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# IRAN DAILY



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## Goods transit via Iran witnesses significant surge



South Korea's Hyunmoo II ballistic missile is fired during an exercise simulating an attack at an undisclosed location in South Korea on Monday.

North Korea could be preparing another missile launch, South Korea said Monday as it strengthened its defenses following Pyongyang's biggest-ever nuclear test and declaration it had a hydrogen bomb.

The South and the United States will deploy more of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile launchers that have infuriated Beijing, the Defense Ministry said, AFP reported.

The announcement came after Seoul fired an early-morning volley of ballistic missiles in an exercise simulating an attack on the North's nuclear test site.

Pictures showed South Korean short-range Hyunmoo missiles roaring into the sky in the pale light of dawn from a launch site on the east coast.

Pyongyang said the device it detonated Sunday was a hydrogen bomb – far more powerful than the fission-based devices it is believed to have previously tested – and small enough to fit into a missile.

South Korean Defense Ministry officials estimated its strength at 50 kilotons – five times the size of the North's previous nuclear test.

Defense Minister Song Young-moo said

Seoul believed Pyongyang had succeeded in miniaturizing its nuclear weapons to fit into an ICBM.

Signs that North Korea was "preparing for another ballistic missile launch have consistently been detected since Sunday's test", the ministry said.

It did not indicate when a launch might take place, but said it could involve an ICBM being fired into the Pacific Ocean to raise pressure on Washington further.

After Sunday's test the United States warned it could launch a "massive military response" to threats from North Korea that would be "both effective and overwhelming."

"We are not looking to the total annihilation of a country, namely North Korea," Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said, but warned: "We have many options to do so."

South Korea's President Moon Jae-in called for new United Nations sanctions to "completely isolate North Korea."

### International condemnations

At their summit in China, the North's key ally, the five-nation BRICS grouping – tak-

ing in the host nation as well as Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa – said Monday it "strongly deplors" the test.

Moon and Japan's Premier Shinzo Abe agreed to work for stronger sanctions against the North, but seven sets of UN measures have so far done nothing to deter Pyongyang.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Sunday his department was preparing measures to "cut off North Korea economically" and ensure anyone trading with it could not do business with the US.

The North hailed the test as "a perfect success."

Hours before the test, the North released images of leader Kim Jong-un inspecting a device it called a "thermonuclear weapon with super explosive power" entirely made "by our own efforts and technology."

The North says it needs nuclear weapons to defend itself against the threat of invasion, and analysts say it is seeking to strengthen its hand for any future negotiations with Washington.

An increasing number of experts say talks are now the only way to address the issue.

## Merkel ahead as Schulz fails to land knockout punch in debate

Angela Merkel appeared to be powering ahead Monday to a fourth term as chancellor of Germany, after her rival Martin Schulz failed to halt her advance in a crucial televised debate three weeks before elections.

Sunday's prime-time TV clash had been billed as Schulz's last chance to sway a decisive share of voters to his cause and halt a devastating popularity slide, AFP reported on Monday.

But polls following the 90-minute showdown, which was watched by 16.1 million people, gave Merkel the clear edge over Schulz, a former European Parliament chief.

"Merkel came out as sure, Schulz was hardly able to land a punch. The candidate is an honorable man. But being honorable alone won't make one chancellor," wrote Sueddeutsche daily commentator Heribert Prantl.

With millions of voters still undecided, Schulz had been looking to the debate to erode the commanding 17-percentage point lead of Merkel's CDU party and their Bavarian CSU allies ahead of the September 24 polls.

Schulz, who had previously complained that



DPA

Merkel was lulling voters to sleep with her refusal to engage in combative debate, went on the offensive quickly on the hot-button issue of migration.

He accused Merkel of failing to coordinate plans with EU neighbors when she decided to open Germany's borders in 2015 to allow in refugees, many from war-torn Syria and Iraq.

But Merkel was not rattled, countering that: "In the life of a chancellor, there are moments when you have to make a quick decision."

And as Schulz voiced his wish to end EU membership talks with Turkey amid escalating tensions with Ankara, Merkel stole the issue from under his feet as she said she did not "see them ever joining" the bloc.

Together with EU counterparts, she will examine if "we can end these membership talks", Merkel added.

Merkel's tough line comes after Ankara arrested two more German nationals for "political reasons", according to Berlin.

The plunge in relations began after Germany sharply criticized Ankara over the crackdown that followed last year's failed coup attempt there.

Opinion polls following the program showed a clear victory for Merkel, with public broadcaster ARD saying 55 percent found her more convincing while 35 percent plumped for Schulz.

A ZDF survey was closer but still had Merkel ahead with 32 percent, against 29 percent who thought Schulz performed better.

Iran reported an increase of about a quarter in the transit of goods in its key transportation points — a sign of growing trade activities in the country.

Figures released by Iran's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (IRMTTO) showed that over 4.17 million tons of goods were transited via 32 active land and maritime borders during the five months to August 21, Press TV reported.

The organization further announced that the figure was 24 percent higher than the amount for the same period last year.

The bulk of goods transported through border points included non-oil products such as fuel, textiles, auto parts and food products amounting to 2.78 million tons.

Oil products constituted around 1.22 million tons of total good transited.

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## Nearly 90,000 Rohingya escape Myanmar violence



REUTERS

Nearly 90,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since violence erupted in Myanmar in August, pressuring scarce resources of aid agencies and communities already helping hundreds of thousands of refugees from previous spasms of violence in Myanmar.

The treatment of Buddhist-majority Myanmar's roughly 1.1 million Muslim Rohingya is the biggest challenge facing the leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, accused by Western critics of not speaking out for the minority that has long complained of persecution.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate has come under increasing diplomatic pressure from countries with large Muslim populations such as Bangladesh, Turkey, Indonesia and Pakistan to protect Rohingya civilians, Reuters reported.

The number of those crossing the border into Bangladesh – 87,000 – surpassed the number who escaped Myanmar after a military crackdown in October, beset by accusations of serious human rights abuses.

The newest estimate, based on calculations by UN workers in the Bangladesh border district of Cox's Bazar, takes to nearly 150,000 the total number of Rohingya who have sought refuge in Bangladesh since October.

An unofficial camp for Rohingya refugees that sprang up after the October attacks is being dramatically expanded.

Hundreds of Rohingya milled beside the road while others slung tarpaulins over bamboo frames to make shelters against the monsoon rain.

Among new arrivals, about 16,000 are school-age children and more than 5,000 are under the age of five who need vaccine coverage, aid workers said over the weekend.

The number of unaccompanied children was high and many were "traumatized and hungry," they said. Md Ali Hossen, the deputy commissioner for the Cox's Bazar district, said that some new arrivals were setting up new camps and the government was not stopping them or taking the camps down on humanitarian grounds.

Bangladesh officials have said at least 53 bodies have either washed up on Bangladeshi shores or have been found in the Naf River, which separates the two countries, many with bullet or knife wounds.

### International anger

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, who said on Friday that violence against Myanmar's Muslims amounted to genocide, last week called Bangladesh's President Abdul Hamid to offer help in sheltering the Rohingya, Dhaka said.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi will meet Suu Kyi and other officials in Myanmar to urge a halt to the violence after a petrol bomb was thrown at the Myanmar Embassy in Jakarta on Sunday.

"We will discuss in detail Indonesia's proposal on how Indonesia can give humanitarian aid to Rakhine state," Retno said in a video statement from Yangon. She is also scheduled to travel to Bangladesh to urge authorities there to protect Rohingya refugees.

Pakistan, which has a large number of Rohingya living there, on Sunday urged "authorities in Myanmar to investigate reports of massacre, hold those involved accountable and take necessary measures to protect the rights of Rohingya Muslims".

## Russia slams US 'hostile' acts as 'state hooliganism'

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Monday that Washington's actions toward Russian diplomatic facilities in the United States could be described as "state hooliganism."

"I am inclined to call what is happening state hooliganism," he told reporters at a BRICS summit in China, Reuters reported.

The United States has ordered the closure of the Russian consulate in San Francisco and two buildings housing trade missions in Washington and New York. It is the latest broadside in a tit-for-tat exchange between the countries that has helped push relations towards a new post-Cold War low.

On Sunday, Moscow denounced the American decision to close the three Russian diplomatic facilities in the United States as a "blatantly hostile act" that violated international law and demanded Washington reverse the order.

"We treat these developments as a blatantly hostile act, a grave violation by Washington of international law," the Russian Foreign Ministry said of the US order, which was made in late August in retaliation for Moscow cutting the United States' diplomatic presence in Russia.

"We urge the US authorities to come to their senses and immediately return the Russian diplomatic facilities," the ministry added on its website. "Otherwise the USA will bear total blame for the ongoing degradation of the relations between our countries."

Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry, said that US authorities had told Moscow that they expected Russia to sell the facilities.

Relations between the two nations have been badly strained since the reunification of Crimea in 2014 and the subsequent conflict in eastern Ukraine, developments which led the US to impose sanctions on Russia.

US President Donald Trump took office in January, saying he wanted to improve ties. But relations have been damaged by accusations from American intelligence officials that Russia sought to meddle in the presidential election, something Moscow denies.

Trump, himself battling allegations his associates colluded with Russia, grudgingly signed into law last month new sanctions against Moscow that had been drawn up by Congress.

When it became clear those measures would become law, Moscow ordered the United States to cut its diplomatic and technical staff in Russia by more than half, to 455 people.

### Lawmakers: Iran will never allow access to military sites

Senior Iranian parliamentarians said the country will not allow inspection of its military sites "under any circumstances."  
"The US has been pressing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to request access to Iranian military sites for inspections, Press TV reported.  
"As senior Iranian government and military officials have repeatedly said Iran's military sites do not have any connection with its nuclear facilities, and are substantially unrelated to our nuclear activities," MP Hossein Naqavi Hosseini said Monday.



Hossein Naqavi Hosseini Alaeuddin Boroujerdi

US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley flew to IAEA headquarters in Vienna last week to personally lobby with the nuclear agency for access to Iran's military sites.  
Naqavi Hosseini advised the US to remain committed to fulfilling its obligations under the 2015 nuclear accord, "instead of addressing the aspirations that are impossible" and commenting on the forbidden areas and red lines of Iran.  
"Under no circumstances will we submit to the inspection of military centers and we cannot allow the foreign side to visit our military centers," said the MP who is the spokesman for the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee.  
"If they have a discussion or a subject for discussion, they can discuss it with our diplomats, but they must know that Iran's military centers are secret and its doors will always be closed to the strangers."

The IAEA is tasked with monitoring Iranian compliance with the landmark deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The atomic agency has verified continued Iranian compliance in its latest report. IAEA officials have also said there was no ground for asking Iran to allow access to its military sites.  
Naqavi Hosseini said one of the things that keeps Iran ready to deal with threats is the country's military sites which should naturally remain intact.

The parliamentary committee's chairman Alaeuddin Boroujerdi also said, "It is likely that some people may seek access to our country's military information under the guise of IAEA inspectors."

He said the Americans are trying to sabotage the nuclear deal and its implementation, because they see themselves a loser, having no diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic.

"Given the presence of many countries in the Iranian economic arena, the Americans do not see a share staked out for them. Hence, they are seeking to disrupt the implementation of the JCPOA and the lifting of sanctions" on Iran, Boroujerdi said.

"As a result, the Americans are constantly looking for pretexts and putting pressure on IAEA officials," he added.

The MP said Iran's military sites have nothing to do with the nuclear issues, and any permission to visit military centers is subject to the decision of the Supreme National Security Council.



Mohammad Ali Rajida

# Iranian, Turkish FM's discuss Rohingya plight



Political Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister and his Turkish counterpart discussed the plight of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.  
In a telephone conversation on Monday, Mohammad Javad Zarif and Mevlut Cavusoglu exchanged views on the condition of the Rohingya minority who have been facing atrocities by Myanmar security forces in recent weeks, IRNA reported.  
At least 87,000 refugees from Myanmar's western Rakhine state have fled to neighboring Bangladesh since violence escalated in late August, according to the United Nations, overwhelming existing camps for the displaced.  
The latest eruption of violence in Rakhine state has killed more than 400 people and triggered an exodus of Rohingya into Bangladesh. It began after insurgents attacked Myanmar police and paramilitary posts in what they said was an effort to protect their ethnic minority from persecution by security forces in the majority Buddhist country.

In response, Myanmar's military unleashed what it called "clearance operations." Human Rights Watch says satellite imagery shows 700 buildings were burned in the Rohingya Muslim village of Chein Khar Li, just one of 17 locations in Rakhine state where the rights group has documented burning of homes and property.  
On August 30, Zarif criticized the global community for remaining silent on the persistent violence against the persecuted Rohingya Muslims, calling for "crucial" action to end acts of aggression against the minority group.  
"Global silence on continuing violence against #Rohingya Muslims. Int'l action crucial to prevent further ethnic cleansing—UN must rally," Zarif wrote in a tweet.  
Iran has called on the government in Myanmar to halt the continued violations of the rights of Rohingya Muslims and end the present violent situation in the country.



