



IRAN DAILY



Leader reiterates prohibition of ethnic, racial discrimination in Iran

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UN: Syrian opposition must accept it has not won the war



NIOC signs flaring deal with French Sofregaz



Iran's tourism industry booming

Japan calls for expansion of economic ties with Iran

Rouhani: Smooth banking relations to boost mutual relations



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (R) meets Japanese Prime Minister's special envoy Masahiko Komura in Tehran on September 6, 2017.

International Desk

Japan called for expansion economic relations between Tehran and Tokyo in various fields on Wednesday. During a meeting between Japanese Prime Minister's special envoy Masahiko Komura and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the Japanese official said "We must attempt to deepen economic and business relations between the two countries more than before in various fields of mutual interest," president.ir reported. Komura delivered Shinzo Abe's written message to Rouhani and congratulated him on his re-election. Describing Iran's commitment to the 2015 nuclear agreement with world powers as a source of trust

among the countries of the region, Komura said. "Iran has always played an effective role in maintaining peace and stability of the region". During the meeting, President Rouhani told the Japanese official that there are great potentials for investment and promotion of cooperation between Iran and Japan. Rouhani welcomed expansion of bilateral ties between the two countries, noting that the Japanese private sector and companies can be involved in Iran's various sectors, such as oil, gas, petrochemicals, dam construction and development of ports. The president added: "Facilitating banking relations between Iran and Japan can contribute to developing relations and economic cooperation

between Tehran and Tokyo". Describing the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as an important international deal, president Rouhani appreciated Japan's positive role in the negotiations. "Today, after the conclusion of the negotiations and the implementation of the JCPOA, we should not let this significant agreement to be distorted," he said. Despite the US, Iran has been committed to the nuclear deal, he said. "The Islamic Republic of Iran will never be the first one to violate the agreement but will respond properly to the lack of commitment of the other side," the president added.

Haley: Trump refusal to certify Iran compliance won't mean withdrawal from JCPOA

The US envoy to the UN said President Donald Trump's possible refusal to certify Iran's compliance with its nuclear deal does not constitute US withdrawal from the agreement. "If the president chooses not to certify Iranian compliance, that does not mean the United States is withdrawing from the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action)," Nikki Haley said at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington on Tuesday, despite the US administration's repeated threats that it would scrap the deal. Press TV wrote, "If the president finds that he cannot certify Iranian compliance, it would be a message to Congress that the administration believes either that Iran is in violation of the deal, or that the lifting of sanctions against Iran is not appropriate and proportional to the regime's behavior, or that the lifting of sanctions is not in the US national security interest, or any combination of the three," she added.



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UN chief warns of ethnic cleansing risk in Myanmar

The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in a rare letter to the Security Council on Tuesday expressed concern that the violence could spiral into a "humanitarian catastrophe" and warned there was a risk of ethnic cleansing in Myanmar that could destabilize the region.

people — predominantly Muslims — from their homes to camps for the internally displaced, where many remain in squalor. Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi is under increasing pressure for her silence over Rohingya plight in the country. IN in a state-



AFP

Guterres said it's crucial that Myanmar's government immediately reverse its longstanding policy and give Rohingya Muslims either nationality or legal status so they can lead normal lives and freely move, find jobs, and get an education, Reuters reported. Guterres cited the longstanding history of "discrimination, hopelessness and extreme poverty" in Myanmar's western Rakhine State and appealed to the country's civilian and military authorities to end the current violence. "The grievances and unresolved plight of the Rohingya have festered for far too long and are becoming an undeniable factor in regional destabilization," he warned. An army crackdown triggered by an attack on Aug. 25 by Rohingya insurgents on Myanmar security forces has led to the killing of at least 400 people and the exodus of nearly 125,000 Rohingya to Bangladesh, leading to a major humanitarian crisis. The Rohingya Muslim ethnic minority in Rakhine has faced systematic persecution for decades at the hands of Myanmar's Buddhist majority, who consider most of them to be illegal immigrants from neighboring Bangladesh. The military junta that ruled the nation for decades stripped them of their citizenship and rights. The Rohingya were the targets of violence in 2012 that killed hundreds and drove about 140,000

ment, she made no mention of the Rohingya who have fled. Also on Wednesday, Bangladesh lodged a protest after it said Myanmar had laid landmines near the border between the two countries, government officials said, amid growing tensions over the huge influx of Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in Myanmar. When asked whether Bangladesh had lodged the complaint, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said "yes" without elaborating. Three other government sources confirmed that a protest note was faxed to Myanmar in the morning saying the Buddhist-majority country was violating international norms. "Bangladesh has expressed great concern to Myanmar about the explosions very close to the border," a source with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters. The source asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter. Two Bangladeshi sources said they believed Myanmar security forces were putting the landmines in their territory along the barbed-wire fence between a series of border pillars. Both sources said Bangladesh learned about the landmines mainly through photographic evidence and informers. Myanmar, which was under military rule until recently and is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world, is one of the few countries that have not signed the 1997 UN Mine Ban Treaty.

Americans protest Trump's decision to scrap DACA

Students in the United States walked out of their schools in protest at Donald Trump's decision to end a program that protected 800,000 young immigrants from deportation. It was the first day back to school for many across the US, with students looking to make their feelings about the move to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) scheme clear. Hundreds of students walked out in Denver, Colorado, Washington DC, San Francisco and other cities in the country.



Protesters take to the streets of San Francisco, Calif., in response to US president phasing out of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program September 5, 2017.

Several thousand people marched through San Francisco on Tuesday night in a call to arms against Trump's decision. "We're here to stay," protesters chanted as they brought a swathe of downtown to a standstill and urged Congress to protect the DACA. Beyond the protests, Democrats and civil liberties advocates blasted Trump. "President Trump's decision to end DACA is a deeply shameful act of political cowardice and a despicable assault on innocent young people in communities across America," said Nancy Pelosi, the top Democrat in the House of Representatives. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who announced the decision to end the program, said the action does not mean the DACA recipients are "bad people." "To have a lawful system of immigration that serves the national interest, we cannot admit everyone who would like to come here. It's just that simple. That would be an open-border policy and the American people have rightly rejected that," Sessions said.

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Putin: Sanctions, pressure alone won't resolve North Korea crisis

Resolving the North Korean nuclear crisis is impossible with sanctions and pressure alone, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday after meeting his South Korean counterpart, adding that the impact of cutting oil would be worrying. Putin met South Korea's Moon Jae-in on the sidelines of an economic summit in the eastern Russian city of Vladivostok amid mounting international concern that their neighbor plans more weapons tests, possibly a long-range missile launch ahead of a weekend anniversary, Reuters reported. Putin denounced North Korea's sixth and largest nuclear bomb test on Sunday, saying Russia did not recognize its nuclear status. "Pyongyang's missile and nuclear program is a crude violation of UN Security Council resolutions, undermines the non-proliferation regime and creates a threat to the security of north-eastern Asia," Putin said at a joint news conference. "At the same time, it is clear that it is impossible to resolve the problem of the Korean Peninsula by sanctions and pressure alone," he said. No headway could be made without



South Korean President Moon Jae-in (L) meets Russian President Vladimir V. Putin in Vladivostok, Russia on September 6, 2017.

political and diplomatic tools, Putin said, later telling the TASS News Agency that Russian and North Korean delegations might meet at the Vladivostok forum. Russia, which shares a border with North Korea, has repeatedly called for negotiations with Pyongyang, suggesting that the US and South Korea should discontinue all war games in exchange for North Korea halting its testing program. Moon, who came to power this year advocating a policy of pursuing engagement with North Korea, has come under increasing pressure to take a harder line.

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Leader reiterates prohibition of ethnic, racial discrimination in Iran

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei underlined that all Iranians should be treated equally under Islamic teachings and the country's Constitution, calling for concerted efforts to prevent any harm to the national unity and dignity.

"All elements of the Islamic Republic (Establishment) are duty bound, in accordance with the religious teachings and the Constitution, to refrain from allowing any discrimination and inequality among the Iranians from any ethnicity, race or faith," Ayatollah Khamenei said in response to a letter from Molavi Abdul Hamid, a top Sunni cleric in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The Sunni cleric had recently sent the letter to Ayatollah Khamenei, calling for greater attention to the rights of religious minorities in Iran.

In the reply to the Sunni cleric's letter, sent by Chief of the Leader's Office Staff Hojatolislam Mohammad Mohammad Golpayegani on August 22, Ayatollah Khamenei said he "strongly holds the belief" that all Iranians should stand together and close ranks to contribute to the country's dignity and success and not allow the enemies to undermine such unity.

Ayatollah Khamenei has frequently underlined that unity is the only solution to the problems the Muslims are facing.

He has warned that the "arrogant powers" have created religious wars in Islamic countries to divert attention from the fight against Israel.

Commander: Iran immune against military threats

The high level of military readiness in Iran and the capabilities of the Armed Forces have made the country immune against any military threat, Commander of the Iranian Army Ground Force Brigadier General Kiamars Heidari said.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a military event in Iran's northeastern city of Bojnourd on Wednesday, General Heidari said the army is "more prepared than ever," Tasnim News Agency wrote.

Thanks to the optimum status of defensive readiness and under the wise guidance of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the country is not facing any military threat, the commander added.

In comments on Saturday, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri cautioned the enemies of the heavy costs they would have to pay in case of any military action against Iran, saying they won't be the one deciding when and how to end such a war, which would not remain confined to Iran's borders.

He also stressed that a military aggression against Iran, however improbable, would not involve boots on the ground, because the enemies know how tough Iranian fighters are going to be up against.



MEHR NEWS AGENCY

Rouhani urges Myanmar to prevent crimes against Muslims

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani denounced systematic violence against Muslims in Myanmar and called on the Southeast Asian country's government to take immediate action to prevent the "savagery crimes."

In Myanmar, Muslim people have been suffering difficulties, hundreds of thousands have been displaced, and many others have been killed, President Rouhani said at a cabinet session in Tehran on Wednesday, Tasnim News Agency reported.

He further emphasized that there is no difference between the Muslims of Myanmar and other Muslims in the world.

"As a Muslim and revolutionary country, we feel a responsibility to help all the oppressed in the world, even if they are not Muslims," he said.

"We call on the government of Myanmar to put an end to the savagery crimes against the (Rohingya) Muslims," President Rouhani added.

More than 125,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar for Bangladesh in two weeks amid a crackdown by the country's military.

Myanmar's government brands more than one million Rohingya Muslims in the country as "illegal immigrants" from Bangladesh. Rohingya Muslims, however, have had roots in the country that go back centuries. They are considered by the UN the "most persecuted minority group in the world."

US threats

Further in his remarks, Rouhani said



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threats by the United States had pushed North Korea to test nuclear weapons and were a "dangerous game for the entire world."

"Why has North Korea chosen this path today which has worried people in East Asia? It is because of threats against North Korea's existence," Rouhani said,

as reported by AFP.

"Can one joke around with atomic weapons? When a country has obtained an atomic weapon, then the game of threatening then becomes a dangerous game for the entire world," he added.

"We believe this issue must be resolved

through negotiations and dialogue."

North Korea conducted a sixth nuclear test during the weekend, saying it was a hydrogen bomb that could be fitted on a missile, prompting the US to accuse the nation of "begging for war."

Rouhani said US officials needed to tone down their rhetoric.

Zarif: Deir ez-Zor siege relief 'important victory'

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the Syrian army's breaking of a years-long siege by Daesh Takfiri group of the eastern city of Deir ez-Zor is an "important victory" against extremist and terrorist groups.

Zarif made the remarks in an interview with Lebanon-based Arabic-language al-Mayadeen news network published on Tuesday, according to Press TV.

He once again voiced his objection to the settlement of the Syrian crisis through merely military approaches, saying, "The people and resistance are achieving victory in Syria and we will grow farther from a military solution with the defeat of Daesh."

Zarif also reiterated that the fate of the Syrians is in their own hands. "We should not dictate to the Syrian people what they should do. We have re-



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sisted against extremism and we must facilitate from now on the path of dialogue among different popular groups

in Syria," the Iranian foreign minister added.

Since the outset of the Syrian crisis,

Iran has sought to help the Arab country's people fight against extremism through political channels, he said.

Zarif pointed to a new round of Syria peace talks in the Kazakhstan's capital of Astana and described the initiative as the "most successful diplomatic move" adopted after the beginning of the Syrian crisis.

The next round of negotiations between representatives from the Syrian government and foreign-sponsored armed opposition besides delegates from Iran, Russia, and Turkey as mediators is scheduled to be held on September 14-15 in Astana.

