



Iran Daily condoles with its readers on the anniversaries of passing away of Imam Khomeini and bloody Khordad 15 Uprising. Our next issue will roll out of the press on June 6.

# IRAN DAILY



Guardian Council confirms presidential election results **2**

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## Asian imports of Iranian oil in April rose 23% from a year ago

The four biggest buyers of Iranian crude oil in Asia increased their imports in April by nearly 23 percent from a year earlier as Tehran's exemption from a global production cuts favors the country's oil export drive.

China, India, South Korea and Japan imported 1.6 million barrels per day (mbd) last month, government and ship-tracking data showed, according to Reuters.

However, exports to Asia were down nearly 18 percent from March, suggesting Iran may be at the limits of its efforts to boost production after sanctions were lifted in January 2015.

Iran has cleared out most of the oil it held in storage while the sanctions were in place. Asian countries buy most of the oil the country exports.

Iran is pushing hard to raise production and hopes to sign deals with oil majors such as Total and Lukoil this year after the reelection this month of President Hassan Rouhani.

A tender for the Azadegan oilfield, which has an estimated 37 billion barrels of crude, started on Monday.

The development of new fields as well as improved oil recovery from mature reserves should allow Iran — the third-largest producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) — to have the capacity to pump 5 mbd, or five percent of global crude, from 4 mbd now.

Continued on Page 4



Military: 89 terrorists killed in Philippine urban battle **3**



\$4-trillion carbon tax is needed to save humanity from global warming **6**



Iran's Reds march into ACL last night **11**



### Huge Kabul truck bomb kills 80, wounds hundreds

A powerful bomb hidden in a sewage tanker exploded in the morning rush hour in the center of the Afghan capital on Wednesday, police said, killing at least 80 people, wounding hundreds and damaging embassy buildings.

The victims appeared mainly to have been Afghan civilians. The bomb, one of the deadliest in Kabul and coming at the start of the holy month of Ramadan, exploded close to the fortified entrance to the German Embassy, wounding some staff, German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said. Pictures showed the embassy building with its windows ripped out, Reuters reported.

One Afghan security guard was killed and others were likely among the dead, Gabriel said.

Basir Mujahid, a spokesman for city police, said the explosives were hidden in a sewage truck. He also suggested that the German Embassy might not have been the target of the blast, which sent towering clouds of black smoke into the sky near the presidential palace.

The blast, which shattered windows and blew doors off their hinges in houses hundreds of meters away, was unusually

strong. No group had claimed responsibility by late Wednesday afternoon.

The Taliban denied responsibility and said they condemned attacks that have no legitimate target and killed civilians.

Daesh has previously claimed responsibility for high-profile attacks in Kabul, including one on a military hospital in March that killed more than 50 people.

The NATO-led Resolute Support (RS) mission in Kabul said Afghan security forces prevented the heavily protected Green Zone that houses many foreign embassies as well as its headquarters, also suggesting it may not have reached its intended target.

A public health official said at least 80 people had been killed and more than 350 wounded.

The French, Turkish, Iranian and Chinese embassies were among those damaged, the three countries said, adding there were no immediate signs of injuries among their diplomats. Video shot at the scene showed burning debris, crumbled walls and buildings, and destroyed cars,

many with dead or injured people inside. Blood streamed down the faces of walking wounded.

#### 'Felt like an earthquake'

At the Wazir Akbar Khan hospital a few blocks away, there were scenes of chaos as ambulances brought in wounded. Frantic relatives scanned casualty lists and questioned hospital staff for news.

"It felt like an earthquake," said 21-year-old Mohammad Hassan, describing the moment the blast struck the bank where he was working. His head wound had been bandaged but blood still soaked his white dress shirt.

Frenzy erupted outside the hospital as ambulances and police trucks began bringing in the bodies of those killed. Some bodies were burned or destroyed beyond recognition.

The explosion will add pressure to the fragile government of President Ashraf Ghani, which has faced mounting discontent over its inability to control the insurgency and provide security for Afghan citizens.

### Iran signs deal with Gazprom on Farzad B

Iran has signed a basic agreement with Russia's energy giant Gazprom on the development of Farzad B gas field — a project which the country has long been negotiating with an Indian consortium.

The announcement of Farzad B agreement was made by Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh.



He told Argus energy publication that Iran had signed two other basic agreements with Gazprom on the development of North Pars and Kish gas fields.

Once finalized, the three could give Gazprom a strong foothold in Iran's gas industry.

Continued on Page 4

### Russia fires cruise missiles at Daesh positions in Syria

Russia's warship and submarine fired cruise missiles at the Daesh terror group's targets around Palmyra in Syria from the Mediterranean, Moscow said Wednesday, the first such strikes announced in months.

The frigate Admiral Essen and submarine Krasnodar carried out four strikes against military hardware and Daesh terrorists who had left its de facto capital Raqqa, the Russian military said in a statement, AFP reported.

"All the targets were hit," the statement said, without specifying when the strikes happened. Moscow said that the US, Turkish and Israeli militaries "were informed in a timely manner of the missile launches through existing communication channels."

It added that the Russian strike was promptly executed following the order, a testimony to the navy's high readiness and capabilities.

President Vladimir Putin was briefed on the successful strikes by Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, the Kremlin said.

Russia has been conducting a bombing campaign since 2015 in support of President Bashar al-Assad and has a naval contingent deployed to the Eastern Mediterranean to bolster



its firepower.

Moscow has, however, not announced any strikes from the sea in recent months as it focuses on pushing a fragile truce between the government and foreign-backed militants.

Daesh is not included in the cease-fire.

#### Raging battles

The new cruise strike came as Syrian gov-

ernment troops pushed ahead in their offensive against Daesh and terrorists in central and northern Syria, AP wrote.

Syrian troops have been on the offensive for weeks in northern, central and southern part of the country against Daesh and foreign-backed militants, gaining an area almost half the size of neighboring Lebanon.

Most recently, Syrian troops and their allies have been marching toward the Daesh stronghold of Sukhna, about 60 kilometers (37 miles) northeast of Palmyra.

The strategic juncture in the Syrian desert aids government plans to go after Daesh in Deir el-Zour, one of the terrorists' last major strongholds in Syria. The oil-rich province straddles the border with Iraq and is the terror group's last gateway to the outside world.

As the fighting against Daesh is underway near Palmyra, Syrian troops clashed with foreign-backed terrorists in the country's south on Wednesday, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human.

Syrian troops backed by Russian airstrikes captured Palmyra in March last year. Daesh terrorists, however, recaptured Palmyra eight months later, before Syrian government troops drove them out again in March this year.

### Trump 'poised to quit Paris climate deal'

President Donald Trump's administration is poised to announce the United States' withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement, US media reported on Wednesday.

According to the Axios website, the first to break the news citing two sources with direct knowledge of the matter, Trump has reached a decision to pull out of the landmark deal on cutting global carbon emissions to curb global warming, AFP wrote.

Several US media including CNN, CBS, ABC and Politico also reported that the White House was expected to announce a withdrawal from the 2015 accord once details of the process have been worked out.

The White House did not confirm the reports, while Trump restated that his decision would be announced this week.

"I will be announcing my decision on the Paris Accord over the next few days. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!" he tweeted.

An American pullout from the 196-nation Paris Agreement would deal a major blow to the so-called "climate diplomacy" which, less than 18 months ago, celebrated the historic pact made possible by a hard-fought agreement between Beijing and Washington, under former president Barack Obama's leadership.

The United States is the world's biggest carbon emitter after China.

Under Trump, who once called climate change a "hoax," Washington has resisted intense pressure from its partners to commit to respecting the global accord.

Since taking office on January 20, however, Trump has sent contradictory signals on the Paris deal — reflecting the different currents within his administration, on climate change but also on the wider issue of the United States' role in the world and their relation to multilateralism.

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency Scott Pruitt has overtly advocated quitting a deal he judges "bad" for America.

But the corporate world has by and large come out in favor of staying in the accord. A dozen large groups including the oil major BP, agrochemical giant DuPont, Google, Intel and Microsoft, have urged Trump to remain part of the deal.

Under Obama, the United States had pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

# Guardian Council confirms presidential election results

Iran's Interior Ministry spokesman said that the Guardian Council in a letter confirmed the results of the 12th presidential elections, which saw President Hassan

Rouhani reelected for another term in office.

Salman Samani said that the GC secretary announced that after considering the

complaints, the body confirmed the validity of the May 19 presidential elections as per Article 79 of the Presidential Elections Law, IRNA reported.

The Guardian Council is the body responsible for overseeing elections and confirming their results in Iran.

In the letter, Secretary of the Guardian Council Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati announced that the body received and examined reports and complaints about the election process and ultimately verified the poll's overall results, he added.

The official said the 12-member supervisory body had received complaints of irregularities in the electoral activities before the election and on the day of voting on May 19, adding that some of them had been sent to judicial bodies for more investigation.

President Rouhani, a moderate candidate, won a resounding reelection victory with 23,549,616 votes or 57 percent of the total ballots. His main rival in the four-man race, Seyed Ebrahim Raeisi, a conservative, secured 15,786,449 votes or 38.5 percent of the ballots. Mostafa Aqa-Mirsalim and Mostafa Hashemi-Taba, the other two candidates, received 478,215 and 215,450 votes respectively.

Overall turnout in Iran's 12th presidential elections was registered at over 73 percent.

Six candidates had been approved after vetting by the Guardian Council to run for president. In the final days of campaigning, however, two of the candidates, namely First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri and Tehran Mayor Mohammad Bager Qalibaf, withdrew from the race in favor of President Rouhani and Raeisi, respectively.



IRNA

## MPs elect presiding board; Larijani, deputies reelected



IRNA

The Iranian lawmakers on Wednesday elected the Parliament's presiding board during an open session, with Ali Larijani securing the speaker post for the 10th consecutive year.

Larijani secured 204 votes out of 268 valid votes, IRNA reported. Massoud Pezeshkian and Ali Motahari were also reelected as the vice speakers of the new Parliament during its second year.

Iranian members of Parliament also elected three representatives as the observers, and six others as the secretaries of the presiding board.

The Iranian Parliament has currently 290 representatives, changed from the previous 272 seats since the February 18, 2000 election. The recent parliamentary polls were held on February 26, 2016.

The lawmakers take the seats for a four-year term. The Zoroastrians and Jews each elect one representative in the parliament, Assyrian and Chaldean Christians jointly elect one representative, and Armenian Christians in the north and the south are each represented by one lawmaker, according to the Parliament's official website.

Iranian lawmakers also praised the people's massive participation in the elections as "a lesson of religious democracy" to all countries in the Middle East and other parts of the world.



IRNA

## Qassemi: US 'divisive' policies aimed at plundering peoples' assets

Iran rejected the recent claims by a US official against the Islamic Republic over assassination of an Arab envoy, saying that Washington policies are among the country's strategic objectives to plunder the assets of regional peoples.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said that the claims made by US Defense Secretary James Mattis against Tehran were reciprocation for Saudi Arabia's profligacy during President Donald Trump's visit to Riyadh.

Qassemi on Tuesday rejected the US defense secretary's allegations that an alleged plot by Iranians to kill the former Saudi ambassador to Washington, Adel al-Jubeir, was an "operation approved at the highest level." Press TV reported.

"The aforementioned accusations by US defense secretary about the [failed] assassination of an Arab ambassador in Washington by Iran are a fabricated and unfounded scenario," Qassemi said, adding, "US divisive policies vis-à-vis Muslim countries are among this country's strategic objectives with the purpose of creating fabricated and fake threats to plunder the assets of regional peoples."



IRNA

He said some warmongering officials in the US and Saudi Arabia, as its ally in the Persian Gulf region, are pursuing such a false scenario, adding that the Islamic Republic paid no heed to such "baseless" accusations.

It was not surprising that Mattis made such allegations only a few days after the

US president's trip to Riyadh, because leveling groundless claims was an option for Washington to make up for Saudi's generosity, Qassemi added.

On his first overseas trip since taking office, President Trump attended a signing ceremony on May 20 for almost \$110 billion worth of military equipment to sup-

port Saudi Arabia's military.

The Iranian spokesperson emphasized that Washington's double standard-driven approach to terrorism poses a serious threat to stability and security across the world, particularly in the Middle East region.

He warned that the continuation of such policies would damage the prospects of the international community's success in fighting the "ominous and dangerous phenomenon of terrorism."