## Shahroudi hails Iraq's victories over Daesh

The Chairman of Iran's Expediency Council Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi said Iraq's recent successive victories over Daesh terrorists have surprised the world.  
Shahroudi made the remarks during a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in Baghdad on Sunday, IRNA reported.

He said that the Iraqi government would continue its victories against terrorists, thanks to unity among the Iraqi people that has played a major role in helping the country's military forces defeat Daesh terrorists.  
In recent weeks, Iraq's military forces have made significant progress in their



He congratulated the Arab country over the liberation of cities of Mosul and Tal Afar from the Daesh terrorist group.

The senior Iranian cleric reiterated the Islamic Republic's support for Iraq in its battle against terrorists in a bid to help restore peace and security to the Arab nation.

The Iraqi prime minister thanked Iran for its unwavering support for the Iraqi government and nation in the fight

fight against Daesh terrorists by liberating the northern city of Tal Afar.

The Daesh terrorists made swift advances in northern and western Iraq in the summer of 2014, after capturing territories in Syria.

However, a combination of concentrated attacks by the Iraqi military and popular forces blunted the edge of the Daesh offensive and later forced the Takfiri terrorists out of much of the territory they had occupied.

## MP: British delegations to visit Iran

A delegation from the British Parliament and another one from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office are going to visit Iran in the coming months, an Iranian lawmaker said.

Alireza Rahimi, the head of Iran-Britain Parliamentary Friendship Group, said negotiations have been conducted for the British parliamentary delegation's trip to Iran, but an exact date for the visit has not been set yet, Tasnim News Agency reported.

He added that the delegation from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office will visit Tehran in the next Iranian month (September 23 - October 22) for talks on consular affairs.

In January 2014, a British parliamentary delegation, led by former foreign secretary Jack Straw, visited Iran as part of efforts to improve London-Tehran relations.

Iran-Britain ties soured in 2011. On November 27, 2011, a large majority of Iranian lawmakers voted to downgrade diplomatic ties with Britain, following Britain's decision to impose sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran.

Later, angry Iranian students stormed the British Embassy in Tehran and pulled down the European country's flag.

Following the incident, Britain withdrew its diplomatic staff from Tehran on

November 30 and asked Iran's diplomatic delegation in London to leave within 48 hours.

The two countries made diplomatic efforts afterward to amend ties.

In August 2015, the British Embassy in Iran reopened after a four-year closure. Britain's then foreign secretary, Philip



GETTY IMAGES

Hammond, attended a ceremony in Tehran to mark the reopening on August 23. It was the first visit by a British foreign secretary to Iran since 2003.

Simultaneously, Iran's Embassy in London also reopened.

The thaw in Tehran-London relations came after finalization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1 - Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany.

## Iran unveils UAV drone base



tasnimnews.com

Iran has unveiled an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) base for its fleet of drones which have given the country a remarkable capability in the fight against terrorists and protecting its borders.

Head of the Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Base, Farzad Esmeli, inaugurated the airstrip on Sunday, as the headquarters released a video of UAVs parked on the tarmac at the undisclosed site, Press TV reported.

In an address to the inauguration ceremony, Esmeli described Iran's drone capabilities "an award for the heroic nation," as he sent a stern warning to the country's enemies.

"Perhaps the enemy thinks it can attack us. But the main question is, how is it supposed to escape unscathed?" he said.

Iran is regarded as a bona fide drone power among a few countries with operationally deployed armed drones; its extensive unmanned aerial vehicle program

dates back to the Iraqi war of the 1980s against the Islamic Republic.

Esmeli said, "Air defense centers

throughout the entire territory of Islamic Iran work in tandem with the indigenous integrated air defense command and con-

trol system."

Iran's UAV program has expanded in recent years, with more than a dozen models operating for a variety of functions ranging from surveillance, to intelligence gathering, carrying bombs and performing Kamikaze operations.

They have been playing a significant role in the fight against terrorists as well as monitoring US warships in the Persian Gulf.

Esmeli touched on Iran's downing or capture of intruding drones, including an Israeli Hermes, which was shot down in October 2014.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said at the time that its forces intercepted and hit the spy aircraft on its way to the Natanz nuclear facility in the central province of Isfahan.

In December 2011, Iran grounded a US RQ-170 Sentinel, using electronic warfare techniques, as the stealth aircraft was flying over the Iranian city of Kashmar, near the Afghan border.



# Israel approves budget for new West Bank settlement

Israel approved a nearly \$16 million budget for the construction of a new settlement in the occupied West Bank, a new report said.

Israel's cabinet confirmed the budget of the illegal Amihai settlement during its weekly meeting on Sunday, Press TV wrote.

On March 30, the Israeli regime approved plans to build the new Amihai settlement that is slated to accommodate residents of a wildcat outpost in the West Bank known as Amona, which was evacuated under a court order in February.

The construction of the settlement, located in the northern occupied West Bank district of Nablus, was halted after it began in June due to lack of funds.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Foreign Ministry has condemned the decision, saying the Israeli regime's moves undermine any chances of a political solution to the conflict.

The ministry said in a statement on Sunday that the Israeli decisions are void and illegal, adding they contradict the international laws and the Geneva Conventions as well as the signed agreements.

The ministry also warned of the disastrous repercussions of settlement expansion, especially on the so-called two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It further denounced the silence of the international community towards such



decisions.

About 600,000 Israelis live in over 230 illegal settlements built since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank.

Palestinians want the West Bank as part of a future independent state, with Beit ul-Muqad-

das as its capital.

Since the January inauguration of US President Donald Trump, Tel Aviv has stepped up its construction of settler units on occupied Palestinian land in a blatant violation of international law.

# Syrian Army two miles from Deir ez-Zor enclave

The Syrian Army and allied forces have come to within three kilometers (two miles) of a government-held enclave besieged by Daesh in the city of edges of Deir ez-Zor, state television said on Monday.

With a lunge through terrorists' lines, the army and its allies are close to relieving the Euphrates city, where the terror group has surrounded an army garrison and 93,000 civilians for years, Reuters reported.

The terror group has already lost most of half of its nearby bastion of Raqqa to attacking US-backed forces, and the loss of Deir ez-Zor city and the surround- ing oil-rich province would leave it with only a handful of isolated outposts, Reuters wrote.

Deir ez-Zor Province borders Iraq, where Daesh has also been expelled from former strongholds Mosul and Tal Afar.

The terrorists hold large parts of Deir ez-Zor Province, and more than half the provincial capital Deir ez-Zor city, the remainder of which is controlled by the government and under Daesh siege.

Syrian troops backed by ally Russia have been advancing toward Deir ez-Zor city on several fronts for weeks, and overnight they reached the Brigade 137 base on its western edge, a monitor said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Syrian troops outside and inside the base were battling to break the Daesh siege of the base.

Daesh seized large parts of Deir ez-Zor Province, including its many oilfields, in mid-2014 as it rampaged across Syria and Iraq.

By early 2015 it had also seized parts of Deir ez-Zor city and laid

siege to the remaining parts of it under government control.

The siege tightened further earlier this year, when Daesh advanced and cut the government-held parts of the city in two, with a southern section by the key military airport now divided from a northern sector.

An estimated 100,000 people remain in government-held parts of the city, which had a prewar population of some 300,000.

The report estimates more than 10,000 people may live in the parts of the city held by Daesh, although precise information is hard to come by.



iraqnews.com

# Poll: Macron's popularity slips to 30%

French President Emmanuel Macron has suffered a fresh slump in popularity, with just a 30 percent approval rating among voters, according to a new poll published Monday.

Macron, who is overhauling his communications strategy after triggering criticism for seeming aloof, acknowledged this past week that some voters are disappointed with his government's actions so far, the local fr reported.

The 39-year-old centrist leader, elected in May, saw his rating fall for the second consecutive month, down from 36 percent a month earlier and 43 percent in late June, according to the YouGov France poll carried out for HuffPost and CNEWS.

"I'll have to live with people's impatience for the next few months," Macron told Le Point weekly on Wednesday, dismissing the recently passed milestone of 100 days in office as "irrelevant."

The following day Macron's government unveiled an overhaul of the labor code, a signature reform that will test his ability to force through business-friendly changes and face down protests.

He sees overhauling France's rigid labor regulations as key to tackling a French unemployment rate which is currently 9.5 percent — roughly twice the level of Britain or Germany.

The news from the pollsters was little better for Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, whose popularity rate fell to 32 percent from 37 percent, according to the YouGov findings published Monday.

Macron has promised a change in strategy for the months ahead which will see him give more interviews to explain why he sees his reforms as necessary, having been accused of being too remote at the start of his term.

He said last month during a trip to Romania that the French people "hated reforms," but that he was proposing a "transformation" to fire up the country's economy and make it a leader in Europe.

The pollsters questioned 1,003 people on August 28 and 29, before both the Le Point interview with Macron and the unveiling, on Thursday, of the planned labor overhaul.

The first few months of Macron's presidency has been marked with tight restrictions on how his team interact with the media.

# China pledges new funding for BRICS as group opposes protectionism

China will give \$80 million in funding for BRICS cooperation plans, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday, while the bloc of five emerging countries pledged to oppose protectionism.

Xi offered 500 million yuan (\$76.4 million) for a BRICS economic and technology cooperation plan, and another \$4 million for projects at the group's New Development Bank (NDB) during a three-day leaders summit in the southeastern city of Xiamen, Reuters wrote.

China's new contributions to BRICS pale in comparison to its \$124 billion pledge earlier in May for Xi's own Belt and Road initiative, which aims to expand links between Asia, Africa, Europe and beyond as a new way to boost global development.

The announcement came amid questions over the relevance of BRICS and China's commitment to the NDB in light of the Belt and Road initiative and the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, both key efforts by Beijing to bolster its global influence.

Xi said during a plenary session at the BRICS leaders' summit that the five emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — should increase cooperation in sectors such as trade and investment, monetary policy and finance, and sustainable development.

"We should redouble our efforts to comprehensively deepen BRICS partnerships and open BRICS cooperation," he said.

Set up in 2015 as an alternative to the World Bank, the Shanghai-headquartered NDB was seen as the first major BRICS achievement after the group came together in 2009 to press for a bigger say in the post-World War Two financial order created by Western powers.

A draft "Xiamen Declaration," a formal version of which is expected to be issued later, said BRICS countries will continue to firmly oppose protectionism as they are committed to an "open and inclusive" multilateral trading system.

The communique emphasized the need to be vigilant in guarding against "inward-looking policies" that could hurt global market confidence, and called upon all countries to fully implement the Paris climate agreement.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Trump faces pair of double-barreled crises at home and abroad

By Cathleen Decker

As a candidate, Donald Trump boasted of his lack of government experience and argued his business background qualified him to handle a president's most august responsibility — handling the nuclear arsenal.

On Sunday, hours after North Korea claimed it had tested its first hydrogen bomb, far more powerful than its previous nuclear tests, Defense Secretary James N. Mattis emerged from a meeting that Trump had just held with his top national security advisors, and raised the specter of nuclear war.

Standing in the White House driveway with Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mattis warned Pyongyang that aggression against the United States or its allies would trigger a unified world response and what he termed the "total annihilation of a country, namely North Korea."

"Any threat to the United States or its territory, including Guam, or our allies, will be met with a massive military response, a response both effective and overwhelming," Mattis said.

The warning was all the more severe because it came from Mattis, a retired Marine Corps general who had sought to tamp down so many of Trump's belligerent comments and tweets in recent weeks that he was forced to deny a split with the president.

Sunday's drama represented a new reality for Trump. His presidency has been defined largely by political crises of his own making, from his decision to fire FBI Director James B. Comey to his comments after racial violence in Charlottesville, Va. It was inevitable that circumstances outside his reach would complicate his tenure.

And now they have, raising the question of how he will handle a double-barreled pair of crises — the growing threat from North Korea and the recovery and relief efforts for hundreds of thousands of Americans caught in epic floods in Texas and Louisiana.

To add to his challenges, the White House has said Trump will disclose Tuesday whether he will authorize the deportation of 800,000 so-called Dreamers, immigrants brought here illegally as children — a decision that will be politically combustible no matter what he decides.

Off in the wings are high-stakes battles that will begin Tuesday on Capitol Hill, including funding the government to avoid a shutdown by Sept. 30, raising the federal debt ceiling, and approving billions in aid for the victims of Hurricane Harvey's devastation.

Undergirding all these is special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's investigation of whether Trump's aides cooperated with Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election. That probe has steadily gathered steam, even if pushed out of view in recent weeks.

The combination would tax any president, but particularly Trump, who has proved to be a tempestuous and unpredictable chief executive. And Sunday's events showed again his difficulty in gaining traction for his presidency.

