

# Friday Times

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## Dust storm hits Kuwait

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KUWAIT: A dust storm hits Kuwait yesterday, causing visibility to drop drastically. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Fake news throws up real problems



KAFFEKLATSCH

By Shaker Reshamwala

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**M**isinformation and disinformation have been around for as long as information has been, but the advent of social media has made it easy to reach the largest number of targets in the shortest time and lowest of cost. This is why fake news is now a potent scourge that is ravaging nearly every society. While “alternative facts” are a mere annoyance in some places, in others they have caused political and social turmoil and even influenced elections.

Kuwait too hasn't been immune to this phenomenon that is giving journalists, politicians and decision-makers around the world a tough time. Where once the government would have ignored rumors and baseless allegations, various ministries and public bodies in Kuwait nowadays routinely refute reports circulating on social media. In this era of viral videos and images, nipping a rumor in the bud is seen as effective before it grows legs. But it seems to be a losing battle.

The Arab Media Forum held earlier this week focused on “verification of media sources and countering of fake news amid a revolution in information technology and new media tools”. Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri warned participants that it is of utmost importance to stand up to the spread of fabricated and false news that influence the youth. He also stressed on the need for adhering to the principles of credibility, transparency and professionalism to provide balanced news coverage.

The minister made a point by singling out the youth for special attention, as this segment of the population constitutes a majority in Kuwait. This is a generation that has never known a life without mobiles, Internet and the ubiquitous cellphone camera. The mainstream media are no longer the gatekeepers of information - any event that takes place is swiftly recorded and disseminated raw - without fact-checks, balanced viewpoints, background info or even spin.

This voracious appetite for news has resulted in online news bulletins and social media pages proliferating in Kuwait with tens of thousands of followers who instantly share anything they find interesting. The government has tried to regulate online news sites by forcing them to register, but the task is too gargantuan, and

private messaging apps like WhatsApp and Snapchat are very hard to control.

Another important thing to consider is that the largest news providers are no longer legacy newspapers or news channels - they are Google and Facebook. Even though they are the primary sources for news consumption these days, they are desperate to cast themselves as mere aggregators to avoid being regulated and held accountable for spreading fake news or libelous stories. Of course things are changing and governments are clamping down to make them answerable, but again it's a fraught task to pin the blame on these tech giants that have utterly disrupted the hegemony of traditional media.

To sum it up, fake news is a local and global challenge, and everyone must be aware to not fall in the trap of believing everything that one reads or hears. But unverified and salacious stories seem to be here to stay, which means the more-cautious mainstream media is literally hung out to dry - unlike the laundry that once billowed in the breeze under the blazing sun in balconies, but can now lead to a KD 500 fine by the Environment Public Authority, which is also cracking down on “visual pollution” caused by houses painted in bizarre colors and not the drab earthen tones or pastels of neighboring homes. Now this is not fake news.



### Job Fair - Teachers & Admin Staff

J's Preschool is inviting potential applicants for academic year 2018 - 2019

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Day: Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018</li> <li>- Time: 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</li> <li>- Venue: J's Preschool</li> <li>• Fnaitees: Bl. 3 - St. 318 - Villa 359</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Day: Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018</li> <li>- Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.</li> <li>- Venue: J's Preschool</li> <li>• Mishref: Bl. 4 - St. 4 - Villa 1</li> <li>• Fnaitees: Bl. 3 - St. 318 - Villa 359</li> </ul>
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Position	Hiring Criteria
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Academic Coordinator	3 years' experience as Academic Administrator/Team Lead.
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Applicants shall attend the event with their updated CV and documents. For any inquiries, please send an email to [careers@wazzanedu.com](mailto:careers@wazzanedu.com).

## Silence is not working



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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**S**tatistics and information published recently by the Supreme Family Council in Kuwait on attacks against children is worrying, and I feel we must dig into the reasons to find new methods of treatment to combat such behaviors and ugly crimes. In a press statement, it was said that 607 cases of abuse against children were registered in Kuwaiti hospitals in the past five years. But two out of three cases of abuse have not been reported! Moreover, the most frequent incidents of sexual abuse occur by relatives.

The Supreme Family Council deals with all family matters in Kuwait to strengthen family ties, preserve its unity and develop its capabilities in order to achieve security and social stability. The report also claims that sexualized electronic games viewed by children present the wrong values. I personally don't agree with this statement, because it is like accusing the child for provoking such crimes.

Nevertheless, I thank the council for this crucial information. Revealing this issue means that there is a need for treatment, especially since the abuse of children in any form is ugly and harmful to all parties, whether the child or the family. It also has short- and long-term repercussions and psychological effects on the child that may last for years.

Sexual abuse of children is one of the most

serious crimes, and has been rampant in societies globally in recent years. It is found not only in Arab societies, but even in the United States. In 2012, according to the US Department of Health, 9.3 percent of child abuse cases were classified as child sexual abuse. The report stated that 90 percent of the children knew the harasser, and that 68 percent of children were abused by a member of the family.