In a televised interview with CBS's Face the Nation this week, Mattis claimed that the Iranian officials "are not looking out for the best interests of their people."

"You've got this revolutionary cause that then causes them to go around creating mischief everywhere else; including trying to murder an Arab ambassador fewer than two miles away from the White House a couple of years ago," he claimed.

Jubeir, who now serves as the Saudi foreign minister, escaped a failed assassination attempt in 2011. Iran has vehemently denied any involvement in the alleged plot.

## OPINION

### Silk Road: Brilliant past, brighter future

By Pang Sen  
China's Ambassador to Tehran

More than 2,000 years ago a Chinese state delegation dispatched by the Chinese Emperor arrived in Iran after a long difficult journey.

The route that they took was the ancient Silk Road which linked the Iranian and Chinese civilizations. Then, Iranian artists and industrialists carried Iranian products on horses and camels via this road and Chinese ships began unloading their consignments via Iran's southern port of Hormuz.

This is a historical image of mutual learning, bilateral trade and beautiful stories of two-sided interactions which have been transmitted from generation to generation.

These days, the Silk Road has been experiencing major transformations.

Chinese President Xi Jinping unveiled the initiative of "One Road One Belt" in 2013 and called on the countries which are situated on the route to establish a society with joint interests and future for each other which acts as a driving force behind the project.

Since its implementation, the project has made tangible progress and many countries, including Iran have supported it. These nations have deepened their cooperation through political coordination, promoting communication, free trade, financial integration and popular links which have produced preliminary results.

Mechanisms of financing have been implemented and communications infrastructures have been formed. Industrial cooperation has taken place and the construction phase has been advancing. The bulk of trade and investment has also been growing.

These achievements have established solid foundation for the development of the project.

Iran has been one of the most important trade centers on the route for centuries, which geographically has a strategic status.

Since the implementation of the JCPOA between Iran and the P5+1 in 2016, the Islamic Republic's domestic and international status has enhanced which has provided more favorable conditions for cooperation between Tehran and Beijing.

Iran and China have maintained friendly relations for a long time. The Chinese president's trip to Iran in January 2016 was successful and he and his Iranian counterpart reached important agreements to cement bilateral ties.

Since then, China's defense minister and its deputy foreign minister as well as the Iranian foreign and economy ministers have travelled to each other's countries to implement MOUs signed between the Iranian and Chinese presidents to deepen bilateral relations in all fields.

China has been Iran's top trade partner for eight consecutive years. The Iranian and Chinese companies are cooperating in many fields, including energy, transport, machinery, Metallurgy, hydro power, electricity, telecommunication, construction materials and auto industry.

Construction operations for the high-speed Tehran-Qom-Isfahan railroad are underway and the reconstructing plans of Tehran-Mashhad railroad will soon begin. A new metro line in Tehran became operational and Tehran-Yiwu cargo trains have been launched.

Two important oil projects namely, North Azadegan and Yadavaran were completed by the CNPC and SINOPEC companies late last year; the opening ceremonies of which were held in attendance of President Hassan Rouhani.

Besides, CNPC and NIOC signed a new deal for developing South Pars gas fields.

Nowadays, many Chinese companies have begun trade activities with Iran and the Chinese investments have led to the establishment of many industrial and scientific towns as well as auto-manufacturing centers.

Presently, Chinese trademarks such as Huawei and Chery are very popular in Iran and trade among the Iranian and Chinese societies is growing.

In late April, the Chinese deputy prime minister had a successful trip to Iran where she held discussions about technology, education, science and culture with Iranian officials. The Confucius Institute in Tehran University has attracted many students for learning Chinese language.

The Chinese Embassy along with the China-Iran Friendship Association has been holding Iranian and Chinese new year festivals in Iran for five consecutive years which have been welcomed by the local society.

In August, Tehran performed cultural programs pertaining to China's Xinjiang for the first time.

In March, Iranian and Chinese soccer teams put in a brilliant performance in their encounter in the 2018 Russia World Cup Asian qualifiers at the full-packed 100,000-seater Azadi Stadium.

Cooperation between Iran and China in "One Road One Belt" initiative will lead to a brilliant future.

We along with our Iranian counterparts will make efforts to establish the Silk Road green, healthy and smart.

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was earlier held in Beijing. High-ranking guests from countries, including Iran and China convened in Beijing to discuss the preliminary projects for future cooperation.

I certainly believe that cooperation between Iran and China will inspire and strengthen this important event.

Two people were killed by a "disgruntled employee" who opened fire at the Kingdom School in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. There were no children present during the attack.



French anti-riot police officers clash with protesters during a demonstration against proposed labor reforms on April 28, 2016 in Paris. DOMINIQUE FAGET/AFP

## Amnesty says France using terrorism powers to curb peaceful protests

Rights group Amnesty International accused France on Wednesday of using emergency powers to fight terrorism as a pretext for clamping down on peaceful protests, including over sensitive environmental and labor issues.

The report came just days after President Emmanuel Macron said his government would ask parliament to extend by several months the emergency powers introduced in 2015 to counter the threat of terrorist attacks, Reuters reported.

Emergency rules giving French police wider search and arrest powers were introduced after gunmen and suicide bombers killed 130 people in and around Paris in November 2015.

Amnesty said that between November 2015 and 5 May 2017, authorities had used their powers to issue 155 decrees prohibiting public gatherings.

It also said 639 measures preventing specific individuals participating in public assemblies had been imposed, including 574 that targeted labor law

reforms protesters.

The new government has said that following last week's Manchester attacks claimed by Daesh, the emergency measures should run beyond mid-July to Nov. 1.

"Emergency laws intended to protect the French people from the threat of terrorism are instead being used to restrict their rights to protest peacefully," said Amnesty International researcher Marco Perolini.

"Under the cover of the state of emergency, rights to protest have been stripped away with hundreds of activists, environmentalists, and labor rights campaigners unjustifiably banned from participating in protests."

Macron, who reviewed national security with defense chiefs on Wednesday, said security measures for the summer period would be reinforced taking into consideration the state of emergency's planned extension.

"Obviously there is no question of diverting what is a state of emergency to fight terrorism ... in any way whatsoever," government spokesman Christophe Castaner said.

He added that anti-terrorism legislation presented in the summer would look at resolving any issues related to the state of emergency.

Amnesty said the current measures included powers to ban demonstrations on vague grounds and prevent individuals attending protests.

With Macron expected to push through new economic reforms in the coming months, there is potential for more widespread demonstrations across the country.

"With the battle lines already being drawn between the new president and the unions on labor law reform, President Macron must stop the misuse of anti-terrorism powers to restrict peaceful protest and end France's dangerous and dizzying spiral towards a permanent state of emergency," said Perolini.

## YouGov projection: May could lose majority in June 8 election

Prime Minister Theresa May could lose control of Parliament in Britain's June 8 election, according to a projection by polling company YouGov, raising the prospect of political deadlock just as formal Brexit talks begin.

In stark contrast to opinion polls that have until the past week shown May on course for a big win in the snap election she called, the YouGov model suggested May would lose 20 seats and her 17-seat working majority in the 650-seat British Parliament, Reuters reported.



AFP

The YouGov constituency projection, based on 50,000 interviews over the course of a week, showed May would win 310 seats, down from the 331 seats won by her predecessor David Cameron in 2015.

The opposition Labour Party could win 257 seats, up from 232 seats in 2015, YouGov said. Smaller parties, including the Scottish National Party and Northern Irish parties, could win 83 seats, The Times newspaper quoted YouGov as predicting.

If the YouGov model turns out to be accurate, May would be well short of the 326 seats needed to form a government in June, when formal Brexit negotiations are due to begin.

May called the snap election in a bid to strengthen her hand in negotiations on Britain's exit from the European Union, to win more time to deal with the impact of the divorce and to strengthen her grip on the Conservative Party.

But if she does not handily beat the 12-seat majority Cameron won in 2015, her electoral gamble will have failed and her authority could be undermined just as she tries to deliver what she has told voters will be a successful Brexit.

## Military: 89 terrorists killed in Philippine urban battle

Philippine troops have killed 89 terrorists during more than a week of urban battles but a final showdown is expected to be fierce as the gunmen protect their leaders and hold hostages, authorities said Wednesday.

Attack helicopters fired rockets on Wednesday morning into parts of the southern city of Marawi that was still controlled by the terrorists fighting under the black flag of the Daesh group, AFP reported.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law across the entire southern region of Mindanao in response to the crisis, which he described as the start of a major campaign by Daesh to establish a foothold in the Philippines.

Killed in the fighting and the amount of territory in the city that the remaining gunmen controlled had been cut to just 10 percent, military spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla said Wednesday.

However Padilla warned of more intense battles ahead, with the military believing three of the terrorists' main leaders were likely still in the city.

"That 10 percent is most likely the area that is heavily guarded and defended by any armed men if they are protecting any individual of high value," Padilla said.

The terrorists are also holding an unknown number of civilians hostage, according to Padilla and other authorities.

Another major complicating factor was the safety of about 2,000 residents who the local government said remained trapped in the terrorist-controlled areas, with troops, police and aid workers trying to rescue them.

Padilla said Wednesday the terrorists had murdered 19 civilians but insisted that the military's "precision airstrikes" had not killed any of the trapped residents.

Twenty-one security forces had also died, Padilla said, bringing the combined death toll to 129.



Government forces are using helicopters to attack pockets of Marawi city, where officials said 89 terrorists have been killed. TED AL-JIBBE/AFP

## Brazil court orders president questioned in graft probe

Brazil's Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered President Michel Temer to be questioned in writing, the latest development in an explosive corruption scandal that has him fighting for his political life.

The embattled leader had 24 hours to respond to questions from the federal police in a case involving Brazil's largest meat company JBS, a court statement said, AFP reported.

The court authorization of Temer's testimony was expected, as police continue their investigation.

At the heart of the case is a conversation Temer had with an executive from the JBS meat packing business in which the president allegedly blesses monthly payments of hush money to jailed former lower house speaker Eduardo Cunha.



AFP

Cunha is in prison after being convicted of bribe-taking, but as a powerful insider he has long been rumored to be threatening to spill secrets on other politicians.

Prosecutors accuse Temer of corruption, obstruction of justice and criminal organization. He has said he did nothing wrong and will not resign.

Lawmakers have filed 16 separate demands for Temer's impeachment.

Brazil's political crisis stems from the gigantic corruption investigation known as "Car Wash."

Scores of politicians have been indicted or subjected to probes into alleged bribe-taking and embezzlement, with Temer only the latest and highest-profile to be pulled into the maelstrom.

## Trump's cellphone diplomacy raises security concerns

President Donald Trump has been handing out his cellphone number to world leaders and urging them to call him directly, an unusual invitation that breaks diplomatic protocol and is raising concerns about the security and secrecy of the US commander in chief's communications.

Trump has urged leaders of Canada and Mexico to reach him on his cellphone, according to former and current US officials with direct knowledge of the practice. Of the two, only Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has taken advantage of the offer so far, the officials said, AP reported.

Trump also exchanged numbers with French President Emmanuel Macron when the two spoke immediately following Macron's victory earlier this month, according to a French official, who would not comment on whether Macron intended to use the line.



AP

All the officials demanded anonymity because they were not authorized to reveal the conversations. Neither the White House nor Trudeau's office responded to requests for comment.

The notion of world leaders calling each other up via cellphone may seem unremarkable in the modern, mobile world. But in the diplomatic arena, where leader-to-leader calls are highly orchestrated affairs, it is another notable breach of protocol for a president who has expressed distrust of official channels. The formalities and discipline of diplomacy have been a rough fit for Trump — who, before taking office, was long easily accessible by cellphone and viewed himself as freewheeling, impulsive dealmaker.

Presidents generally place calls on one of several secure phone lines, including those in the White House Situation Room, the Oval Office or the presidential limousine. Even if Trump uses his government-issued cellphone, his calls are vulnerable to eavesdropping, particularly from foreign governments, national security experts say.

"If you are Macron or the leader of any country and you get the cellphone number of the president of the United States, it's reasonable to assume that they'd hand it over to their intel service," said Ashley Deeks, a law professor at the University of Virginia who formerly served as the assistant legal adviser for political-military affairs in the US State Department.

The practice opens Trump up to charges of hypocrisy. Throughout last year's presidential campaign, he lambasted Democratic rival Hillary Clinton for using a private email server while she was secretary of state, insisting she should not be given access to classified information because she would leave it vulnerable to foreign foes.