Early this year, Trump's well-received address to Congress was buried within a day by negative developments in the Russian investigation. On Sunday, when he might have been basking in praise from Harvey victims he visited Saturday in Texas and Louisiana, he was instead overtaken by actions half a world away.

The abrupt change of focus from domestic recovery to international fear over North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's growing military might was clear Sunday morning in jaw juxtaposition.

Trump and his wife, Melania, attended services in St. John's Church, across Lafayette Park from the White House, to underscore his call for a day of prayer for the benefit of Harvey victims. As he left, reporters shouted a question: Did he plan to attack North Korea?

"We'll see," he said, and returned to the White House to meet with his top national security advisors.

The confluence of crises hit Washington at the opening of a month already overwhelmed with challenges. After Congress returns from vacation on Tuesday, lawmakers and the White House face a series of must-do items that have proved volatile and divisive in the past.

As September dawned, relations between the Republican-led White House and Congress remained raw from fallout of the failed effort to repeal and replace Obamacare, which Trump still would like to add to the fall agenda.

The multiple crises hit Trump as he languishes at the low end of polling for most presidents, a fact that limits both his opportunities for persuasion and his ability to threaten.

In a recent Fox News poll, 41% of Americans approved of the way he was conducting his presidency; about the same number, 43%, backed how he had handled the North Korea threat.

Were Trump to help engineer a smooth recovery from Harvey, his image could certainly benefit. But North Korea presents few good options for any president, and Trump's all-over-the-map response so far has only fueled concerns that he is not up to the task.

Last month, he took two very different positions based largely on the same facts. In early August, he warned Kim against "any more threats" to the United States. Were any to occur, he warned, "they will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen."

Two weeks later, at a campaign rally in Phoenix, he praised Kim.

"I respect the fact that I believe he is starting to respect us. I respect that fact very much. Respect that fact," he said. "And maybe — probably not — but maybe something positive can come about."

On Sunday, less than two weeks later, he was back to suggesting that the only solution was a military attack.

"South Korea is finding, as I have told them, that their talk of appeasement with North Korea will not work, they only understand one thing!" he tweeted Sunday morning. Trump has added to the uncertainty over his approach by simultaneously threatening a free trade agreement with South Korea, the ally most at risk from the North's belligerence. Republicans on Sunday were supportive of the president but mindful of the limitations of his presidency. Several referred to the competency of his national security team, seen as a bulwark against the president himself.

Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, spoke in words both carefully crafted and suggestive of a lack of certainty about the president's next moves.

"We stand ready to work with the administration to support a comprehensive strategy that not only places an emphasis on deterrence but also empowers our allies and partners in the region, who must do far more to confront this threat," Corker said in a statement.

More blunt was Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, like Corker a Republican who has earned the president's enmity for recent remarks critical of his presidency. Asked by CNN anchor Dana Bash about his confidence in the administration, he repeatedly cited Trump's national security team.

"I'm confident that the people around the president are giving him good advice, and I believe that he will follow it," Flake said. "I sure hope he does. Obviously, you like a leader that's measured and sober and consistent. Our allies want to hear that. I think our adversaries need to hear that." Asked directly whether he was concerned about Trump himself, Flake replied: "I have had my concerns."

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz similarly disagreed with Trump's tenor — specifically his threat of "fire and fury" against North Korea. But he spun that as a positive.

"The president speaks in ways that I wouldn't speak but that is his prerogative," he said. "I do think it helps for North Korea and for China to understand that we have a president who is strong."

The question is whether a performance evincing strength — or other attributes — will be necessary in the battles ahead. The North Korea crisis calls for nuance and deliberateness. The Harvey recovery effort will be measured in years, requiring a willingness to dig in for the long haul. Trump's Tuesday announcement on the fate of children brought to this country without proper papers will require top-notch political instincts. The host of issues looming on Capitol Hill will require mutual respect and policy acumen and a deft hand at managing competing power groups.

So far, Trump largely has favored displays of strength and reveled in unilateral decision-making. The attributes he will now need remain sheathed, if they exist at all.

The above article was taken from the Los Angeles Times.



## SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

## Cargo line opened between Qatar, Turkey via Iran

Qatar opened a land and sea cargo line with Iran and Turkey in a bid to reduce its cargo shipping costs by 80 percent, a report said.

Former editor-in-chief of Qatar's Al-Sharq newspaper, Jaber Al-Harimi, said via twitter that the Persian Gulf Arab state has opened a land and sea cargo line with Iran and Turkey, Middle East Monitor reported on Monday.



IRNA

The tweet also included a video showing large trucks loaded with goods on the way to Qatar.

Qatar has extended new sea lines in the face of an air, land and sea blockade imposed by Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain.

The lines extend between the ports of Qatar to destinations in Turkey, Kuwait, Oman, India and Pakistan.

Economists believe that the five shipping lines constitute an alternative for Doha in the face of sanctions imposed by its neighbors and also an outlet for its navigational and commercial movement in general.

Since June 5, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt have severed ties with Qatar and imposed punitive measures on the grounds that it supports terrorism — a charge that Doha denies.

## Cooperation with Russia, Turkey to boost Iran's oil, gas production

A joint effort by Iranian, Russian and Turkish companies can lead to the production of more than 100,000 barrels of crude oil and over 80 million cubic meters of natural gas per day from Iranian fields, said the head of Iran's Ghadir Investment Company.

Ghadir, a subsidiary of Bank Saderat Iran, signed a preliminary agreement with Russia's Zarubezhneft and Turkey's Unit International in Moscow last month on joint investment in oil and gas development projects. In one of its first potential collaborations, the consortium is looking to develop three oilfields and a gas field south of Iran, hellenicshippingnews.com reported.



SHANA

Abdolreza Hossein-Nejad, the chief executive officer of Ghadir, said the consortium will present a development proposal to the National Iranian Oil Company for Darkhovin, Sepehr and Jofeyr fields in the southern Khuzestan Province.

"According to early estimates, total output from the three oilfields is estimated to reach 100,000-105,000 barrels per day, including 70,000-75,000 bpd from Darkhovin and 30,000 bpd from Jofeyr and Sepehr fields," he said.

Ghadir signed an agreement with NIOC in April to study the three oilfields along with offshore Kish natural gas deposit in the Persian Gulf within six months.

The gas venture is planned to be developed in three phases, with each phase to produce 28 million cubic meters of gas daily. Efforts to develop Kish field started a decade ago, but the project has changed hands several times, consequently affecting its development pace.

Unit International said in a statement last month that the three companies are poised to invest a total of \$7 billion for drilling three oilfields and one natural gas field in Iran without providing names.

The Turkish firm, which also seeks a stake in Iran's electricity market, said the three companies had signed the agreement as equal partners. However, Hossein-Nejad said Ghadir's share of investment will be higher by one-tenth as "the leader of the consortium".

Unit has signed a provisional deal to build two power plants in Iran, which could increase to six.

The official added that Ghadir is utilizing the expertise of Beicip-Franlab S.A. — a French energy consulting services and software solution company — in studying the oil and gas fields.

"They [Beicip-Franlab] have great experience in studying reservoirs and raising the rate of recovery in oil and gas fields," he said.

Ghadir is among more than a dozen Iranian firms approved by the Oil Ministry to develop oil and gas fields in partnership with international companies. Tehran aims to pair domestic and global energy firms in a move to form exploration and production companies at home.

"We do not have an all-round E&P company in Iran, but this is an opportunity to increase our know-how in the upstream oil and gas sector," Hossein-Nejad said.

## Iran limits car imports to protect auto industry

Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) affiliated to the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade is limiting imports of foreign cars to protect the auto industry.

According to businesskorea.co.kr, TPO has stopped issuing import permits for automobile importers at the end of July.

The TPO made the same provisional move temporarily at the end of last year.

This is because the TPO is strongly moving ahead with a policy to protect its own automobile industry by narrowing import channels for foreign cars that have been flowing into Iran after the nuclear deal.

Iran has a large domestic automobile market. When it comes to industrial scales, Iran's automobile sector is biggest after Iran's main industries — the oil and petrochemical industries.

The Iranian government is blocking unreasonable foreign car imports by unofficial private foreign car importers by letting only officially licensed importers.

This will enable foreign automakers to invest in Iran and solve after-sales service problems involving foreign cars, which are chronic problems in Iran. This measure is consistent with this policy direction.

The new regulations make it mandatory for automotive importers to either choose to start production locally or to participate in joint production



IRNA

with local automakers in Iran. Also, total foreign car imports should not eclipse half of Iran's local automobile production.

This means that the Iranian govern-

ment will virtually prevent foreign car imports by small importers which will affect global carmakers. Foreign cars such as Hyundai, Kia, Peugeot, Renault, Toyota, Mitsubishi and DS hold

six percent of Iran's car market.

Private car importers receive car orders from Iranian consumers and import cars through Turkey or the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

## Iran lifts tariffs on exports of food items to Eurasia

Iran has lifted the customs tariffs on certain agricultural products exported to Eurasian countries in a move that is expected to encourage exports to countries such as Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

According to Press TV, Abdollah Mohajer, the head of Mazandaran Province Chamber of Commerce further said that the measure had been adopted only a few weeks ago after President Hassan Rouhani began his second term in office.

He added that no customs tariffs would be charged on products such as pistachios, cabbages, dates and raisins.

He said the final price for those products would be accordingly reduced by 15 percent to 20 percent.

The official nevertheless underlined that north-bound exports still faced an array of problems the most important of which he said was the absence of major shipping lines on the route.

Mohajer said Mazandaran Province has numerous potentials for exports of non-oil goods particularly agricultural products.



IRNA

He added that Mazandaran produces around six million tons of agricultural products per year and it exported goods valued at some \$200 million over a period of five months from March 21.

Exports from Mazandaran in the year to March 21, 2017 stood at over \$520 million and the target markets mainly included Russia and Iraq.

The province accounts for the production of 40 percent of Iran's rice, 50 percent of citrus fruits as well as 10 percent of poultry meat.

## Goods transit via Iran witnesses significant surge

From Page 1

The IRMTO further said that Shaheed Rajaei Port in the southern city of Bandar Abbas remained Iran's most important port handling 35 percent of the country's trade activities.

In subsequent positions were the checkpoints at Parviz Khan (Kerman-

shah Province) and Bazargan (West Azarbaijan Province) providing access to Iraq's Kurdistan region and eastern Turkey respectively. The two checkpoints accounted for 20 percent and 10.4 percent of Iran's total commercial activities.

The IRMTO further underlined that the figures show the transit of trucks

from several neighboring countries via Iran had also increased over the same period.

It did not provide figures but said there had specifically been a surge in multi-modal truck movements from Iraq to the UAE, from the UAE to Afghanistan and from the UAE to Iraq — all crossing Iranian territory.

Bid Notice  
Copper Anode

National Iranian Copper Industries Company

First Announcement



**Quantity:** 30,000 MT +/- 2% (Seller's option)

**Quality:** Copper Anode with Cu assay of greater than 99% and with least Ag and Au assay.

Silver and Gold analysis range shall be advised in a limited range close to the real analysis of the commodity.

Copper Anode without Ag and Au content is preferable.

**Dimensions:** Shall be exactly based on NICICO Anode drawings of Sarcheshmeh Refinery which will be provided with winner/winner of the bid later on.

**Chemical Specs:** Shall be advised by seller in tender offer.

**Shipment:** In bulk or in partial shipment. (The exact shipment quantity and time of shipment shall be agreed upon by buyer and seller at the time of contract settlement)

**Delivery:** CFR Bandar Abbas / Iran

**Price:**

**Copper:** Full final copper content subject to a deduction of 0.3 (zero point three) unit shall be paid at the official LME cash settlement price for copper grade 'A' in USD as published in the London Metal Bulletin, price fixed during the quotational period.

**Silver:** 98.50% (ninety eight point five zero percent) of full final silver content as per final assay, subject to a minimum deduction of 30 (thirty) Gr/DMT, to be paid for at the London spot quotation for silver as published in the London Metal Bulletin, averaged over the quotational period.

**Gold:** 98.50% (ninety eight point five zero percent) of full final gold content as per final assay, subject to a minimum deduction of 1 (one) Gr/DMT to be paid for the balance at the mean of the London am/pm gold quotations as published in the London Metal Bulletin, averaged over the quotational period.

**Quotational Period:**

**For Copper:** The quotational period shall be on the unknown date in buyer's option during the month of contractual shipment, buyer may wish to extend the Q/P by one or two additional months without cost.

**For Silver and Gold:** The quotational period shall be the average of the first month after the month of vessel's arrival at the port of discharge i.e. Bandar Abbas, Iran as evidenced by shipping agent declaration on vessel arrival date at the discharge port (MAMA).