I think parents may sometimes neglect their children - not deliberately, but perhaps by not knowing what to do in these situations, and because children do not understand what is harassment, assault or penetration against their bodies.

So, how can I protect my child from sexual abuse? This is an important question, but many parents do not know the correct answer. Hence, we must raise awareness. I hope that the family council will play a major role in raising awareness about the seriousness of this issue, not only as a crime punishable by law, but what parents can do if their children are attacked.

Because silence and ignoring the subject is impossible and unacceptable. I know that in Arab societies, silence and concealment may seem like an easy solution, but it carries a bigger problem. I also know that police and court procedures are long, painful and difficult, but the child's mental health is more important to be taken care of.

I believe that alertness and awareness are required. I see a lot of media campaigns for issues that are simpler and less important. Why don't we have awareness campaigns about this subject? I know that it may be harsh and shameful to talk about it publicly, but we are not an ideal society and not addressing it means abandoning an entire generation.



# Kuwait Times



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Local





# TRAVEL SMARTER AND CHEAPER WITH OUR FAVORITE SMARTPHONE APPS

By Faten Omar

If your travels are about fancy restaurants, luxury hotels and business-class flights, this article is not for you. But keep reading if you are an adventurer and willing to try new things while traveling on a budget. Exploring the world can be liberating, character-building, fun and expensive. Unless you are independently wealthy, you are going to need to know more about how to travel a lot with less money. Your smartphone is your connection to friends, family and apps that can save you serious cash. These apps can help you save money not only when booking your flights and accommodation, but also on staying on a budget when you are there.

Here is our pick of the **best apps for budget travel**



**Flights: Skyscanner and Skiplagged**

Skyscanner is a great app to give you the best price for your flight. Not only does it find the best flight deals, it even suggests the best time to travel at a cheaper price. Most airlines conceal the secret of "hidden city" flights that could cost you less by booking your destination as a transit stop. For example, if your Kuwait-Paris flight costs \$100, the hidden city Kuwait-Paris-Madrid flight can cost you \$50. You can skip going to Madrid, but the only problem is that you must not have checked-in baggage. Skiplagged will help you find such flights.

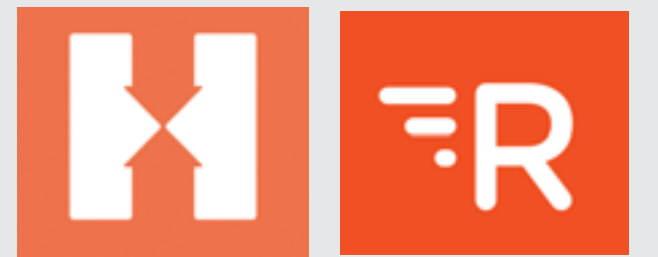


**Accommodation: Rocketmiles, Hostelworld, Love Home Swap, and Couchsurfing**

While there are plenty of hotel deal-finding apps out there, 'Rocketmiles' can offer you the best prices for hotels plus extra free miles to collect to get free tickets. If you are searching for cheaper accommodation, 'Hostelworld' is your answer. It provides sociable budget accommodation where guests can rent a bed, usually a bunk bed, in a dormitory and share a bathroom.

No cash, no problem - swap homes during your vacation with someone in another part of the world. 'Love Home Swap' allows you to swap your home with people who want to explore your country and you can explore theirs. Couchsurfing

is the best app to get a free private or shared room. The host is usually interested to learn about your culture and introduce you to their traditions. This app allows you to connect with local people in the city you are planning to visit and it is a great way to get to know your surroundings.



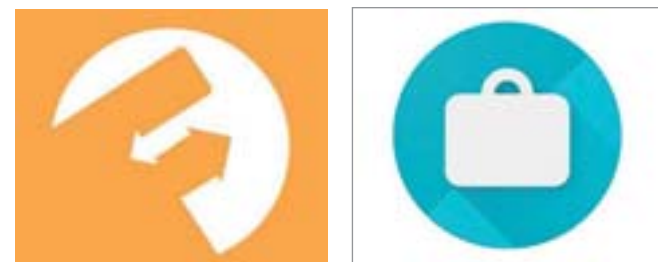
**Transportation: BlaBlaCar, Rome2rio and Trafi**

Rome2rio and Trafi will help you to find details about the best transportation options. BlaBlaCar gives you a chance to travel with people in their cars from one country to another at a cheaper price.



**Tours: Freetour and Google Trip**

Freetour offers you free walking tours around the country with locals. You can check the photos and reviews for any tour before you book it. 'Google Trip' will suggest the nearest spots to go to.