The White House did not respond to questions on whether the president is keeping records of any less-formal calls with world leaders.

## Iran eyes more gas production from South Pars phases 17-21

South Pars development phases 17-21 will add more than 150 million cubic meters/d of new gas production from the giant Iranian offshore field when they achieve full operating capacity, said managing director of National Iranian Oil Company.

Ali Kardor told Iran Petroleum, "We are now witnessing their completion and operation," referring to the five phases inaugurated in April.

In a separate report by Shana, Iran Petroleum put South Pars' current gas output at 540 million cubic meter per day — up from 280 million cubic meter per day in 2013 — when Hassan Rouhani first became president.

Development of the field started 15 years ago and has accelerated under Rouhani's administration, Iran Petroleum reported. To date, eight new South Pars phases have been commissioned by the Rouhani administration. Rouhani was elected May 19 to a second term in office. Project phases 12, 15 and 16 were completed earlier.

Iran's Oil Ministry has assigned top priority to the development of South Pars, which has gas reserves estimated at about 500 tcf, not only because of the Persian Gulf field's huge size but also because it extends across Iran's maritime border with Qatar.

Qatar calls its side of the gas deposit North Field and estimates the gas reserves at roughly 900 tcf.

"After the new administration took office, crude oil prices had fallen, we were under sanctions and our oil export rate had declined. Therefore, NIOC's financial resources had declined sharply and we could not develop all phases together," Kardor said.

"Had we done so, none of these phases would have reached production."

Financial resources were allocated first to projects that had progressed the furthest so that they could be brought into production faster, he added.

Financing remained a serious obstacle to development, Kardor said. With sanctions still in place, about \$3 billion in financial guarantees were extended to contractors from the National Development Fund of Iran to enable South Pars development work to proceed, he added.

Total development costs for phases 17-21 was around \$18 billion: Nearly \$7 billion for the combined phases 17 and 18, \$5.5 billion for phase 19 and \$5.3 billion for the combined phases 20 and 21, he said.

Each new South Pars phase would raise Iran's GDP by one percent, Kardor estimated, adding that incremental South Pars gas supplies would displace liquid fuels, allowing the country's oil exports to rise.

"Any delay in bringing these phases into operation means funneling profits to Qatar's market," he said.

### Essential equipment released

The lifting of nuclear sanctions in January 2016 after Iran signed a nuclear deal with the P5+1, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, speeded up South Pars development by enabling Iran to import essential equipment that had been impounded in European countries and the UAE, Kardor said.

Now facing the prospect of production declines at some South Pars phases without facilities upgrades, Kardor said compressors and pressure-booster platforms were being installed to avert a pressure decline that would hurt output.

"These platforms weigh 19,000 to 20,000 tons. Iranian companies can build platforms weighing up to 7,000 tons and the contractors' yards do not have the equipment to build pressure-booster platforms. Therefore, we have to apply special equipment and technology which Iranian companies lack," he said.

Explaining the need for foreign input, he noted, eventually, as Iranian contractors worked alongside international partners and gained more experience, the construction know-how would be transferred to Iran.

### Foreign investment

Long-term reliance on the National Development Fund of Iran for finance would be unfeasible, Kardor said.

"More reliance on the NDF resources is not a long-term and defendable approach. These resources will help the development of jointly owned fields until the way is cleared for attracting foreign investment," he added.

"NIOC is seeking to apply a variety of investment attraction methods in order to reduce dependence on domestic financial resources. This company is facing numerous financial bottlenecks. In order to deal with development projects under such circumstances we need to develop skills to attract foreign investment and apply creative methods," he said.

Kardor described NIOC's recent \$615 million deal to buy corrosion resistant steel tubing from Spanish manufacturer Tubacex as one that would both assist further development and maintenance efforts at South Pars, where the pipes are extensively used, and facilitate technology transfer to Iran.

"NIOC is serious pursuing the transfer of technology for building this tubing in the country," he added.

On the development of Iran's offshore North Pars gas field, Kardor said it was a project for future development as the field lay entirely within Iran's territorial waters.

However, North Pars gas could be used to make up for any production shortfalls in the event of a fall-off in reservoir pressure, he added.

"If not, we can use the North Pars gas for LNG and exports," Kardor said.

"Development of jointly owned fields remains a priority for NIOC and that is why all activities in South Pars are concentrated on maximum recovery from this field," he added.

Iran holds the world's largest gas reserves, but currently consumes almost all the gas it produces, offsetting limited exports to Turkey and Azerbaijan with imports from Turkmenistan.

It expects to become a major gas exporter, starting with proposed pipeline exports to Iraq, Oman and Pakistan.

# Iran builds first mobile power plants in Middle East

**I**ranian industrial group Iran Power Plant Projects Management Company (MAPNA) constructed two 25-MW mobile power plants for the first time in the Middle East.

The mobile power plants of Noshahr and Behshahr cities were synchronized with the national grid on Wednesday, Tasnim News Agency reported.

MAPNA's 25-MW mobile power plants can be quickly installed to generate electricity.

The mobile power plants are usually used in regions where electricity consumption is more than what is generated by conventional power plants.

In relevant remarks in September 2014, an Iranian lawmaker announced that MAPNA plans to build eight mini combined-cycle power plants across the country.

Ali Khamkani said MAPNA Company will construct eight mini power plants, adding Zaranud mini power plant with generating capacity of 33 MW of electricity is expected to come online in summer next year.

MAPNA Group is an Iranian enterprise which operates in the fields of construction and development of thermal power plants under EPC scheme, independent power plants (IPP), oil and gas as well as rail traction projects.

MAPNA was founded in 1993 to develop indigenous knowledge production capacity for petroleum facilities, power plants and other industrial facilities, and as a contract management company.



IRNA

## Japan's Inpex mulls bid to develop Iranian oilfield

Inpex, Japan's largest upstream company, announced that it plans to bid in a tender recently launched by Iran to develop the country's Azadegan oilfield.

Quoting a company spokesman, Platts reported, "Inpex is in the process of gathering information and conducting updates as necessary. Inpex will consider its response once the tender is published and the terms and conditions pertaining to the tender and oil contract are clarified."



AP

Top Iranian officials said in the past

week that Iran had launched the tender for developing Azadegan field in the country's southwest, and had already invited international oil companies to participate.

Azadegan, which is estimated to have

up to 42 billion barrels of in-situ oil and is considered Iran's biggest onshore field, currently produces less than 50,000 bpd, but Iran hopes to increase production to between 300,000 bpd and 320,000 bpd, according to Platts.

## Asian imports of Iranian oil in April rose 23% from a year ago

From Page 1

In the first four months of 2017, the four Asian countries imported 1.8 mbd — a 40 percent rise from the same period last year.

Iran was exempted from a deal between OPEC and other producers, including Russia, to reduce output by 1.8 million bpd from January 1, and will remain so after the cut was extended last week for a further nine months.

Japan's Trade Ministry on Wednesday released official data, showing Iranian imports were at 41,401 bpd last month — more than double the figure from a year earlier.

They were down sharply from more



REUTERS

## Russia to help Iran build compressed gas plant

National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) and Russia's Gazprom are mulling a deal to construct a compressed gas plant in Iran, media reports said.

The event aims at macroeconomic cooperation as well as multilateral and regional partnership among the countries.

Gazprom, which was active for



TASS

According to Fars News Agency, the two sides are likely to finalize a contract at St. Petersburg International Economic Forum which will kick off later this week, Russian-language media reported.

The St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) will take place from June 1-3, 2017 bringing together the chief executives of major Russian and international companies, heads of state, political leaders, prime ministers, deputy prime ministers, departmental ministers, and governors.

several years in the South Pars Gas Field, was involved in the second and third phases of the field since 1997 but discontinued work after the anti-Iran sanctions.

On March 28, National Iranian Gas Company and Gazprom signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Moscow, in a ceremony attended by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, based on which Gazprom and NIGC agreed to develop mutual cooperation.

## Iran signs deal with Gazprom on Farzad B

From Page 1

Meanwhile, Indian media said Iran's awarding Farzad B to Gazprom was in retaliation for New Delhi's recent move to cut purchases of Iranian crude oil.

The volume cuts would put India's imports of Iranian crude for this fiscal year at 370,000 barrels per day (bpd), Indian media reports said.

The reduction reportedly was itself in response to Iran's failure to award the rights to develop Farzad B to an Indian consortium led by ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL).

India is Iran's top oil client after China, and last year imported about 510,000 bpd of crude from the country, according to shipping data provided by

Reuters.

The reduced 2017-18 imports include 199,000 bpd by state refiners — a decline of about a third from last year — Reuters quoted market sources as saying.

Private refiners Essar and HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd. have renewed last year's term contracts to buy 1,200,000 bpd and 200,000 bpd from Iran, respectively, according to Indian media reports.

Meanwhile, Reuters quoted analysts as saying in a report that apart from the row over Farzad B, India was also taking advantage of a narrow price spread between European oil benchmark Brent and Middle East price-setter Dubai crude, which makes it attractive to bring more oil from Europe into Asia.

German consumer inflation eased more than expected in May to fall below the European Central Bank's price stability target of just under two percent.

# World economy picks up pace as Trump threat fades



Salzer.io

Economic growth is gathering steam across the world as political risks fade, the threat of protectionism from the US recedes and the eurozone at last recovers.

The G20 economies, which account for 78 percent of world GDP, should grow by more than three percent in 2017 and in 2018, credit ratings agency Moody's predicts, up from 2.6 percent in 2016, according to The Telegraph.

"Overall, global growth is looking increasingly sustainable with data surprising to the upside in a number of emerging market countries," said Madhavi Bokil at Moody's Investors Service.

"The current momentum should continue. With the exception of the UK, recovery in advanced economies is also picking up."

Big threats to the global recovery have failed to materialize this year despite widespread concern just a few months ago.

Moody's pointed to the election of Emmanuel Macron as president of France as an example, as his victory over Marine Le Pen removed the risk of a major eurozone

member leaving the single currency area.

Three months ago Moody's warned that US President Donald Trump's protectionism could derail the global recovery if it sparked a trade war.

"The risk to global trade and economic growth from a pursuit of protectionist policies in the US and consequent retaliation also seems to have diminished for now," said Bokil.

"There is a significant softening of the US administration's stance on what should be considered free and fair trade from a US economic standpoint."

Trump has backed away from some rhetoric targeted at the countries with which the US runs a trade deficit, as well as limiting his threats to The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

At the same time "a modest fiscal stimulus from a combination of unfunded tax cuts and higher spending will support growth in 2018".

That will likely lead to higher interest rates and a stronger dollar, as the US economy is already at full employment.

Growth is not accelerating everywhere, and the

analysts expect some slowdown in the UK.

"Consumer spending, which has been a strong driver of growth since mid-2016, is slowing as a rise in inflation squeezes real wages," said Bokil.

"We expect that the UK economy will grow around 1.5 percent this year, slowing further to one percent in 2018 owing to a slowdown in investment amid Brexit-related uncertainty. The upward revision to our 2017 forecast from one percent previously recognizes that the speed of the slowdown so far has turned out to be more moderate than we had previously estimated."

Meanwhile Moody's said emerging markets are adding significantly to the global improvement.

Asian trade is rising sharply while Brazil and Russia appear to be emerging from recessions and Mexico's slowdown is not as bad as previously anticipated.

China however is likely to slow down to GDP growth of 6.6 percent this year and 6.3 percent next year, with rising interest rates aimed at controlling the surge in debts in the world's second-largest economy.

But Moody's anticipates the government will raise spending instead to limit the slowdown.

## Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	80557.5	0	0
Industry Index	69244.6	(18.3)	(0.03)
Free Float Index	87742.4	86.3	0.1
First Market Index	55588.5	(34)	(0.06)
Second Market Index	180229.9	192.8	0.11

## Overall Index details on 20170531

First	80511.5	Change end of year(%)	918.32%
High	80558.1	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	80519.1	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	80557.5	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	0		

## Industry Index details on 20170531

First	69197.9	Change end of year(%)	1027.74%
Max Value	69245.1	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	69610.5	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	69244.6	Base Value	
Closing	(18.3)		

## Free Float Index details on 20170531

First	87907.5	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	88753.6	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	88687.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	87742.4	Base Value	
Closing	86.3		

## Main Board Index details on 20170531

First	55611.6	Change end of year(%)	777.1%
Max Value	55618.2	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	55990.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	55588.5	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	(34)		

## Secondary Index details on 20170531

First	179931.1	Change end of year(%)	1345.03%
Max Value	180208.4	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	181452.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	180229.9	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	192.8		

## Signals mixed on US economy

A mixed portrait of US economic health has emerged, with a rise in consumer spending but a dip in confidence.

