until the Middle Ages, the tallest man-made construction on Earth.

Historians have long argued how 800 tons of material was transported to Giza from Aswan every day.

Now the discovery of an ancient papyrus, a ceremonial boat, and a system of waterworks could finally put an end to the debate.

New evidence reveals thousands of laborers transported 170,000 tons of limestone along the Nile in wooden boats, held



mirror.co.uk

together by ropes, through a specially constructed system of canals, reports the Mail on Sunday.

The ancient scroll was discovered in the seaport Wadi al-Jarf and is the only firsthand account on record of how the pyramids were built.

Written by an overseer named Merer, it reveals some 2.3 million blocks were ferried to an inland port built just yards away from the base of the pyramid.

It describes in detail how the limestone casing stones were shipped downstream from Tura to Giza.

Archeologist Mark Lehner, an Egyptologist, has also discovered a lost waterway underneath the plateau the pyramid sits upon.

"We've outlined the central canal basin, which we think was the primary delivery area to the foot of the Giza Plateau," he said.



SAEED RABIEE/honaronline.ir

An art exhibition featuring designs and illustrations by Parviz Lotfollahi is underway at Tehran's Vista Plus Gallery until September 29, 2017.

### Weather



26 19  
Amol



34 21  
Jiroft



26 20  
Ramsar



32 16  
Shahriar



31 14  
Shiraz



31 ^  
v 19  
Tehran



28 12  
Dushanbe



39 28  
Mecca



18 9  
Saint Petersburg



26 20  
Tokyo



27 20  
Toronto