## Local

# Living and working together?



## Pros and cons of couples working together

By Chidi Emmanuel and Ramona Crasto

With a surge in cases of divorce in Kuwait against the backdrop of growing financial hardships, Kuwait Times weighed the pros and cons of working with your spouse. In order to have a better understanding, spouses were asked if they would like to work together - either in the same company or department. In answering the question, distrust, jealousy, unfaithfulness and "not spending quality time together" topped the list of the reasons for their choices.

There is a popular phrase - "keep your work and personal lives separate" - but in today's complex economic climate and competitive job market, it is common to see work and personal lives interwoven. While some people prefer to work with their spouses, others vehemently oppose the idea. No matter which camp one falls into, mixing business and pleasure comes with many positives - and some negatives as well.

"There is a need to separate work-related issues from family issues. If we work in the same department, we will be choked up with office-related issues, thus ignoring why we are together - by marriage. We won't have a lot of personal things to talk about on a daily basis apart from work-related

issues. This will eventually affect our marriage," said Munaf Chafekar, 29, IT staff at Oracle Applications. "More so, constantly seeing each other at work might lead to marital problems as well as conflicts of interest if it comes to making certain decisions," he added.

Buttressing Chafekar's views, Evelyn Sam, a merchandize buyer at M H Alshaya, said: "I like to have my space at work. Having my better half around my work environment could be very intimidating and distracting. Being with the same person at work and home makes life very boring. I need breathing space!"

For Kyrie Alvares, Operation Coordinator at Logistica, it is a capital 'NO'. "We spend a lot of time together at home - especially on weekends. Having him around in the office as well will make me feel smothered. Even though we work in the same locality, we prefer not to share our eight-hour working time together," she said.

Other respondents explored the merits of spouses working together in the same company and environment.

### Boost intimacy

For Emmanuel Steve, a teacher, couples who share experiences often feel a greater sense of connection to one another. "I find it

interesting working with my wife in school. I won't be bothered much about her safety, flat tires, traffic mishaps and her wellbeing at work. Working together brings us together and boosts our intimacy, as we share ideas," he argued.

Supporting Emmanuel's view, Ahmed Saad, a marketing executive, explored the economic advantage. "With the global financial crisis biting hard, cutting costs becomes imperative. Before we had two cars, but after my wife was transferred to my Shuwaikh branch, things became easier. We sold my wife's car and made some other adjustments for the better. For a country like Kuwait, a car off the road means a lot for the traffic situation. It is very convenient for us too," he said.

Donovan Ferrao, 26, a biomedical engineer at Central Circle, also considers the economic advantages and how safe it is to work together. "I would like to work with my better half in the same company - but not in the same department. Getting to and from work will be economical and convenient. I wouldn't have to worry if she has reached safely. We would share a common group and we would know best about each other's workplace and timings, and this would go a long way in today's fragile relationships," he reasoned.

In the summers of Kuwait, where the temperature hits 50 degrees, many-a-times

women are stuck in the scorching heat to deal with situations such as flat tires and overheated radiators and batteries. To avoid dealing with such situations alone, Ferrao insists that commuting together to the same workplace is very favorable.

When Raphael is done with his workday, he crosses over to the other side to pick up his wife who works in the neighboring office. The couple enjoys discussing their work challenges during their commute home, and often will brainstorm solutions to assignments. "We contribute to each other's careers. We have been married for 15 years now, and we've been working together since we came to Kuwait. I can't imagine not working with her," said Raphael, who teaches in the same school with his wife Lilit. "We always know what one another are going through professionally. More so, there is maximum trust because we spend almost 24 hours together," he added.

"Working or commuting together can forge a deeper respect for couples' professional skills, and sharing a workplace can be enjoyable. Couples who work together say the pros outweigh the cons. Sharing a professional life with your spouse can even strengthen your relationship as you come to know your partner better - with love and mutual respect," said Innocent Ona, a sociologist.





## Local

# US study tour provides 15 Kuwaiti women with political empowerment

## In keeping with Kuwait Vision's goal to engage women in leadership

**WASHINGTON:** A two-week study tour, backed up by the Empower Kuwaiti Women in Politics (EKWIP) initiative, provided 15 future women leaders with an intensive training program focusing on essential skills in political campaigning, said an official yesterday. In an interview during their one-week tour in Washington DC before heading to Dearborn, Michigan, Director of Ibtakar Strategic Consultancy Dr Alanoud Al-Sharekh affirmed that the main idea of the initiative-launched by Ibtakar was to "try and empower these women politically."

This is keeping with the State of Kuwait's Vision 2035 goal to promote and engage more women in leadership positions. She indicated that in Kuwait, "women with leadership positions in the public sector is 12 percent and in the private sector 15 percent so this is a problem across the board."