Consumer spending grew 0.4 percent from March to April, picking up after a soft start to the year, the Commerce Department said.

But the annual inflation rate was 1.7 percent, remaining below the two percent target set by policymakers, BBC reported.

In a separate survey of consumer sentiment, confidence in the economy slipped.

Policymakers are trying to read a mix of signals from the US economy, as the country extends one of the longest streaks of economic growth in its history.

Several key metrics suggest a slow start to the year. The question is whether the slowdown was transitory.

The Commerce Department's report on Tuesday showed a key measure of inflation edging up 0.2 percent in April,



financiatribune.com

rebounding after a fall in March.

"The inflation gain in April suggests 'the recent weakness in the economy was likely transitory', analyst Ryan Sweet of Moody's Analytics wrote in a report.

"But there still isn't a ton of evidence that inflationary pressures are building

quickly," he added.

Viewed annually, the rate of inflation slowed in April.

The price index, which tracks goods and services purchased by individuals, but strips out food and energy prices, rose 1.7 percent year-on-year, retreating from

1.9 percent annual growth in March.

The Commerce Department on Tuesday also reported a 0.4 percent month-to-month increase in consumer spending, the fastest growth so far this year.

But after adjusting for inflation, spending climbed only 0.2 percent, down from a 0.5 percent increase in March.

The Consumer Confidence Index, which measures sentiment on business and labor market conditions, also declined 1.5 points in May, falling for a second month in a row, while remaining relatively high the Conference Board said on Tuesday.

The prospect for continued spending growth is 'bright' in the medium-term, Moody's analyst Scott Hoyt wrote.

But "risks to the outlook are large", he said, citing uncertainty over tax reform, health care policies and high values in the US stock market.

## Japan's factory output rises

Japanese factory output rose 4.0 percent in April from the previous month, official figures showed on Wednesday, bolstering data indicating the world's third-largest economy is finally seeing moderate expansion.

However, the figure was slightly down on market expectations of a 4.2 percent rise and came a day after data showed consumer demand remains weak despite years of government efforts to boost spending, AFP reported.

The positive reading comes after its factory output fell 1.9 percent in March, according to data released by the ministry of economy, trade and industry.

The ministry also reviewed upwards its prospects for factory output in May from a 3.7 percent fall to a 2.5 percent fall, and expects output will rise 1.8 percent in June.

Japan's prospects have been



BLOOMBERG

improving on the back of strong exports, with investment linked to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics also giving the economy a shot in the arm.

Official figures earlier showed Japan's economy grew 0.5 percent in the first three months of the year — or a 2.2 percent annualized growth rate.

That was its fifth straight quarterly rise and the longest string of gains since 2006.

## Moody's raises Singapore banks' outlook

Moody's Investors Service raised Singapore banks' outlook to stable from negative on Wednesday, citing stabilizing commodity prices and improving growth conditions.

The ratings agency said deterioration in the asset portion of balance sheets had peaked, particularly among oil and gas exposure, CNBC wrote.

"Improving growth momentum in Singapore's key trade partners will support export-oriented manufacturers and offset some lingering weaknesses in the local economy," Eugene Tarzimanov, a senior credit officer at Moody's, said in a statement on Wednesday.

Moody's said it expected Aaa-rated Singapore's real gross domestic product growth to rise to 2.2 percent this year and 2.5 percent in 2018, from two percent in 2016, with credit growth rebounding to mid-single digits after being flat in 2016.



uk.finance.yahoo.com

The oil and gas sector proved a drag on the sector after the sharp drop in oil prices forced Singapore oil service player Swiber Holdings into bankruptcy. Another Singapore oil-service company, Ezra Holdings, also failed to repay debt.

Singapore's three banks — DBS, United Overseas Bank and Overseas-Chinese Banking Corp. — were required to put aside more money to cover their exposure to bad loans to the beleaguered sector.

## Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2817	Chinese Yuan	0.1463
Euro	1.1166	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.2798	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2899
Australian Dollar	0.7447	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0902	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

## Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$49.27	Silver	\$17.26
Gold	\$1263.70	Platinum	\$943.50
Copper	\$2.56	Wheat	\$432.25

## Amazon rainforest more resilient to deforestation

The Amazon forest stores about half of the global tropical forest carbon and accounts for about a quarter of carbon absorption from the atmosphere by global forests each year. As a result, large losses of Amazonian forest cover could make global climate change worse.



GLEILSON MIRANDA/WIKIPEDIA

In the past, researchers have found that a large part of the Amazon forest is susceptible to a tipping point. The tell-tale sign is satellite data showing areas of savannah and rainforest coexisting under the same environmental conditions, phys.org wrote.

Theories from nonlinear dynamics would then suggest that both states are alternative stable outcomes. This so-called bistability means that shocks such as forest clearance or drought could lead to a dramatic increase of fire occurrence and tip an area of rainforest into savannah. Areas that have experienced this transition would then remain locked into this savannah state until large enough increases of rainfall and release of human pressures allow forests to regrow faster than they are lost by intermittent fires.

Bert Wuyts, a fourth year PhD student in the Bristol

Center for Complexity Sciences and lead author on the paper, said: "I decided to take a fresh look at the data and a very different picture emerged when I controlled for seasonality and took out all the data points from satellite images that had been subjected to human influence. Suddenly the property of bistability disappeared almost completely."

Bert, who made this discovery in the first year of his PhD, thought it seemed most puzzling, so he teamed up with Professor Alan Champneys, a theorist in the Department of Engineering Mathematics, and Dr Jo House, an expert on land use change from the School of Geographical Sciences. For the past two years they have been examining these findings rigorously.

# \$4-trillion carbon tax is needed to save humanity from global warming

A global carbon tax that would raise trillions of dollars if applied across the world should be introduced if the world is to avoid dangerous climate change, 13 leading economists have said in a new report.

Led by Professor Nicholas Stern, who produced the groundbreaking Stern Report in 2006, and Professor Joseph Stiglitz, who won the Nobel Prize for economics in 2001, the experts suggested a price for a ton of carbon dioxide of \$50 to \$100 (£39-78) by 2030, independent.co.uk reported.

If implemented all over the world, the top price would raise about \$4 trillion — more than the UK's and Germany's gross domestic products, but less than Japan's — although the report suggested poorer countries might charge less.

Currently about 85 percent of carbon dioxide emissions are not subject to a tax — while the fossil fuel sector receives subsidies of up to an estimated \$5.3 trillion. The world's largest carbon pricing scheme is in the EU, but it only charges about \$6.70.

The High-Level Commission on Carbon Prices' report, which was supported by the World Bank and France, said the money raised could be used in a variety of ways — such as making payments directly to citizens.

"The revenue can be used to foster growth in an equitable way, by returning



AFP

the revenue as household rebates, supporting poorer sections of the population, managing transitional changes, investing in low-carbon infrastructure, and fostering technological change," they said. "Ensuring revenue neutrality via transfers and reductions in other taxes could be a policy option."

And the benefits would not simply come from reducing the risk of global warming hitting two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels — the point at which scientists believe it will get particularly dangerous — with the economists highlighting

the benefits of cleaner air, reduced congestion and healthier ecosystems.

"The report described climate change as 'an urgent and fundamental challenge'.

"The goal of stabilizing the temperature increase well under 2°C is largely motivated by concerns over the immense potential scale of economic, social, and ecological damages that could result from the failure to manage climate change effectively," it said.

This would require the 'large-scale transformation' of human activities, affecting electricity generation, industrial processes, heating and cooling,

transportation, agriculture and the way we live in general.

"However, climate policies, if well designed and implemented, are consistent with growth, development, and poverty reduction," the economists added.

"The transition to a low-carbon economy is potentially a powerful, attractive, and sustainable growth story, marked by higher resilience, more innovation, more livable cities, robust agriculture, and stronger ecosystems."

The report called for the world to start cutting state subsidies for oil, coal and gas.

# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

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Researchers from University of Maryland have identified a common, inexpensive and safe antioxidant that may help slow the aging process in human skin.

# Plans to screen 62 pediatric diseases unveiled

Health Desk

Health Ministry will conduct screening for 62 pediatric diseases within the coming months at Children's Medical Center in Tehran in a pilot plan which will subsequently be implemented nationwide, said the head of 29th Congress of Pediatrics.

Dr. Ali Rabbani further said that the screening is conducted within the first three days of the child's birth.

He announced that the congress would be at Conference Hall of Children's Medical Center during Oct. 26-29.

One of the topics of the event will be CF disease which is posing innumerable problems, he added.

"We have prepared huge facilities for treating CF patients at Children's Medical Center."

Rabbani added that the issue will be presented in English given the high prevalence of CF in Iran and the presence of foreign guests in the congress.

He called child growth and genetic diseases as two important issues which will be discussed in the congress.

Rabbani continued that flu and infectious diseases are more prevalent in children.

He said pediatricians and ICU specialists would take part in the event.



khabarone.ir

## Lack of sleep may cause brain to 'eat' parts of itself



biosciencetechnology.com

A new study on mice published in the Journal of Neuroscience shows that missing out on sleep may cause parts of our brains to start eating other parts.

And The Telegraph reports that's not necessarily something you want to be happening, according to foxnews.com.

The study revolves around two types of glial cells: Astrocytes and microglial cells.

Astrocytes get rid of worn-out and unnecessary synapses, while microglial cells do the same to damaged cells and debris.

Science Alert reported both types of glial cells are active during sleep and play an important role in repairing the brain at the end of the day.

So it's somewhat unexpected that astrocytes stepped up their activity — more than doubling it

— in the brains of chronically sleep-deprived mice. Researcher Michele Bellesi said, "We show for the first time that portions of synapses are literally eaten by astrocytes because of sleep loss."

That may not be a bad thing, as the astrocytes were still going to work on the largest, most-used synapses.

As Bellesi put it, "They are like old pieces of furniture, and so probably need more attention and cleaning."

What is more likely to be a problem is the increase in microglial activity caused by lack of sleep.

Increased microglial activity has been linked to Alzheimer's in the past. It's unclear if the same thing happens in the brains of humans or if catching up on sleep can reverse it.

## New tool could help prevent work-related hand, wrist injuries

Researchers at Texas A&M University have developed a new Self-Report Ergonomic Assessment Tool, or SEAT, to measure how much stress computer programs cause.

People who work in desk jobs on computers for several hours a day can develop debilitating hand and wrist problems that can make it difficult to continue to work, UPI wrote.

Identifying and correcting software-induced ergonomic problems can be difficult and expensive, so researchers at Texas A&M School of Public Health have created the SEAT, to quickly and easily determine how much stress computer programs put on the user.

Paul Ritchey, a doctoral candidate at the School of Public Health, said, "You can fix a bad design on a drawing board."

"And with SEAT, you can fix software before it goes out, and there's no need to buy special equipment."

SEAT consists of self-reporting of discomfort or strain and doesn't require any special training making it faster and less expensive than other methods.



computer-realm.net

Ritchey added, "The SEAT can look at two concepts of ergonomic risk: Stressors, like bad posture, and strain, pain or discomfort that comes from the stressor."

"The idea is for SEAT to be used as a barometer for ergonomic risks through software design cycles."

Geoscientists, in particular, are more prone to

developing hand and wrist injuries from the work they do. Ritchey said, "Geoscientists are an interesting workforce — they are the highly trained 'rainmakers' of the oil and gas industry."

"The more you work, the more you are at risk. Injured geoscientists result in a lot of pain and time off."

Geoscientists were recruited from a convention to help develop the SEAT program.

Camille Peres, an assistant professor at the School of Public Health, said, "The overarching goal of the development of the SEAT was to find an effective method for integrating the science and practice of ergonomics into the development lifecycle of software."

"Therefore, it had to provide accurate information that was available very quickly."

"We initially leveraged items from existing ergonomic measures and adjusted them so they would be appropriate for self-report and the office environment."

The study was published in Applied Ergonomics.

Late night mobile phone use has devastating effects on teenager's mental health, a new study by Australian researchers at Murdoch and Griffith Universities found.

Funded by the Australian Research Council, the world's first long-term assessment of adolescent mental health regarding late night mobile phone use examined student's quality of sleep, along with mood, coping skills, self-esteem and whether they were experiencing any symptoms of depression, news.xinhuanet.com reported.