**Payment Procedure:** Payment shall be done through the following procedures:

- Buyer shall pay 100% (one hundred percent) of provisional invoice value amount in Euro, net cash payable by telegraphic transfer after receipt of shipping and any other related documents by buyer.
- Buyer shall pay 100% (one hundred percent) of proforma invoice value amount in Euro under an Irrevocable Deferred letter of credit 6 months (180 days) after sight which shall be opened in favor of seller (which shall be issued in a form and substance acceptable to seller), by a bank nominated by buyer and accepted to seller in EURO currency and to be advised through a bank which is nominated from seller and acceptable by buyer.

**Notes:** The seller is obliged to provide the buyer with one set of original shipping and any other related documents prior vessel arrival to discharge port enabling the buyer to proceed with import formalities and custom release in due course.

**The offers shall include both payment methods and the final payment method is chosen by NICICO.**

**Important Notes:**

- Offers must be presented to NICICO Sales department only through email to [Sales.Tender@nicico.com](mailto:Sales.Tender@nicico.com) till Friday Sept. 15, 2017. It is very important that the offers shall be definitely sent to the [Sales.Tender@nicico.com](mailto:Sales.Tender@nicico.com) and the ones sent to any other email addresses won't be regarded as the tender participants and won't be evaluated.
- Other delivery terms i.e. DAP buyer's plant are also negotiable.
- NICICO reserves the right to reject any one or all offers, cancel, renew or prolong the deadline.
- NICICO reserves the right to purchase part or whole quantity of abovementioned material from one or several potential sellers.
- In case your offer is accepted by NICICO, it will be advised to you via Email.
- The offers shall be definitely sent through company email addresses and the personal ones through which the offers are to be sent by participants such as Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail or any other personal or general email addresses are not accepted at all.
- The following information of companies of attendees shall be definitely provided as well:
  - Full Company Name (Both Local and English dictation);
  - Company national ID;
  - Registered Number;
  - Registered Date;
  - Company Type: Private or State-owned
  - Registered Country;
  - Registered City;
  - Ownership Type: A) Public B) Joint Stock,.....
  - Company Field of Activity;
  - Company Address;
  - Tel;
  - Fax;
  - Company Website Address;

National Iranian Copper Industries  
Sales and Marketing Department  
Tel No. : +98 21 8213 8231



China will provide 500 million yuan (€59 million) for a BRICS economic and technology cooperation plan, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday.

# Economists: No UK rate rise until 2019



pinimg.com

Most economists do not expect UK interest rates to rise until 2019 despite inflation remaining above target, according to a BBC snapshot survey.

Most of those surveyed think the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be reluctant to raise rates during Brexit negotiations.

The base rate has stood at a record low of 0.25 percent since August 2016.

That was the first cut since March 2009, when it was reduced to 0.5 percent.

Last week, one MPC member, Michael Saunders, said a "modest rise" in rates was needed to curb high inflation, which stood at 2.6 percent in July.

In June, three of the MPC's eight members voted for a rise — the first time since May 2011 that so many had wanted to tighten policy.

The same month the Bank of England's Chief Economist Andy Haldane also made a call for a rate rise this year.

However, Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said in his Mansion House speech in late June that "now is not yet the time" to start raising rates once more.

Stuart Green, of Santander Global Corporate Banking, told the BBC he did not expect a rate hike to happen before 2019.

"We believe that policymakers will be reluctant to tighten monetary policy until greater clarity emerges around the UK's post-EU trading framework, and our expectation of declining inflation through 2018 should also reduce the pressure

for an interest rate rise," he said.

Others expect it to be even longer, with economists at Morgan Stanley not expecting any movement until March 2019 at the earliest, with Andrew Goodwin at Oxford Economics suggesting it would not happen until the third quarter of that year.

Similarly, Fabrice Montagne, at Barclays, expects rates to stay on hold until "at least 2019".

But there are those who argue that the Bank of England will raise rates sooner. Howard Archer, chief economic adviser at the EY ITEM Club, said he had one increase, to 0.5 percent, penciled in for late 2018, adding: "I would not be at all surprised if it was delayed until 2019."

Michael Lee, at Cambridge Econometrics, expects a rise to come in either the second or third quarter of next year as he thinks inflation will stay above Bank of England's two percent target for the next two to three years.

Philip Rush, at Heteronomica, is more specific, settling on May 2018.

The one outlier is George Buckley at Nomura, who expects the MPC to jump in November.

### Inflation

The BBC also asked the economists when they expect inflation to peak in the UK. Both Rush and Archer think it will hit 2.9 percent in October, with the latter predicting it will then start to fall back "as the impact of the sharp drop

in sterling following the June 2016 Brexit vote increasingly wanes".

Several others, such as Green, Lee and Goodwin, expect inflation to hit three percent in the final three months of the year before starting to retreat.

Morgan Stanley is more pessimistic, however, predicting a peak of 3.2 percent in Spring 2018.

### Sterling

Holiday makers planning trips to the continent in the next few months should prepare themselves for more pain, according to Morgan Stanley.

Its currency strategy team expect sterling to weaken against the euro by a further 10 percent by March 2018.

Green at Santander also forecasts more weakness for the UK currency over the course of the next year, with an average of \$1.25 to the pound and just 96 euro cents in the final quarter of 2018.

Archer thinks the pound will sink to about \$1.25 by Christmas, but recover to trade about seven cents higher by the end of 2018.

Heteronomica's Rush is also a little more optimistic about sterling, expecting it to be stronger within a year.

"Interest rates are likely to be higher then, and negotiations with the EU27 are likely to have progressed to the point that trade and transitional arrangements are being discussed, with the risk of a disorderly Brexit accordingly reduced," he said.

### Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	83468.5	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	72510.2	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	91361.7	3826	4.27
First Market Index	58339.8	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	182788.2	2030.5	1.14

### Overall Index details on 20170904

First	83345.2	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	83474.1	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	83333.7	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	83478.9	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

### Industry Index details on 20170904

First	72371.7	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	72490.7	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	70278.2	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	72510.2	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

### Free Float Index details on 20170904

First	83428.2	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	91361.7	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

### Main Board Index details on 20170904

First	58226.0	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	58339.8	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	58358.1	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

### Secondary index details on 20170904

First	182606.0	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	182947.2	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	182782.9	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2235.2		

## Hurricane Harvey: Texas reconstruction bill could be \$180b

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has said the bill for reconstruction after Hurricane Harvey could be as high as \$180 billion (€138 billion).

He said the damage was worse than that caused by Hurricane Katrina, which devastated New Orleans in 2005, according to BBC.

Meanwhile, the head of the government's Disaster Management Agency has warned that flood-hit states should not rely on Washington to pick up the bill.

Brock Long said Harvey should be a wake-up call for local officials.

Recovery operations are under way across Texas, and in neighboring Louisiana, although many areas are still battling floodwater.

The devastating hurricane made landfall in the state a week ago and has been blamed for at least 47 deaths. About 43,000 people are being housed in shelters.

The US government has already asked Congress for \$7.85 billion as an initial contribution towards recovery efforts, which Abbott called a "down payment".

He had previously said the state might



GETTY IMAGES

need more than \$125 billion in aid, but revised that figure up.

"Katrina caused, if I recall, more than \$120 billion of damage but when you look at the number of homes and business affected by this I think this will cost well over \$120 billion, probably \$150 billion

to \$180 billion," he told Fox News.

The White House has warned that the US debt ceiling — the cap on government spending — will need to be raised to meet the bill for recovery. Only Congress can raise that limit.

Brock Long, the head of the

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), told CBS that Harvey should be a lesson to state officials that they needed to set aside reserve funds for their own emergency management departments.

"It is a wake-up call for this country for local and state elected officials to give their governors and their emergency management directors the full budgets that they need to be fully staffed, to design long-term day funds, to have your own stand-alone individual assistance and public assistance programs," he said.

One financial offer of help for hurricane victims came from an unexpected source on Sunday — the government of Venezuela.

Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said they would ignore political differences with President Donald Trump's administration to donate \$5 million to help people rebuild their homes.

He said the money would come from a percentage of fuel sales at petrol stations owned by Citgo, a US subsidiary of Venezuela's state oil company. Citgo was targeted by US sanctions last month.

## South Korean mobile purchases hit record high in July

Purchases made through mobile devices in South Korea hit a fresh record high in July as smartphones are widening their presence in the world's most wired country, government data showed on Monday.

Mobile transactions through smartphones and tablets reached a record 4.01 trillion won (\$3.6 billion) in July, up 35.1 percent from a year earlier, according to data from Statistics Korea, Yonhap reported.

The total amount of mobile transactions accounted for an all-time high of 62 percent of all online purchases made in July.

Mobile purchases in South Korea have been on a

steep rise for years as people are increasingly making greater use of their smart devices, which are steadily replacing computers as a means to make online transactions.

Mobile bookings for travel and movie tickets jumped 25.1 percent in July from a year earlier to 674.8 billion won, while sales of cosmetics increased 26.8 percent on-year to 315.4 billion won.

Sales of clothes surged 31.6 percent over the year to 415.6 billion won, while 478.2 billion won worth of electronic goods was sold through smartphones — up 46 percent from a year earlier.



forbesimg.com

### Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2912	Chinese Yuan	0.1528
Euro	1.1893	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.2956	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3147
Australian Dollar	0.7955	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0091	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

### Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$47.30	Silver	\$17.94
Gold	\$1343.30	Platinum	\$1016.80
Copper	\$3.14	Wheat	\$438.75



Barely a week after Hurricane Harvey devastated large swaths of the US Gulf coast, Americans on the East Coast were warily watching the progress of another major storm, Hurricane Irma.

## Pacific leaders to turn up heat on climate change

The 18-member Pacific Islands Forum includes countries such as Kiribati, which are only meters above sea level and risk being swamped by rising oceans



phys.org

Climate change will dominate discussions when the leaders of vulnerable Pacific nations hold their annual meeting in the Samoan capital Apia this week, with global warming threatening their existence, officials said, according to phys.org.

The 18-member Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) includes countries such as Kiribati and Tuvalu, which are only meters above sea level and risk being swamped by rising oceans.

Others, such as Vanuatu and Fiji, have been battered in recent years by devastating cyclones that have become more extreme as global warming affects weather patterns. Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga said there was no subject more important to the people of the Pacific.

"This is an issue about our existence, climate change threatens our very identities," he said. PIF Secretary General Meg Taylor said the summit, which opens on Tuesday, was an opportunity for small island nations to speak as one voice.

"We can do more together than we can alone. I think this will be at the heart of the discussions," she said.

Taylor said the unified approach had already proved successful when Pacific nations successfully pushed for strong aspirational goals at the UN climate talks in Paris in 2015.

"That was led by the champions of the Pacific, we were able to persuade the world that this was so very important," she said.

The Pacific's next chance to prick the world's conscience and demand further action on climate is at UN talks being held in Bonn in November.

# Air pollution throws shade on India's solar ambitions

Air pollution is diminishing India's capacity to harness power from the Sun, experts said, undermining billions being invested in renewables as the energy-hungry giant emerges as a solar superpower.

New research has found the smog and dust that sickens millions across India every year is also sapping solar power generation by more than 25 percent, far beyond levels previously thought, AFP wrote.

In the first study of its kind, US and Indian scientists measured how man-made particles floating in the air and deposited as grime on solar panels combined to seriously impair sunlight from converting to energy.

This interference causes steep drops in power generation, they found.

At present levels in India, it could amount to roughly 3,900 megawatts of lost energy — six times the capacity of its largest solar farm, a gigantic field of 2.5 million panels.

Professor Chinmay Ghori, who co-authored the paper, said at the Indian Institute of Technology in Gandhinagar, "A simple calculation showed that this is a big amount of energy we are going to



US and Indian scientists measured how man-made particles floating in the air and deposited as grime on solar panels combined to seriously impair sunlight from converting to energy.

lose."

These huge losses will only compound as India realizes its grand solar ambitions, experts said.

India, the world's third-largest polluter, is banking on solar to

electrify homes for hundreds of millions of its poorest citizens without adding to its sizeable carbon footprint.

At the Paris climate summit in 2015, India pledged cuts to its future emissions and vowed to

source at least 40 percent of its energy from renewables by 2030 — a target it is well on track to exceed.

New panels are being installed so fast that India is expected to more than double capacity this

year, overtaking Japan as the world's third-largest solar market.

Mike Bergin, a professor from Duke University in North Carolina, who lead the research published in June, said with this spectacular growth comes "an exponential rise in the total amount of money lost" because of air pollution.

"We're talking billions of dollars, easy," he said.

Dust has long been a menace for solar projects in desert states like Rajasthan and Gujarat, where robotic wipers are deployed to ensure panels are cleaned after sandstorms.

But the new research confirmed what solar installers had long suspected — that choking smog from cars, coal plants, crop burning and trash fires was particularly adept at blocking light.

The grimy coating that man-made pollutants deposit on solar panels is far more effective at blocking light than dust, and trickier to remove by washing, Bergin and Ghori found.