Astana has hosted five rounds of peace talks for Syria since January. The negotiations are aimed at bringing an end to the foreign-backed militancy in the violence-battered Arab country, which began in March 2011.

Haley: Trump refusal to certify Iran compliance won't mean withdrawal from JCPOA

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The remarks came after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) verified Iran's compliance with the JCPOA in its latest quarterly report on Thursday.

Haley described the JCPOA as a "very flawed and very limited agreement" that was "designed to be too big to fail."

Last week, the Trump administration sent Haley to Vienna to lobby with the IAEA to request access to Iranian military sites as part of the deal.

Iran has repeatedly contended that the US demands for access to Iran's military sites are aimed at politicizing the JCPOA and that issues pertaining to Tehran's defense capabilities are non-negotiable.

Trump has also set up a team of his White House confidants to present him with "options" other than certifying Iranian compliance with the deal to the Congress. Such certification is needed by US law every 90 days in order for the Congress to continue to withhold nuclear-related sanctions against Iran.

The Trump administration has twice

so far certified Iran's compliance with the deal. US media reports said Trump agreed to those certifications only "reluctantly."

The White House has been further pressuring US intelligence officials to produce intelligence that could be used to declare Iran in violation of the nuclear agreement.

Trump, who had made no secret of opposing Iran in his election campaign, has threatened to "tear up" the agreement, calling it "the worst deal ever negotiated."

The JCPOA was inked between Iran and the P5+1 countries — namely the US, Russia, China, France, and Britain plus Germany — in July 2015 and took effect in January 2016.

Under the deal, limits were put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for the removal of all nuclear-related bans imposed on the Islamic Republic, among other things.

Unlike the US, the European parties to the nuclear deal as well as Russia and China have never raised any complaints about the agreement with Iran and have stressed full commitment to it.

in Syria," the Iranian foreign minister added.

Since the outset of the Syrian crisis,

Commander:

US paid \$17b in outstanding military debts to Iran

The US has paid \$1.7 billion of its outstanding debts to Iran under previous mutual military contracts signed before the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution, an Iranian deputy defense minister said.

"Currently, we have some claims from the US with regard to the pre-Revolution contracts, some of which have been paid over the recent years, including a sum of \$1.71 billion," said General Reza Tala'i-Nik in a TV interview on Tuesday, Press TV reported.

The Islamic Republic's outstanding claims under other contracts from the US are currently being reviewed at Iran-US Claims Tribunal at The Hague, the commander said.

Tala'i-Nik pointed to the US military presence in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, denouncing it as "violation of the international law."

"The security of the Persian Gulf can only be provided through the participation of its littoral states and regional co-



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operation, as presence of foreign sides has merely disrupted security in the region," the commander noted.

Iranian naval forces are tasked with guaranteeing security within the country's maritime borders, where they have been involved in a series of face-offs with US vessels for intrusion into Iranian territorial waters.

Iran has repeatedly warned that any act of transgression into its territorial waters would be met with an immediate and befitting response.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi

Czech public sector unions threatened on Wednesday to call a rare nationwide strike unless the government agreed to raise wages before an October parliamentary election.

UN: Syrian opposition must accept it has not won the war

Syria's opposition must accept that they have not won the six and a half year war against President Bashar al-Assad, UN peace talks mediator Staffan de Mistura said on Wednesday.

"The issue is ... will the opposition be able to be unified and realistic enough to realize they did not win the war?" he said, Reuters reported.

Asked if he was implying that Assad had won, he said: "I am not the one to write the history of this conflict ... but at the current moment I don't think anyone can actually claim to have won the war."

The Syrian forces have been fighting different foreign-backed armed groups and terrorists wreaking havoc in the Arab country since 2011.

More than 310,000 people have been killed in the conflict. The fighting has displaced more than half the population, internally or abroad.

Corridor into Deir al-Zor

The Syrian Army and its allies are fighting to secure and expand a precarious corridor to their comrades in Deir al-Zor, a day after they smashed through Daesh lines to break the terrorist siege.

The army reached Deir al-Zor city on Tuesday in a sudden, days-long thrust that followed months of steady advances east across the desert, breaking a siege that had lasted three years.

However, Daesh counter-attacks lasted through the night, the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said, as the terrorists tried to repel the army.

It points to a tough battle ahead as the army aims to move from breaching the siege to driving Daesh from its half of the city, the sort of street-by-street warfare in which the terrorists excel.

"The next step is to liberate the city," a commander in the military alliance backing President Bashar



United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura attends a news conference at the United Nations office in Geneva, Switzerland, on September 6, 2017.

al-Assad said.

Dozen killed in US airstrikes

A so-called monitoring group said at least a dozen civilians have lost their lives when the US-led coalition purportedly fighting the Daesh terrorist group conducted a series of aerial assaults on Syria's terrorist-held northern city of Raqqah.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported on Wednesday that 12 civilians, including two children and four women, had lost their lives in the attacks against residential areas in the city, located about 455 kilometers (283 miles) northeast of the capital Damascus, Press TV reported.

The report came only two days after Syria's official news agency SANA reported that at least 14 civilians had

been killed in similar airstrikes against Al-Naim district in the city.

The raids also severely damaged private property and civilian infrastructure in the targeted area.

The city of Raqqah, which lies on the northern bank of the Euphrates River, was overrun by Daesh terrorists in March 2013, and was proclaimed the center for most of the administrative and control tasks of the terrorist group the following year.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) says Daesh terrorists are holding some of the civilians trapped in Raqqah as human shields.

The US-led coalition has been conducting airstrikes against what are said to be Daesh targets inside Syria since September 2014 without any authorization from the Damascus government or

a UN mandate.

Aug. death report

According to AA, a total of 772 civilians were killed in Syria last month, according to a new report by a London-based NGO devoted to tracking rights violations in war-torn Syria.

In a monthly report issued Sunday, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) documents civilian deaths throughout Syria during the month of August.

According to the SNHR, international coalition forces - led by the US - were responsible for most of last month's civilian deaths.

The report found that at least 285 civilians, including 58 women and 97 children, were killed by coalition forces during the period in question.

Mighty Hurricane Irma makes landfall in Caribbean island of Barbuda

Monster Hurricane Irma slammed into the island of Barbuda early on Wednesday as it barreled its way across the Caribbean packing ferocious winds and potential for towering coastal surges.

The eye of the rare Category Five storm made landfall on Barbuda - part of the twin island nation of Antigua and Barbuda - just before 0600 GMT with winds gusting at up to 295 kph (185 mph), the Miami-based US National Hurricane Center said, AFP reported.

The storm is headed northwest toward the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, with potential for storm surges of up to six meters (20 feet) above normal tide levels, it added.

The NHC said on Tuesday that while Irma was in the Atlantic



LIONEL CHAMOISEAU/AFP

headed for the Caribbean it was the strongest hurricane ever recorded in that ocean.

Ahead of the storm, which came on the heels of the devastating Hurricane Harvey late last month in Texas, people packed shelters, stocked up on provisions and evacuated tourist areas as far north as Florida. The storm is expected to last for days.

The NHC said in a bulletin at 0600 GMT that the eye of Irma was passing over Barbuda.

As people hunkered down in the north of the Caribbean arc known as the Leeward Islands, the NHC said Irma was a potentially catastrophic storm.

Power was turned off across Antigua as a safety precaution because power lines are above ground. Families packed shelters. One after another, scared people sitting in the dark called in to radio stations.

The core of the hurricane was expected to move over other parts of the northern Leeward Islands early Wednesday, the NHC said.

It will then head northwest toward the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico later Wednesday or Wednesday night.

Category Five is the highest on the scale for hurricanes in the Atlantic and Caribbean.

In Guadeloupe, families filed into shelters with their children, along with tourists.

Florida expects the greatest danger from Friday night through Monday.

President Donald Trump declared states of emergency in Florida, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, authorizing federal funding to help local authorities respond.

Threat to Puerto Rico, Florida

Florida Governor Rick Scott said Irma posed "a severe threat to the entire state" barely a week after Harvey claimed at least 42 lives.

There were long queues as people rushed to get batteries, bottled water, groceries and fuel, while many cut trees around their homes and sought to tie down objects and seal up their windows.

Category Five hurricanes are rare. They can tear off roofing, shatter windows, uproot palm trees and turn them into projectiles that can kill people.

In Puerto Rico, Governor Ricardo Rossello activated the National Guard and announced the opening of storm shelters able to house up to 62,000 people.

A US aircraft carrier with a field hospital and dozens of aircraft able to conduct rescue or supply missions have been positioned in the area, according to Alejandro de la Campa of the Caribbean division of the US Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Americans protest Trump's decision to scrap DACA

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In a statement issued by the White House, Trump said, "I do not favor punishing children, most of whom are now adults, for the actions of their parents. But we must also recognize that we are a nation of opportunity because we are a nation of laws."

Protests were held around the country in response to the DACA announcement as well. In New York City, activists marched from Central Park down Fifth Avenue to Trump Tower, the private residence of the President.

The DACA program was enacted five years ago by the administration of former President Barack Obama. The program was geared toward helping young immigrants who had come into the United States illegally as children, when they were too young to make their own decision on the matter. The program did not provide protections for parents of those DACA recipients, however another program pushed by the Obama administration sought to do so.

Since 2012, nearly 800,000 undocumented immigrants have received protections through DACA, which allows young immigrants to apply for and receive work permits. Many of those DACA recipients have been able to pursue careers and study in American schools and universities. Many have also started families during that time. A considerable portion of DACA recipients have been in the United States long enough that they know no other home than America, and would not know what to do if forced to move back to their countries of citizenship. DACA primarily benefits Hispanics. Most people covered by the program are in their 20s.

Brazil former presidents Lula, Rousseff charged in corruption case

Brazil's top prosecutor on Tuesday charged former Presidents Luis Inacio Lula da Silva and Dilma Rousseff along with fellow Workers Party members with forming a criminal organization, the latest accusations in Brazil's sprawling corruption scandal.

The prosecutor, Rodrigo Janot, alleged that eight members of the Workers Party, including Lula and Rousseff, committed a series of crimes involving state-owned oil firm Petrobras such as cartel formation, corruption and money laundering, Reuters reported. They were the first criminal charges to be leveled against Rousseff, who was impeached in 2016 for breaking budgetary laws.

The 230-page document filed with the Supreme Court accused Lula of heading the organization.

Lula's lawyer said the law was being misused to persecute the former president.



Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, and former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff (R) attend the opening ceremony of the national congress of the Workers' Party in Brasilia, Brazil, June 1, 2017.

The Workers Party said in a statement that the charges were baseless and being used to divert attention from other investigations, including one into a former federal prosecutor, referring to a case Janot announced on Monday. A representative for Rousseff said the prosecutor's office had offered no evidence of the crimes and called on the Supreme Court to guarantee the right to defend against them.

Lula, who is still Brazil's most popular politician, is appealing a corruption conviction that would bar him from running for president in 2018. He faces four other corruption trials. The charges stem from the Operation Car Wash investigation that uncovered a cartel of companies paying bribes to officials to secure Petrobras contracts, revelations that have spawned a host of investigations that has shaken Brazil's political system and economy.

EU sources: France wants right to veto euro clearing in UK after Brexit

France wants European Union regulators to have a veto over how Britain supervises UK-based clearing houses of euro denominated transactions after Brexit, EU sources said.

The EU's executive European Commission proposed a draft law in June that sketches out a system of joint supervision of "systemic" clearing houses outside the bloc that handle large amounts of derivatives and other contracts traded in euros, Reuters reported.

Officials from the bloc's member states meet next week to begin the approval process for the draft law, and the two biggest states, Germany and France want tougher measures than what's been proposed so far. EU sources with knowledge of the meeting said. Each member state was asked to give their views on the draft law, and France has said it wants



Pound and Euro coins are seen in this picture illustration taken January 18, 2017.

the ability of the ECB to impose extra requirements on non-EU clearing houses to be given to the European Commission and to the bloc's European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) as well, the sources said.

France wants them to "have a say, up to a veto right if needed" on some decisions taken by non-EU authorities, if those decisions go against the bloc's interests, the sources added.

Putin: Sanctions, pressure alone...

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He has asked the United Nations to consider tough new sanctions after North Korea's latest nuclear test.

Diplomats say the UN Security Council could consider banning North Korean textile exports, barring its airline or stopping supplies of oil to the government and military.