"Through this initiative we wanted to encourage women who might have the ambition but do not have the funding or the necessary skills to get a chance to learn from the best, locally and internationally, how to run a successful campaign and what you need to know both on a personal level and on a logistical level," she remarked. She added that this is a yearlong program and "unfortunately because it is a pilot we could only offer it to 15 women out of 70 applications that were received." The 15 women

are of different age groups that represent all the different demographics in Kuwait and they come from the private and public sectors with different interests. In this regard, Dr Sharekh said "some want to run for co-ops, some from municipalities and others for the National Assembly. Each in their own way is going to help change policies into a more friendly place for women."

As for the aim for the visit to the US, she affirmed that the idea is to "take these women out of their day-to-day responsibilities, such as their children, their jobs, their social obligations. So to have two-weeks just to concentrate on yourself and improving your skills is of extreme importance." During their weeklong visit to the nation's capital, the team visited the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, think tanks, delegates, Arab-American congressional representatives.

The group also met with the best experts in the world on body language, media, self-presentation, image and learn from people who run NGOs and campaigns in the civil society space." "These women have acquired a wealth of experience and it was really an eye opener for them to learn that it is difficult for women in the US and globally and that it is not just us who face these issues," she remarked.

Dr Sharekh noted that her message for the



**WASHINGTON:** Director of the Cultural Office in Washington, DC Dr Aseel Al-Awadhi (center) poses for a group picture with Dr Alanoud Al-Sharekh and the 15 EKWIP future leaders. — KUNA

women out there is to "step up and seek the help you need. Funding is an issue and lack of skill is an issue but there will be women who are willing to help you to lend you their voice to give you a platform, so just do it." The 15 EKWIP future leaders, during their Washington DC stop, were also able to

meet Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Rawdan, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador and wife of Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikha Rima Al-Sabah and former MP Dr Aseel Al-Awadhi, who is now the first woman to be the Director of Kuwait's Cultural Office in Washington. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** A dust storm hits Kuwait yesterday, causing visibility to drop drastically. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



## Dust storm hits Kuwait

By Chidi Emmanuel

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait was hit by a heavy dust storm yesterday. The dust wave gripped Kuwait - causing visibility to drop drastically. The dust subsided gradually as temperatures dropped. The low pressure air led to thunderstorms and dusty winds with low visibility of less than 500 meters in most areas. Thunderstorms hit south of Kuwait as unpredictable weather continues until today, according to Kuwait meteorologist Issa Ramadan. He advised road users to take extra precautions during the stormy weather. The dust carried by storms moved from north to south of Kuwait - with scattered rain in some areas.

The unstable weather condition created chaos on the Kuwait roads - causing a huge traffic. The Interior Ministry warned residents to stay away from the seaside.

Motorists were urged to drive carefully and to follow all safety instructions. Experts said that low visibility might result in traffic accidents, indicating that drivers should take extra care and help protect themselves and others while on the road.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) warned against the unstable weather conditions in the country - urging sea-goers and desert campers to take precautions. Kuwait has been experiencing dust storms recently. The unstable weather is affected by the seasonal Sudan depression, accompanied by relative humid air which leads to increasing clouds and scattered rain. Kuwait Meteorological Department had issued a warning to public that unstable with moderate-to-fresh south easterly wind, with speed of 20-50 km/h will cause dust storm.



## Local

# Syrian conflict can only be solved by political means: Deputy FM

## Brussels Conference voices appreciation for Kuwait's efforts

**BRUSSELS:** Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah expressed his hopes on Wednesday that the Syrian conflict would end this year and stressed that there is no solution except a political one. "We wish that it ends this year. We stressed in our speech that the Syrian crisis will only be solved by political means," he said after his participation in the Brussels II conference on the future of Syria and the region. He noted that there are movements on the political level and efforts are continuing to find a political solution.

There are some signs linked with these efforts that could lead to results with the main influential actors in Syria, said Jarallah adding that "we look with optimism at these efforts and we wish that these efforts would lead to an end to the suffering of our brotherly Syrian people".

Jarallah addressed the first plenary session of the conference and also another parallel session by the chairs of the conference who had contributed in organizing and hosting the earlier conferences on Syria. All participants expressed their thanks to the EU and the UN for organizing the Brussels II conference on the future of Syria and the region, he said. This conference expressed the commitment of the international community, the EU, and the UN to help in reducing the burden of the neighboring countries who are hosting a large number of Syrian refugees, he said. Kuwait announced its pledge in this conference for this year of \$100 million to help the Syrian refugees in neighboring countries, he added.

### Dignity and freedom

The second Brussels conference on Syria concluded Wednesday evening with a co-chairs Declaration reaffirming that only an inclusive, comprehensive and genuine political solution that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people for dignity and freedom will ensure a sustainable end to the Syrian conflict. "The co-chairs, together with all participants, reiterated their appreciation for Kuwait's and Sweden's efforts in drafting UNSC Resolution 2401 (2018) and called for its immediate and full implementation," it said.

