

Iran in attempts to move fixtures to Mexico for 2026 FIFA football world cup

IRAN: Iran football federation is in active conversation with FIFA to alter their playing venues for the Iranian players who will be travelling to the United States to participate in the showpiece event.



"When Trump has explicitly stated that he cannot ensure the security of the Iranian national team, we will certainly not travel to America," said Taj in a post on the Iranian football president Mehdi Taj.

"We are negotiating with FIFA to hold Iran's World Cup matches in Mexico," Taj said on the Iranian embassy in Mexico's X account. Soccer's global governing body FIFA, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Iran secured a trip to a fourth successive World Cup by topping their group in the third round of Asian qualifying last year. The tournament is due to kick off on June 11 in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, with Iran scheduled to play two group matches in Los Angeles and one in Seattle. Belgium, Egypt and New Zealand are Iran's opponents in Group G. The organising committees for matches in Los Angeles

and Seattle did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside normal U.S. business hours. The prospect of shifting Iran's fixtures to Mexico would mark a significant logistical switch for the tournament, though relocating matches for security or geopolitical reasons is not unprecedented. Story continues below this ad

Scotland secured a 2-0 World Cup qualifying win over Belarus at Zalaegerszeg near the Austrian and Slovenian borders, after a ruling by UEFA over the role of Belarus as a staging ground for Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Should FIFA reject a switch of venue to Mexico it seems unlikely that Iran would travel to the U.S. and take part in the tournament while at war with one of the co-hosts.

Iran's sports minister said last week it was not possible for the Iranian players to participate after the U.S. launched airstrikes against Israel against Tehran, killing the Islamic Republic's supreme leader. An official withdrawal would be the first in the modern era and leave FIFA with the urgent task of finding a replacement.

MCC on Agha run-out: 'No case to be made that this was not out'

DHAKA: The MCC has weighed in on the contentious run-out of Pakistan captain Salman Agha during the second ODI against Bangladesh in Dhaka, contending that the dismissal was fully in accordance with the Laws of the game. It suggested, however, that Bangladesh could have withdrawn their appeal on Spirit-of-Cricket grounds, given the circumstances in which the batter had found himself out of his ground. Agha had made reference to the Spirit of the Game after the match, saying he would have done differently had he been the fielder in these circumstances, and "gone for sportsman spirit". The run-out involved a collision between bowler Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who was moving across the pitch to intercept a shot from Mohammad Rizwan, and Agha, who was backing up at the non-striker's end.

As Mehidy attempted to pick up the ball, Agha bent down too, seemingly in an effort to pick the ball up himself and pass it onto the bowler, perhaps in the belief that the ball was dead. Before he could do so, Mehidy swooped on the ball and flicked it onto the stumps with Agha out of his ground. In a statement released on Monday, the MCC, the custodians of the Laws of the game, said the umpires were right to rule Agha out, and that the batter had put himself at risk of being out obstructing the ball by attempting to pick it up. "Under Laws, there is little that either umpire could have done differently," the statement said. "The non-striker was clearly out of his ground when the wicket was broken, and the ball was in play. That is out. "It is also worth pointing out

that the non-striker had left his ground when the ball was in play and had just started to attempt to regain his ground when he collided with Mehidy. Furthermore, no batter should attempt to pick the ball up without the consent of the fielding side, and had he done so, he would have been at risk of an Obstructing the field dismissal. In retrospect, he would have been better using that time to attempt to regain his ground." The MCC added that there was no question of the ball being dead, and that this would remain the case even when the new dead-ball law - which grants umpires greater power in determining when the ball has "finally settled" - comes into force in October. "There have been some suggestions that the ball should have been treated as Dead. That is not viable under the Laws; the ball does not be-

come dead when players collide - if it did, that would incentivise players to seek out collisions when the situation was advantageous. There was no question of a serious injury, so there could be no call of Dead ball for that. It could not have been clear to the umpire that all the players ceased to consider the ball to be in play, since Mehidy clearly believed it was live, even if Agha did not. And it cannot have been finally settled in the hands of the bowler or wicket-keeper, since it was on the ground. "Under the new Laws, which will come into effect in October, an umpire will be able to determine that the ball is finally settled if it is stationary on the ground. However, it is hard to make an argument that the ball is finally settled if the nearest fielder to it is attempting to run the non-striker out, with that non-striker out of their ground.