This is especially troublesome in northern India, where fine airborne particles from human activity contribute far more than dust to the dire air quality.

# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

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\$3000

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

مالکین محترم  
ویدیو شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر  
و مدیران شرکت های بین المللی  
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت  
مالکین محترم املاک میله و غیرمیله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا  
و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم

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

Dairy free milk has grown in popularity alongside an increasing awareness of lactose intolerance. But switching to alternatives can lead to people missing out on vitamins B<sub>12</sub> and D, as well as calcium.

# Discoverer of hepatitis D virus to attend Tehran conference

### Health Desk

Director of the Division of Gastroenterology at the University of Torino, Italy, and the researcher who discovered hepatitis D virus in 1977 Professor Mario Rizzetto will take part at the Seventh International Tehran Hepatitis Conference which is to be organized by Iran Hepatitis Network (IHN) at Tehran's Razi Convention Center from September 6 to 8, 2017.

Announcing this, the conference's Scientific Secretary Dr. Heidar Sharafi further said the top scientist will deliver a lecture on hepatitis treatments.

Also, Professor Massimo Colombo, head of International Liver Foundation, will discuss the treatment of hepatitis B and eradication of hepatitis C.

Sharafi said foreign participants have enough opportunity to introduce Iran's programs to their own health officials.

This will prepare grounds for transferring technical



irna.ir

knowledge on the treatment and eradication of hepatitis C to neighboring nations, he added.

He also said eradication of hepatitis C virus by 2031 is on the government's agenda.

Iran has been involved in the treatment of hepatitis C

for several years, he said, adding the required drugs are produced domestically.

Over 98 percent of those infected by hepatitis C have been treated using this method, he stated.

Noting that there are various programs for eradicating hepatitis C, he added the

programs are being implemented for prisoners, drug injection addicts and those with special diseases such as hemophilia.

Two scientific sessions will be held on the sidelines of the congress, he said. Renowned foreign lecturers will take part in the first session

and share their experiences about eradicating hepatitis C virus, he added.

The procedure for eradicating hepatitis C from Iran will be discussed in the second session which will be attended by officials from the Health Ministry, he added.

The issues pertaining to hepatitis B will be discussed on the first day of congress, he said, adding over 10 foreign lecturers will elaborate on their latest achievements such as latest treatment methods for hepatitis B.

Sharafi continued that 20 foreign lecturers will participate in the conference.

Over 184 articles have been approved, of which 24 have been sent from abroad, while the rest are from domestic lecturers, he said.

In addition, eight workshops will be held on the sidelines of the event, he added.

The fourth day of the conference will be held concurrently in Shiraz (southern province of Fars) and Birjand (eastern province of South Khorasan) on September 10.

## Exercise in your 50s: The ultimate guide to getting fit

As new research reveals that it's never too late to start exercising, Hannah Britt asks the experts how to begin.

When it comes to getting fit, new research has shown that it is never too late to start, express.co.uk reported.

Indeed, a recent study from Oslo University Hospital found that getting fit in middle age halves the risk of stroke.

Dr. Erik Prestgaard from the Norwegian hospital's cardiology department, said, "If you're 50 and not fit, over the next years you can become fit and lower your risk. It's never too late to start."

Interestingly, no difference was found between people who had always been fit and those who decided to become active in later life.

Personal trainer Chris Zarella, said, "People think it's too late for them but that's not true."

"At 50, Chris was pre-diabetic, overweight and unfit. Now 10 years on he is a fitness expert and gives talks all over the world."

"I am living proof you can go from couch potato to healthy and active. It will add years to your life and life to your years."

"Yet research shows that exercise levels among the middle-aged are lower than that's not true."

Last month, Public Health England announced there has been a 20-percent drop in exercise levels since the 1960s.

Shockingly, 41 percent of people aged between 40 and 60 don't even manage a brisk 10-minute walk once a month.

Furthermore, a recent study revealed that 53 percent of people aged over 45 haven't played sport for more than 20 years. And yet the benefits of being active are endless.

According to a new study from the British Journal of Sports Medicine, thinking and memory skills are most improved for people over 50 when they undergo moderate aerobic and resistance exercise on a regular basis.

Regular exercise will also help with weight loss and has been shown to relieve anxiety and boost mood. And thankfully it is easier than you think to get started.

Chris said, "It's all down to a positive attitude. Once you start creating those healthy habits they will soon become entrenched."

We asked the experts how to get fit at 50 and beyond.

**Slowly does it:** Anya Lahiri, Barry's Bootcamp master trainer and Nike Training Club elite trainer, said, "To avoid injury to the joints, it is important to start slowly."

"Don't start by trying to run a marathon, begin by gently increasing your activity levels and progressively overload your muscles in tiny increments."

"Take a light jog to the shops, do some gentle cycling or spend several minutes on a cross trainer."



samaa.tv

"Instead of hand weights, try the weights machines in the gym as they are much safer for beginners if you are shown how to use them."

"It can be great to enlist a qualified personal trainer when you begin your exercise journey."

**In the swim:** Fitness First personal trainer Graeme Crick, said, "Swimming is fantastic low-impact exercise."

"It's one of the best activities to burn calories as it stimulates all the big muscle groups. Also, because the pool creates a weightless environment, it is gentle on your joints."

Backstroke is great for toning the back, arms and bingo wings while the kicking leg movement works the glutes, quads and hamstrings.

Breaststroke is perfect for toning up your chest, shoulders, arms and legs, while doing butterfly can burn around 900 calories per hour.

**Enlist a friend:** A great way to motivate yourself to exercise is by roping in a friend.

Celebrity personal trainer James Crossley, said, "When you make a plan to exercise with a friend you are accountable."

"If not going means letting someone down, you'll be far less likely to have a lie-in instead."

"Instead of arranging to meet a friend for drinks in the pub, go for a walk instead."

"The same principle applies when you book a fitness session, be it a yoga workshop or gym class."

"If you've booked and committed in advance, you're more likely to actually go to the workout."

**Fit it in:** No time? No problem. There are hidden ways to work out every day.

Chris said, "Any movement counts so walk up and down escalators and always take the stairs."

Housework counts too. Research has shown that people who are active at home often burn more calories than people who go to the gym and spend the rest of the time being sedentary.

He said, "Cutting the grass with a manual lawnmower will give you a core and upper body workout, while hanging the washing out and ironing will tone your arms."

"And if you're in an office, go to talk to colleagues instead of emailing them and walk about when you're on the phone."

**All in the mind:** Mental fitness is just as important as physical fitness, according to personal trainer Emily Skye.

Emily said, "It's not just about being as lean as you can or building as much muscle as you can, it's about mental fitness too."

"Exercise is a great way to stay sharp and has also been found to combat depression and anxiety."

"This is because when you exercise, endorphins are released. These happy hormones make you feel exhilarated and have even been found to block pain."

## 50 is the new 60:

# One in 10 men has heart a decade older than them

Fifty is the new sixty for ten percent of middle aged men whose poor lifestyle has left them with a heart that is a decade older than their actual age, Public Health England (PHE) warned.

In 2015, the National Health Service (NHS) launched its Heart Age Test to help people discover if they were at risk of heart attack and stroke, according to telegraph.co.uk.

New analysis of the results from 1.2 million middle aged men who took the test showed that one in 10 50-year-olds has the heart of a 60-year-old man, suggesting they could die a decade earlier than they should.

The problem is worse for men than women. Of those found to have hearts which were 10 years older than their actual age, only 36 percent were women. The majority, 64 percent, were men.

Every month, 7,400 people die from heart disease or stroke. A quarter of deaths are of people under 75 but most of those could be prevented by lowering cholesterol and blood pressure, and living a healthier lifestyle.

Cardiovascular disease, which includes heart attack and stroke, declining in recent years is still the main cause of death amongst men and the second highest cause of death in women.

Having a high heart age increases the risk of serious health issues including

dementia, heart attack, stroke, chronic kidney disease and diabetes.

Associate Professor Jamie Waterall, lead for cardiovascular disease prevention, PHE, said, "We should all aim for our heart age to be the same as our real age — addressing our risk of heart disease and stroke should not be left until

late version of the Heart Age Test and is encouraging people to take three minutes out of the day to check their heart health."

People who take the test will be referred to apps, advice and resources to help them eat and drink better, get ac-

tive, and quit smoking to improve their health.

For the first time, the test will direct users to their nearest blood pressure station if they do not know theirs, as those with high blood pressure are more at risk of heart disease or stroke.

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## Staff with migraines need help

Concerns have been raised about the lack of support for workers who suffer from migraine.

Research for three charities showed that many sufferers do not believe employers understand the impact the condition has, express.co.uk wrote.

The survey of more than 2,200 adults, most of whom have experienced migraine or know someone who has, found that seven out of 10

do not know that it can be classed as a disability under the Equality Act.

Arlene Wilkie at the Migraine Trust said, "While migraine appears to have touched the majority of people polled, the very debilitating and serious nature of the condition is still not recognized."

"The poll findings will strike a chord with many sufferers who have received inadequate backing

from their bosses, schools and universities."

Two-thirds of those questioned said employers don't understand migraine or its effects on staff.

Migraine affects one in five women and one in every 15 men.

Symptoms include disturbed vision, nausea, vomiting and sensitivity to light, sounds and smells.

Many sufferers have to lie down for hours.



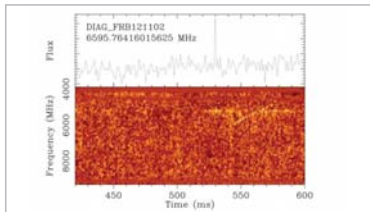
wellnesshub.co.za



Scientists have described 381 new Amazonian species in a new paper. The species were identified over the course of a two-year survey by a team of researchers.

### Researchers detect first repeating radio bursts to come from distant galaxy

Breakthrough Listen, a \$100 million project to find signs of alien life in the Universe, announced that it detected 15 powerful, repeating radio pulses coming from a galaxy three billion light years away.



UPI Researchers detected 15 powerful, repeating radio bursts coming from space for the first time on August 26.

The radio activity was first detected by Breakthrough Listen postdoctoral researcher Vishal Gajjar with the Green Bank telescope in West Virginia, UPI reported.

Fast radio bursts from across the Universe have been detected before, but this marks the first time they have been repetitive, suggesting they're not random but rather a planned disbursement from an advanced civilization used to power space aircraft.

The University of California, Berkeley, said, "Such mechanics are already in the works on Earth, where Breakthrough Starshot is working on a plan to use powerful laser pulses to propel nanospacecraft to our solar system's nearest star, Proxima Centauri."

Andrew Siemion, director of the Berkeley SETI Research Center and of the Breakthrough Listen program, said, "Bursts from this source have never been seen at this high a frequency."

However, researchers do not know at this time what the radio bursts mean for sure.

There could be many non-extraterrestrial explanations, including the possibility they're just coming from rotating neutron stars with extremely strong magnetic fields. Siemion added, "Whether or not fast radio bursts turn out to be signatures of extraterrestrial technology, Breakthrough Listen is helping to push the frontiers of a new and rapidly growing area of our understanding of the universe around us."

### Ape intelligence research poisoned by human ego

In a newly published study, researchers argue the intelligence and cognitive abilities of apes are continually underestimated and discredited.

According to a team of international scientists, decades of ape research has been poisoned by the base assumption that humans are smarter and more capable than — and all-around superior to — their ape ancestors, UPI wrote.

David Leavens, a professor at the University of Sussex, said such an assumption is wrong and makes for flawed science.

Leavens said, "As humans, we see ourselves as top of the evolutionary tree."

"This had led to a systematic exaltation of the reasoning abilities of human infants, on the one hand, and biased research designs that discriminate against apes, on the other hand."



UPI New research suggested there is little scientific evidence to suggest human infants are cognitively superior to apes.

As proof of the problem and often twisted logic deployed in ape research, Leavens and his colleagues cite studies in which the superior cognitive performance of apes over human infants is explained as a consequence of an ape's inferior cognitive abilities.

Leavens added, "There is not one scientifically sound report of an essential species difference between apes and humans in their abilities to use and understand clues from gestures, for example. Not one."

Leavens and his colleagues aren't arguing that apes boast cognitive abilities equal to humans.

In their new study — published in the journal *Animal Cognition* — researchers simply make the case that the current science doesn't support the assumption of human superiority.

Kim Bard, a professor at the University of Portsmouth, added, "In examining the literature, we found a chasm between evidence and belief."

One of the biggest problems, researchers argue, is apes are often pitted against human children in tests where exposure or Western cultural norms are an advantage.

For example, apes and human infants are sometimes tested on their ability to understand Western conventions of non-verbal communication.

The apes, of course, have not been exposed to Western conventions of non-verbal communication.

In their latest study, scientists argue ape researchers must work harder to put apes and human infants on equal footing prior to cognitive testing.