Participants pledged, for both Syria and the region, \$4.4 billion for 2018, as well as multi-year pledges of \$3.4 billion for 2019-2020. In addition, some international financial institutions and donors announced around \$21.2 billion in loans. The Second Brussels Conference on "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region" took place on 24-25 April. It was hosted by the European Union and co-chaired by the United Nations.

It brought together 86 delegations including 57 States, 10 representatives of regional organizations and International Financial Institutions as well as 19 UN agencies. More than 250 Non-Governmental Organizations were also associated throughout the preparations and the two days of the Conference.

One year after Brussels I, and following the previous three pledging conferences in Kuwait as well as the London Conference in 2016, the Conference renewed and strengthened the political,



**BRUSSELS:** Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Sulaiman Al-Jarallah (left) and Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (right) pose for a group photo during a conference on "Supporting the future of Syria and the region" at the European Council in Brussels on Wednesday. — AFP

humanitarian and financial commitment of the international community to support the Syrian people, the neighboring countries, and the communities most affected by the conflict, it said.

The former co-chairs of Brussels I: Germany, Kuwait, Norway, Qatar and the United Kingdom (UK) brought substantial input to the preparations and the proceedings of the Conference. Jordan and Lebanon were closely associated, said the Declaration. The Conference expressed its

strong support for the work of the UN Special Envoy for Syria in his mandate to facilitate the political process, with a view to a lasting political settlement. More than 12 million people have now been displaced, including more than 5.6 million refugees hosted in neighboring countries and 6.6 million displaced inside Syria. Nearly 13.1 million people, almost half of whom are children, urgently need humanitarian assistance and protection inside the country, it noted. — KUNA

## Britain honors Kuwaiti ambassador for his role in promoting ties

**LONDON:** British Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa Affairs Alistair Burt yesterday lauded the Kuwaiti Ambassador to United Kingdom and Northern Ireland Khaled Al-Duwaisan for his efforts in promoting diplomatic ties.

In a speech at a dinner, hosted by member of the British-Kuwaiti Friendship Society Mohammad Al-Shaya, Burt praised Duwaisan's political and diplomatic experience that served his country and boosted ties with Britain.

Many of the diplomats who have served in Britain over the past 25 years have benefited from Duwaisan's experience in the political scene, Burt said. The British minister noted that he had personally benefited from Duwaisan's experience regarding issues connected with the Middle East. Burt added that since he took the ministerial office eight years ago, Duwaisan did not hesitate to provide assistance and advice. Burt said that next year would mark the 120th anniversary of the agreement of friendship between the two countries, adding the centennial of the British Air Force's

move in 1919 to protect Kuwait will also be observed.

Kuwait has recently donated around KD 2 million (five million Sterling Pounds) as a contribution for the expansion of the British Royal Air Force Museum, which is a reflection of the depth of the relations, he said. Burt has also praised both countries officials in strengthen ties at all levels, noting that there was a joint committee meeting every six months to discuss all aspects of cooperation.

In this regard, Burt expressed hope for the meeting of the Kuwaiti-UK Joint Steering Group next June, which is one of the most important events to strengthen the relationship, especially for the ever-growing economic side. On the role of the Kuwaiti-British Friendship Society, Burt said that the society played an important role further strengthening relations. The recently held Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq (KICRI), Burt stressed this event had sent an important message on Kuwait's humanitarian action both globally and internationally.

Burt also highly praised Kuwait's sup-

port for Britain in the Security Council following the nerve gas attack, which led to the death of ex-Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter in Salisbury city. Britain supports and works in coordination with Kuwait to achieve security and stability in the Middle East and the world, Burt said. Britain also supports Kuwait's efforts and contributions to resolving the Gulf crisis as a chair of the current session of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Burt said.

Meanwhile, Duwaisan expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for the honor he received from the British government represented by Burt. Duwaisan said that the strong relations between Kuwait and Britain are based on love, mutual respect and common interest. He added that the British-Kuwaiti relations have been and will continue to be strong, praising the British role in supporting Kuwait's stability and security. Members of the Kuwaiti-British friendship Society, Mohammad Al-Shaya, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and other guests attended the honoring of Duwaisan. — KUNA

## Palestinian Cultural Center concluded its 48th exhibition

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** The Palestinian Cultural Center concluded its 48th exhibition yesterday at the Kuwaiti Women's Culture and Social Society in Khalidiya. "There was a large turnout of people who attend the exhibition," Siham Abu Ghazaleh, head of the Palestinian cultural committee of the Palestinian Cultural Center, said. "People from Kuwait and other nationalities showed interest and that they care about the Palestinian cause and Palestinians' right of return."