The process was conducted as an annual survey over four years and included 1,100 students from 29 schools.

When the subjects began the process, they were in year eight of high school, when the program concluded, they had hit year 11.

The questionnaires focused on what time of the night students continued to receive or send text messages and phone calls.

Lead researcher, Dr. Lynette Vernon said, "We found that late night phone use directly contributed to poor sleep habits,

## Night phone use makes teenagers depressed



youthensnews.com

which over time led to declines in overall wellbeing and mental health.

"We have demonstrated how poor sleep is the key link connecting an increase in night-time mobile use with subsequent increases in psychosocial issues."

Around two-thirds or 65 percent of students in year eight who owned a mobile phone, reported to use it regularly after 'lights out'.

Coauthor of the study, Dr. Kathryn Modecki said when the study concluded four years later, the figure was 78 percent, finding that as their levels of

mobile phone use grew over time, so did their poor sleep behavior."

According to Mark Levi, a Sydney-based sleep doctor, the scientific reason for why mobile phones can have such a negative influence on sleeping patterns is due to the unnatural light they produce.

Levi said, "Blue light in your bedroom retards your sleeping, it affects your hormones, it affects your melatonin secretions, your insulin secretions, it affects a lot of balance in the body."

"So the more you sit in bed and watch TV, play with your tablet, play with your

phone and have your phone beeping at three o'clock in the morning, all these things affect the slow waves of your sleep pattern and will give the person poor quality sleep.

"Blue light is a real, real problem in the bedroom. It's a big, huge problem."

For Levi, the findings of the study are no surprise, there is no question, no question at all that it's a growing issue with teenagers, adolescents and the young.

The sleep expert said, "If I nudged you every couple of minutes in bed, you wouldn't sleep very well."

"So when a phone is beeping all night or they are watching a screen all night, it's affecting their sleep a lot and we're seeing child with sleep patterns that are disturbed and it's going to affect their attitude, their cognitive skills, their concentrations skills, their moodiness during the day."

Despite the damning findings, Vernon said, the answer to solving the problem is not to simply ban teenagers from using their devices, but rather to find ways of promoting better sleep habits to adolescents.



UPI

## Cold water as effective as hot to remove germs

Researchers at Rutgers University found that cool water is just as effective at removing bacteria in handwashing as hot water.

The study, published in the Journal of Food Protection, tested the effectiveness of bacteria removal in 21 participants washing their hands in 60 degree water using 0.5ml, 1ml or 2ml volumes of soap over a six-month period, UPI reported.

Donald Schaffner, a professor and extension specialist in food science at Rutgers, said, "People need to feel comfortable when they are washing their hands but as far as effectiveness, this study shows us that the temperature of the water used didn't matter."

The study findings may have an impact on the restaurant and food industry as current US

FDA guidelines, issued every four years, require plumbing systems at restaurants and food establishments deliver water for handwashing.

Schaffner said, "This study may have significant implications towards water energy, since using cold water saves more energy than warm or hot water."

"Also we learned even washing for 10 seconds significantly removed bacteria from the hands."

"Water temperature has been debated for many years and many states interpret the FDA guidelines as a requirement to have water temperatures of 100 degrees."

"I think this study indicates that there should be a policy change."

"Instead of having a temperature requirement, the policy should only say that comfortable or warm water needs to be delivered. We are wasting energy to heat water to a level that is not necessary."

The FDA will discuss existing code regarding water temperature guidelines at a conference in 2018 and researchers urge changes to be made at that time.

## Ultra-tough antibiotic to fight superbugs

US scientists have re-engineered a vital antibiotic in a bid to wipe out one of the world's most threatening superbugs.

Their new version of vancomycin is designed to be ultra-tough and appears to be a thousand times more potent than the old drug, according to bbc.com.

It fights bacteria in three different ways, making it much less likely that the bugs can dodge the attack.

It is yet to be tested in animals and people, however.

The Scripps Research Institute team hope the drug will be ready for use within five years if it passes more tests.

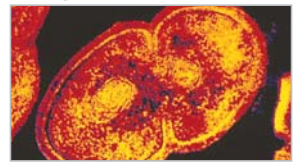
### Fighting superbugs

Experts have repeatedly warned that we are on the cusp of a 'post-antibiotic era', where some infections could become untreatable.

One hard-to-treat infection that has been worrying doctors is vancomycin-resistant enterococci or VRE.

It has been found in hospitals. It can cause dangerous wound and bloodstream infections and is considered by the WHO to be one of the drug-resistant bacteria that pose the greatest threat to human health.

Some antibiotics still work against VRE, but the 60-year-old drug vancomycin is now powerless.



bbc.com

The Scripps team set out to see if they could revamp vancomycin to restore its killing ability.

They made some strategic modifications to the molecular structure of the old drug to make it better at attacking bacteria where it hurts — destroying cell walls.

Three changes in particular seem to be important, increasing the strength and durability of the drug.

Lead researcher Dr. Dale Boger explained, "We made one change to the molecule vancomycin that overcomes what is the present resistance to vancomycin."

"And then we added to the molecule, two small changes that built into the molecule, two additional ways in which it can kill bacteria."

"So the antibiotic has three different, we call them 'mechanisms', by which it kills bacteria. And resistance to such an antibiotic would be very difficult to emerge. So it's a molecule designed specifically to address the emergence of resistance."

The modified drug was able to kill samples of VRE in the lab and retained nearly full potency after 50 rounds of exposure to the bacterium.

Boger said, "Organisms just can't simultaneously work to find a way around three independent mechanisms of action. Even if they found a solution to one of those, the organisms would still be killed by the other two."

"Doctors could use this modified form of vancomycin without fear of resistance emerging."

Professor Nigel Brown of the Microbiology Society said, "This development could be hugely important."

"Vancomycin is an antibiotic of last resort against some serious infections. There has been great concern that resistance has been emerging."

## Large Hadron Collider data to be translated for the piano

A team of particle physicists are trying their hands at musical composition.

Researchers at the University of Plymouth, in tandem with scientists at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland, want to turn data generated by the Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest particle accelerator, into piano music, UPI wrote.



UPI

Composers at Plymouth's Interdisciplinary Center for Computer Music Research (ICCMR) have developed sophisticated models to turn complex data into musical scores using high-performance computers.

Eduardo Miranda, head of the ICCMR, said, "We have previously worked on various sonification projects, however it does not always work for very complex data because it can result in nonsense noise.

"As such, we are championing the concept of 'musification', using a subjective interpretation to render the information aesthetically, rather than merely scientifically."

Researchers hope this new type of translation could reveal patterns and concepts missed during traditional scientific analysis.

Miranda said, "This approach to render big data sonically might reveal properties and behaviors that would probably not be revealed with parametric sonification."

Scientists will focus on only limited subsets of data produced by LHC.

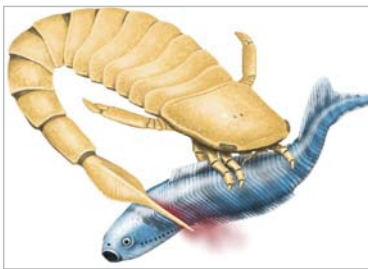
Joe Paradiso, director of the MIT Media Lab's Responsive Environments Group, said, "My team enjoyed engaging with Eduardo and getting him going with the tools we developed to map music onto the ATLAS data at the Large Hadron Collider."

"We're looking forward to hearing the composition he produces, leveraging his granular synthesis tools that are well-suited to being driven by data of this sort."

## Sea scorpions slashed victims with swordlike tails

Ancient sea scorpions were hawks.

Some of the marine creatures had a thin, serrated spine on the tip of their tail — and that tail was surprisingly flexible, based on a 430-million-year-old fossil found in Scotland.



sciencenews.org

Ancient sea scorpions (one illustrated) may have used serrated, swordlike tails for swimming or as weaponry.

*Slimonia acuminata* may have had the range of motion to strike large predators and prey, researchers report online April 18 in *American Naturalist*, according to sciencenews.org.

Scientists had thought that the ancient animals largely used their tails for swimming, primarily flapping them up and down like today's lobsters and shrimp do and, to a limited degree, side to side like a rudder.

But the tail on the new, well-preserved fossil curls dramatically to the side — a flexibility not seen in other sea scorpion specimens.

Study authors W. Scott Persons, a paleontologist, and John Acorn, an entomologist, both at the University of Alberta in Canada, said, "That bendiness suggested a purpose beyond propulsion."

The tail could have twisted around horizontally to strike a victim or dispatch a foe with the pointy end, and the saw-edged weapon would have encountered little water resistance.

Sea scorpions may have even pinned down prey with their front limbs while delivering lethal blows with their tails.

Because *S. acuminata* appears quite early in sea scorpion evolution, slicing and dicing may have been the norm early on for the ancient critters, the researchers wrote.

# Mice born to stressed mothers more likely to binge eat

New research suggested binge eating behavior is partially inherited. In lab tests, scientists found mice born to stressed mothers were more likely to display binge eating behaviors later in life.

Stressed moms passed along binge eating-related epigenetic tags on their DNA to female pups, UPI reported.

The tags only triggered binge eating when the offspring were subjected to stressful environments.

Previous studies have suggested a link between early-life trauma and binge eating, but isolating the biological connections has proven difficult.

Neurobiologist Alon Chen said, "Here we established a model where we can actually show that early life stress increases the likelihood of binge eating in females."

Lead researcher Mariana Schroeder said, "The second thing that is really interesting is that prenatal stress is causing an epigenetic signature in the embryo's brain."

Researchers manipulated the hormone system that controls cortisol release to increase the anxiety levels of pregnant mothers during their third trimester.

To minimize their level of



slate.com

intervention, scientists developed a hand-free method for stimulating corticotropin-releasing factor activity.

Chen said, "We didn't actually handle the mice at all; we just changed the water that included the genetic trigger in the third trimester."

Though female mice born to stressed mothers shared CRF-related epigenetic tags in hypothalamus cells, the pups didn't exhibit binge eating behaviors until they too became stressed.

Researchers measure the eating habits of stressed offspring and

found those born to stressed mothers were more likely to eat large amounts of food during short windows of time.

Because chemicals from foods control how genes are expressed and epigenetic tags are triggered, researchers hypothesized that a balanced diet could help mice overcome their genetic disposition.

Because the identified epigenetic tags were methyl-grabbing, researchers decided to feed the affected mice a diet rich in methyl-donating vitamins, like B<sub>12</sub> and folate. The balanced diet prevented binge eating behaviors in the female pups.

It's possible targeted diets could prevent similar predisposed behaviors in humans.

Researchers said the findings — detailed in the journal *Cell Metabolism* — are a reminder of the importance of limiting stress during pregnancy.

Chen said, "We all know this, but people ignore it for various social or economic reasons."

"But the price we pay later in life — whether it's psychiatric disorders, metabolic syndromes or heart-related illnesses — is heavily impacted by the way your brain was programmed early in life."

## Genetic analysis of New World birds confirms untested evolutionary assumption

Biologists have always been fascinated by the diversity and changeability of life on Earth and have attempted to answer a fundamental question: How do new species originate?

An implicit assumption in the discipline of speciation biology is that genetic differences between populations of animals and plants in a given species are important drivers of new species formation and are a key to understanding evolution, *phys.org* wrote.

But that assumption has never been rigorously tested, until now, according to University of Michigan evolutionary biologist Michael Harvey, first author of a paper published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Harvey and colleagues compiled and analyzed an unprecedented data set containing genetic sequences from 17,000 individuals in 173 New World bird species, ranging from ducks and owls to swallows and sparrows.

They demonstrated that species showing faster rates of genetic differentiation between populations are more likely to produce greater numbers of species over long evolutionary timescales.

Harvey, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, in the laboratory of Daniel Rabosky, said, "Our results are of fundamental significance because there are researchers across the world studying speciation, and many of them investigate genetic differences between populations that are in the process of forming new species."



phys.org

"These researchers assume those genetic differences are important for evolution, but this has never been shown in a satisfactory way."

"We are the first to show that the differences between populations studied by speciation biologists have been fundamental determinants of the formation of the diversity of life."

The researchers measured the rate at which genetic differences accumulated between populations in each of the 173 bird species.

They then compared the rate of population differentiation to the probability that each bird species would form new species over time.

This probability was based on the evolutionary track record of each species: How many species did its

ancestors produce over the history of avian diversity?