Leavens and Bard suggest researchers can do this by improving methods of studying cross-fostered apes, undertaking intensive training studies, and studying subjects that have been raised in a wider variety of environments.

# How our immune systems could stop humans reaching Mars

Astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson once commented that dinosaurs are extinct today because they lacked the opposable thumbs and brainpower to build a space program.

Yet although we now have the technological ability to leave Earth, scientists have found another stumbling block to colonizing new worlds — our own immune system, telegraph.co.uk wrote.

Although it is said we are all made of 'star stuff' when it comes to traveling away from our home planet humans are far more vulnerable to the rigors of space than our interstellar origins might suggest.

Billions of years of evolution has effectively backed mankind into a corner of the Solar System that it may be now be tricky to leave.

A team of scientists from Russia and Canada analyzed the effect of microgravity on the protein make-up in blood samples of 18 Russian cosmonauts who lived on the International Space Station for six months.

They found alarming changes to the immune system, suggesting that they would struggle to shake off even a minor virus, like the common cold.

Professor Evgeny Nikolaev, of Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, said, "The results showed that in weightlessness, the immune system acts like it does when the body is infected because the human body doesn't know what to do and tries to turn on all possible defense systems."

The effects of spaceflight on the human body have been studied actively since the mid-20th century and it is widely known that microgravity influences metabolism, heat regulation, heart rhythm, muscle tone, bone density, the respiration system.

**Tim Peake: down to Earth**  
Astronauts initially go through a 45 day reconditioning period to build up bone mass and strength, but complete readaptation can take between six weeks and three years after returning to Earth and some problems never go away.

- Head**  
In space the brain gets used to losing the senses of equilibrium, orientation and gravity. Once back on Earth the return of these can result in dizziness and vertigo.
- Cardiovascular**  
While in space, the heart has become smaller, blood volume has decreased, and blood pressure sensors have become ineffective.
- Muscles and joints**  
Astronauts can lose as much as 20% to 40% muscle size and function during long trips and need rehabilitation on Earth.
- Bones**  
Astronauts lose up to 1.5% of their bone mass for each month spent in space so Tim Peake could be missing nearly 10%.
- Eyes**  
Astronauts have complained about vision problems such as blurriness following trips into space and near and distance vision problems. These problems can last for years.
- Height**  
In space disks of the spinal column no longer compress due to gravity and can expand. The result: the spine lengthens, and the astronaut becomes taller.
- Skin**  
Astronauts lose more skin cells and age faster during spaceflight.
- Immune System**  
More than half of astronauts show significant signs of immune dysfunction after long missions.
- Circadian Rhythms**  
We all have an inner clock - the circadian timing system - that tells us roughly what time of day it is. That cycle is disrupted in orbit.

telegraph.co.uk

Astronauts are fitter than the general population and have access to the best medical care, meaning that their health is usually better than the general population. Those of comparable age but who never flew, or only achieved low Earth orbit, had less than a one in 10 chance

Microsoft announced that a major update to its Windows operating system will be released globally on October 17.

Quoting Microsoft Executive Vice President of Operating Systems Terry Myerson, phys.org reported, "Release of Windows 10 'Fall Creators Update' will come the same day that Windows Mixed Reality headsets powered by the software hits the market."

"Unlike virtual reality gear already available, Windows headsets made by partners such as Acer, Asus, HP and Lenovo will not require cameras to track user movements."

Windows headsets will be priced as low as \$299, and will need to be plugged into computers powered by the Fall Creators Update.

The US technology titan showed off the Windows 10 update at the company's annual developers' conference early this year to encourage creation of offerings tuned to the software.

At the time, Myerson said that the update will offer, among other upgrades, enhancements in gaming, security, accessibility, and immersive new experiences made possible by Windows Mixed Reality.

The original version of Windows 10

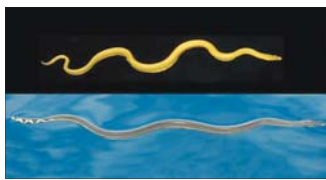
**Windows 10 update set for October release**

To get Windows 10 adopted quickly, Microsoft plans to give it away as a free upgrade for a year after its release.

pcmag.com

debuted a little more than two years ago. The latest version of Windows 10 is being built into a wide array of devices that will be on the market in time for the year-end holiday shopping season. The company promised an audience of more than a billion people for those who develop services or applications for Win-

### This sea snake looks like a banana, hunts like a slinky



sciencenews.org A newly discovered sea snake subspecies (top) is shorter — and a lot brighter — than its yellow-bellied brethren (bottom).

With its bright hue, this snake was bound to stand out sooner or later.

A newly discovered subspecies of sea snake, *Hydrophis platurus* xanthos, has a narrow geographic range and an unusual hunting trick, sciencenews.org reported.

The canary-yellow reptile hunts at night in Golfo Dulce off Costa Rica's Pacific coast.

With its body curled up at the sea surface, the snake points its head under the water, mouth open.

Study coauthor Brooke Bessenen, a conservation biologist at Osa Conservation, a biodiversity-focused nonprofit in Washington, DC, said, "That folded posture 'creates a buoy' that stabilizes the snake so it can nab prey in choppy water."

In contrast, typical *Hydrophis platurus*, with a black back and yellow underbelly, hunts during the day, floating straight on calm seas. The newly described venomous

snake has been reported only in a small, 320-square-kilometer area of Golfo Dulce.

After analyzing 154 living and preserved specimens, the researchers described the reptile's characteristics July 24 in *Zoology*.

The scientists hope that the subspecies designation will enable the Costa Rican government to protect the sunny serpent, which they worry is already at risk from overzealous animal collectors.



## Organ donors should let family know of intentions

More than 450 relatives of organ donors in the UK declined permission to donate as they were unsure of their relatives' wishes in 2016, figures showed.

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) said families are reluctant to give their loved one's organs to patients, BBC wrote.

Last year, 457 people died while on the active transplant waiting list, and currently there are 6,414 patients waiting for organs.

NHSBT said donors should ensure they have told relatives of their wishes.

Assistant Director of Organ Donation Anthony Clarkson: "It's a tragedy, hundreds of people are dying unnecessarily every year waiting for transplants.

"We know that if everyone who supported donation talked about it and agreed to donate, most of those lives would be saved."

It is campaigning for more people to become donors, and let their families know their intentions, as part of Organ Donation Week which began on Monday and ended on Sunday.

Currently England and Northern Ireland operate an opt-in scheme, where potential donors need to make their wishes known.

Whereas in Wales, the NHS has an opt-out clause, where people inform the NHS Organ Donor Register if they do not want to donate.

Scotland is set to also offer an opt-out, but the permission of a donor's family will still be sought.

Clarkson added: "If you want to save lives, don't leave it too late to talk to your family."

"If you want to be a donor, your family's support is still needed for donation to go ahead, even if you are on the NHS Organ Donor Register."

The parents of a child who died waiting for a heart transplant decided to donate her kidneys after their daughter's passing.



bbc.com

Aoife O'Sullivan from Leigh-on-Sea in Essex, died aged four in March 2016 waiting for a heart transplant.

Mother Michelle O'Sullivan said: "If you are willing to accept an organ donation, it is only right that you should be willing to donate the special gift of life to another family."

The British Heart Foundation claimed that more than 250 people in the UK are waiting for a heart transplant, but only 200 operations took place in 2016 due to lack of organs.

The charity's associate medical director, Dr. Mike

Knapton, said: "For these people, it's an agonizing wait for a new heart that could mean the difference between life and death."

"It takes two minutes to sign up to the Organ Donor Register, and even less time to have a conversation with your loved one about your wishes."

"This might seem like a difficult conversation, but it could save the lives of people in desperate need of a heart transplant, and ensure your wishes are respected after death."

## Children's books with human characters have bigger moral impact than animals

Children's books that feature humans are more likely to have a greater moral impact than those with animals, a study found.

Research published by the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) found that human protagonists are required to change behavior, according to The Independent.

In the study, one of three stories read to almost 100 children between four and six years old: Mary Packard's Little Raccoon Learns to Share, in which anthropomorphic animals learn that sharing makes you feel good; a version of the story where animal illustrations were replaced with human characters; or a control book about seeds.

Before the story was read to them, each child chose 10 stickers to take home and were told that an anonymous child would not have any stickers to keep.



deviantart.net

It was suggested to the children that they could share their stickers by putting them in an envelope for the anonymous child when the supervisor was

not looking. After they had been read the story, the children were allowed to choose another 10 stickers, and again asked to donate to the

stickerless child. The study, which has just been published in the journal Developmental Science, found that those children who were

read the book with human characters became more generous with the stickers.

In contrast, there was "no difference in generosity between children who read the book with anthropomorphized animal characters and the control book; both groups showed a decrease in sharing behavior."

Patricia Ganea, associate professor of early cognitive development at OISE, said that while "a growing body of research has shown that young children more readily apply what they've learned from stories that are realistic... this is the first time we found something similar for social behaviors."

"The finding is surprising given that many stories for young children have human-like animal," she said.

"We should consider the diversity of story characters and the roles they are depicted in," she said.

## Quarter of South Korean workers did not use vacation time

Nearly a quarter of salaried workers in South Korea did not use their vacation time from August 2015 through July of last year, a report by a local culture and tourism organization said.

The findings, based on a survey of 4,357 people nationwide by the Korea Culture and Tourism Institute (KCTI), showed 23.9 percent of those checked said they did not use their vacation time. The lack of free time was reflected in South Koreans putting in some of the longest work hours in the world at the time the survey was being made, Yonhap wrote.

South Koreans worked an average 2,113 hours annually compared with 1,766 hours on average for all member states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2015 OECD data showed.

The country's labor law limits work hours to 52 hours a week, but employees actually can work up to a maximum 68 hours, if they show up at their jobs on Saturdays and Sundays.

Workers at the agriculture and fishery industry topped



businesskorea.co.kr

the list of those who did not have vacation with 74.2 percent, followed by manual laborers at 57.3 percent, those working for the machinery and equipment industry dipped to 35.8 percent and soldiers at 35.4 percent.

Professional workers were the group who enjoyed vacation the most, with 87.9 percent having taken time off, trailed by office workers at 85 percent, managers at 84.7

percent and sales personnel at 77.1 percent.

The average vacation period was 5.9 days, with 48.4 percent of those surveyed having fewer than five days of vacation.

About 33.6 percent had a vacation period of five to nine days.

Only 16.3 percent had a longer holiday period between 10-19 days, with just 1.7 percent having more than 20 days off for vacation.

About 3.78 days of vacation was spent during the summer, while 0.83 and 0.48 days were spent for autumn and winter, respectively.

Sightseeing was the most popular activity for vacationers at 30.6 percent, while 26.5 percent went camping, 19.6 percent visited hot springs or beaches and 19.1 percent spent their free time shopping and dining.

About 15.2 percent of workers went abroad for their vacation, 14.3 percent visited amusement parks, 13.4 percent toured cultural heritages, 12.1 percent just watched television and 11.7 percent took part in regional festivals.

## Call for including free movement in Global Compact on Migration

Latin America and the Caribbean called for the free movement of persons to be included in the Global Compact on Migration, which will be negotiated within the United Nations in 2018, in the first meeting held by any of the world's regions to decide on the position to be adopted on the future agreement.

Nearly a hundred experts on migration from the region took part in the meeting at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) headquarters in Santiago on August 30-31, which brought together representatives of governments, international bodies, civil society and academia, Ipsnews reported.

Louise Arbour, UN special representative for international migration, who is to draft the "zero draft" of the compact before the end of the year, told IPS, "This is the first regional meeting and it gives us a great deal of information about what is happening today with people. It confirms many ideas, such as what is going on with irregular migration and people's rights."

Earlier, during the closure of the meeting, Arbour said that up to now "the movement of migrants, women and children has been poorly managed. They first talked about illegal immigrants, and pejoratively of economic immigrants."

"Xenophobia is an expression of anger and lack of trust in governments," she said.

"The goal is to facilitate regulated migration. It's not on our agenda to stop the movement of people," she said in reference to the Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration which is in moving forward within the UN.

Arbour anticipated that the draft will be "rooted in a development agenda" and will be aimed at "a people-centered, forward-looking pact that is realistically ambitious."



opensocietyfoundations.org

ECLAC executive secretary Alicia Bárcena considered it imperative that "equality be at the core of the Compact, although perhaps we better first start with equity."

"The DNA of the Compact is cooperation," she said, adding that with this agreement "migration ceases to be about security and human rights, and becomes a development issue, in a strategic matter of global governance."

For Bárcena, the six dialogues in different regions of the world that are to precede the proposal of a draft and the negotiations of the Compact in 2018 are "an unprecedented process and an opportunity which I do not know whether the international community is aware of."

Juan José Gómez, Mexican ambassador to the UN and co-facilitator of the intergovernmental consultations and negotiations for the Compact, said "it is nearly a miracle" to debate the subject of migration at a global level because "for decades the doors of the UN had been closed to this problem."