Ashwell Prince rues lack of partnerships in South Africa's Hamilton defeat

NEW DELHI: Run-scoring in T20 cricket can be done in three ways, according to South Africa's batting coach Ashwell Prince, and this lineup only got one of them right in the second T20I vs New Zealand. "Generally in a T20 game you get three opportunities: you can either play the match-winning innings, which unfortunately for us it was Devon [Conway] today for them, or you can be in a match-winning partnership with someone, or you can play a really nice cameo towards the end," Prince said

at the post-match press conference. "Today the only box we ticked was George Linde, who played a really nice cameo towards the end, but we didn't get any partnerships going and we didn't get anyone going on and making a big score." Batting at No. 7, Linde smashed a 12-ball 33 which included three fours and three sixes but it came too late. South Africa were chasing 176 and by the time Linde got to the crease were 67 for 5 in the 11th over and all but out of the game. They had no partnerships higher than the

opening stand and no batter other than Linde got past 19. Contrastingly, New Zealand had a little bit of all of Prince's ingredients for successful T20 batting. Conway's 60 was the highest score of the match and set them up for victory, they had two partnerships of 35 runs or more and two cameos from Cole McConchie (18 off 12 balls) and Josh Clarkson (26 off nine balls) which pushed their score over 170. Conway's was the stand-out knock of the game, his highest score in over two years in T20Is, and provided the



blueprint for how the rest should bat. While he started relatively quickly and was on 41 off 31 balls, he was forced

to slow down run-scoring on a surface South Africa's stand-in captain Keshav Maharaj said became more

difficult to bat on. His next 19 runs came off the 18 balls, which illustrates the slow down, and how important his first scoring shots were on a tough pitch. "Devon played great innings, but also at a strike rate of I think about 125, which meant it was a hard-working surface," Prince said. McConchie, speaking afterwards, also praised Conway's experience in being able to score runs on a pitch where some balls seemed to "stick" as he put it, which South Africa were unable to do. Though some of their

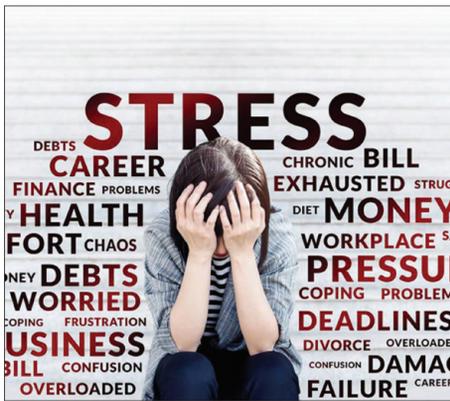
batters - particularly Tony de Zorzi and Jason Smith, who were both part of their original T20 World Cup squad - will be disappointed with their performances thus far, they are also lacking their usual strengths. None of South Africa's first-choice batters are on this tour and they have been dealt an injury blow. Jordan Hermann, who was due to open the batting alongside Conner Esterhuizen, picked up a hamstring injury in match one. His brother Ruben was in the XI and Prince expects both to

be around for some time to come. "I'm sure he's bitterly disappointed. It would have been nice also for the family, for him to get the opportunity to play alongside his brother," Prince said of Jordan. "He's played really well in SA20 over the last few years and is one of the bright young players in South Africa and we were really looking forward to seeing him on the international stage. It's a shame that he's got to return home, but I'm sure we'll see some more of him in the future."

Suffering from stress and anxiety? These foods may help you relax

Health News

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Shaparia explains, consuming full, nutrient-rich carbohydrates like sweet potatoes may help reduce cortisol situations. Indeed, though cortisol situations are tightly controlled, dragged stress can beget cortisol dysfunction, which can have negative goods like pain, inflammation, and other discomforts. In an 8-week study of fat or fat women, those who had a diet high in whole, nutrient-thick carbohydrates had vastly lower salivary cortisol situations than those who consumed a conventional American diet heavy in refined carbohydrates. Sweet potatoes are a portion of healthy whole food and a great source of carbohydrates. They're loaded with minerals, like vitamin C and potassium, that are pivotal for the body's capa-



bility to respond to stress. 5. Eggs Shaparia shares that, as a result of their amazing nutrient profile, eggs are constantly regarded as nature's multivitamin. The vitamins, minerals, amino acids, and antioxidants included in whole eggs are essential for a balanced stress response.