They found that the rate of genetic differentiation within species is positively correlated with the rate of new species formation. The two rates were more tightly linked in tropical species than in temperate species.

The study provides the first large-scale test of the link between population differentiation rates and speciation rates. The results confirm the evolutionary importance of population genetic differentiation.

However, genetic differences do not guarantee evolutionary success. Harvey and his colleagues found that the correlation between population genetic differentiation and species formation was imperfect, which suggested that other factors besides differentiation may be important in determining how many new species are produced.

They also found that the emergence of new populations within a species occurs at least three times faster than new species develop, suggesting that most differences between populations will not last long enough to impact species diversity.

Harvey said, "Overall, however, the study confirms the long-held assumption that the genetic differences between populations of a given species might predict its probability of contributing to the diversity of life."

Other New World birds analyzed in the study include parrots, woodpeckers, toucans, hummingbirds, black-birds, tanagers, warblers, thrushes, wrens, chickadees, jays and flycatchers.

## Researchers build largest circuits in living eukaryotic cells

A team of University of Washington (UW) synthetic biology researchers have demonstrated a new method for digital information processing in living cells, analogous to the logic gates used in electric circuits.

Reported in the latest issue of *Nature Communications*, the researchers built a set of synthetic genes that function in cells like Negated OR gates, or NOR gates, commonly used in electronics, which each take two inputs and only pass on a positive signal if both inputs are negative, according to news.xinhuanet.com.

NOR gates are functionally complete, meaning one can assemble them in different arrangements to make any kind of information processing circuit.

In the microchips that run electronic computers, information processing capabilities reduce data to zeros and ones.

In living cells, where constantly process information is taking place to keep track of the changing world around them and arrive at an appropriate response, deoxyribonucleic acid

(DNA), proteins, lipids and sugars are arranged in complex and compartmentalized structures, as evolution has arrived at a mode of information processing at the cellular level.

The potential of cells as living computers that can respond to disease, efficiently produce biofuels or develop plant-based chemicals is what researchers have been working on and searching for.

The UW researchers built their circuits, the largest ever published to date in eukaryotic cells, using DNA instead of silicon and solder, and inside yeast cells instead of at an electronics workbench.

Eukaryotic cells, like human cells, contain a nucleus and other structures that enable complex behaviors.

Each cellular NOR gate consists of a gene with three programmable stretches of DNA



awesome-u.org

— two to act as inputs, and one to be the output.

The researchers then took advantage of a relatively new technology known as clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats associated protein 9, or CRISPR-Cas9, to target those specific DNA sequences inside a cell.

The Cas9 protein acts like a molecular gatekeeper in the circuit, sitting on the DNA and determining if a particular gate

will be active or not.

If a gate is active, it expresses a signal that directs the Cas9 to deactivate another gate within the circuit, enabling the researchers to 'wire' together the gates to create logical programs in the cell.

What sets the new study apart from previous work, the researchers noted, is the scale and complexity of the circuits successfully assembled — which included up to seven NOR gates

assembled in series or parallel.

At this size, circuits can begin to execute useful behaviors by taking in information from different environmental sensors and performing calculations to decide on the correct response.

Imagined applications include engineered immune cells that can sense and respond to cancer markers or cellular biosensors that can easily diagnose infectious disease in patient tissue.

Cells could potentially be reprogrammed to undergo new developmental pathways, to regrow organs or to develop entirely new ones.

In such developing tissues, cells have to make complex digital decisions about what genes to express and when, and the new technology could be used to control that process.

Senior author and UW electrical engineering professor Eric Klavins said, "While implementing simple programs in cells will never rival the speed or accuracy of computation in silicon, genetic programs can interact with the cell's environment directly."





## Childhood obesity treatment also effective for parents

huffpost.com

In the struggle against childhood obesity, doctors and parents have tried to engage and motivate kids to stay healthy. But a new study finds that programs aimed at parents — without the kids — may be just as effective a tool as therapies that include the whole family.

Childhood obesity is an epidemic affecting one in three American kids who can expect to face severe consequences for life expectancy and quality as they become adults, according to go.com.

Parents play the most significant role in establishing healthy environments and habits, so experts have welcomed them into treatment sessions with their children.

This time-tested family-based model includes behavior therapy and nutrition and physical activity education for not only obese children, but also their parents. Family-based therapy is considered the gold-standard and has been the most effective intervention so far, experts said.

However, coordinating busy schedules can be a struggle for working parents with school-aged kids, so in a new study researchers at the University of California, San Diego tested a parent-only program where kids were not in the room.

They recruited 150 parents with children between the ages of 8 and 12 and sent them either to family-based treatment or parent-only treatment.

Dr. Kerri Boutelle, the lead author and a professor in residence at the University of California San Diego, said the research was designed to give parents more

flexibility when seeking help.

"Parents struggle with a lot of different issues," Boutelle told ABC News. "We see parents come in with kids who want help. And we see others who are uncomfortable or ashamed who don't want to come or see the doctor because they don't want to admit the child is gaining weight. My advice is: Don't worry about the kid's interest in coming or ability to come. Parents can do this on their own."

After 20 sessions spread over six months, the 150 kids from both groups experienced the same amount of weight loss and kept it off over the next eighteen months. Children and parents in different groups reported dietary intake or physical activity with no significant differences.

Participants were also given questionnaires — parents were asked about their beliefs, attitudes and practices regarding child feeding while children were asked about their perceptions of their parent's behavior — and results again were the same across both groups.

Together, the research suggested that the parent-only intervention was as effective as the family-based method, the authors said.

Experts who endorse family-based treatment acknowledge it was never a perfect solution.

Dr. Naveen Uli, associate professor of pediatrics at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital at Case Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio, said there are clear limits on this traditional form of therapy.

"The limits of family-based therapy are that it requires time commitment, not only from the parents, but also from the child," Uli said.

"Children are in school a lot of times and have extracurricular programs after school. So the logistics can be difficult to have families participate week after week and month after month."

Parents in both groups who participated in the study also lost weight themselves. But those in the parent-only treatment plan gained the weight back faster during the next 18 months. These parents were also likely to miss more sessions for reasons that were unclear to the study investigators.

The combination of education and behavioral therapy still remains the best option for addressing childhood obesity. Other alternatives such as medications or surgery have major downsides, according to Uli.

Few drugs are approved for weight loss in children, and bariatric weight loss surgery isn't recommended for growing kids.

While doctors and nutritionist are skilled at giving advice, Boutelle pointed out that behavior-based multidisciplinary programs — which are led by psychologists and may include other experts such as dietitians and exercise physiology specialists — offer more value.

"The thing these programs do that is different is to teach parents how to do this," Boutelle said. "Not just what, but how."

## Study identifies factors for greater college success



epochtimes.com

showed evidence of supporting students' college persistence and success, as measured by grades, retention and graduation.

A sense of belonging, meaning that college students (particularly underrepresented minorities and first-generation college students) feel that they belong in college, fit in well and are socially integrated.

Approximately 85 percent of the studies measuring students' sense of belonging demonstrated a positive impact of belonging on students' college GPAs.

A growth mindset, referring to college students' beliefs that their own intelligence is not a fixed entity, but rather a malleable quality that college can help improve. Seventy-five

percent of the studies measuring students' growth mindset showed this characteristic had a positive impact on students' college GPAs.

Personal goals and values that college students perceive to be directly linked to the achievement of a future, desired end. Approximately 83 percent of the studies measuring personal goals

showed this characteristic as having a positive impact on students' final course grades.

Oswald noted that this recent research reported some remarkable findings based on low-cost, brief writing exercises for improving these intra- and interpersonal competencies.

One required students to write about the relevance of course topics to their own life or to the life of a family member or close friend.

Another intervention aimed to lessen psychological perceptions of threat on campus by framing social adversity as common and transient, and used subtle attitude-change strategies to lead participants to self-generate the framing in their writing.

With these interventions, GPAs have been shown impressively to improve not only in the class where the intervention was given, but many semesters beyond, Oswald said.

Furthermore, the interventions show the largest benefits accrue in student groups that are at greatest risk for academic failure. Oswald thus noted that these interventions have promise but deserve further intensive research to assure these interventions can impact student success in the future, in other college settings.

## Older mothers more likely to end up in intensive care

Women who leave it late to have children are at a much greater risk of severe complications, experts warned.

Those who become mothers over 44 were more than twice as likely to die or suffer a serious condition than those who gave birth in their 20s, a study found, dailymail.co.uk wrote.

They were also more than 10 times as likely to end up in intensive care than those who have a child in their early twenties.

While many studies have suggested older mothers are more likely to have a stillbirth or a baby with conditions such as autism and Down's syndrome, there is less research about the risk to their own health.

Lead author Dr. Sarka Lisonkova, assistant professor in maternal medicine at the University of British Columbia in Canada, said: "Women usually worry about their babies, and not so much about the implications for their own health."

"While severe adverse conditions in mothers are rare, they do increase more rapidly with age at childbirth in women's late 40s or later. It is important to counsel women about all potential risks."

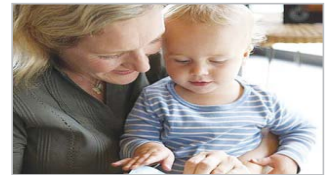
She added: "Women are in a difficult position when they contemplate delaying childbirth in order to advance their education and career. Higher education and higher socio-economic status are associated with improved birth outcomes, but in contrast, older maternal age is a risk factor."

Older mothers are at a higher risk because they are more likely to be overweight and unhealthy. The fact their reproductive systems are older also means a greater risk of complications — which include ruptures, embolisms, hysterectomies, sepsis and heart problems.

The researchers looked at mothers aged 15 to 60 giving birth in Washington State between 2003 and 2013. They looked at 828,269 live and stillbirths, but did not include twins and other multiple births.

Among those aged 20 to 24, the rate of those dying or suffering a potentially life-threatening condition was 156.2 per 10,000 births. It was slightly lower for those aged 25 to 29, with a rate of 143.4. This rose to 230.8 for those aged 40 to 44, and to 355.1 per 10,000 births for those aged over 44 — meaning almost double the risk of those in their 20s.

The rate of admissions to intensive care was 80.2 per 10,000 deliveries for mothers over 44 compared to just 7.1 among those aged 20 to 24.



wonderbrand.com

However, the absolute risk for all age groups remained low. Even for those aged over 44, just three percent suffered serious complications or death.

Almost one in six mothers over 44 suffered diabetes during their pregnancy, and were also at greater risk of kidney failure, according to the study, which was published in the journal PLOS Medicine.

## Brexit expat retirees may cost NHS millions

Tens of thousands of expat pensioners may return to the UK to use the National Health System (NHS) after Brexit — unless a deal can be done to let them keep receiving care abroad, a think tank warned.

The Nuffield Trust estimates the cost of treating them — on home soil, rather than abroad — could double to £1 billion, BBC reported.

Currently, the UK gives around £500 million a year to EU countries that care for Brits who have retired abroad. Last year, spending on the NHS in England was around £120 billion.

The warning from the Nuffield Trust came as Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt told a newspaper that the NHS could suffer if Brexit "goes wrong".

Around 190,000 British pensioners live abroad. Under the EU reciprocal 'S1' scheme, British pensioners have the right to go to any other EU member state and receive the same healthcare rights as the local population.

According to the Nuffield Trust, it may not be easy to continue with this agreement after Brexit.

If all of these pensioners decided to return to the UK — a big if — they could be expected to fill 900 NHS hospital beds a year, it said.

The NHS would need around 1,600 more doctors, nurses and other workers to deal with the care, it estimated.

Also, hospitals could end up short-staffed if migration of workers from the EU slows or stops post-Brexit.

And access to medicines could also become more difficult if the UK leaves the EU's medicine licensing system.

But there could be gains too post-Brexit, the Nuffield Trust said.

When the UK leaves the EU, it could stop paying EU membership fees. Money from this saving could be used by the NHS.

Nuffield Trust spokesman Mark Dayan said: "It is possible that extra funds could be found for the NHS from any cancellation of Britain's EU membership fees."

"But whether or not these benefits will outweigh the significant staffing and financial costs Brexit may impose on already stretched services remains to be seen."

## Female zookeeper mauled to death by a tiger

The zookeeper who was killed by a tiger as visitors heard a 'blood-curdling' scream from the enclosure has been named as Rosa King.