Ghazaleh told Kuwait Times that the success of the exhibition was because of the people of Kuwait, and also because of the support and assistance of the Women's Culture and Social Society. "Selling proceeds this year will go to help schools in Jerusalem and open water wells in Gaza," she revealed. "People of Gaza now suffer from lack of clean water, so we need to help provide the minimum living requirements to them. That is why we focused on Jerusalem and Gaza in the theme of the exhibition." The exhibition included a large collection of traditional handmade cross-stitch fabrics as well as pottery from Hebron, posters and books about Palestine in English and Arabic. The closing ceremony of the exhibition included a book reading for children and Palestinian traditional folk dance 'Dabke'.

The Palestinian Culture Center is a non-profit organization that was established in Jordan in 1993. It aspires to reaffirm the Palestinian national identity by its handicrafts while supporting education and families.



## Local

# Philippines expresses displeasure as row with Kuwait deepens

## Manila demands explanation for envoy's expulsion

**MANILA:** A dispute between Kuwait and the Philippines over reports of abuse of Philippine workers took a turn for the worse yesterday with the Philippines expressing "great displeasure" about Kuwait's expulsion of its ambassador.

The conflict has been simmering for three months, sparked by reports that several Filipinos had been driven to suicide by the abuse of Kuwaiti employers. The two countries have been working on a pact to protect expatriate workers after the Philippines banned its workers from going to Kuwait.

But on Wednesday, Kuwait ordered the Philippine ambassador to leave within a week and recalled its own envoy for consultations after embassy staff tried on the weekend to "rescue" domestic workers. The Philippine foreign ministry yesterday summoned the Kuwaiti ambassador to demand an explanation for Kuwait's action but was told the envoy, Musaed Saleh Ahmad Althwaikh, had left the country late on Wednesday.

"The department served a diplomatic note to the Embassy of Kuwait conveying its strong surprise and great displeasure over the declaration of Ambassador Renato Pedro Villa as persona non grata," the foreign ministry said in a state-

ment. "These acts are inconsistent with the assurances and representations made by the Kuwaiti ambassador on the various concerns that were brought to his attention." Officials at Kuwait's embassy in Manila were not available for comment.

Domestic helpers account for more than 65 percent of the more than 260,000 Filipinos in Kuwait, according to the Philippine foreign secretary. In February, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte called on workers in Kuwait to return home after the discovery of a domestic worker's body in a freezer in an abandoned home.

The Philippines says it has protested about the detention of four of its nationals who were hired by its embassy in Kuwait to help with the "rescue" operation last Saturday, and the issuance of arrest warrants against three diplomatic personnel.

Kuwait has not commented on that publicly. Kuwait's ambassador met Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday to resolve the dispute and they had agreed on measures to prevent a repeat of the incidents, the Philippines has said.

Cayetano issued an apology to Kuwait at the time for what Kuwait viewed as violation of its



**KUWAIT:** This file photo taken on April 21, 2018 shows Filipino Ambassador to Kuwait Renato Villa speaking during a press conference at the Philippines embassy in Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

sovereignty but he maintained the embassy was forced to "assist" Filipino domestic workers who sought help because some situations were a matter of life and death.

Foreign workers in many Gulf states are employed under a sponsorship system that gives

employers the right to keep their passports and exercise full control over their stay. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have long complained that Gulf states do not properly regulate working conditions for low-income domestic workers and laborers. — Reuters

## Teacher accused in student's death released without bail

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Capital governorate prosecution released a public school teacher without bail after questioning in the case of the death of a student. The prosecution pressed four charges against an Egyptian teacher including beating that led to death, mistreatment of a child, as well as insulting the student and his mother. The teacher denied all charges.

The incident took place in February when student Essa Al-Beloushi died from heart failure upon his return home from his school in Rawdha. His parents accused the teacher of admonishing him severely despite her knowledge of his health condition.

### Private sector

The New Kuwait Vision 2035 aims at increasing the number of Kuwaitis working in the private sector by a minimum of 50 percent. Member of Higher Council for Planning and Development Ali Al-Bader said yesterday. Kuwaitis make up less than five percent

of the private sector's labor force according to the latest official statistics. Regarding the fate of the privatization program which the government aims at implementing, Bader said that current plans to achieve that goal, which run through the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects, then build, operate, transfer (BOT) law, and the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority are not effective and will not help achieve the sought after goals.

### 1.4 million bachelors in Kuwait

The number of bachelors in Kuwait is 1.4 million, including 316,000 Kuwaitis, according to official statistics released recently. The number of male Kuwaiti bachelors is 170,000 while there are 150,000 unmarried Kuwaiti females, according to the statistics released by the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI). The number of non-Kuwaiti bachelors is 850,000, while unmarried non-Kuwaiti women make 230,000.

The number of married people is 2.062 million, of whom 1.3 million are males and 745,000 are females. Kuwaitis make up 477,000 of both genders, while the number of non-Kuwaiti married men is 1.8 million, and women is 500,000.