Choline, a vitamin that's present in great amounts in only select many reflections, is especially abundant in whole eggs. Choline has been demonstrated to be pivotal for maintaining brain health and may offer protection from stress. Choline supplements may help with stress response and mood enhancement, ac-

ording to animal research. 6. Shellfish Mussels, clams, and oysters are examples of shellfish that are rich in taurine, an amino acid that has been investigated for its ability to improve mood. To make neurotransmitters like dopamine, which are crucial for controlling the stress response, taurine and other amino acids are required. In fact, research suggests taurine may have antidepressant properties. Additionally, rich in selenium, zinc, copper, manganese, and vitamin B12, shellfish may also improve mood. Insufficient intakes of zinc, copper, and manganese were linked to feelings of depression and anxiety in research including 2,089 Japanese individuals. 7. Oysters In addition to being known as aphrodisiacs, oysters are also a favorite food due to their high zinc concentration. The NIH reports that oysters provide the highest amount of zinc per serving of any other food. Six raw oysters will provide you

with 32 milligrams (mg), or 400% of the recommended daily limit, of zinc. According to dietitian Keri Gans, RD, zinc may reduce the body's reaction to stress. It's an antioxidant that may help to bolster the immune system, has anti-inflammatory qualities, and, in the case of zinc in particular, may lessen how the body reacts to stress and anxiety. 8. Milk Milk that has been fortified is a great source of vitamin D, which is known to increase happiness. In 2013, the UCL Institute of Child Health in London reported a 50-year research that linked low vitamin D levels to a higher incidence of panic attacks and depression among 5,966 men and women. Comparing patients with the highest and lowest amounts of vitamin D, those with adequate levels had a lower incidence of panic disorders. Salmon, egg yolks, and fortified cereal are some additional

How does eating too much sugar affect your skin? Check for these warning signs

Skin Care

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When there is too much sugar in your body, it causes inflammation throughout your body. These spikes also cause your body to make more sebum, an oily substance in your skin. Both inflammation and excess sebum can lead to acne. 4. Dull skin Sugar breaks down collagen and elastin - the proteins that give your skin shape, structure, and firmness. When this occurs, your skin may start to look wrinkled, saggy, dry, and dull. 5. Breakouts Excess sugar consumption can increase the risk of acne breakouts. As previously stated, blood sugar spikes trigger inflammation in the body, and increased inflammation can lead to pimples, zits, blackheads, and whiteheads. 6. Lines and wrinkles Glycation is a process



where sugar molecules damage collagen and cause wrinkles. It can also lead to inflammation, acne breakouts, and other skin problems. To prevent this process, avoid sugary foods and consume plenty of antioxidants. Ways to Reduce the Skin-Damaging Effects of Sugar 1. Recognize hidden sugars: High fructose corn syrup, barley malt, maltodextrin... these are just a few other names that sugar

hides behind. 2. Replace processed foods with natural foods: Try replacing your junk food with natural sugars from berries, fruits, sweet potatoes, and carrots. 3. Cut down on sugary drinks: Instead, stick to water, coffee, and tea to quench your thirst. - Drink plenty of water - Get enough sleep - Exercise regularly - Maintain a good skin care regimen

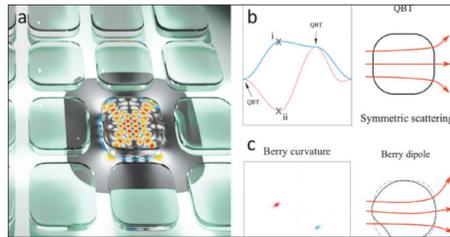
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Breakthrough in dynamical localization transitions and Berry curvature-induced transport

Quantum Physics

By Light Publishing Center, Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics And Physics, CAS

The way light moves around inside an optical microcavity provides an exciting opportunity to explore the connection between classical and quantum physics. This field of research is known as quantum chaos, and it has the potential to spawn many new technologies that bridge the gap between these two fundamental branches of physics. But even more fascinating is that the strange and unpredictable behavior we observe in microcavities is quite similar to what we see in many other chaotic physical systems, like atoms, quantum dots, and even large groups of particles. Studying the topological properties of microcavities can give us valuable in-



A, Conceptual illustration of a photonic crystal consisting of deformed dielectric microcavities. b, Energy bands as a function of the crystalline momentum (k_x, k_y) for a fixed cavity deformation Δ = 0.05, including Quadratic Band Touching (QBT). Cross points (X) i and ii indicate the even parity mode (Π_E) in a unit-cell for (k_x, k_y) = (π, 0) and the odd parity mode (Π_O), respectively. The right schematic illustration shows the symmetric scattering of light in the original C₂-symmetric boundary with QBT. c, Distribution of non-zero Berry curvature in the momentum space induced by scar states in the C₂-breaking boundary. C₂-breaking boundary perturbation splits the single QBT into a pair of Dirac cones. Subsequently, C₂-breaking boundary perturbation gaps out the Dirac cones and induces the Berry curvature dipole. The Berry curvature dipole induces the skew scattering depending on the incident momentum, k_{inc}, as shown in the right schematic illustration. Credit: by Chang-Hwan Yi, Hee Chul Park, and Moon Jip Park.

sights into the behavior of different chaotic systems, helping us better understand the universe we live in.

