

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zahedan University conducts TB screening of nearly 32k foreign nationals



IRNA - Zahedan University of Medical Sciences has carried out the program of tuberculosis (TB) screening of about 32,000 foreign nationals living in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, a university official said. Deputy President of Zahedan University of Medical Sciences Mehdi Zangane told IRNA on Monday that the TB screening was held in the area, which is supervised by the university since January 21, 2023.

The official went on to say that the screening program will continue up until April 20 and the number of foreigners screened is expected to surpass 70,000.

Three teams, 80 individuals in total, from the Zahedan University of Medical Sciences visit foreign nationals at their houses in order to conduct the TB screening, he noted.

Six foreigners suffering from tuberculosis have been identified and are being treated free of charge, he added.

Majority of Londoners support ban on wood burners

THE GUARDIAN - An overwhelming majority of people in London support the banning of wood burners, which are the single biggest source of tiny air pollution particles in Britain.

An exclusive poll for the Guardian indicates that 67 percent of Londoners backed a ban, with 17 percent opposed and 16 percent saying they did not know. Across Britain, 44 percent supported a wood burner ban, with 36 percent opposed.

Government data published last week showed emissions of toxic pollution particles from wood-burning in UK homes had more than doubled in the past decade.

Iran sole producer of COVID-19 vaccine in region: *Minister*

According to the World Health Organization, Iran is the only producer of vaccines in the region, announced the Iranian minister of health.

"Our country won the battle against COVID-19 with its hard-working human resources and is one of the leading countries in the fight with COVID," said Bahram Einollahi.

Speaking on Monday at the fifth Congress of Pharmacist Martyrs, which was held at the Museum of the Islamic Revolution and Holy Defense, the minister said, "The state of the coronavirus was the same everywhere around the world, and despite the outbreak of the deadly disease in our country, sanctions were not lifted, which was cruel!"

He further noted that Iran

paid money and contributed to COVAX, but received no vaccines.

"Our scientists, especially in Barakat Foundation, produced the best vaccines; they were injected in stadiums, army bases and mosques with the participation of Basij and the people. Approximately 1,600,000 vaccines were injected per day, in other words, 8,600,000 vaccines were injected per week."

The minister of health went on to state that the scenes that Iranians witnessed during the pandemic in terms of health care and treatment were unique in the world.

"No patients were left on their own, all were treated. Also, six vaccines were researched and produced in the field of

pharmaceuticals."

Referring to the strengthening of health diplomacy, Einollahi said, "In connection with health diplomacy, it should be noted that many countries in the region are requesting to receive medicine and equipment from Iran."

The top health official stated that despite all the valuable measures achieved, the country faces a problem when it comes to distorting its history, adding, "The enemy is distorting our history. I suggest that our youth study history. One of the most prominent examples in our history is the presence of the health care staff alongside our people during hard times."

He then emphasized the progress Iran has made in

terms of its health care education and other indicators, saying,

"In the past, we were behind in many indicators. We only had 180,000 students in all universities of the country, while now we have 280,000 students in the field of health care alone." "In human resources, we have reached a place where we could establish the first branch of Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Iraq. We will soon establish other branches in Ghana, Tajikistan and Lebanon."



Working with another person changes your brain activity: *Study*



● GETTY IMAGES

Something strange and rather wonderful happens when two people are working together on the same task, a new study shows: key regions of their brains sync up, suggesting we can match each other's neural activity when we're in groups.

In the study, 39 pairs of volunteers were asked to design the interior of a virtual room together via a touchscreen, until it was satisfactory to both of them. As well as having their brain activity monitored through a functional near-infrared spectroscopy

technique, the participants were watched for signs of eye contact, Science Alert reported.

To study the participants' responses, the researchers developed special processing and modeling techniques capable of recognizing social interactions (the eye contact) and mapping them to particular moments and regions of brain activity.

"Neuron populations within one brain were activated simultaneously with similar neuron populations in the other brain when the participants cooperated to complete the task, as if the two brains functioned together as a single system for creative

problem-solving," says psychologist Yasuyo Minagawa, from Keio University in Japan.

The study participants were directed to complete the designated task on their own as well as in pairs, giving the researchers the opportunity to examine both solo brain activity (within-brain synchronizations or WBSs) and group brain activity (between-brain synchronizations or BBSs). Working together jointly led to "robust" BBS in the superior and middle temporal regions of the brain, as well as specific parts of the prefrontal cortex in the brain's right hemisphere. However, WBS wasn't as

strong in the test scenarios.

What's more, the BBSs were shown to be strongest when one of the individuals raised their gaze to look at the other, suggesting an important role here for social interactions. On the other hand, when the volunteers were working on their own, the WBS was much stronger within the same brain regions.

"These phenomena are consistent with the notion of a 'we-mode', in which interacting agents share their minds in a collective fashion and facilitate interaction by accelerating access to the other's cognition," says Minagawa.

PIC OF THE DAY

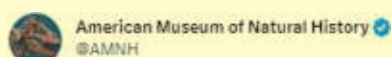
Pottery relics from the dawn of man prove that making artifacts out of clay is an age-old activity. The enduring art of pottery has always played an important role in the lives of Iranians, so much so that they used a wide range of crockery for different everyday use. To this day, Iranians have a soft spot for all things hand-made, especially pottery. Potters of the central city of Meybod in Yazd Province are expressly known for their skill and creativity in this art. The photo shows the inside of a potter's burning furnace in Meybod.

● MAJID JARRAHI/IRNA



Children in Syria and Türkiye need urgent help. Many lost their homes to the powerful earthquakes that hit the region during freezing conditions. As we are reaching them with life-saving supplies, you can help by donating now.

8:30 AM - Feb 20, 2023



What screams, cries, laughs, & looks like a muppet? That's right, it's the Tawny Frogmouth. Found in Australia, this nocturnal bird spends hours at a time motionless, waiting for prey. Its vocalizations range from deep grunts to loud hisses and have been likened to a crying baby.

5:40 PM - Feb 19, 2023



In the photo, behind what's left of Issa's university degree, is what's left of the house he once lived in. The #earthquake that hit Latakia in #Syria claimed the lives of Issa and his mother. The earthquake took thousands of lives, hopes, and dreams.

5:29 PM - Feb 19, 2023