The number of divorced people in the country is 86,000 (32,000 males and 54,000 females). Kuwaitis make up 60,000 of them while 26,000 are non-Kuwaitis. Meanwhile, the number of widowed in Kuwait is 42,000 (5,000 males and 37,000 females), including 31,000 Kuwaitis and 11,000 non-Kuwaitis.

## Reckless truck driver identified

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Police have identified a pickup truck driver who escaped arrest, in addition to another motorist who helped him flee, as search is on to put them under arrest, the Interior Ministry said in a statement yesterday. Police had launched an investigation to identify and arrest the pickup truck driver after a video clip went viral on social media showing him driving recklessly at a street in Kuwait. Patrolmen were able to locate the truck that had no license plates, and ordered its driver to pull over, but he drove away instead. When police attempted to chase him, another driver swerved in and obstructed their way, which enabled the suspect to escape while the second driver managed to flee as well. Police managed to locate the pickup truck later and impounded it, but the driver was nowhere to be found. The two suspects were later identified and investigations are ongoing in search for them.

### Preventive measures

Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's (KFSD) Deputy Director General for the Prevention Sector Maj Gen Khalid Abdullah Fahad inspected



**KUWAIT:** This photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows a pickup truck impounded after its driver was caught driving recklessly in a street in Kuwait.

several buildings under construction to make sure that preventive measures are taken in those buildings.

### Bridge opened

The Traffic General Department will open the bridge of Jamal Abdunnasser road's extension across from Sulaibkhat and Gharnata areas at dawn today, the department announced yesterday.





Chernobyl disaster zone lures tourists

## Fresh faces but same old names in Lebanon election

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**KUSHINAGAR, India:** Onlookers gather around the mangled remains of a school bus after it was hit by a train in Kushinagar district in India's Uttar Pradesh state yesterday. At least 13 children were killed and five critically injured after a train smashed into a small school bus in northern India, an official said.—FP

## 13 children killed as train hits school van

### 2nd major accident involving Indian school children in weeks

**MUMBAI:** Thirteen children in India were killed yesterday when a train hit their school van at an unmanned crossing, the second major accident involving school children in a little over two weeks. Police were investigating the cause of the accident in Uttar Pradesh state but authorities said the van driver was responsible for safety at the unmanned crossings. "Railways is not responsible in case of unmanned level crossings," said Ashwani Lohani, chairman of the Indian Railway Board. Yogi Adityanath, the state's chief minister, told reporters at the site that the accident was possibly a result of negligence on the part of the van driver, who he said was wearing headphones at the time.

Eight children and the driver were injured and taken to hospital, police said. There were 22 children in the vehicle. Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said an inquiry had been ordered and his ministry would pay 200,000 rupees (\$3,000) to the families of those killed. Lohani said that in the long-term, the solution was the replacement of all unmanned crossings in the huge railway network with bridges or tunnels for roads. "We are working on it, but it will take time," he said. On April 9, at least 24 children and three adults were killed when a school bus plunged off a mountain road in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh.—Reuters

## Saudi executes 48 in 2018, half on drug charges

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia has executed 48 people in the past four months, half on non-violent drug charges, Human Rights Watch said, urging the kingdom to improve its "notoriously unfair" criminal justice system. "Saudi Arabia has executed 48 people since the beginning of 2018," the US-based rights group said in a report published late Wednesday. "Many more people convicted of drug

crimes remain on death row following convictions by Saudi Arabia's notoriously unfair criminal justice system."

The ultra-conservative kingdom has one of the world's highest rates of execution, with suspects convicted of terrorism, homicide, rape, armed robbery and drug trafficking facing the death penalty. Rights experts have repeatedly raised concerns about the fairness of trials in the kingdom, governed under a strict form of Islamic law.

The government says the death penalty is a deterrent for further crime. "It's bad enough that Saudi Arabia executes so many people, but many of them have not committed a violent crime," said HRW's Middle East director Sarah Leah Whitson. "Any plan to limit drug executions needs

to include improvements to a justice system that doesn't provide for fair trials."

HRW says Saudi Arabia has carried out nearly 600 executions since the beginning of 2014, more than a third of them in drug cases. Last year, nearly 150 people were put to death in the kingdom, where convicts are beheaded using a sword. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, next in line to the throne, this month suggested the kingdom would consider changing the penalty from death to life in certain cases except murder in an interview with Time Magazine.

The powerful prince is spearheading a drive to soften the kingdom's image as it looks to diversify its oil-dependent economy and attract international investors. —AFP



International

# Fresh faces but same old names in Lebanon election

**BEIRUT:** Fresh young faces may be campaigning to win a seat in Lebanon's parliament next month, but their family names are anything but new. For decades the same families have played a pivotal role in the small Middle Eastern country, officially ruled by a parliamentary democratic system but where political power is still informally handed down through generations.