To negotiate after debating first "has saved us from negotiating on the basis of preconceptions, prejudices and misinformation. The initial stage of regional debates will allow us to take an X-ray of migration to replace the rhetoric and prejudices with evidence, data and reality," he said.

Gómez said the document "should be realistic and acceptable for all member states, in order for it to be respected."

He also stressed that "migration is a net gain for receiving countries". He pointed out that 85 percent of the annual incomes of migrant workers remain in the receiving countries, amounting to three trillion dollars a year.

Laura Thompson, deputy director general of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), said that the compact will reflect "common principles and understandings" and called for "a capacity to manage migration" to prevail, entailing in the first place "protection of the human rights of all migrants".

Diego Beltrand, IOM regional director for South America, said that the regional meeting meant "progress and achievements, because in a comprehensive debate not only challenges and problems have been identified, but also proposals and concrete experiences that will be tremendously useful for the final discussion of the compact."

Esther Cuesta, an Ecuadorian member of parliament in representation of the migrants of her country, who herself was a migrant for 19 years, said that in the region "it is imperative to eradicate poverty because we cannot prevent abuses, exploitation, human trafficking or migrant smuggling if we do not create peaceful societies with increased well-being so that people don't have to move and flee from their places of origin in extremely precarious conditions and become victims of totally inhumane exploitation".

"In the highly capitalist nation-state system that we live in, free circulation of capital has been developed," she said.

"Capital flows to fiscal paradises — evasion that has impoverished many states in our region. But while there is free movement of capital, the movement of people has been restricted, even though there is no capital without human beings, and capital makes no sense without human life," she complained.

Valter Bittencourt, head of the Network of Migrant Workers of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), said that 60 million members from some 60 central unions, said that "the Compact should consider free movement of people, of workers, the right to migrate, to stay or return home in dignity."

"Immigrants, regularized or not, should have the same rights as all citizens," emphasized the Brazilian trade union leader.

## Mother discovers her son's coffin was buried empty

A woman has discovered her baby son's coffin was buried without his body in it, 42 years after his death. For nearly half a century Lydia Reid has been fighting for the right to exhume her son's body, to finally answer the question of what really happened to him, metro.co.uk reported.

In 2001, a report was released detailing how the bodies of many dead children in Scottish hospitals had been used for research without the consent of their parents.

Reid's son Gary was just seven days old when he died at Edinburgh's Sick Kids Hospital in 1975.

She asked to see him, however she was shown a body which she said was not Gary, which led to her fearing his body had also been used without her consent and that his coffin was buried with nothing in it.

Recalling the horrifying moment, she said: "I objected but they said I was suffering from post-natal depression. "This baby was blonde and big, my baby



Lydia Reid has been wondering about her son's body for 42 years. BBC



was tiny and dark-haired. This was not my son."

Reid finally got a court order for an exhumation, which confirmed her worse fears.

The coffin was disintegrated, however forensic anthropologist Professor Dame Sue Black said she found no skeletal remains, only a hat, a shawl and

a name plate (which had incorrectly spelled his name as 'Garry'). She said the only "possible logical explanation and that is that the body was not put in that coffin".

Despite the revelation, Reid still wants to know what happened to her son's body.

NHS Lothian deputy chief executive Jim Crombie said: "Our condolences are with the family of Gary Paton. This matter is now being looked into by the police and we are unable to comment further."

## How dreaming about the same person over and over again does mean sth?

Dreams can be anything from immensely satisfying, to bittersweet right through to absolutely terrifying — and everything else in between.

Perhaps the most perplexing of all dream models are recurring dreams — in particular if they always feature the same person, over and over again, mirror, co.uk wrote.

Maybe, you're happy to see this person. Or perhaps they're your sworn nemesis. Either way, their repeat dream-time camcos DO mean something, apparently.

While it's not uncommon to have recurring dreams (two thirds of us experience them) the reasons behind them are, psychologically, interesting.

What does it all mean?

Luckily, the purpose behind someone cropping up repeatedly in your dreams isn't as literal as you may think it is, i.e. they're not a sign you'll be spending the rest of your life with them (sorry).

Clinical psychologist John Mayer told Elite Daily, "The model of the mind is very true to the

idea of a computer. When we go to sleep, that little computer will keep churning. It doesn't just turn off and stop. We have a perception that we're blank when we sleep — but [the brain] keeps going."

Mayer added, "We should not take someone cropping up in our dreams repeatedly in a literal way. That person is instead symbolizing a certain stress or anxiety we are going through."

"The dreams are usually not exactly the same each time, but the recurring theme is usually something in your head that is somehow unresolved. It just keeps repeating over and over again in that computer."

"So if the data is the same in the machine, you need to replace it with other data, or resolve that conflict, or solve that problem."

And if you're having a dream that's particularly upsetting, Mayer advises finishing it off yourself by putting your head down and ending the dream in an "unexpected and positive way".



## Thief returns historic stone to abbey

An Australian thief returned a stone he stole from a historic abbey because he believes it was giving him bad luck.

The mysterious traveler posted the small stone back to the Abbeycwmhir Heritage Trust in Wales believing the ghost of a headless prince was angry with him, metro.co.uk reported.

The anonymous 'fan' of Welsh history sent the acorn-sized rock back with a letter apologizing for his actions.

His message read: "I am so sorry for taking, borrowing, stealing this piece of the old Abbeycwmhir."

"I have been an avid follower of the Welsh kings and their history and so I took this rock."

"Ever since I have had the most awful luck as if Llewellyn himself was angry with me. So



The 'haunted' rock sent back to Wales from Australia. CASCADE NEWS

I am sending it back. I will not leave my name or address, just a heartfelt sorry from an Australian fan."

Cwmhir Abbey near Llandrindod Wells in Powys, is a Welsh Cistercian monastery

founded in 1176 CE by Welsh prince Cadwallon AP Madog. Unfortunately for Cadwallon, he was killed by Sir Roger Mortimer in 1179 CE.

Later in the 13th century, the abbey was set on fire twice by



English soldiers and in 1231 CE the abbot was fined £200 for aiding the Welsh cause against the crown.

The headless body of Llywelyn AP Gruffudd, the last native Prince of Wales, was buried in the abbey after his death in battle in 1282 CE. Since his grisly demise there have been numerous reports of his ghost haunting the ruined abbey.

The note along with the stone has been put on display in the Exhibition Room at the entrance to the abbey.

## Maternity photo shoot with bees has the Internet buzzing

A photographer in Massillon, Ohio, has the Internet buzzing in awe.

Kendra Damis was hired by local beekeeper and honeybee rescuer Emily Mueller to do a maternity photo shoot — with a twist, sunnyskyz.com reported.

Since bees are such a big part of Emily's life, she came up with the idea of including a swarm of honeybees in her pictures.

To get all the

bees to join in the shoot, Emily simply put the queen bee in her hand and the rest all followed her!



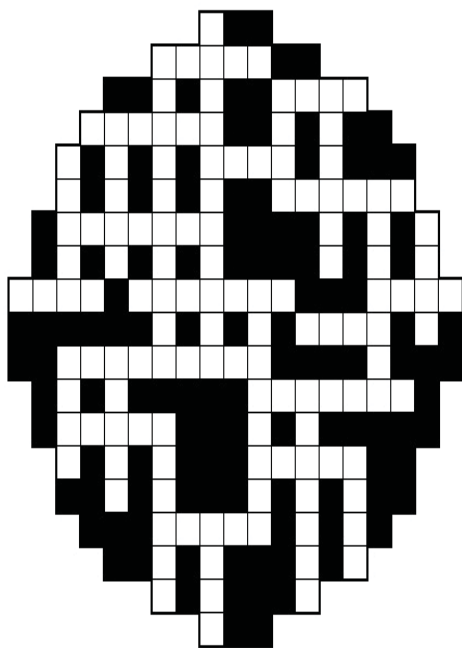
As one might imagine, the pictures from the session have gone viral. Kendra said she is surprised by all the positive responses the photos have gotten.

"I love that so many people get to see my work and — hopefully get a better understanding of the docile honey bee."



KENDRA DAMIS PHOTOGRAPHY

### Global Word-Fit



- 4 letters: CHAD, CUBA, IRAQ, LAOS, LIMA, OSLO, PERU, SUVA, TOGO, UTAH

- 5 letters: ACCRA, ARUBA

- GHANA, LAGOS, NIGER, SPAIN, WALES

- 6 letters: ANKARA, MADRID, SERBIA, SWEDEN

- 7 letters: GRENADA, INDIANA

- NAIROBI, NIGERIA, SAN JUAN

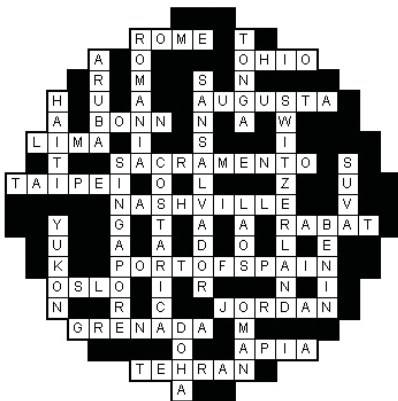
- 8 letters: BRASILIA

- 9 letters: TASMAN SEA

- 10 letters: ADDISABABA

- 11 letters: BUENOS AIRES

### Yesterday's solution



### Sudoku

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

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

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



Flaming fans

Twelve people were injured after a competition car sprayed burning fuel over fans at a drag-racing event in central Australia, on Monday.



GETTY IMAGES

# Iran set for perfect record, Syria seeks fairytale ending

Syria will look for the perfect ending to its fairytale run in the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification campaign with a win over Group A winner Iran in Tehran tonight to guarantee at least a playoff berth for the Qasoum Eagles.

The Syrians will be aware of the difficulty of the task as its opponent is unbeaten so far and has yet to concede a single goal in this campaign – something that has provided Iran with huge motivation even after wrapping up its qualification with a win over Uzbekistan in June, the-afc.com reported.

A scoreless draw with Korea Republic on Thursday saw Iran move to just one

game away from finishing the group stage with its record still intact, although Saïed Ezzatollahi's dismissal means the midfielder is suspended for tonight's encounter.

Syria's 3-1 win over Qatar saw the team leapfrog the Uzbeks into third and leaves it with a very realistic chance of finishing in the top three. With Omar Khribin and the recently recalled Omar al-Somah leading the frontline, Ayman Hakeem's side has the firepower to trouble the stubborn Iranian defense.

**Match-fixing conspiracy not possible**

A German news website ruled out

the possibility of a match-fixing conspiracy by Iran and Syria in their Group A last fixture.

Ahead of the tonight's game between Iran and Syria, rumors of a game-fixing plot by the two teams are rife.

According to a Farsi report by the Jame Jam Online news website, close political relations between Iran and Syria and the fact that they are both Muslim states have fueled such rumors.

With 21 points from their previous nine matches, Iran sits on top of Group A's table and has already qualified for the next year's extravaganza in Russia.

Syria, on the other hand, has notched up 12 points from its earlier fixtures and only needs a win at Azadi Stadium in the Iranian capital of Tehran to keep alive its hopes of guaranteeing at least a playoff berth or, if luckier, securing a place at the next year's World Cup.

Syria sits two points behind the second-placed Korea Republic and above the fourth-placed Uzbekistan on goal difference. The Koreans and the Uz-

becks will be facing off in Tashkent in a simultaneous kickoff. This means that a win could even see Syrians claim second spot and a historic first-ever FIFA World Cup appearance.

A couple of days before the match between Iran and Syria, Germany's shz.de news website has dismissed the likelihood that the match is going to be a fixed game, writing that despite the rumors of a probable match fixing conspiracy by the two squads, Iran's head coach Carlos Queiroz has categorically denied such gossips, promising that his side will take on Syria with all its might and at full capacity.

In addition, after a goalless draw in the first leg of the match between the two teams in Malaysia in November 2016, Iran is highly motivated to defeat Syria in Tehran.

Meanwhile, the Iranian squad has not conceded even a single goal in its previous nine matches, setting a great world record. This is another factor guaranteeing that the Asian giant has high motivation for bettering its record by putting in a convincing performance in Tehran.

## Iran takes 2nd place in world beach soccer rankings

**Sports Desk**

Iran moved up to the second place of the Beach Soccer Worldwide (BSWW)

Rankings for the first time in the history of the game. Collecting 3,081 points, the 2017 World Cup third-placed side sealed the

second spot of the world rankings for the month of September which is monthly released by BSWW. World champion Brazil took the first

place on 4,563 points while the European giant Portugal fell down to third with 3,063 points followed by World Cup runner-up Tahiti and Russia.

## Argentina seeks advantage in South American qualifiers

Lionel Messi and Argentina will seek to maintain the pressure on Chile with a victory over Venezuela tonight as South America's 2018 World Cup qualifying race enters the home stretch.

