



500kg-weighing sheatfish live in Greek lake

Athens. Giant sheatfish live on the bottom of the Kozani lake in Greece, the Greek Ethnos newspaper informs. A few days ago a fisherman had caught a 220kg-weighting sheatfish, 2,4 m long. In July an even bigger one was caught there – 250 kg, 2,5 m long. A few times before that fisherman had caught sheatfish weighing between 50 to 100 kg. According to divers that had surveyed the lake, huge sheatfish has been living on the lake's bottom since the big earthquake in 1995. In their words, their length reaches up to 4-5 meter, while their weight – 400-500kg. They live almost stuck on the bottom, as they move little and eat whatever they find. The existence of such huge fish has been mentioned and proved by scientists too, Ethnos explains.

Two earthquakes rattle Halkidiki peninsula

Thessalonica. Two earthquakes have rattled Halkidiki peninsula, Greek television channel Antena informed. The tremors were measured 4,3 on the Richter scale and the epicenter was somewhere in the Aegean Sea. No damages or injured people have been reported.

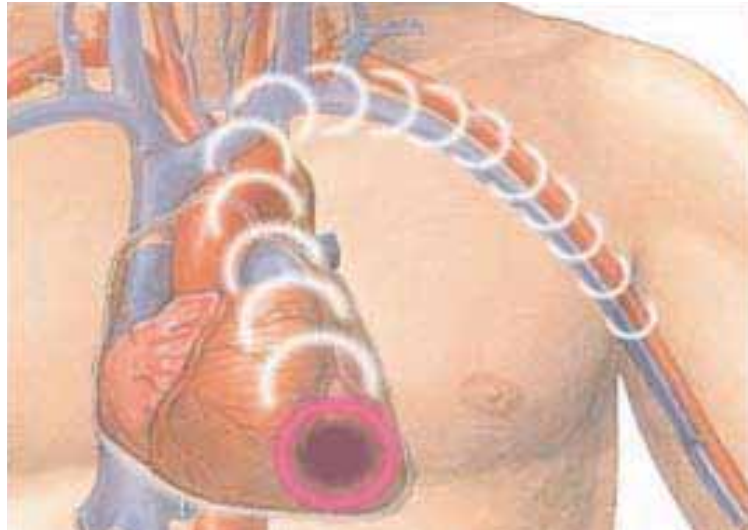
Greek scientists develop heart attack calculator

Researchers have developed a quick and easy artificial intelligence approach to successfully calculate a patient's heart attack risk with respect to many lifestyle factors.

Named online analytical processing (OLAP), the approach makes it possible for physicians to just use their system to provide patients with a personal risk factor and so advise on lifestyle changes or medication to lower their risk.

It is well known that lifestyle factors including depression, education, smoking, diet, and obesity, play a part in the risk of cardiovascular disease.

But, epidemiologists who study how health risks vary through populations have not found a way to extrapolate from such broad studies to



individual risk levels.

Now, Hara Kostakis of the TEI Piraeus Research Centre, in Methonis, Greece, and colleagues have investigated patterns of cardiovascular risk factors in a large population by collecting data for almost 1000 patients enrolled in the CARDIO 2000 study who had been hospitalised with the first symptoms of ACS, acute coronary syndrome.

After recording details of body mass index, family history, physical activity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes, they matched the data against healthy individuals as a scientific control.

And instead of using conventional methods for analysing statistics, the researchers borrowed an approach from the computer

science field of artificial intelligence, OLAP, which was developed in the early 1990s and was exploited primarily in industrial and commercial applications, for financial and marketing analysis.

Fundamentally, OLAP provides a multidimensional view of data that allows patterns to be discerned in even the largest datasets that remain invisible even to the most expert user of spreadsheets.

Researchers at the University of Patras have already adapted this system to accommodate the risk factors of heart disease.

The team points out that the CARDIO2000 study explored the association between several demographic, nutritional, psychological, lifestyle and medical risk factors, but did not necessarily provide epidemiologists and physicians with a way to visualise the results and so provide patients with a personal risk factor based on their particular circumstances.

But they have claimed that their approach works much more quickly than conventional statistical analysis, reveals hidden risk factors and associations and makes none of the assumptions of standard approaches to assessing risk of heart attack.

"Due to the ease of use of the methodology, a physician has the advantage of easily identifying high-risk patients by simply entering their personal data in the model," The Science Daily quoted the researchers as saying.

And thus, they can advise their patient on lifestyle and psychological. They can also prescribe more appropriate medication depending on the specific risk factors.

Greek unionists protest against Sunday shopping

ATHENS, Greece: Labor union activists blockaded some shops in central Athens that were trying to open Sunday to make up revenue lost in three weeks of rioting that badly damaged the capital's retail district. The shopkeepers' association had asked to keep their businesses open for a second consecutive Sunday – one more than the customary Christmas exemption to the usual opening hours. They wanted to try to recoup some of their losses from the economic slowdown that has begun to affect Greece, and from the riots that followed the police killing of a 15-year-old boy. Outraged unionists said the showowners wanted an excuse to extend Sunday shopping throughout the year. This, they claim, will only benefit the large department stores and supermarket chains and harm the small shops, resulting in longer hours for employees and, ultimately, job losses.

Many large department stores, fearing unionist reprisals, stayed shut Sunday, while bookstore employees blocked access to all major Athens bookstores, including Public, a big electronics shop that also sells books. Shop employees and management were trapped inside the Public store, while dozens of protesters prevented customers from entering and chanted slogans.

They said they would stay throughout the opening hours, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., but left at around 1:30 p.m.

Despite their stated intention to blockade only large shops, protesters had shut down premises at random, including smaller shops. Some customers were physically prevented from entering premises, and angry shopkeepers and shoppers voiced outrage at the protesters.

"We will force the shops to close. At the moment, only one in six are working, and no one is shopping," Dimitris Stratoulis, a high-ranking member of the Left Coalition Party, declared shortly after opening time. He led several dozen marchers around the city center, where they forced a large cosmetics and department store to shut down temporarily.

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