The 33-year-old's colleagues desperately tried to save her by distracting the big

He said: "There's no doubting it was a girl's scream and something terrible had happened. It sounds like a tiger turned on her." "She had run into the enclosure after hearing one of her colleagues shouting and moments later all hell let loose.

the animals in her care very much. "I would like to say more but I am struggling to take in this news at the moment."

A relative of the zookeeper told The Sun: "She loved those animals. It's absolutely tragic.

the Cheetah Conservation Fund UK on July 6.

Carpenter Davis, 55, who was at the small zoo with his family, said he saw keepers with their heads in their hands.

He added: "People were really scared, they asked us to leave straight after that and closed the park."

A zoo spokesman last night said staff were 'too distressed' to talk to the media.

He said: "This appears to have been a freak accident. A full investigation is underway and we hope that more details can be announced as soon as we are able."

"At no point during the incident did any animals escape their enclosures, and at no point was public safety affected in any way. All our thoughts and sympathies are with our colleagues, friends and families at this dreadful time."

An air ambulance was called to the zoo near Huntingdon in an attempt to save King's life shortly after 11:30 a.m.

Visitors to the park took to Facebook to describe what happened.

Victoria Northover Hopes said: "We've just had to hide thinking a tiger was loose. Something has gone wrong with a keeper and a tiger."



dailymail.com

cat with chunks of meat, witnesses said, according to dailymail.com.

More than 100 visitors were evacuated from Hamerton Zoo in Cambridgeshire as 'all hell broke loose' and police and paramedics rushed to the scene.

Witness Pete Davis said he believed King was attacked after rushing to help a colleague in the tiger enclosure.

"She let out a blood-curdling scream and then another keeper ran out and shouted 'run'."

"It was a case of total panic. There were keepers rushing about throwing buckets of meat to try and get the tigers under control."

King's friend, wildlife photographer Garry Chisholm, said last night: "I have lost a very dear friend who loved

"She would walk in the cheetah cage and play football with them. She was at home with them."

King grew up in Chippenham, Wiltshire, and attended Hardenhuish School before studying for a national diploma in animal care at Wiltshire College.

She had planned to take part in a sky-dive with four zoo colleagues to raise money for

This is the stomach-churning moment a snake regurgitates another snake and slithers away, leaving his chosen dinner alive.

When a man in the US drove past a huge black snake, he decided to stop and take some pictures of the stunning reptile, mirror.co.uk reported.

Having seen that the snake had prey in its mouth, his wife suggested that he shoot some video too.

As the bizarre film opens, the snake has the tip of something that looks like a worm sticking out of its jaws.

But as the man continues to film, the snake begins to regurgitate its meal. It quickly becomes clear it has been trying to eat another snake of almost the same size.

The man and his wife can be heard on the video expressing their astonishment.



LIVELEAK

## Massive snake regurgitates another live snake

"This is crazy," said the man at one point. Amazingly, once out of its attacker's

mouth, the other snake appears to be unharmed. "That other snake's alive," said the camera operator.

Snakes can regurgitate food for a number of reasons. It is not the same as vomiting as digestion has not begun, which is why the other snake appeared to be unharmed. They can expel their food if they have over eaten, or if they feel the need to flee from a stressful situation.

The man who posted the incredible video could have been right when he wrote in the accompanying caption: "I was the reason the snake did this, due to feeling threatened. Sorry dude."

While it may look as though the snake might have bitten off more than it can chew, snakes are able to digest enormous meals.

## Keepers to name baby girl gorilla

A five-week-old baby gorilla is a girl, keepers revealed.

The bright-eyed primate, who was born at Bristol Zoo, is getting stronger every day and now needs a name.

The zoo is asking members of the public to vote on their favorite name from a choice of three, all inspired by the name 'Daisy', according to dailymail.co.uk.

Lynsey Bugg, the zoo's curator of mammals, said: "Our little lowland gorilla is doing incredibly well - developing exactly as she should, feeding well and putting on plenty of weight. Now we would like to ask the public to help us choose a name for her."

"We would like to name her in memory of the baby daughter of one of our colleagues who was born four years ago on the same day as the baby gorilla.



PA



"Daisy was stillborn and we thought this would be a lovely tribute to her."

Swahili.

Votes can be cast on the Bristol Zoo Facebook page.

The little Western lowland gorilla was born in the early hours of April 22 to first-time mother Toumi and silverback gorilla father, Jock.

Toumi has been at the Zoo since September 2015 after coming from La Vallée des Singes zoo in France, as a breeding partner for Jock.

The new baby takes the number of gorillas living at Bristol Zoo to eight.

have chosen a shortlist of names for the baby gorilla - Fleur, Ayana and Undama.

Fleur is French for 'flower', chosen because the baby gorilla's mother Toumi is French. Ayana means 'pretty flower' in Ethiopian, while Undama means 'beautiful flower' in

## Crocodile sadly dies hours after being rescued

Incredible footage has emerged of firefighters rescuing a 20ft-long crocodile from a drain during a 10-hour operation.

But the rescue efforts were in vain as the reptile died hours later, according to mirror.co.uk.

The one-ton reptile was heard thrashing around after getting stuck in the tidal dam in Kapar, Malaysia.

Emergency services arrived at 11:41 p.m. and spent 10 hours battling to free the beast while the high tide obscured it.

They eventually winched it from the water at 10 a.m. but it died several hours later.

Fire and Rescue Department chief Zaidi Ahtan said it was the largest reptile they had ever rescued. He said: "We had to use the chain lock and other



VIRAL PRESS

special tools to winch the reptile up.

"We also covered its eyes throughout the process so that it would not get aggressive."

"Fourteen officers were involved in the rescue which was made difficult by the narrow gap and how deep it was."

The animal was pulled out of the tidal sluice and laid on the ground withers jaws and limbs tied up.

Rescue workers doused it with water from a hosepipe and posed for pictures but it died two hours later.

Vets who worked on the rescue said the croc will now have a post mortem examination to find the "cause and time of death, its species, gender, age and others."

### Quick Crossword

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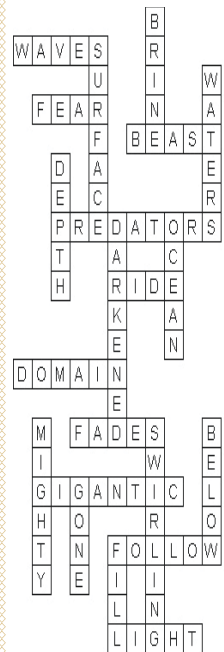
### DOWN

- Relinquished (6)
- Atmosphere (3)
- Boundary of a surface (4)
- Stringed instrument (6)
- Confound (7)
- Desiccated (4)
- State of equilibrium (7)
- Bird of prey (6)
- Implement for writing or drawing (6)
- Optical device (4)
- Small snakes (3)
- Colony insect (3)

### ACROSS

- Aquatic mammal (5)
- Striped equine (5)
- Watered (9)
- Flows back (4)
- Tennis stroke (5)
- Assumed name (5)
- Disparaging remark (4)
- Essential (9)
- Rear part of a ship (5)
- Smooth fabric (5)

### 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.

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

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

The Football Association suspects Manchester United has withheld key information about its England internationals because The Special One José Mourinho does not fully trust the governing body to prevent it being leaked to rival clubs.

# Iran's Reds march into ACL last eight

Iran's Persepolis made it to the AFC Champions League (ACL) quarter-finals for the first time in 16 years as a solitary own goal over the two legs proved to be enough for the Persian Gulf Pro League champion to overcome the challenge of Qatar champion Lekhwiya.

The two teams settled for a goalless draw in the first leg in a silent Azadi Stadium in Tehran a week ago. Persepolis had to cope with life without its fans in the home tie as Tehran's Reds were stripped of their presence due to disciplinary measures by the AFC. It was pretty much the same scenario in the return leg as few fans were there at the Abdullah bin Khalifa Stadium in Doha, Qatar, to support either of the sides. Nevertheless, the away side was still blessed with the support of some hundreds of Iranians residing in Qatar.

The tie was well in balance until the mid-first half when an excellence of penetration and teamwork by the two Iranian internationals, Vahid Amiri and Mehdi Taremi in the 23<sup>rd</sup> minute ended up in Persepolis' number nine's low cross finding the Lekhwiya's defender Chico Flores as he misjudged the cross and put it in the back of his side's net.

That vital away goal seemed to put the Iranians in the driving seat as the halftime whistle was blown. However they still had to work their socks



Mehdi Taremi (C), Sorush Rafiei (3rd R) and Farshad Ahmadzadeh celebrate the only goal of the return-fixture against Lekhwiya of Qatar on May 30, 2017.

off right to the very last second of the game as Persepolis uncharacteristically gave away the ball-possession and the introduction of Lekhwiya's talismanic Youssef al-Arabi with 10 minutes into second half pushed the Qataris even more forward. The Moroccan almost made an immediate impact but his close-range effort was deflected off the Persepolis' skipper Seyyed Jalal Hosseini to hit the cross-bar.

Lekhwiya kept dominating posses-

into the ACL's last eight as the sole Iranian side left in the competition.

Elsewhere in the competition, the fairy tale came to an end for the surprise package of the ACL, Esteghlal Khuzestan of Iran, as the challenge of the Saudi Arabian giant, Al Hilal, proved to be too tough for the Iranian representative to deal with.

It almost seemed to be the mission impossible for the south Iranian side to get through to the quarter-finals, as it headed into the second leg on the back of a first-leg home defeat by a 2-1 score line at the hands of S. Arabia's Jameel League champion.

The Iranian players literally fought to the very last breath to turn things around and a 12<sup>th</sup>-minute goal by Aloys Nong put Sirous Pourmousavi's team right back in the game. However it only took Al Hilal four minutes to score the equalizer through Omar Kharbin's header. Salem al-Dawsari scored Al Hilal's second with eight minutes left on the clock to make the final score line 2-1 on the night and 4-2 on aggregate as Saudis went through to the last eight of the competition and Esteghlal Khuzestan will have to settle for having put in some decent performances at this year's competition.

The first legs of the ACL's quarter-final ties are set to be played during August 21-23 with the second-leg ties scheduled for September 11-13.



Andy Murray celebrates winning his first round match at 2017 French Open against Russia's Andrey Kuznetsov in Paris on May 30, 2017.

## Murray beats the Russian to reach second round

Petra Kvitová's return to action came to an end in the second round of the French Open as she lost 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5) to Bethanie Mattek-Sands. Kvitová, 27, only returned to full-time practice at the start of May after being stabbed in December, BBC reported.

The Czech - a two-time Wimbledon champion - suffered career-threatening injuries to her left hand. She rallied from 3-1 down to take the second set to a tie-break but lost to the American on a double fault. Kvitová, who said she "was lucky to be alive" after the stabbing, was not expected to play in Paris at all but won her first match back in Sunday's first round.

She first picked up a racket again in March, 12 weeks after the attack, and will now focus on playing at Wimbledon, where she won in 2011 and 2014.

Earlier on Tuesday, Andy Murray avoided the fate of fellow world number one Angelique Kerber by coming through his first-round match at the French Open in four sets.

The Briton, 30, beat Russia's Andrey Kuznetsov 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, 6-0, BBC reported.

Defeat for Murray would have seen both top seeds exit a Grand Slam in round one for the first time in the open era.

Fellow Briton Johanna Konta earlier lost to world number 109 Hsieh Su-Wei, while Kyle Edmund impressed in beating Portugal's Gastao Elias 6-3, 6-2, 7-5.

Murray goes on to face the world number 50, Slovakia's Martin Kližan in the second round.

"It was a decent start, considering how I played in the build-up," said Murray.

Murray has struggled for form and fitness in 2016 and arrived in Paris apparently more vulnerable than ever, but the first hurdle was cleared despite a patchy start.

Kuznetsov, the world number 73, broke the Murray serve four times - twice in taking the second set - which prompted some self-mocking sarcastic applause from the Briton.

The contest was very much on at one set all, but a moment of inspiration turned things in Murray's favor early in the third.

Kuznetsov had him chasing down a lob, seemingly hopelessly, only for the Scot to send up a towering response over his shoulder that dropped just inside the baseline.

The Russian could only fire his smash into the net, drawing a huge roar from the previously unengaged crowd, and Murray raced through eight straight points to take a grip on the match.

Glimmers of the player who dominated the second half of 2016 began to emerge - a familiar backhand pass rocketed down the line, a drop shot that left Kuznetsov stranded.

With coach Ivan Lendl typically poker-faced, it fell to the rest of Team Murray to gee up their man with shouts of "Come on Andy, let's go!"