A faltering campaign has left Argentina fifth in the standings with three games remaining, just outside the top four spots which guarantee automatic entry to next year's finals in Russia, AFP reported.

It would still take a dramatic sequence of results for the unthinkable – a World Cup without Argentina and Messi – to become reality.

Even if Jorge Sampaoli's side fails to lock up automatic qualification and finishes fifth, it would still be favorite to qualify via a two-leg playoff against a team from Oceania, almost certain to be New Zealand.

Yet the gloom that has enveloped the Argentinian squad throughout the qualifiers means that little is being

taken for granted ahead of tonight's game at the Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires.

An uninspiring 0-0 draw with Uruguay in Montevideo on Thursday left Argentina level on 23 points with



ALEJANDRO PAGNA/AFPA Argentina's players look to be in good mood during a training session in Ezeiza, Buenos Aires, on September 3, 2017.

fourth-placed Chile, which leads on goal difference.

Sampaoli is expected to persist with the bulk of the team which started against Uruguay, with Messi leading a potent front three that features Paulo Dybala and Mauro Icardi. Javier Mascherano could return for the suspended Gabriel Mercado, while Ever Banega may replace Guido Pizarro.

Argentina was frustrated by a Uruguayan side which defended in depth and packed the midfield. With Venezuela likely to use similar tactics, Sampaoli has urged his team to be more aggressive tonight.

"We have to be more aggressive in the last third and get more people in the area," he said following the Uruguay stalemate.

"We have to ensure that the team wins. We have to win so that Argentina can be at the World Cup in Russia."

## Deschamps left 'infuriated' by Luxembourg draw

France coach Didier Deschamps was left "infuriated" by his side's failures in front of goal in its goalless draw with Luxembourg, a result labelled "historic" by his opposite number.

The home side had 76 percent possession, 34 shots and hit the woodwork

twice as France failed to win against Luxembourg for the first time since 1914, BBC reported.

"It is infuriating to have so many chances and not score," said Deschamps.

His counterpart Luc Holtz said, "It's a

day of glory for Luxembourg football."

Despite playing the team ranked 136 in the world, Deschamps fielded a strong side for the World Cup qualifier in Toulouse, including Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba, Atletico Madrid forward Antoine Griezman and

Kylian Mbappe, who recently joined Paris St-Germain on loan from Monaco with a view to a £166 million transfer next summer.

Griezman did smack a 30-yard free-kick off the bar five minutes before half-time while Pogba saw a header rebound off the frame of the goal late on.

It could have been worse for Les Bleus, though, as Luxembourg substitute Gerson Rodrigues outpaced Laurent Koscielny in the 79th minute before seeing his shot strike an upright.

France, who beat the Netherlands 4-0 on Thursday, stays top of Group A after the stalemate, although its lead over second-placed Sweden is now just one point.

"Thursday's result was important but so was getting three points [against Luxembourg], so we'll need to fight to the end," Deschamps told TF1.

"The last two games will be decisive. We are in a better situation than we were in June, although we are disappointed tonight."

Luxembourg beat Belarus 1-0 on Thursday for its only win of the qualifying campaign so far.

"We are satisfied with the point, which we got playing with a lot of heart, commitment and also success," added Holtz.

"With a bit more luck we would have got the three points.

"For Luxembourg, the result is historic. A point against a top team is extremely rare."



GETTY IMAGES

France's Antonio Griezman is frustrated after missing a chance in the goalless draw against Luxembourg in Toulouse, France, on September 3, 2017.

## Sharapova, Muguruza out, Venus Williams through US Open quarters

Maria Sharapova's first Grand Slam tournament in 19 months ended with defeat by Anastasiya Sevastova in the US Open fourth round.

Latvia's Sevastova, the 16th seed, won 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals in New York, BBC reported.

Sharapova, ranked 146th after returning from a doping ban in April, was given a wildcard into the main draw.

"It's been a really great ride in the last week," said the 30-year-old. "I can take a lot from this week. It's great to get that major out of the way. It was an incredible opportunity. I'm very thankful for the opportunity."

"I did my best. I can be proud of that."

The 2006 champion had played just one match since May coming into Flushing Meadows, with injuries forcing her out of the grass-court season and US Open buildup.

Asked after Sunday's defeat if she felt as though she had a target on her back, Sharapova responded, "I feel like I'm really beyond that. I mean, there's no other way to explain it."

"I think there's only a way to show it on the court, because that's what really matters to me."

"I have so many things in my life that I've already been able to experience, but there's a desire to keep going for more, and to keep training and to keep living through these moments out on these courts."

"That's special and that's meaningful. As long as I have that desire, I'll be there. That's what's important to me."



AFP Maria Sharapova leaves the Flushing Meadows after being knocked out at the fourth round of the US Open in New York on September 3, 2017.

"I tried to work really hard to play here again. It means a lot, it's an incredible night to play in front of a great crowd," Kvitova said in her on-court interview.

"I don't think I can find the right words, it was a difficult time, all five months (away) were very tough."

Elsewhere in the women's fourth round, Venus Williams booked her place in the last eight with a three-set victory over Carla Suarez Navarro.

The 37-year-old American ninth seed recovered from a second-set defeat to win six games in a row and came through 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

"The energy of the crowd here, it makes me feel I've got to hit a winner, I've got to hit an ace. I love it here," Williams said in front of the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd.

"I don't know how to explain my longevity," said Williams. "If I did I would bottle it and sell it. My sister and my family motivate me a lot."

"I am focused on myself and being as aggressive as possible. Nobody gives you a Slam, you got to take it and I am trying to take it," Williams added.

**Paulo Coelho:**

Remember your dreams and fight for them. You must know what you want from life. There is just one thing that makes your dream become impossible: The fear of failure.

## Art & Culture

### 'Trial of an Anonymous Woman' fetches Iran AOF award

Iranian film 'Trial of an Anonymous Woman' won the prize for the best experimental work at the 2017 Action On Film International Film Festival (AOF).

Directed by Mohamadreza Rokneddini from the southern Iranian province of Hormuzgan, 'Trial of an Anonymous Woman' is a 21-minute flick dealing with today's society, Mehr News Agency reported.



mehnews.com

The film, which is the 14th directed by Rokneddini, has been coproduced by Banafshe Ebrahimi and Zobeydeh Gerdakani, the two independent Iranian producers from the same province.

This year the festival featured 60 Iranian films.

The panel of jury judging Iranian flicks at the fest included Nabi Zie, Mehdi Yarmohammadi, Maryam Pirband, and Mehrdad Salek.

This year, the AOF was held in Las Vegas from August 17 to 27.

### Serbian festival to host eight Iranian films

Eight Iranian films will be screened in various competition sections of the 4th International Short Film Festival, also known as SHORTFORM, in Serbia.

Iran will field four films in the event's 'Micro Film' section, Mehr News Agency reported.

The films are 'Soccer Shoes' directed by Saeed Arab-Taheri, '1-0' by Saman Hosseinpour, 'Full Color' by Ario Saffarzadegan and 'Kite' by Iraj Afkar.

A total of 29 other titles will compete in this section.

The festival's 'Mini Film' section will see three Iranian films on screen. They are 'An Embrace Colored Like Mother' by Sina Ayoubi, 'Classroom' by Reza Golchin, and 'Refugee Camp' by Saeid Nagavian.

Iran's sole representative in the 'Short Film' section is an animated movie titled 'Light Sight' directed by Moslem Tabatabaei and produced by Simin Farokh-Ahmadi.

The festival is scheduled to be held from September 26 to October 1 in Gornji Milanovac, Serbia.

This year's edition will host flicks from Spain, Bulgaria, France, Germany, the Netherlands, India, Mexico, Turkey, South Africa, Ukraine and Croatia.

### 'Light Sight' shone in three continents in August

Iranian short animated film 'Light Sight', directed by Moslem Tabatabaei, won three international awards in film festivals in India, Italy and the US.

'Light Sight' won the best animation award at India's 2nd Kagit International Film Festival held from August 21 to 23, Mehr News Agency reported.

The short animated movie also received the best student film award at Sunrise 45 Film Festival held in the US which took place from August 18 to 20. Tabatabaei's animation also won the award for the best soundtrack at Italy's Luci Della Ribalta Film Fest held during August 11-28.

The story of 'Light Sight' takes place in a room in an undefined height which is lit with a white light coming from a string. M.A., the character of the story, is born and the light breathes life into him. M.A. is mesmerized with the white light, but suddenly is distracted by glowing colorful balls with which the entire wall has been decorated.

M.A. starts playing with these balls which coordinate with his hands. Meanwhile, he takes a glimpse of the light and arrogantly beckons it forward. Faced with disobedience of the white light, M.A. orders the balls around with his hand in order to use them to go up towards the light. However, before his hand could seize the light, he is buried under a large number of balls.

The white light saves him from this predicament. This makes M.A. even more devoted to the light so again he tries to approach the light, but this time with humility. However the balls try to prevent him from reaching the light which leads to a battle between M.A. and the balls.

The animation has also been nominated for the best short film in the third Marietta International Film Festival which is scheduled for September 9 and 10 in the US. It has also won several other awards at various international festivals, including the best animation award at the Social Machinery Film Festival in Italy which was held during March 29-July 31, 2017.

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## Majidi rushing to Gold Mine after Beyond the Clouds journey in subcontinent



pinterest.com

After his maiden India-set project 'Beyond the Clouds', Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi will be back in India soon to start working on his second film set in the country.

The project which is scheduled to go on floors next year, is titled 'Gold Mine', ndtv.com reported.

The Oscar-nominated director said "the ambience of India" and "wonderful relationship between humans and nature" inspired him to shoot his next film in the Asian country.

"The ambience of India is magical and incomparable... there exists a wonderful relationship between humans and nature. The undying spirit of people and their hope for life, in spite of all hardships, is unbelievable," Majidi said in a statement.

"All these inspire me to shoot my next film in India as well and be the narrator of this effort by [Indian] men, women and children whose love for life encourages them to stay strong and rise over and above any hurdles that come in their path," he added.

Majidi said he has always "believed that India has so many stories to tell with its myriad of cultures and people from different milieu".

With the film, he will be collaborating with producers Shareen Mantri Kedia and Kishor Arora for the second time, under their banner of Namah Pictures.

"I am going to collaborate on this film like my previous film with Shareen and Kishor at Namah pictures who are very professional in their approach," he said.

A source said "Gold Mine" is based on a subject that came to Majidi during his frequent visits to north India, adding he has been developing the idea and recently visited the location where his story is based for further planning and rescue.

"It's a pleasure to collaborate with Majidi for the second time. We share a common thought that India is a virtual gold mine of compelling stories that have a global connect and we are very happy taking India to the world," Kedia said.

To this, Arora added, "The casting for the film begins in two months from now and we'll be going on floors mid-2018."

Meanwhile, Majidi's 'Beyond the Clouds' will have a world premiere at the forthcoming 61st BFI London Film Festival. 'Beyond the Clouds' is an official selection in the competition category, which will take place on October 13 and 14.

Featuring actor Shahid Kapoor's brother Ishaan Khatter and Malavika Mohanan in lead roles, the film covers the nuances of an adorable brother-sister relationship, and has been completely shot in India.

### 'Greenland Melting' premieres at Venice filmfest's VR section

A documentary from Nova, Frontline and the Emblematic Group, 'Greenland Melting', premiered as part of the 74th Venice Film Festival's VR lineup.

In a film that might convince even the most strident of climate change deniers, PBS series Frontline and Nova have joined forces with the Emblematic Group to examine the rapid melting of the Arctic ice sheet, hollywoodreporter.com wrote.

The result, 'Greenland Melting', is a 3D, 360° virtual reality film, that hopes to bring home the physical reality of epic changes occurring in the northern hemisphere.



CATHERINE UPIN/hollywoodreporter.com

sphere.

The trailer from the film shows NASA scientists, rendered as 3D figures, as they conduct groundbreaking research into the forces transforming the landscape, and examine the ramifications for the entire world.

Nova and Frontline produced 'Greenland Melting' together with Emblematic Group in association with X-Rez Studio and Realtra.

'Greenland Melting' is screening at the Venice International Film Festival as part of its VR line-up — Venice Virtual Reality.



MONA HOSEHFEKRSNA

A ceremony to celebrate the birthdays of Iranian artists and cineastes born between August 23 and September 22 was held in Tehran on September 3, 2017. The event was attended by Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Ali Moradkhani as well as cinema producers Farzad Talebi and Mohsen Ali Akbari.

### Weather



34 15  
Arak



29 26  
Astara



32 14  
Birjand



35 17  
Qazvin



35 19  
Mashhad



34 ^  
v22  
Tehran



31 16  
Kabul



15 9  
Minsk



16 7  
Stockholm



35 20  
Tashkent



32 23  
Tripoli