The UN secretary general warned the US and North Korea that "confrontational rhetoric may lead to unintended consequences" and stressed that the nuclear crisis must be solved diplomatically.

Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday it's "absolutely crucial" that the UN Security Council is united in dealing with North Korea's nuclear and missile tests and that the US, Russia, China, Japan and South Korea use one strategy.

Guterres told reporters at UN headquarters in New York on Tuesday that North Korea's nuclear and missile tests threaten regional and international stability.

He urged communication and offered to support any efforts to peacefully resolve "this alarming situation."

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Iranian oil delivery to Russia still under discussion: Minister

The issue of arranging supplies of Iranian oil to Russia under the "oil-for-goods" mechanism is being worked out, said the Russian energy minister.

"This issue is still being worked out," Alexander Novak told TASS.



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On August 19, Novak said that Iran can start within next month the deliveries of crude oil to Russia under the "oil-for-goods" program.

The arrangement dates back to 2014 when Iran tried to boost vital energy exports in the face of intensified Western sanctions. At the time, it was said that Moscow and Tehran were discussing a barter deal that would see Moscow buy up to 500,000 barrels a day (bpd) of Iranian oil in exchange for Russian equipment and goods.

Novak has said the two sides were discussing sales of 100,000 bpd of Iranian oil to Russia, with supplies being "either physical or swap-based".

"We are finalizing the last details of regulatory documents. I think I will respond to your question within one month," he said.

The initial arrangement was for swapping around 300,000 bpd via the Caspian Sea and the rest from the Persian Gulf, possibly Bandar Abbas port.

Novak's remarks came after Iranian officials confirmed that the country had resumed Caspian oil swap after seven years.

In August, Hamid Hosseini at the Iranian Oil Pipeline and Telecommunication Company said Iran was ready to swap 500,000 bpd of oil with its Caspian Sea neighbors.

The swap arrangement was halted during the tenure of former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as authorities questioned its economic merits. The average daily swap was 90,000 bpd in 2009, which Iran planned to raise to 300,000 bpd in 2015.

The swaps meant Tehran could supply northern areas with oil processed at the Tehran, Tabriz and Arak refineries without having to transport it all the way from wells in the south. Iran also charged the partners with a transit fee which totaled \$880 million between 1997 and 2009, according to the local media.

Iran eying investment in India projects

Iranian businessmen and industrialists are planning to take part in development projects of India, said an official.

Enhancing Iran's business engagement in India to generate an annual income of four trillion dollars is a major goal Tehran is pursuing, a member of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture said, reported Fars News Agency.



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"Iranian and Indian businessmen can be pioneers in developing economic diplomacy between Tehran and New Delhi," Bahman Eshqi, secretary general of Tehran Chamber of Commerce said.

He underlined that India is seeking to attract foreign investments and apparently no other country in the vicinity of India is more capable than Iran to become a source of investment for New Delhi.

As the second most populous country in the world and the seventh largest by area, India is in need of energy to develop its economy, the trade official said.

He underlined that Iran can easily and securely meet the energy needs of India.

Experts contend that Iran and India can capitalize on the Chabahar joint development project as well as the North-South Corridor to boost trade exchanges between the two nations.

North-South Transport Corridor is a sea, rail, and road route expected to facilitate and boost the exchange of goods between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.

NIOC signs flaring deal with French Sofregaz

National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) signed a \$42-million contract with France's Sofregaz on Wednesday for the recovery of flare gas at a refinery in South Pars — the world's largest gas field.

Iran's Samin company is also a signatory to the deal, which is expected to take 30 months to complete, Reuters reported.

France's Total signed a deal with Tehran in July to develop Phase 2 of South Pars, marking the first major Western energy investment in the Iran since the lifting of sanctions in January 2016.

Total will be the operator with a 50.1 percent stake, alongside Chinese state-owned oil and gas company CNPC with 30 percent, and National Iranian Oil Co. subsidiary Petropars with 19.9 percent.

The project will cost up to \$5 billion and production is expected to start within 40 months, Iran's Oil Ministry said in a statement at the time.

Gas flaring is responsible for over 60 percent of air pollution in the oil-rich province of Khuzestan and a major contributing factor to the province's low air quality alongside dust particles, said the director of the provincial Department of the Environment on August 31.

Ahmadreza Lahijanzadeh added that although the problem of dust storms has been smoothed in recent weeks, the Air Quality Index does not show any signs of improvement.

"Over 7.5 million cubic meters of sour gas burn in Khuzestan oilfields per day," he said.

Lahijanzadeh added that gas flaring could aggravate the conditions when added to the phenomenon of temperature inversion in the second half of the year.



REUTERS

Khuzestan has long been suffering from dust storms, but there are other critical factors behind the air pollution in the province.

Iran's production of four million barrels of crude oil a day results in the flaring of around 39 million cubic meters of gas across the country. For instance, Ahvaz in Khuzestan Province is reeling from air pollution caused by gas flaring.

To curb the issue, officials have proposed a land mapping project in a 3,000-hectare area in Mahshahr-

Omidyeh region in Khuzestan for the construction of a new petrochemical industrial city, to at least move away the source of pollution from the residential areas of the province.

According to Nassrollah Seifi, managing director of Iranian Fuel Conservation Company, energy consumption in Iran is three times higher than the global average, which definitely leads to the emission of more gas flaring.

Warning against Iran's rising energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels,

Seifi pointed to an IFCO report stating that by 2030, Iran's oil production will only be adequate to meet domestic demand.

"With a population of 80 million people, Iran's consumption rates in some energy sectors equal those of China with 1.3 billion people," he said.

Iran's short-term goal, as outlined in the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan (2017-22), is to reduce energy consumption index by half to 0.56 — down from the current 1.12.

Iran's gas will eventually reach Pakistan: Zanganeh

A much-delayed pipeline project which is to carry gas from Iran to energy-starved Pakistan will eventually get rolling, said Iran's oil minister.

According to Press TV, Bijan Namdar Zanganeh further said, "In general, I think that Iran's gas will eventually be exported to Pakistan, but considering the experience I have gained in these years, I think a third party is needed to solve this issue between Iran and Pakistan."

He added, this means that a third company has to build the Pakistani section of the IP (Iran-Pakistan) pipeline and ease our concerns about the payment.

Zanganeh said a number of international oil and gas companies were interested in the project, but nothing firm has come up yet.

The gas project has faced repeated delays since it was conceived in the 1990s to connect Iran's giant South Pars Gas Field to Pakistan which suffers from rolling blackouts. Iran has completed its side of the pipeline and is waiting for Pakistan to do the same.



IRNA

Zanganeh said, "The Pakistanis say they have no money to build the pipeline on their soil and there are concerns that if the pipeline is built and gas is exported, they may not be able to pay for the gas."

On Monday, Zanganeh said that cooperation by non-OPEC members, especially Russia, and OPEC members' adherence to an agreement to cut oil output

is helping the market stabilize.

"I see the oil market balanced. The compliance of the OPEC members is in good shape and the convergence of the members regarding the agreement to cut supplies in the past six months has not declined; it has increased," he noted.

Russia has been key to the agreement under which OPEC members have undertaken to trim oil supplies by 1.2 mil-

lion barrels per day, with non-OPEC members cutting a further 600,000 barrels.

"The cooperation of non-OPEC countries, in particular Russia, is good in the deal to reduce oil supply, and I think the market is moving toward stability," he stated.

The minister said Iran welcomes the cooperation of all non-OPEC producers, citing Brazil which he saw unlikely to join the output cut agreement under the current circumstances.

He made the remarks before a meeting in Tehran with Brazil's Minister of Mines and Energy Fernando Coelho Filho as he welcomed the participation of Brazilians in Iran's oil and gas projects under a new oil contracts model.

"However, they have not expressed interest up to this moment because, like us, they are a capital absorbing country and want to raise funds in their oil and gas industry," Zanganeh said.

The Brazilians, he said, seem to seek cooperation with Iran in the refining sector.

Talks on EEU-Iran partnership close to conclusion: Official

Negotiations with Iran on partnership with the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) are close to conclusion, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov said at the Eastern Economic Forum.

"We are in talks with Singapore and we are close to conclusion of negotiations with Iran," he said, noting that the talks are complicated, TASS reported.

Earlier, Trade Minister of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) Veronika Nikishina said that EEC can request a mandate for signing a temporary free trade zone (FTZ) agreement between Iran and the EEU in October 2017.

On August 14, the chairman of EEC Tigran Sargsyan said temporary agreement on establishing a free trade zone between the EEU and Iran may be signed in 2017.

Speaking to reporters following a meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Astana, Kazakhstan,



TASS

he said, "The decision has been taken to speed up the work to sign the agreement with Iran. We expect the document to be signed in 2017."

Negotiations between the EEU and

Iran on a temporary free trade zone agreement are expected to be completed by the next summit, scheduled for October 11, Sputnik reported.

In June, the EEC, with its bloc's

main executive body, said that the EEU and Iran had finished working on the text of the temporary free trade zone agreement and that the sides will continue talks on liberalizing mutual market access and coordinating tariff obligations in the near future.

Earlier, Iran's Ambassador to Russia Mehdi Sanaei said that the country is interested in economic projects of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, the EEU and the Chinese Silk Road.

In 2016, Russia and Iran agreed to pay for products in national currencies, thus stepping up economic cooperation.

The EEU, which includes Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, is an international organization that encourages regional economic integration through the free movement of goods, services and people within the union.

The outlook for Oman's banking sector was cut to negative by Moody's Investors Service to reflect a reduction in the government's ability to support the country's banks, weaker economic growth and tightening liquidity.

Scaling up development finance

The Business and Sustainable Development Commission has estimated that achievement of Agenda 2030 for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require \$2-3 trillion of additional investments annually compared to current world income of around \$115 trillion. This is a conservative estimate; annual investments of up to \$2 trillion yearly will be needed to have a chance of keeping temperature rise below 1.5°C.

The greatest challenge, especially for developing countries, is to mobilize needed investments which may not be profitable. The United Nations and others have revived the idea of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) issuing Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to finance development, IPS reported.

IMF quotas

SDRs were created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement member countries' official reserves (e.g., gold and US dollars). They were designed to meet long-term international liquidity needs, rather than as a short-term remedy for payments imbalances. The SDR is not a currency, but a potential claim on freely usable currencies (e.g., USD) of IMF members.

Currently, SDRs are allocated among members according to their IMF quotas. IMF quotas determine a member's maximum financial commitment, voting power and upper limit to financing. Determination of quotas has been influenced by the convertibility of currencies, as it provides the Fund with 'drawable' resources. Moreover, the current quota formula is highly influenced by countries' GDPs and trade.

Despite some reforms over the decades, IMF quotas are biased in favor of rich countries. Thus, arguably, SDR distribution based on IMF quotas is not neutral. Allocating more rights to provide poor countries with development finance would help redress this bias.

Concessional finance

The UN has long argued for creating new reserve assets (i.e., SDRs) to augment development finance instead of current provisions for distribution according to IMF quotas.

Creating new SDRs for development finance has its origins in Keynes' 1944 proposal for an international clearing union (ICU). The ICU was to be empowered to issue an international currency, tentatively named 'banco'.

The ICU would also finance several international organizations pursuing desirable objectives such as post-war relief and reconstruction, preserving peace and



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maintaining international order, as well as managing commodities.

From the late 1950s, Robert Triffin and others urged empowering the IMF to issue special reserve assets to supplement development finance. In 1965, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) endorsed a plan similar to Triffin's.

According to this plan, the IMF would issue units to all member countries against freely usable currencies deposited by members. The IMF would invest some of these currency deposits in World Bank or International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) bonds. The IBRD would then transfer some of these to the International Development Association (IDA) for long-term low-interest loans to the poorest countries.

Objections

However, the proposal was blocked by the Group of Ten developed countries. They argued that the proposal, for permanent transfers of real resources from developed to developing countries, would contradict the original

intent of costless reserve creation. Additionally, the G10 argued, direct spending of SDRs would be inflationary.

The creation of SDRs is not an end in itself, but a means to raise living standards. Thus far, the SDR facility has been used to try to ensure more orderly and higher growth in international liquidity, e.g., following the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, when a new allocation of SDR 182.7 billion was approved.

Also, by substituting for gold, which requires real resources to be mined, refined, transported and guarded, with costs of production and administration near zero, SDRs generate social savings, which can be used for internationally agreed objectives.

Jan Tinbergen argued that the first recipient gets money without having produced something, this privilege should be given to the poor countries of the world, instead of the rich.