Murray did just that in the fourth set, taking a decisive lead as he stretched his domination to eight straight games.

With the sun finally shining on a cooler day in Paris, Murray had the crowd on their feet with one magnificent drop shot on his way to sealing victory after two hours and 32 minutes.

"It definitely got better as it went on," said Murray.

"I started to move a bit better towards the end, and was hitting the ball better when I was defending."

"That's something the last few weeks I haven't done so well and didn't start off the match doing particularly well."

"But once I was getting a little bit more on my ball when I was defending, there wasn't too many openings for him in the points."

## Arsenal boss targets Premier League title after signing deal

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger is targeting next season's Premier League title after signing a new two-year deal at the club. The agreement does not include a break clause and, should it be completed, will extend his reign to 23 years, BBC reported.

Neither Arsenal nor Wenger, 67, see this as definitely being his final contract.

"I love this club and I am looking forward to the future with optimism and excitement," said Wenger.

Arsenal is expected to spend at least £100 million on new players in the upcoming transfer window - which opens on July 1 - having also spent around that figure last summer.

"This is a strong group of players and with some additions we can be even more successful," Wenger told the club website.

"We're committed to mounting a sustained league challenge and that will be our focus this summer and next season."

The Gunners finished fifth in the Premier League this season, the first time they have finished outside the top four since the Frenchman joined in 1996.

They finished 18 points behind champion Chelsea, but beat the Blues 2-1 to win the FA Cup at Wembley on Saturday.



Arsene Wenger won a record seventh FA Cup on Saturday May 27, 2017 by beating archrival Chelsea 2-1 but has faced pressure from Arsenal fans this season.

Wenger met club owner Stan Kroenke on Monday to determine his future, with the decision relayed to directors at a Tuesday board meeting.

Following Wednesday's official announcement, chief executive Ivan Gazidis said: "There is no complacency anywhere at this club."

"Our goal is to compete for and win trophies here and in Europe. Everything we do is designed to make

that happen and we will be working hard on and off the pitch this summer to improve and make a strong challenge next season."

Although Arsenal may have £100m to spend, the issue is that it already has a high wage bill and its revenues are not as large as Europe's very biggest clubs. And that's before you factor in dropping down from the Champions League to the Europa League.

The Gunners need to be careful when it comes to Financial Fair Play, meaning they will inevitably have to sell some players to free up funds for wages rather than transfer fees. It will be a busy few months at the Emirates.

Former England international and BBC presenter and pundit, Gary Lineker believes Arsenal has got a long way to go at the moment.

"If you ask me now whether they are going to be in the top four next season, I would say probably not. They are further behind than Wenger thinks," said ex-Tottenham striker.

"The only other example of a manager that decides when and where he goes is Sir Alex Ferguson, but he was still winning league titles. Arsene Wenger was still winning FA Cups and until this season he had always got in the top four, but now that's changed."

## Durant gets chance to follow LeBron's path to NBA title

Kevin Durant's first trip to the NBA Finals ended with him watching LeBron James celebrate his first title as Miami dined Oklahoma City for the 2012 crown.

Now five years later and with two different clubs, both superstars are back in the finals. Durant still seeking his first title and James again blocking the path, The Guardian reported.

Durant and the Golden State Warriors will be favored to dethrone the James-led Cleveland Cavaliers when the best-of-seven championship series begins later tonight at Oakland, California.

Instead of James having drawn criticism for jilting Cleveland for Miami in order to become a champion, this season it was Durant who aroused the ire of many fans by ditching fellow star Russell Westbrook and Oklahoma City for the Super team spotlight of the Warriors.

And just as a move paid championship dividends for James after a prior finals loss, it could do the same in June for Durant.

"It's a little different, definitely. I can't lie," Durant said of his latest trip



Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant is highly tipped to raise his first ever NBA championship trophy at the end best of seven series final against LeBron James' Cleveland Cavaliers.

to the finals compared to his first. "I went when I was 23 years old, and it felt like the Western Conference Finals was almost like the championship. "So it's a little different now, obvi-

ously. We have a bigger goal in mind. But you've got to enjoy everything, man. When we look at it, this is just a blip on the radar in terms of our whole life. So every moment is definitely im-

portant and you want to embrace it and enjoy it."

And just as James struggled in building chemistry in Miami with "Big Three" teammates Dwyane Wade

and Chris Bosh, Durant and his new Golden State teammates had to make adjustments to maximize the contributions of Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green as well.

"Our chemistry is getting better and better," Durant said. "We're going to need it even more now."

### 'It's going to be a battle'

The Warriors have the best start in NBA playoff history at 12-0. They are the ninth team in league history to reach the finals undefeated, in eras with fewer games needed to make the championship round, but only five of the first eight won the title.

"I'm just proud of the work we've put in from the beginning of the season," Durant said. "We just kept grinding. We didn't talk about championships or anything. We just wanted to build good habits and have fun playing some basketball. Simple as that."

"We want to take it to the next series and try to be great and see what happens, but 12-0 really doesn't matter going into the next series," Durant said.

"We know it's going to be a battle." Durant took for leaving behind a solid Oklahoma City squad that pushed the Warriors to the brink

of elimination in last year's Western Conference final, but the move has paid off so far.

Durant is averaging 25.2 points, 7.8 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 1.2 blocked shots a game in the Warriors' perfect playoff start.

"Happy to be sharing this moment with him after all he's gone through with joining the squad and leaving OKC," Green said. "To be headed to the NBA Finals is a great way to combat all that talk. To win it would be even better."

"He didn't make the decision he made to go to the finals. He made the decision he made for his own life and what he wanted to do, but also to win a championship. To go win. Not just go to the finals. No one remembers second place. It's about winning."

Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue has been impressed with what he has seen from Durant with the Warriors.

"When Steph and Klay have a bad game, which is not very often, then you can give the ball to Durant and he can get his own basket and his own shot," Lue said. "You have that third player, definitely one of the top three players in this league, that can go get his own shot at any time and that's what makes them more dangerous."

## Art & Culture

### Preserving cultural heritage vital for peacebuilding in ME

Protecting cultural diversity is vital for peacebuilding in the Middle East, the head of the United Nations cultural agency said, pledging solidarity with the victims of ethnic and religious violence in the region, and highlighting the need for both 'hard' and 'soft' power.

Director General of the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Irina Bokova made this call at the Madrid Conference, hosted by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The conference is a follow up to an open debate in the UN Security Council and the Paris Conference on the victims of ethnic and religious violence in the Middle East, [moderndiplomacy.eu](http://moderndiplomacy.eu) wrote.



[moderndiplomacy.eu](http://moderndiplomacy.eu)

Citing the ongoing cultural destruction and the dramatic situation of persons belonging to communities targeted and threatened for ethnic or religious reasons in the Middle East, the UNESCO chief said: "Violent extremists target both heritage and human lives — they target victims and minorities from all backgrounds, Shebak, Turkmen, Muslims, Christians... as symbols of the pluralism they abhor."

She added, "Violent extremists target schools, because they know the power of knowledge to counter their rhetoric drawing on false visions of faith and history, they destroy culture, because they know it can foster dialogue and help people live together in their diversity."

The aim of the Madrid Conference is to examine actions taken and determine most urgent priorities, as well as identifying programs, projects and actions to enable displaced populations to return and to foster reconciliation and stabilization.

At the conference, Bokova also highlighted the role of the international community in tackling the complex issue. "We need 'hard power' to respond, we need 'soft power' to prevent, through education, culture and information," she said.

"This is the role of UNESCO and the goal of the United Nations, its Counter-Terrorism Strategy in support of Member States."

The director general noted the importance of teaching peace and providing people with the skills to overcome mistrust and division, and to build dialogue.

### Rodin's 'Andromede' sells for \$4.1m at Artcurial auction in Paris

Auguste Rodin's white marble sculpture of the mythical Ethiopian princess 'Andromede' fetched nearly €3.7 million (\$4.1 million) at a Paris auction — well above the top estimated price of €1.2 million.

The rediscovered masterpiece — created in 1886-1887 and depicting the daughter of Ethiopian King Cepheus on a rock — was sold by the Artcurial auction house just as Paris is marking the centenary of Rodin's death, AFP reported.



An exhibit of more than 200 of his works and those of artists he influenced is on show at the Grand Palais in the French capital until the end of July.

In 1888, Rodin presented the work to Carlos Morla Vicuna, a Chilean diplomat living in Paris at the time, as a gift, said Bruno Jaubert, Artcurial's director of the impressionist and modern art department.

It has been in the Vicuna's family ever since. "For 130 years she stayed in this family of diplomats despite the members' different foreign postings," Jaubert said. The work, one of five carvings Rodin created of the subject, is especially notable for the contrast between Andromede's smooth finish and the virtually untouched roughness of the jutting slab of rock.

The \$4.1-million sale price, while substantial, is far from the record set last year for a Rodin sculpture — his 'Eternal springtime' marble sculpture of lovers sold for \$20.41 million at Sotheby's in New York in May 2016.

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The book, 'A Review of Foreign Works in Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA)', was unveiled in a ceremony at the museum.



## See the ancient water tunnels below Iran's desert

By Rachel Brown

From above, it seems as though a series of holes were pierced in the desert's dry surface. But a hundred feet below the mysterious pits, a narrow tunnel carries water from a distant aquifer to farms and villages that wouldn't exist without it.

These underground aqueducts, called 'qanats', are 3,000-year-old marvels of engineering, many of which are still in use throughout Iran. Beginning in the Iron Age, surveyors — having found an elevated source of water, usually at the head of a former river valley or even in a cave lake — would cut long, sloping tunnels from the water source to where it was needed, National Geography reported.

The orderly holes still visible above-ground are air shafts, bored to release dust and provide oxygen to the workers who dug the 'qanats' by hand, sometimes as far as forty miles. The tunnels eventually open at ground level to form vivid oases.

Constructing qanats was a painstaking task, made even more so by the need for



[nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com)

great precision. The angle of the tunnel's slope had to be steep enough to allow the water to flow freely without stagnating — but too steep and the water would flow with enough force to speed erosion and collapse the tunnel.

Although difficult work — even after completion, 'qanats' require yearly maintenance — the irrigation tunnels allowed agriculture to bloom in the arid desert. The technology spread, through Silk Road trade

and Muslim conquest, and 'qanats' can be found as far as Morocco and Spain.

For Komeil Soheili, an Iranian videographer, 'qanats' are an integral part of the landscape of his native Khorasan Province.

"The diversity of landscapes and cultures [in Iran] is something that's not well understood by the world," Soheili said. "One of the oldest civilizations in the world came from this amazing creation, [the 'qanat']"

Gholamreza Nabipour, 102, is one of the last and almost certainly the oldest caretaker of 'qanats'. Recognized by the Iranian government as a national living treasure, Nabipour tries to share his craft with younger generations — including one of his sons, who uses a qanat to irrigate his pistachio farm — but fears for the future of this fragile tradition.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the subdivision of the large estates that relied on 'qanats' caused an administrative tangle, and many 'qanats' fell into disrepair without the traditional communal maintenance. And as modern agriculture takes root, Soheili explained that people don't depend on 'qanats' anymore, as it was before. "It's not possible to feed your family and earn money by working in 'qanats,'" which have become less a way of life and more of a 'hobby'.

In 2016, UNESCO listed the Persian 'qanats' as a world heritage site.

"These 'qanats' have been the source of life for me and all of my ancestors," said Nabipour. "It's my duty to preserve them until the last second of my life."

## Kudos for 'Paradise Not Far' at Vietnamese festival

Iranian documentary 'Paradise Not Far', directed by Arian Jelveh and produced by Sarvin Serrie, was acclaimed in the first National Festival of Foreign Information in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The festival was organized by the Vietnamese Communist Party and held in Voice of Vietnam to encourage those involved in production of radio and television programs, books, and photographs to introduce Vietnam's tourist attractions to the world, IRNA reported.

Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang and Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung were the special guests at the festival.

A total of 983 works from 17 countries took part in the event.

In all, 69 cinematic productions were selected as best works among which six works came first, 15 works came second, 18 works came third, and 30 received acclamations.



### Weather



34 26

Ahvaz



31 8

Borujerd



28 18

Rasht



37 19

Semnan



31 10

Arak



34 ^ v 20

Tehran



26 13

Bishkek



26 18

Istanbul



27 15

Amman



17 5

Minsk



16 7

Moscow