In a new paper published in Light: Science & Applications, a team of scientists led by Dr. Chang-Hwan Yi from the Center for Theo-

retical Physics of Complex Systems, Institute for Basic Science (IBS), Republic of Korea, Prof. Hee Chul Park from the Department of Physics, Pukyong National University (PKNU), Republic of Korea, and Prof. Moon Jip Park from the Department of Physics, Hanyang University (HYU), Republic of Korea has made a significant breakthrough in the field of wave chaos research. Their recent study unveils a new platform for studying dynamical localization transitions in periodic cavity arrays. The research team explored the wave chaos of deformed optical microcavities coupled to crystalline momentum in a periodic cavity array, i.e., scar-momentum locking. By controlling the crystalline momentum, they observed dynamical localization transitions and found that the Bloch momentum can substitute the role of boundary shape deformation. The team also proposed the possibility of realizing Berry curvature-induced transport

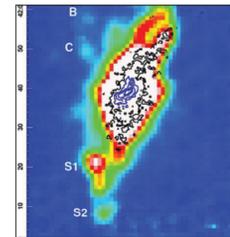
phenomena that utilize the intrinsic wave property of chaotic states. The crossover between Rayleigh and Mie regimes of Berry curvature-induced transport could pioneer a new aspect of wave-particle correspondence in wave chaos. The recent breakthrough in studying wave chaos phenomena provides a valuable tool for manipulating the behavior of light waves in periodic structures. Dr. Chang-Hwan Yi notes, "Our work offers a new avenue for studying wave chaos phenomena and opens up possibilities for discoveries in the field." With potential implications in quantum information and communication, as well as the development of new optoelectronic devices, this breakthrough could provide the way for future technological advancements. In addition, the study could lead to further exploration of crystal momentum-induced dynamical tunneling, expanding our understanding of wave chaos phenomena.

Long tidal tails detected in the galaxy pair Arp 269

Astronomy & Space

By Tomasz Nowakowski

Using the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical radio Telescope (FAST), Chinese astronomers have observed a pair of galaxies known as Arp 269. They detected extended tidal tails emerging from this system. The finding was reported in a paper published April 28 on the arXiv pre-print repository. The article has been accepted for publication in Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. Tidal tails are thin, elongated regions of stars and interstellar gas extending into space. They are formed as a result of gravitational interactions between galaxies and star clusters. The observations show that some interacting objects have two distinct tails, while other systems have only one tail. Located some 23 million light years away, Arp 269 (also known



The HI integrated intensity map of NGC 4490/85. Credit: Liu et al., 2023

as NGC 4490/85) is a low-mass merging galaxy pair consisting of a smaller irregular galaxy NGC 4485 and a larger barred spiral galaxy NGC 4490. Previous observation of this system found that it is embedded in a very extended, low-density envelope of neutral hydrogen (HI). This envelope is elongated and extended for a total length of about 290,000 light years, and it is approximately perpendicular to the NGC 4490 disk. Recently, a team of astronomers led by Yao Liu of the Chinese Academy of

Sciences (CAS) have investigated Arp 269 with FAST, finding more tidal features in this galaxy pair. "With FAST's superior sensitivity, we discover much more diffuse HI structures in the interacting galaxy pair NGC 4490/85," the researchers wrote in the paper. FAST observations found that the tidal tails in Arp 269 are much longer than that seen during previous observations. They extend in both the south and north directions, reaching together a size of about 325,000 light years. The astronomers noted that it is not surprising to see such two long tails in Arp 269 as such structures are one of the most common features seen in closely interacting pairs. Trying to explain the origin of the detected tidal tails, the researchers underlined that the velocity structure of the northern tails matches that of NGC 4485. Therefore, it is very likely that the tails are the debris torn out from the NGC 4485 disk due to interaction with the NGC 4490 galaxy.