But changing the SDR allocation formula requires amending the IMF Articles of Agreement, which requires approval of all powerful developed countries, which seems most unlikely in these times.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	83675.3	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	72675.6	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	91833.7	3826	4.27
First Market Index	58543.5	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	182857.0	2030.5	1.14

Overall Index details on 20170906

First	83733.5	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	83762.4	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	83674.8	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	83675.3	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

Industry Index details on 20170906

First	72761.3	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	72777.6	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	72675.1	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	72675.6	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

Free Float Index details on 20170906

First	91441.6	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	91833.7	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

Main Board Index details on 20170906

First	58600.8	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	58613.4	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	58543.5	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

Secondary Index details on 20170906

First	182894.4	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	183032.7	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	182857.0	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2235.2		

Australian GDP growth subdued in second quarter results

Australia posted 0.8 percent growth over the second quarter of this year, the Australian Bureau of Statistics said on Wednesday.

While the result was encouraging after the paltry 0.3 percent rise for the first quarter, not all economists have a rosy outlook for the Australian economy, and chief economist at Capital Economics Paul Dales told Xinhua on Wednesday that this result shows 'subdued' growth in Australia.

"The 0.8 percent q/q rise in GDP in the second quarter overstates the health of the economy as it needs to be taken in context of the weak 0.3 percent q/q rise in the first quarter," Dales said.

"The 0.6 percent q/q average of the two provides a better guide to the true trend, which suggests the economy is growing at a subdued rate of about 2.2 percent per year."

The rebound from the previous quarter growth result was due to an increase in activity — stunted last quarter due to weather events — but Dales believes that even as consumption growth increases, the housing market still poses a significant risk.

"The rise in consumption was largely due to yet another fall in the saving rate, from 5.3 percent to 4.6 percent," Dales said.



youraustralianbusiness.com

"Households won't be willing to reduce it much further now that house prices are rising at a slower rate and may soon stagnate — a weaker housing market will soon mean that dwellings investment becomes a persistent drag on growth."

While the manufacturing industry grew by 1.8 percent over the quarter, falling export prices were a 0.1 percent overall drag to the overall GDP result, and the chief economist for the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Bruce Hockman said that falling commodity prices are to blame.

"Recent swings in coal and iron ore prices have had significant effects on the Australian economy in terms of export revenues and real incomes, though export volumes continued to grow in the June quarter," Hockman said.

In terms of the future, Dales believes that the figures show that the Reserve Bank of Australia's target of three percent for 2018 is 'too optimistic', and suggested that a figure closer to 2.5 percent is a more realistic target.

Official Australian GDP growth for the 2016-17 financial year was 1.9 percent.

Yuan has fully recovered but still room to run



CNBC

Given its recent strength, there's even some talk that the yuan is becoming a safe-haven play.

China's yuan has been on a tear all year and has now recouped last year's losses — and analysts say there's still room to run, CNBC wrote.

At its strongest level on Tuesday, the yuan was changing hands at 6.5151 against the US dollar, pushing gains to more than six percent this year, according to Reuters data. The currency's appreciation had quickened its pace in August, marking its best month in 2017.

The yuan has strengthened much faster than expected, and it's even bucked the trend. While other Asian currencies have been falling in the face of rising political tensions between the US and North Korea, the Chinese yuan has actually continued appreciating.

Experts said the central bank has succeeded in demonstrating it can withstand downward pressure on the currency by tightening capital controls and with foreign exchange intervention.

There's even some talk that the yuan is becoming something of a safe-haven play. Callum Henderson, managing director at risk consultancy Eurasia Group, wrote in a note, "The government's capacity for control positions the Chinese yuan and China as a source of stability amid uncertain political and economic times and it avoids any possibility that the US administration could accuse China of weakening its currency ahead of the 19th Party Congress and President Donald Trump's visit to China."

China's 19th Party Congress is set to kick off mid-October, and it's the country's most important political event in five years, culminating with a change in the upper echelons of leadership.

For Beijing, maintaining stability in its economy and markets is a major priority ahead of the power shuffle, which is why the government has been working overtime to support the yuan.

The currency has also been buoyed by a weaker US dollar as buying sentiment for the greenback has soured as the US Federal Reserve has continued signaling it's unlikely to change interest rates for the rest of this year.

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2905	Chinese Yuan	0.1532
Euro	1.1947	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.3045	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3138
Australian Dollar	0.7990	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0092	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$48.75	Silver	\$18.00
Gold	\$1344.10	Platinum	\$1012.20
Copper	\$3.15	Wheat	\$443.50

Toward a resource efficient, pollution-free Asia-Pacific

nasa.gov

eco-business.com

BBC

By Shmshad Akhtar*

Senior government officials from across Asia and the Pacific will meet in Bangkok this week for the first-ever Asia-Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment.

The high-level meeting is co-convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) and UN Environment and is an opportunity for the region's environmental leaders to discuss how they can work together towards a resource efficient and pollution-free Asia-Pacific.

At the core of the meeting is the question: How can we use our resources more efficiently to continue to grow our economies in a manner that does not tax our natural environment or generate pollution affecting public health and ecosystem health. There is certainly much room for improvement to make in this area.

Resources such as fossil fuels, biomass, metals and minerals are essential to build economies. However, the region's resource

efficiency has regressed in recent years.

Asia is, unfortunately, the least resource efficient region in the world. In 2015, we used one-third more materials to produce each unit of GDP than in 1990. Developing countries use five times as many resources per dollar of GDP in comparison to rest of the world and 10 times more than industrialized countries in the region.

This inefficiency of resource use results in wastage and pollution further affecting the natural resources and public health which are the basic elements for ensuring sustainable economic growth.

As the speed and scale of economic growth continues to accelerate across the region, pollution has become a critical area for action.

While the challenge of pollution is a global one, the impacts are overwhelmingly felt in developing countries. About 95 percent of adults and children who are impacted by pollution-related illnesses live in low and middle-income countries.

Asia and the Pacific produces more

chemicals and waste than any other region in the world and accounts for the bulk — 25 out of 30 — of cities with highest levels of PM 2.5, the tiny atmospheric particulate matter that can cause respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and cancer.

More than 80 percent of our rivers are heavily polluted while five of the top land-based ocean plastic sources are from countries in our region. Estimates put the cost of marine pollution to regional economies at a staggering \$1.3 billion.

If left unattended, these trends threaten to upend hard-won economic gains and hamper human development. But while these challenges appear intractable, the region has tremendous strengths and opportunities to draw from.

Many countries hold solid track records of successful economic transformation. The capacity for promoting environmental sustainability as an integral pillar of sustainable development must now be developed across all countries in the region.

There are some profound changes underway

in Asia and the Pacific. The region is experiencing the largest rural to urban migration in history.

Developing these new urban areas with resource-efficient buildings, waste water and solid waste management systems can do much to advance this agenda.

Advancing the 'sharing economy' might mean we have better utilization of assets such as vehicles, houses or other assets, greatly reducing material inputs and pollution.

The widespread move to renewable energy should rein in fossil fuel use. And advances in recycling, materials technology, 3D printing and manufacturing could also support greater resource circularity.

Moving to green technologies and eco innovation offer economic and employment opportunities. Renewable energy provided jobs for 9.8 million people worldwide in 2015.

Waste can be converted into economic opportunities, including jobs. In Cebu City — the second-largest city in the Philippines, concerted Solid Waste Management has borne fruit:

Waste has been reduced by 30 percent in 2012; treatment of organic waste in neighborhoods has led to lower transportation costs and longer use period in landfills. The poor have largely benefited from hundreds of jobs that have been created.

At the policy level, it is vital that resource efficiency and pollution prevention targets are integrated into national development agendas, and targeted legal and regulatory measures to enforce resource efficiency standards should be established.

For example, the government of China has instituted a national system of legislation, rules and regulations that led to the adoption of a compulsory national cleaner production audit system that has been in place for more than 10 years. The direct economic benefits from this system are estimated to be more than \$3 billion annually.

*Shmshad Akhtar is executive secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

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در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

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و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه‌ها و شرکت‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

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

The rates of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia have dropped significantly over the last decade or so, a new study found.

Zika virus used to treat aggressive brain cancer

A harmful virus that can cause devastating brain damage in babies could offer up a surprising new treatment for adult brain cancer, according to US scientists.

Until now, Zika has been seen only as a global health threat — not a remedy, BBC reported.

But latest research showed the virus can selectively infect and kill hard-to-treat cancerous cells in adult brains.

Zika injections shrank aggressive tumors in fully grown mice, yet left other brain cells unscathed.

Human trials are still a way off, but experts believe Zika virus could potentially be injected into the brain at the same time as surgery to remove life-threatening tumors, the Journal of Experimental Medicine reports.

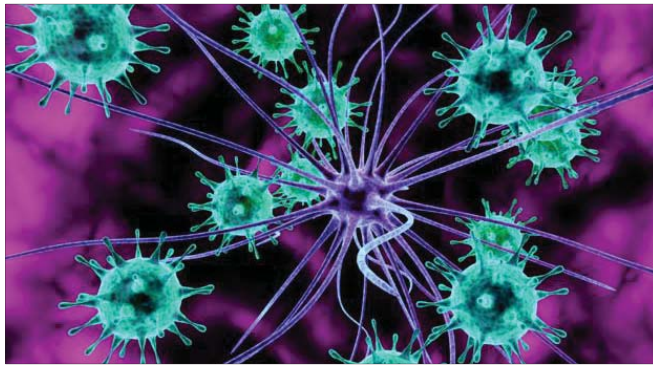
The Zika treatment appears to work on human cell samples in the lab.

There are many different types of brain cancer. Glioblastomas are the most common in adults and one of the trickiest to treat.

They are fast growing and diffuse, meaning they spread through the brain, making it difficult to see where the tumor ends and the healthy tissue begins.

Radiotherapy, chemotherapy and surgery may not be enough to remove these invasive cancers.

But the latest research, in living mice and donated human brain tissue samples, showed Zika therapy can kill cells that tend to be resistant to current treatments.



The virus would need to be delivered directly to where it is needed in the brain.

BBC

It is thought that these glioblastoma stem cells continue to grow and divide, producing new tumor cells even after aggressive medical treatment.

Different, healthy stem cells are found in abundance in baby brains, which probably explains why regular Zika can be so damaging to infants, said the researchers.

Adult brains, however, have very few stem cells. This means Zika treatment should destroy only the cancer-causing brain stem cells without causing much collateral damage.

As an extra safety precaution, the

team, from Washington University School of Medicine and the University of California San Diego School of Medicine, have already begun modifying the virus to make it tamer than regular Zika.

Researcher Dr. Michael Diamond said, "Once we add a few more changes, I think it's going to be impossible for the virus to overcome them and cause disease."

"It looks like there's a silver lining to Zika. This virus that targets cells that are very important for brain growth in babies, we could use that now to target growing tumors."

He hopes to begin human trials within 18 months.

Using viruses to fight cancer is not a new idea, but using Zika as the weapon of choice is.

UK scientists at the University of Cambridge are beginning similar trials with Zika.

Dr. Catherine Pickworth, from Cancer Research UK, added, "This promising research shows that a modified version of the Zika virus can attack brain tumor cells in the lab."

"This could one day lead to new treatments for this particularly hard to treat type of cancer."

Throat bacteria linked to bone, joint infection in kids

The presence of a particular germ in kids' throats may also mean they have the same infection in their bones or joints, researchers said.

The new findings could lead to improved treatments for the potentially devastating and deadly infections, UPI wrote.

Scientists previously believed that most bone and joint infections in children were caused by several types of bacteria, including Staphylococcus and Streptococcus.



UPI

Now, scientists are able to do a better job of identifying the germs that cause the infections, including the one that's the focus of the new study — Kingella kingae.

For the study which issued in CMAJ, researchers examined 77 kids in Canada and Switzerland.

The children were six months to four years old and confirmed to have bone or joint infections. The investigators compared them to almost 300 other children.

Study author Dr. Jocelyn Gravel of the University of Montreal said, "Using improved diagnostic methods, our study found that the vast majority of children younger than four years old suffering from a bone or joint infection were infected by Kingella kingae bacteria."

"More importantly, we discovered that 70 percent of children who had a bone/joint infection carried these bacteria in their throats, while it is uncommon in uninfected children — in only six percent."

The researchers said they can use this information to develop better treatments for children with bone or joint infections.

Gravel said, "Based on this study, we plan to change the way we investigate children at risk of bone/joint infection, because the identification of K. kingae in the throat of a child with a suspected bone infection will point towards K. kingae as the culprit."

"This may decrease the number of other tests performed to identify the pathogen."

Antibiotics are a common treatment for bone and joint infections in children, according to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

It can take several weeks for the infections to clear up, and surgery may be necessary in some cases.

This could be the unlikely trigger for your migraine

Severe headaches — or migraines — can be caused by medication, diet and jet lag, however financial stress may also be a trigger.

Research has found a link between financial worries and migraine, according to express.co.uk.

The findings, presented to the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology, showed that people with a specific gene variation were more susceptible to migraines when under money-related stress.

A migraine is a moderate or severe headache felt as a throbbing pain on one side of the head.

The debilitating neurological condition affects one billion people worldwide.

In the UK, one in four women, and one in 12 men, are sufferers. According to the National Health Service (NHS), the exact cause is unknown, but factors include medication, hormonal changes, poor quality sleep, dehydration and strong smells.



express.co.uk

However, scientists have revealed for the first time that the genetics of circadian rhythms — how the body controls and responds to environmental changes — has been shown to have an effect on migraine.

Variations of circadian genes have in past studies been shown to affect mood disorders, so it was thought they may influence migraines too.

They discovered that people with a specific variation in the clock gene were more at risk.

This gene has an important role in regulating rhythmic patterns of the body, including body temperature or level of the stress hormone cortisol.

There was no significant direct connection between the gene and migraine.

But when stress was factored in, the gene variants they were looking at increased the risk of someone developing a migraine in those who suffered financial hardship by roughly 20 percent.

Daniel Baksa, a researcher from Semmelweis University in Budapest, said, "This work does not show what causes migraine — there is no single cause — but it does show that both stress and genetics have an effect."

"In the work presented here, we were able to show that stress — represented by financial hardship — led to an increase in migraine in those who have a particular gene variant."

"What we need to do now is to see if other circadian gene variants in association with different stress factors cause the same effect."

"The gene variants they investigated are present in around a third of the population."

Mobile phone use while pregnant not tied to child neurodevelopment problems

Mobile phone use during pregnancy is unlikely to have any adverse effects on child neurodevelopment, according to new research published in the open access journal BMC Public Health.

These findings provide further evidence that exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields associated with maternal use of mobile phones during pregnancy is not linked to neurodevelopment in children, sciencedaily.com wrote.

Dr. Eleni Papadopoulou, lead author from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, said, "The concern for harm to the fetus caused by radio frequency electromagnetic fields, such as those emitted by mobile phones, is mainly driven by reports from experimental animal studies with inconsistent results."

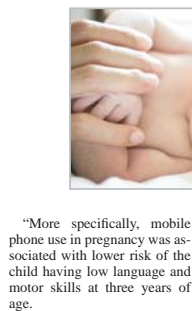
"Even though this is an observational study, our findings do not support the hypothesis of adverse effects on child's language, communication and

motor skills due to the use of mobile phone during pregnancy."

The researchers analyzed data from a large Norwegian population-based pregnancy cohort study called MoBa, which involves a range of data collected from mothers and children during and after pregnancy.

Data used in this study included 45,389 mother-child pairs for whom self-reported questionnaire data was available on maternal mobile phone use and neurodevelopment follow ups of the children between the ages of three and five.

Professor Jan Alexander, senior author from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, said, "Our investigation revealed for the first time that maternal mobile phone use may actually have a positive impact.



dailymail.co.uk

"More specifically, mobile phone use in pregnancy was associated with lower risk of the child having low language and motor skills at three years of age."

"Although we adjusted for important socio-demographic characteristics as well as maternal personality and psychological factors, we think this protective effect is more likely

to be explained by factors not measured in this study having an impact on the mobile phone use and child's neurodevelopment, rather than the maternal mobile phone use in itself."

The researchers found that children born to mobile phone users had a 27 percent lower risk of having lower sentence complexity, 14 percent lower risk of incomplete grammar and

31 percent lower risk of having moderate language delay at age three, compared to children of mothers who reported no mobile phone use.

They also found that children born to mobile phone users had an 18 percent lower risk of low motor skills at age three, compared to children born to non-users of mobile phones.

The beneficial effects remained even after adjusting for relevant confounders and were also relative to the level of reported mobile phone use by the mother.

Alexander said, "Our large study provides evidence that pregnant women's use of cell phone is not associated with risk of harming neurodevelopment of the fetus."

"The beneficial effects we report should be interpreted with caution due to the limitations common in observational studies, but our findings should at least alleviate any concern mothers have about using their mobile phone while pregnant."

Gene related to brain damage in premature infants

A new study at King's College London identified a gene believed to be related to brain damage in premature infants.

Premature labor is linked with inflammation in the mother or baby due to infection and can cause damage to the brain — leading to cerebral palsy, autism and developmental delays in up to 30 percent of preterm babies, UPI reported.

The study, published in Nature Communications, analyzed the role of microglial cells that control the immune response in the brain and how it responds to inflammation associated with preterm labor.

Researchers found the gene DLG4 that is believed to be involved in controlling the inflammatory process in the brain.

The study, a collaboration between King's College



UPI

London, Inserm and Paris Diderot University and Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore, involved a genomic

analysis of more than 500 infant brain scans and mouse models of inflammation to identify differences in the way DLG4 was expressed in microglia in both mouse models and brain scans.

Professor David Edwards, director of the Center for the Developing Brain at King's College London, said, "We have shown that the DLG4 gene is expressed differently in microglia when a brain has been damaged by inflammation."

"In developing work, we hope to provide a new avenue to study and understand how this inflammation and subsequent brain damage is caused so that scientists can work towards more effective treatments for diseases such as autism and cerebral palsy, by stopping or even preventing the inflammation associated with pre-term birth."

Testosterone levels are a key factor in a family's health and happiness after a newborn arrives. Researchers have found that a drop can signal postpartum depression in dad.

Scientists use CRISPR gene-editing technology to alter flower color

Researchers in Japan reported in a new study they used the gene editing technology CRISPR to alter the color of a Japanese morning glory, a popular garden flower.

The Japanese morning glory is one of two plants already being studied as part of Japan's National BioResource Project, so researchers at the University of Tsukuba had a significant body of genomic data to work with, UPI reported.



UPI

The Tsukuba research team was able to identify a single gene, dihydroflavonol-4-reductase-B, responsible for the production of the enzyme anthocyanin biosynthesis, which determines the color of the morning glory's stems, leaves and flowers.

CRISPR technology allows researchers to directly inject an organism with genetic material designed to seek out and rewrite specific portions of DNA coding.

Because dihydroflavonol-4-reductase-B is sandwiched by two similar and related genes, DFR-A and DFR-C, it had to be especially precise with their CRISPR targeting technology.

In CRISPR, an enzyme, Cas9, is programmed to cut the target DNA and delete the code or splice in new code. Guide RNA, or gRNA, helps Cas9 locate the exact DNA target.

Scientists used the plant bacterium *Rhizobium* to smuggle the CRISPR components into morning glory plant embryos. When researchers sequenced the genes of the transgenic plants, they found the CRISPR technology had successfully disrupted the DFR-B gene and disabled the enzyme in 75 percent of the plants, yielding flowers with an absence of pigment.

The technology turned the morning glories from purple to white. The analysis also showed the neighboring genes, DFR-A and DFR-C, were undisturbed by the gene editing technology.

Researchers recounted their success in a new paper published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The findings are reminder of the power of the CRISPR technology.

Researchers said, "The story of the Japanese morning glory started in the 8th century AD, with the introduction of wild blue-flowered plants into Japan from China.

"In 1631, the first white-flowered Japanese morning glory was painted in Japan."

What took nature 850 years to accomplish, scientists tackled in less than a year.

Insects can see more clearly than previously thought

New research suggested insects can see the world at a much finer resolution than previously thought.

Until now, scientists assumed the compound eyes — thousands of tiny lensed eyes — deployed by most insects offered only a low-resolution composite image of their surroundings, UPI wrote.

In contrast, human eyes feature a large, single lens and a large, densely packed photoreceptor capable of keeping objects in focus at varying distances and producing high-resolution images.

When a team of researchers from England, Portugal and China probed the inner workings of the insect eye, or eyes, they found the optical setup is capable of surprisingly high-resolution approximations of the outside world.

Unlike the human eye, insect eyes can't change shape to keep objects in focus and yield high resolutions. But it turns out insects have a different technique for generating high-res images. Behind each lens in a compound eye are photoreceptor cells. These cells move in and out of focus as they sample the incoming light.

These tiny light-sensors switch on and off too fast to be seen with the naked eye. To study the process, scientists had to design their own tiny microscope outfitted with a high-speed camera.

The team of scientists, led by researchers at the University of Sheffield, found insects can generate high-resolution images by combining photoreceptor twitching with their natural rapid eye and head movements, known as saccadic bursts.

Researchers used their updated understanding of the mechanics of compound eyes to build a model of a fruit fly's visual system. Their modeled produced surprisingly high-definition images of the surrounding world.

Sheffield neuroscientist Mikko Juusola said, "It has long been known that fast visual adaptation results in the world around us fading from perception unless we move our eyes to cancel this effect.

"On the other hand, fast eye movements should blur vision which is why it has remained an enigma how photoreceptors work with eye movements to see the world clearly.

"Our results show that by adapting the way photoreceptor cells sample light information to saccadic eye movements and gaze fixations, evolution works towards optimizing the visual perception of animals."

Researchers detailed their analysis of insect eyes in a new paper published in the journal *eLife*.

Discovery of boron on Mars adds to evidence for habitability

The discovery of boron on Mars gives scientists more clues about whether life could have ever existed on the planet, according to a paper published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

Quoting Patrick Gasda, a postdoctoral researcher at Los Alamos National Laboratory and lead author on the paper, phys.org reported, "Because borates may play an important role in making RNA — one of the building blocks of life — finding boron on Mars further opens the possibility that life could have once arisen on the planet."

"Borates are one possible bridge from simple organic molecules to RNA. Without RNA, you have no life. The presence of boron tells us that, if organics were present on Mars, these chemical reactions could have occurred."

RNA (ribonucleic acid) is a nucleic acid present in all modern life, but scientists have long hypothesized an "RNA World", where the first proto-life was made of individual RNA strands that both contained genetic information and could copy itself.

A key ingredient of RNA is a sugar called ribose. But sugars are notoriously unstable; they decompose quickly in water. The ribose would need another element there to stabilize it. That's where

boron comes in.

When boron is dissolved in water — becoming borate — it will react with the ribose and stabilize it for long enough to make RNA.

Gasda said, "We detected borates in a crater on Mars that's nearly four billion years old, younger than the likely formation of life on Earth.

groundwater in Gale Crater was habitable, ranging between 0°C to 60°C with neutral-to-alkaline pH.

The boron was identified by the rover's laser-shooting ChemCam (Chemistry and Camera) instrument, which was developed at Los Alamos National Laboratory in conjunction with the French space agency.

Martian mountain and finding chemical evidence of how ancient lakes and wet underground environments changed, billions of years ago, in ways that affected their potential favorability for microbial life.

As the rover has progressed uphill, compositions trend toward more clay and more boron.



A selfie of the NASA Curiosity rover at the Murray Buttes in Gale Crater, Mars — a location where boron was found in light-toned calcium sulfate veins. phys.org

"Essentially, this tells us that the conditions from which life could have potentially grown may have existed on ancient Mars, independent from Earth."

The boron found on Mars was discovered in calcium sulfate mineral veins, meaning the boron was present in Mars groundwater, and provides another indication that some of the

Los Alamos' work on discovery-driven instruments like ChemCam stems from the Laboratory's experience building and operating more than 500 spacecraft instruments for national defense.

The discovery of boron is only one of several recent findings related to the composition of Martian rocks.

Curiosity is climbing a layered

These and other chemical variations can tell us about conditions under which sediments were initially deposited and about how later groundwater moving through the accumulated layers altered and transported dissolved elements, including boron.

Whether Martian life has ever existed is still unknown. No compelling evidence for it has been found.

When Curiosity landed in Mars' Gale Crater in 2012 the mission's main goal was to determine whether the area ever offered a habitable environment, which has since

been confirmed.

The Mars 2020 rover will be equipped with an instrument called "SuperCam", developed by Los Alamos and an instrument called SHERLOC, which was developed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory with significant participation by Los Alamos. Both of these will search for signs of past life on the planet.

New, ultra-rare gene mutations implicated in eating disorders

psychiatric illnesses.

Although genetics are known to play an important role, accounting for an estimated 50 to 80 percent of the risk of developing an ED, very few specific genes have been implicated in the development of EDs.

The UI study takes a new ap-

proach that combines genetic

sequencing with machine learning to investigate the genetics of these disorders.

First, the team sequenced the protein-coding region of every gene from 93 unrelated individuals affected by various EDs, including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and binge eating disorder.

They used this whole exome sequencing information to identify previously unobserved and ultra-rare mutations that are also predicted to be damaging to the encoded protein.

Next, the researchers

compared the patients' genetic

data to ExAC, a large data set of exomes from more than 60,000 people. After removing exomes from individuals with any type of psychiatric diagnosis, the researchers did a simple comparison between the ED patients

or feeding behavior.

To home in on which of the genes are most likely to be involved in EDs, the team developed several machine learning models that can predict, based on information from thousands of published studies, how likely

they are to be associated with

biological pathways that can be used to study and potentially treat eating disorders."

In particular, the study found that the damaging variants clustered into two major pathways.

First is neuroepigenetic/neurotrophic factor signaling pathway, which works in the gut to facilitate digestion and nutrient absorption and in the brain to regulate appetite.

The second pathway is inflammation. Inflammatory states cause appetite suppression and have been linked to EDs in the past.

Using a mouse model of binge eating, the team then tested the therapeutic effect of targeting the neurotrophic pathway. They gave the animals a drug that activates the GLP1 receptor in the pathway.

The mice significantly reduced their food intake. Because drugs in this class are already FDA approved for other conditions, including diabetes and weight management, the researchers hope to test it in human patients with EDs.

Lutter said, "One of the major findings is that patients with bulimia nervosa have a high burden of mutations in the GLP1-GLP1 receptor signaling pathway."

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mymobiledoc.org

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Recovery Center of Dallas, and first author of the study, said,

"Our findings confirm that novel and ultra-rare damaging genetic variants contribute to the risk of developing an eating disorder and identify two potential biological pathways that can be used to study and potentially treat eating disorders."

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Bad design and construction of the tallest US dam a half-century ago and inadequate state and federal oversight since then led to a disastrous spillway collapse in February.

Yemen's cholera epidemic hits 600,000



euronews.com

Yemen's cholera outbreak has infected 612,703 people and killed 2,048 since it began in April, and some districts are still reporting sharp rises in new cases, data from World Health Organization and Yemen's Health Ministry showed.

The overall spread of the epidemic has slowed in the past two months, with the daily number of new suspected cases cut to around 3,000 in recent days, Reuters reported. However, the epidemic, the most explosive on record in terms of its rapid spread, has continually confounded expectations. Soon after it began, WHO saw a worst-case scenario of 300,000 cases within six months. But by the end of June, WHO was hoping 218,000 cases might be the halfway mark. In late July it said the

spread had peaked after infecting 400,000.

Epidemics normally decline as quickly as they arise, so the peak of the disease — which is spread by contaminated food and water — should be roughly half the eventual total caseload.

But the decline in the epidemic has been bumpy, and the number of new cases rose in two of the past four weeks.

WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said some of the most affected areas, such as Sanaa City and the governorates of Hajjah and Amran, had seen falls in the numbers of new cases.

But there had been a 'sudden and significant increase' in the number of suspected cases reported from 12 districts, in the governorates of Hodeidah, Al Jawf, Al Mahwit, Ibb,

Dhamar, Al Bayda and Aden.

"WHO is currently investigating the reason for this increase. A key aim of the investigation will be to determine whether the numbers are accurate and whether the spike in suspected cases is, in fact, caused by cholera or another diarrheal disease like rotavirus," Jasarevic said.

Save the Children, a charity running cholera treatment centers, said last Friday that suspected cases in Hodeidah governorate had jumped by 40 percent in three weeks amid heavy rains and a heatwave, and in some districts weekly caseloads were double their previous peaks.

The United Nations has said the epidemic is man-made, driven by a civil war that has left 15.7 million people without clean water or sanitation.

Teaching kids the value of tolerating failure, rejection

If we want our kids to try new things, learn new ideas, try out for activities that interest them, set goals to accomplish and ultimately build their confidence and self-esteem, they may stumble and fall at times.

How do we help them overcome odds and pick themselves up and try again? How do we help them tolerate frustrations and still seek to achieve? Sometimes we know as adults we fail at things we try in big and small ways and experience rejection socially or when seeking job placements, huffingtonpost.com wrote.

Yet to be successful in the long run, means being able to absorb the falls and learn from them and even take them as learning opportunities for the future. But how do we help our kids learn all this tough stuff so they can feel like accomplished children, teens and adults?

From the time kids are babies they experience frustration. They aren't fed at the moment they are hungry because mother has to open her blouse to give the breast or fill the bottle with milk. The baby waits briefly but incrementally learns he will be fed.

The toddler falls when he tries to run, but is helped up or even better, gets up on his own if it's a small fall, and proceeds to chase his buddy.

The school child finds that to learn he has to not know something first. That is to tolerate waiting to understand the new skill before he can implement it.

The teen challenges himself to an advanced class and is suddenly surrounded



onionstatic.com

by kids smarter than she is but she works harder than that more intelligent kid and does just as well or better.

And so over time little and big kids tolerate frustration and reap the rewards. They learn by your example, encouragement, and affirmation that it's worth waiting to learn and to feel satisfied in time. To accomplish means to wait.

To wait until you're capable of the skill you are working at. To wait until you're capable of mastery. As parents we demonstrate and teach our kids that failures come along the way, but we tolerate them and learn from them and then we can surpass them. We can't achieve everything we want, but we learn our capabilities and

strive to expand and stretch them.

Rejection may be even tougher to tolerate than a failure. It strikes us sometimes unexpectedly and can be heart wrenching. As parents we share with our kids that their peers have different needs and wants and interests.

Sometimes, the buddy you want to spend time with has other goals and doesn't pick up on your wish to be with him. This happens early on sometimes, when kids are at worst bullied and ignored.

But other rejections can be smaller yet hurtful as well. When your classmate doesn't choose you for their team or sit with you on the bus or chooses another

table to have lunch at, you feel left out and hurt. If you're very brave and it's worth it, you may have the courage to ask the other child why they left you out, but it's not always wise to encourage this.

Sometimes, kids are in fact mean-spirited because they have inferior feelings and take it out on your child. Yet sometimes, being brave and confronting the one who rejects you leads to a positive resolution.

One of the keys to helping our kids tolerate rejection is to know that we don't ever reject them. We may chastise them for a behavior, but love is sustained. Ultimately they know you, their parent, are their ally come what may. Then they can come to you to seek solace when they are rejected and together you can discuss the ramifications and wise course to follow. Then they don't feel alone with their pain and this in itself helps remedy the deep feelings of rejection.

When you are a parent who discusses feelings with your child when they need support, they build the confidence to try new things, meet new people, and adapt to difficult situations because they know you are behind them.

They know you are behind them even when you are not actually with them. This is key in not feeling alone. When you are with them you help them gain perspective on failures and rejections big and small and slowly after accepting their feelings and pain, they can continue on to create and meet their goals.

Living in poverty puts demands on attention that impair decision-making

If the interest rate banks paid on customers' deposits were to soar from 0.3 percent to 5 percent, you would expect that most people would start saving more. But, it turns out, most people aren't that calculating.

In a recent field experiment in Chile, a large majority of people did not increase their savings in response to the higher interest rate. But when their peers were watching, savings almost doubled when the participants in the experiment announced their savings goals to a self-help group and had their progress publicly monitored.

It is just one example of how behavioral science can help policymakers spur changes that help economic development around the world, uchicago.edu reported.

In a paper published in the journal Behavioral Science and Policy, Christopher Bryan, assistant professor in the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and coauthors from several universities and development organizations find policies aimed at serving the poor are more effective when they take into account the human tendency to procrastinate and the limits poverty puts on attention spans.

The scholars focus on two well-studied psychological phenomena — present bias and limited attention — that have wide ranging implications for international development policy.

"Everyone has limited attentional bandwidth, but wealthy people, freed from having to spend this precious attention on acquiring food, shelter and other basics, have more attention available for handling unexpected hassles and making strategic decisions to improve their circumstances," the authors wrote.



uchicago.edu

Likewise, people often fail to expend small amounts of money, time or effort up front to obtain much larger benefits in the future. This human tendency toward present bias is common in rich and poor populations alike, but has a larger negative effect on people with low incomes.

The authors outline simple interventions that policymakers can take to overhaul international development policy with these behaviors in mind.

Removing obstacles upfront — such as lowering upfront costs, simplifying or eliminating complicated paperwork, and timing the delivery of subsidies to correspond to when major payments (like school fees) will be due — improve outcomes.

Helping households to fill out an application for an interest-free loan to cover the cost of piped water in Morocco increased participation from 10 to 69 percent.

Don't reverse Internet privacy safeguards

California has a responsibility to get Internet policy right. The state's ranking as the sixth largest economy understates its influence on the world's innovation economy. One-third of global venture capital is invested in Silicon Valley, San Francisco, Los Angeles or San Diego.

California is the test bed, launch pad and sand box for thousands of apps and Internet services which, if successful, are launched on the world, according to capitolweekly.net.

Indeed, 94 percent of consumers want a consistent set of privacy rules applicable to all Internet companies.

Right now, a bill is being rushed through the state legislature using the highly suspect "gut and amend" process. It would reorganize the Internet app and data ecosystem — which has created hundreds of thousands of jobs — without a single public hearing.

At first glance, AB 375 seems reasonable. The author claimed the bill is needed to restore president Obama era privacy protections repealed by President Trump. However, and this is a critical point, AB 375 does not 'restore' president Obama's longstanding privacy policy. It actually reverses that policy.

Under president Obama, and for the last 20 years, privacy has been aggressively enforced by the Federal Trade Commission. In short, service providers have greater flexibility to use data that are not sensitive — for example, an interest in sports or cars. But when it comes to using sensitive health or financial data, companies must get consumers' explicit approval before using the data for marketing purposes.

The policy protects privacy everywhere consumers go on the Internet. That means it applies to ISPs, web browsers, search engines, devices and ad networks, which is what consumers want. Indeed, 94 percent of consumers want a consistent set of privacy rules applicable to all Internet companies.

At the very end of president Obama's administration, the Federal Communications Commission tried to reverse that policy. It required Internet Service Providers — and only Internet Service Providers — to get 'click yes' affirmative approval for an overly broad amount of information. It's these rules that AB 375 tries to emulate, and AB 375 goes even further.

Leading experts were opposed. The Democratically-controlled Federal Trade Commission raised dozens of objections. Former Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Los Angeles, a noted consumer advocate, said the FCC's 'sweeping default opt-in regime' would 'undermine beneficial uses of data' and 'could result in tangible consumer harm'.

Another critical point: The FCC's rules were never implemented and the underlying statute requiring ISPs to protect customer data is still in effect.

By legislating to such a broad swath of non-sensitive data, the bill opens the door to consumers needing to deal with a stream of 'click yes' requests for routine Internet services.

Poor marketing undermines electric car sale in Europe

Ask any electric car lover in Europe why the 'car of the future' is making such a slow advance on the Old Continent and they will probably point to a lack of charging networks and high prices.

But a new study, released by Transport and suggested that poor marketing, long delivery periods and a very limited choice of such cars also play a part, euractiv.com wrote.

There are just 20 battery electric vehicles (BEVs) on sale in Europe, compared to 417 petrol and diesel models, the study said.

"T&E research has found that even many of these models are simply not available for sale in showrooms — notably the Opel/Vauxhall Ampera and Bolt — and others have long waiting times due to a lack of manufacturing capacity, such as the Hyundai Ioniq and BMW i3."

Data analyzed by T&E also shows that



euractiv.com

"manufacturers are barely even trying to sell electric vehicles — as evidenced by tiny marketing expenditure". By comparison, India has said it hopes that all cars on its roads by 2030 will be electric.

India is hoping to become the first big world power where all cars on its roads are electric, as part of its efforts to combat severe atmospheric pollution. 1.8 million deaths are caused by it every year on the subcontinent. EURACTIV's partner Italia Oggi reported.

On average across Germany, France, UK, Spain, Italy and Norway only 2.1 percent of carmakers' marketing budget was spent on zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) and 1.6 percent on plug-in hybrid models.

Germany's environment ministry is preparing itself for electric car quotas, which Berlin believes the European Commission will soon propose.

This data seems to indicate that they are not actively trying to attract new customers, although the study said that around 30 percent of German, French and British consumers say they would consider buying an electric vehicle today.

Most spectacular bird snaps revealed in full glory

The year's most spectacular bird photos including a kingfisher getting ready to devour its dinner have been revealed in their full glory.

This year, Alejandro Prieto Rojas was named Bird Photographer of the Year for his memorable image of flamingos feeding their offspring in Mexico, according to dailymail.co.uk.

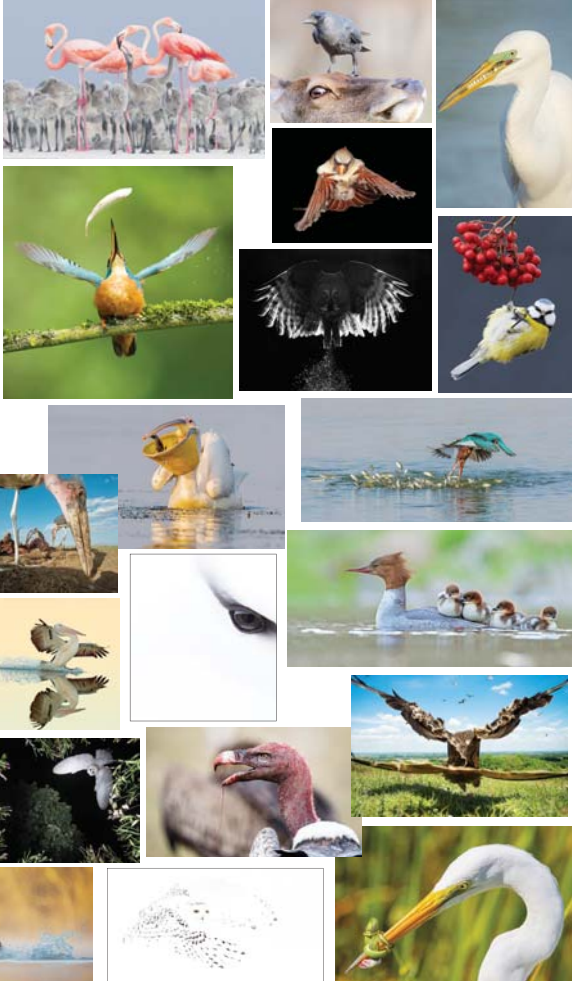
Head competition judge Chris Packham said: "As president of the British Trust for Ornithology, I am proud to support Bird Photographer of the Year, a competition that will push bird photographers to new limits."

"We see lots of technically accomplished images and nice portraits of attractive species. But what we are looking for as judges are those images which have an instant and enduring 'wow' factor."

"To have been gifted with so many of these 'wow' photos in the first two years of this competition is extraordinary, because photographing birds is enormously challenging."

"I am excited about seeing what this year brings and being involved again in choosing the best of the best."

The winning images are published in a book available for purchase from the British Trust for Ornithology and will be part of a traveling exhibition around the UK.



COVERIMAGE/BOPTV

Unique beauty of furless Sphynx cats captured in stunning images

To some, they are the most beautiful and majestic creatures, to others, they look like the kittens that survived a nuclear apocalypse.

These photographs show the unique beauty of the Sphynx cat, a breed known for its complete lack of fur, dailymail.co.uk reports.

They have been shot by Alicia Rius, a Catalanian photographer based in Los Angeles, California, the US.

Rius said she immediately fell in love with Sphynxes the first time she saw one, and so far, she has photographed 14 different cats for her project.

She said: "When I started to do these series, I wanted the viewers to experience the same mixture of feelings I was feeling at the time I was photographing them."



CATERS NEWS AGENCY

"I hope to spark a fascination of such a rare breed, awaken a curiosity to want to know more about these hairless cats, and to also leave the viewer in amazement. The reaction has been quite interesting."

"People who had disliked them have reached out and told me that they can now appreciate their unique beauty, while there

have been others who have always been fascinated with them, like myself.

"I think this breed falls into two distinct love-hate categories without much in the middle, which I hope to change along the way."

Since she first photographed a Sphynx, in San Francisco, in 2013, the photographer has slowly been building a solid body of work, hoping one day to turn her collection into a book, 'The Disturbing Beauty of the Sphynx Cat'.

For the series, Rius looks to photograph the animals using an abundance of natural light and only a few backdrops.

Arguably the most important factor in shooting the felines, Rius said, is time — as allowing the cats to familiarize themselves with her, the equipment and environment makes for better shots.

Russian bank invests millions in flying motorbikes

Russian bank Vnesheconombank is investing millions of pounds in a flying motorcycle prototypes, which could revolutionize how we travel.

The bank will put several million US dollars into the project and the bikes could be available to buy from as early as next year, mirror.co.uk wrote.

But you might want to start saving, as they cost between £30,000 and £60,000.

The bank has promised to make the investment. It will put money into the hover bike prototypes, which are in development and are currently in testing.

Head of Hover Serf, Alexander Atamanov, recorded a video flying above the ground on his state of the art vehicle, the HoverBike S3.

The vehicle was shown to the public at the Moscow Raceway that hosted the international competition in road and ring motorcycle races.

Atamanov noted that his company has received a



CEN/YAKHNICHMOTORSPORT

lot of pre-orders from Asia and the Middle East.

The bank's chairman Sergey Gorkov said: "Actually, it is surely not a motorcycle. It is rather a prototype of a platform, which has a multifaceted future."

"We believe it has prospects. We are planning to invest in this multifunctional platform. We think we will need several mil-

lions of dollars."

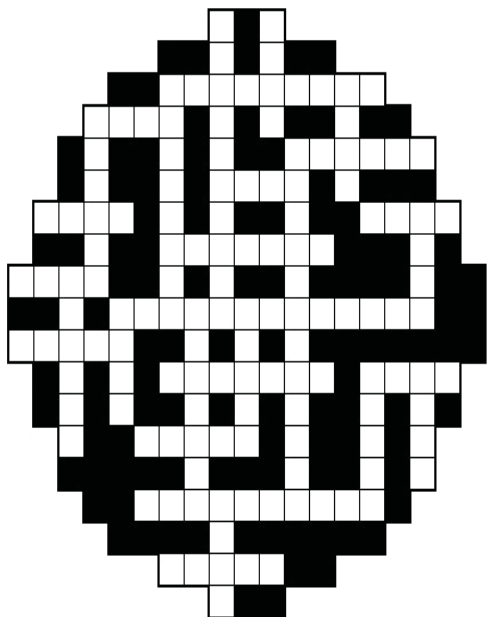
He added that the hover bikes would be useful for transporting goods.

Atamanov also noted that the motorbikes are already safe to use, despite being in the testing phase.

He said: "We are so confident in our developments that I am ready to convince everyone that it is already safe and it can be used for extreme sports, for races, for competitions."

The exact figure that the Russian bank is willing to invest is not known.

Global Word-Fit



- 4 letters
APIA
CUBA
DOHA
LAOS
LIMA
MALE
MALI
OHIO
OSLO
SUVA
TOGO
UTAH
- 5 letters
ARUBA

- LAGOS
MAINE
SYRIA

- 6 letters
HARARE
PRAGUE
SERBIA

- 7 letters
ALGIERS
ST LOUIS
VANUATU

- 8 letters
MALDIVES

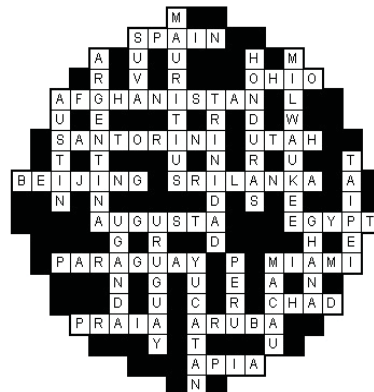
- 9 letters
MAURITIUS

- 10 letters
LOS ANGELES
MAURITANIA

- 12 letters
PORT AU PRINCE

- 13 letters
MASSACHUSETTS

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.

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

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

Late equalizer gives Syrians World Cup playoffs spot

Omar al-Somah's stoppage-time equalizer saw Syria book a date with Australia in the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 continental playoffs as a 2-2 draw with Group A winner Iran at Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Tuesday secured third place in the standings.

Needing a win to have any chance of automatic qualification, Syria breached the Iranian defense for the first time in the campaign when, 13 minutes in, Tamer Haj Mohamad finished from eight yards after goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand could only parry out Somah's free-kick from

to bundle home from close in. Taremi then missed a golden opportunity to put Iran in front when he hit the side netting from two yards out in a frantic end to the half.

Carlos Queiroz's side came close once more as the hour approached when substitute Rooz-

The visitor pushed for an equalizer and three minutes into injury time Somah secured a fairytale comeback to the national side when he struck through Beiranvand's legs after being played in by Marдик Mardikian to spark jubilant celebrations among the Syrian bench.

The draw, coupled with the scoreless stalemate between Uzbekistan and Korea Republic, saw the Koreans secure second place in Group A and automatic qualification as Syria claimed a playoff berth and the Uzbeks missed out.

'There is much work to do'

In the postmatch press conference Queiroz said that his players made so many mistakes in the last home game of their qualification campaign.

"We didn't play good against Syria and our players made so many mistakes. There is still so much more work we have to do before the 2018 World Cup," the Portuguese said.

"We conceded a goal but we could have scored three goals. Our players hurried up and it was one of the reasons we didn't play good," Queiroz added.

"Syria is a good team and I congratulate them since they have reached playoffs. We wanted to finish the campaign with a home win but failed to do that. I want to thank all the fans for their support during the qualification campaign," Queiroz concluded.



Iran's Ali Karimi (L) challenges Syria's Firas al-Khatib for the ball in the Group A fixture of the 2018 World Cup Asian qualifiers in Tehran, Iran, on September 5, 2014.

Elsewhere in Asian qualifiers, Saudi Arabia edged Group B winner Japan by a single goal to seal the World Cup berth and send Asian champion Australia to the playoff clash against Syria.

The host leveled on 45 minutes after Mehdi Taremi's header from Ashkan Dejagah's corner was tipped onto the bar by Ibrahim Almeih, only for Sardar Azmoun

beh Cheshmi headed against the woodwork from another Dejagah corner, before Azmoun added a second on 64 minutes by finishing from six yards after a Taremi flick-on.

Venus Williams beats Kvitova to make US Open semis



Venus Williams celebrates her US Open quarterfinal win over Petra Kvitova in New York on September 5, 2017.

Venus Williams reached her 23rd Grand Slam semifinal with a thrilling win over Petra Kvitova in a final-set tie-break.

The 37-year-old American won 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-2) in front of a rapturous night-session crowd in New York, BBC reported.

"I was so fortunate to win that match," said Williams.

"It came down to the wire and I'm hoping we have more matches like that."

She next faces Sloane Stephens, with all-American semifinals possible.

Kvitova, 27, missed out on a first US Open semifinal, ending a remarkable run just nine months since she suffered a knife attack at her home, which left her requiring surgery to her playing hand.

"Everything she has gone through is unbelievable," said Williams.

"It's wonderful to see her back and playing. I was so excited to see her playing well, to be able to play her."

"I have to say I felt every single one of you guys behind me, all 23,000," Williams told the crowd.

"I didn't want to let you guys down."

Anderson ends American dream

South Africa's Kevin Anderson ended American hopes in the men's singles as he beat Sam Querrey to reach the semi-finals.

Anderson won 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (9-11), 6-3, 7-6 (9-7) at Flushing Meadows to reach his first major semifinal.

The 28th seed will take on Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta in the last four after the 12th seed beat Argentine Diego Schwartzman 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Anderson, 6ft 8in, and Querrey, 6ft 6in, met in the tallest Grand Slam quarterfinal, semifinal or final of the Open era.

Not surprisingly, the pair shared 42 aces between them (Anderson 22, Querrey 20) and three tie-breaks, with Anderson coming back from 2-5 down to win the first and 17th seed Querrey leveling in a thrilling second-set decider.

It was Anderson who prevailed in the third with a solitary break of serve, and he clinched victory after three hours and 26 minutes in another gripping tie-break. He becomes the first South African to reach a Grand Slam semi-final since Wayne Ferreira at the 2003 Australian Open.

Sampaoli blames misfiring Argentina but praises Messi

Jorge Sampaoli said Argentina let a big opportunity slip against Venezuela in its faltering bid for World Cup qualification, though he did praise star Lionel Messi.

and you know that these things can happen and especially when you have chances at goal and you do not take them," Sampaoli said.

"I hope that this discomfort that the team is



Lionel Messi (L) looks frustrated leaving the pitch after Argentina was held to 1-1 draw at home by Venezuela in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on September 5, 2017.

It was another frustrating outing for Sampaoli and Argentina, which was held to a 1-1 draw by lowly Venezuela in 2018 World Cup qualifiers in South America (CONMEBOL) action on Tuesday, goal.com reported.

A dominant display in Buenos Aires only yielded a point as Rolf Feltscher's own goal canceled out Jhon Murillo's opener and rescued a draw for Argentina.

Back-to-back stalemates during the international break have left Argentina barely in fifth position – the playoff spot – with Chile and Paraguay lurking ominously, and Sampaoli knows his side must start making the most of its opportunities as he searches for his first competitive victory since replacing Edgardo Bauza in June.

"We let a big chance pass but this is football

going through will not confuse us or block us for the future.

"Now we have to go out and play Peru [in October] in the same way as against Venezuela to be closer to qualifying.

"Things are more complicated for us because we thought we would be in a better position after the two match days. But we are going with two points in the two games in which we had superiority but we could not capitalize."

Sampaoli, who confirmed Angel Di Maria suffered a muscle injury, added, "Messi was above the rest. He took charge of the game in several moments."

Argentina's CONMEBOL campaign concludes next month with fixtures against fourth-placed Peru and Ecuador.

PSG has 'nothing to hide', club president insists



Kylian Mbappe (R) and club president Nasser al-Khelaifi pose with PSG's No. 29 shirt as the French forward is unveiled in the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris on September 6, 2017.

Paris Saint-Germain will welcome UEFA into its offices as the governing body investigates the club over potential breaches of its Financial Fair Play (FFP) regulations.

UEFA announced at the start of the month that it would look into the Ligue 1 outfit's dealings "particularly in light of recent transfer activity" – a reference to the world-record signing of Neymar from Barcelona and Kylian Mbappe's arrival from Monaco in a loan move that will be made permanent, FourFourTwo reported.

Teenage sensation Mbappe was presented to the media on Wednesday, when club president Nasser al-Khelaifi had to field questions on the FFP saga.

He spoke calmly on the matter, insisting PSG had nothing to hide from authorities.

"We are very confident. UEFA can do as it wants, nothing is hidden," he said.

"We welcome UEFA in our offices with great pleasure. We are very transparent.

"The most important thing is to work for our project, for the club. We respect all the regulations. If some clubs are not happy, that's not our problem.

"The objective today is to present Kylian. I do not want to go into the details of financial fair play, I do not want to explain how we're going to get money back, how we want to sell."

Neymar cost the Parc des Princes club €22 million, while the €180 million fee for Mbappe currently makes the France forward the second most expensive player of all time.

Rio Olympics chief arrested over vote-buying

The corruption scandal that has erupted around the awarding of major sporting events escalated on Tuesday when the head of last year's Rio Olympics was arrested amid fresh allegations of vote-buying.

A joint investigation by Brazilian and French authorities has led to the home of Brazilian Olympic Committee president Carlos Nuzman being raided, the Daily Mail reported.

Investigators revealed that they had uncovered an international corruption scheme that again appears to involve

Papa Massata Diack, the son of the former IAAF president Lamine Diack.

Officers in Rio de Janeiro emerged from Nuzman's home with suitcases, documents and a computer, and the police confirmed that detention warrants had been issued for Nuzman and an associate, businessman Arthur Cesar de Menezes Soares Filho. The authorities believe he is in Miami.

In dramatic scenes, Nuzman left his house accompanied by his lawyer, later arriving at a police station for questioning. His lawyer said his client would cooper-

ate, stating that he 'did not commit any irregularity'.

According to reports, a total of 11 detention warrants were issued in Brazil and France in what the authorities have called 'Operation Unfair Play'.

Nuzman is an honorary member of the International Olympic Committee and at a news conference on Tuesday the authorities said he was a central player in buying votes for Rio's Olympic bid in 2009.

They claimed to have evidence of an alleged payment of \$2 million (around £1.25 million) for the vote of Lamine Di-

ack, paid by Soares Filho's company, Matlock Capital Group. Diack was a voting IOC member at the time.

Prosecutor Fabiana Schneider said Sergio Cabral, the former governor of Rio de Janeiro who was recently jailed on a separate corruption conviction, was also a central figure. 'The Olympic Games were used as a big trampoline for acts of corruption,' said Schneider.

In a statement, the IOC said they had 'learned about these circumstances from the media and are making every effort to get the full information'.

But a further embarrassment for the IOC is the fact that 75-year-old Nuzman is also a member of the 2020 Tokyo Games

coordination commission—and it was not long after the Rio Games that IOC president Thomas Bach awarded Nuzman the 'Olympic Order'.

Sportsmail revealed earlier this year that French financial investigators had seen evidence of payments linking the Tokyo bid to the Diacks.

That has formed part of an ongoing two-year investigation sparked by allegations of corruption in world athletics, in particular accusations that the Diacks were involved in extorting money from athletes to cover up positive drug tests.

On Monday, the French Financial Prosecutors' Office in Paris said they had 'uncovered the existence of a system of large-

scale corruption organised around Papa Massata Diack'.

They also said their evidence indicated that votes by members of the IOC and the IAAF had been 'negotiated against payment to obtain city hosting rights for the biggest global sports competitions'.

It was in March that the French newspaper Le Monde first reported that there had been a payment to the Diack family three days before the 2009 IOC vote for the 2016 Games. Rio lost the first vote to Madrid but won the nomination on a third ballot, by 66 votes to 32.

An IOC spokesman added that it was 'in the highest interests of the IOC to get clarification on this matter'.

Art & Culture

'Star Wars: Episode IX' loses writer/director Trevorrow over movie vision

The 'Star Wars' movie franchise parted ways with another director, Walt Disney Company announced on Tuesday, saying that director and writer Colin Trevorrow would no longer be involved in the studio's scheduled 2019 film 'Star Wars: Episode IX'.



PHIL MCCARTEN/REUTERS
Director Colin Trevorrow attends the premiere of 'The Book of Henry' in Culver City in California, the US, on June 14, 2017.

Disney and Lucasfilm Ltd. in a statement blamed differing visions for the project but did not name a replacement, Reuters reported.

"Lucasfilm and Colin Trevorrow have mutually chosen to part ways on 'Star Wars: Episode IX,'" the statement said. "Colin has been a wonderful collaborator throughout the development process, but we have all come to the conclusion that our visions for the project differ. We wish Colin the best and will be sharing more information about the film soon."

Trevorrow was due to write and direct the movie. It was the second 'Star Wars' project to lose a director this year. Disney in June said that filmmakers Phil Lord and Christopher Miller had left the upcoming Han Solo 'Star Wars' spinoff movie project due to creative differences. They were replaced by Hollywood veteran Ron Howard, the Oscar-winning director of 'A Beautiful Mind'.

'Star Wars: Episode IX' is part of Disney's expanding slate of 'Star Wars' movies, which was rebooted by 2015's hit, 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens', that reunited original 1977 stars Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill. That film made more than \$2 billion at the global box office.

Disney gave no details about the reasons for Trevorrow's departure, but Hollywood trade paper Variety cited sources as saying the split stemmed from differences over the script.

Production on the film, the last of the planned trilogy of new movies tied to the central tale of the Skywalker family, was due to start early next year. The ninth film in the space saga was due to have starred Fisher and her character General Leia Organa, but Fisher's unexpected death last year derailed those plans.

Lucasfilm Ltd. president Kathleen Kennedy said in a Vanity Fair interview in May that the film was being reworked by her, Trevorrow and the Lucasfilm team. Lucasfilm has said it would not digitally recreate Fisher's likeness in future films.

Trevorrow was named director after scoring a box office hit in 2015 with a reboot of dinosaur movie 'Jurassic World'.

The next film in the franchise, 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi', will be released in December.

Over 52,000 foreign students on scholarship in Iranian universities

Art & Culture Desk

Over 52,000 foreign students are on scholarship at Iranian universities, said the Iranian deputy minister of science, research and technology for international affairs on Wednesday.

Speaking one day ahead of the First International Conference on Modern Technologies in Sciences in Tehran, Hossein Salar Amoli further said that more than 100 countries offer scholarships to their students to study at Iranian universities, IRNA reported.



The deputy minister said among the policies of the Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology is to turn the universities into international academic centers as the move helps increase their social, cultural, scientific and technological assets.

"When a student from another state enters our universities, he brings new thoughts and innovation with himself."

He said Amol University of Special Modern Technologies, in the northern Iranian province of Mazandaran, is a newly establish and nascent academic center which has high potentials and valuable young human forces.

Salar Amoli hoped that the internationalization of the university will help raise its effectiveness in the region.

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Iran's tourism industry booming



BEHROUZ MEHRI/GETTY IMAGES
Naqsh-e Rostam necropolis northwest of Persepolis, near Shiraz in southern Iran



JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES
Naqsh-e Jahan Square in Isfahan, central Iran

Once off limits to many because of international sanctions, Iran is making a big comeback as a tourist destination.

More than six million people visited Iran in the year ending March 2017 — up 50 percent on the previous year and three times the number in 2009 — according to official data, CNN wrote.

The surge in visitors follows the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers that led to the lifting of many sanctions early the following year.

European airlines such as British Airways and Lufthansa resumed direct flights to the country, and Iranian authorities relaxed visa requirements. And as more people arrive, demand for accommodation is skyrocketing.

That's creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs and foreign businesses.

Unlike some Western firms, who are reluctant to invest in Iran out of fear that President Trump could yet torpedo the nuclear deal, international hotel chains are moving fast to meet the need for more rooms.

France's Accor (ACCYY) was the first chain to open in Iran in 2015. It now operates two hotels there.

Spain's Melia (SMIZF) will open its first hotel next year. Rotana of the UAE also has one hotel in the pipeline for early next year and plans three more by 2020.

EasyHotel, a UK-based budget chain, is reported to have signed a deal in July to deliver 500 rooms. It did not respond to a request for comment.

And the market clearly has room for many more players. Iran wants to attract over 20 million visitors by 2025, according to the state tourism agency.

Many of the new visitors are young backpackers from Europe and Asia, drawn by Iran's history and culture. The most popular destinations include the ancient cities of Isfahan, central Iran, and Shiraz, south Iran. It is also home to Persepolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Many of those travelers are looking for budget accommodation, said Jalal Rashedi, who runs five hostels across the country. He offers bed and breakfast for as little as \$15 a night, including Internet access.

"During the past few years we have had a rise in the number of tourists who are young, and they're individual travelers," he told CNN. "They're young, curious, adventurous people who want to discover the truth about Iran, and they mostly stay at hostels."

A World Economic Forum report earlier this year named Iran as the world's cheapest travel destination.

But travelers still face obstacles.

Americans, Brits and Canadians need to apply for a visa in advance, while citizens of many other Western countries can get one on arrival.

And because some sanctions remain in place, the country has few links to international banking networks and Western credit cards will not work there.

That means it can be difficult to make payments in advance to secure reservations. To get around that, Rashedi launched a website to allow travelers to make reservations at his hostels, and those operated by others, without payments.

Film starring DiCaprio to open Iran's green filmfest

The 6th Iran International Green Film Festival will open in Tehran on September 9 in a ceremony in which a film starring the environment activist and Hollywood actor Leonardo DiCaprio will be screened.

The opening ceremony will be held at Saba Art and Cultural Institute in downtown Tehran. However, two halls in Cinema Palestine will host the festival, IRNA reported.

The film 'Before the Flood', starring DiCaprio, is a 2016 documentary about climate changes which is directed by Fisher Stevens.

The screening ceremony of the movie on the first day of the fest

will be attended by special guests. Born on November 11, 1974, DiCaprio is an American actor, film producer and environmental activist.

In 2014, he was appointed the United Nations representative on climate change, and later that year, he made an opening statement to members of the UN Climate Summit.

The 6th Iran International Green Film Festival is the country's biggest cultural event supporting the environment.

The festival will continue until September 15.



IRAN'S MINISTER OF CULTURE AND ISLAMIC GUIDANCE ABBAS SALEHI (R) HELD TALKS WITH VATICAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER PAUL GALLAGHER IN TEHRAN ON WEDNESDAY.

Weather

46 29 Ahvaz	35 16 Borujerd	38 22 Rasht	38 22 Semnan	34 16 Arak	37 [^] v 24 Tehran	28 14 Bishkek	27 18 Istanbul	32 21 Amman	13 8 Minsk	17 11 Moscow
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