As Lebanon finally heads to the legislative polls after a nine-year hiatus, several candidates hail from a third- or even fourth generation- of the same political clans. There are such cases in almost all of the 18 religious communities represented in Lebanon's complex confessional system. Faced with accusations of "nepotism" and "feudalism", these sons and daughters of influential men have defended what they say is a genuine desire for reform. Incumbent candidate Nadim Gemayel was elected a member of parliament in 2009, but politics have decades-old roots in his family tree.

He is the youngest son of late president-elect Bachir Gemayel, killed in 1982, and the grandson of Pierre Gemayel, who founded the Phalangist (Kataeb) Party in which Nadim is now a leading official. "The reason I'm involved in politics is of course linked to Bachir's assassination and to the values that got him killed," says Gemayel. "But it's also tied to my own frustration at seeing my country so badly managed," the 36-year-old says. "Being someone's son is not necessarily something nega-

tive or anti-reform," he adds. "New generations can bring to life projects that are in the public interest that were developed by their forefathers- and adapt them to evolving times."

### 'Forged my own path'

First-time candidate Zaher Eido rejects any accusations his surname might have "parachuted" him into circles of power. He is running in Beirut just over a decade since his father, also a lawmaker, and older brother died in a car bomb in the capital. "Sure, I may have inherited a political past, but I'm also interested in politics," says Zaher, who like his father is a member of the leading Future Movement. The 44-year-old banker says he wants to apply his professional experience towards passing new legislation to fight money laundering.

"Over 11 years, I've forged my own path, built my own career and personality... And if I can't make things evolve, I'll resign," he pledges. Eido and Gemayel are part of a familiar pattern in Beirut. Michelle Tueini, 31, has already partially followed in the footsteps of her father Gebran as a journalist after he was assassinated in 2005. She is now also running for parliament like him, taking over from her elder sister Nayla, a lawmaker for the past nine years.

The country's own Prime Minister Saad Hariri ascended to power after his father Rafiq- assassinated in 2005 — held the post for years. Hariri's campaign posters, plastered across Beirut, feature



**BEIRUT:** This combination of pictures shows the electoral banners of Lebanese candidates in the upcoming parliamentary elections. (Left to right) Nadim Gemayel in Beirut, current Prime Minister Saad Hariri in Beirut, Taymour Jumblatt in Aley, Michel Moawad in Jounieh and Chamel Roukoz in Jounieh. —AFP

portraits of his father. The list goes on: candidate Taymour Jumblatt is the child of Lebanon's Druze leader Walid and the grandson of Kamal, who founded the Progressive Socialist Party. Tony Franjeh is the fourth generation of his political family: his great-grandfather Suleiman was elected head of state in 1970 and his own father was in the running for the presidency in 2016. Even current President Michel Aoun's nephew and two sons-in-law are running for parliamentary office.

### 'Pseudo-feudalism'

Fadia Kiwan, politics professor at the Saint Joseph University, says patriarchy and the cult of

the leader are still largely ingrained in Lebanese society, which keeps hereditary politics in place. While some families follow "strict centuries-old feudalism, a pseudo-feudal system has taken root in other communities since the emergence of modern Lebanon", she says. Many of those who founded today's political dynasties once headed armed groups during Lebanon's civil war from 1975 to 1990. Political power being handed down across generations has long angered scores of Lebanese voters, and rivals have taken note of their scorn. Kulluni Watani, a reformist coalition, has put forward 70 candidates across the country that it pledges will break the pattern. —AFP

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## International

# Iran's Supreme Leader urges Muslims to unite against US

## Arch-foes Israel, Iran face off over Syria

**ANKARA:** Iran's Supreme Leader called on Muslim nations to unite against the United States, saying Tehran would never yield to "bullying," state television reported yesterday. "The Iranian nation has successfully resisted bullying attempts by America and other arrogant powers and we will continue to resist... All Muslim nations should stand united against America and other enemies," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said.

Iran's top authority criticized Trump for saying on Tuesday some countries in the Middle East "wouldn't last a week" without US protection. "Such remarks are humiliation for Muslims ... Unfortunately there is war in our region between Muslim countries. The backward governments of some Muslim countries are fighting with other countries," Khamenei said. Iran and Saudi Arabia have long been locked in a proxy war, competing for regional supremacy from Iraq to Syria and Lebanon to Yemen.

### Israel will hit Tehran if...

Meanwhile, Israel said it would retaliate against any Iranian attack on Tel Aviv by strik-

ing Tehran, Israel's defense minister said in remarks published yesterday, as the arch-foes faced off over Syria. The comments by Avigdor Lieberman were an unusually explicit Israeli threat to take military action within Iranian territory, and followed a surge of unprecedented confrontations between the countries' forces in civil war-torn Syria. "Israel doesn't want war ... but if Iran attacks Tel Aviv, we will hit Tehran," Avigdor Lieberman told the Arabic-language, Saudi-owned news website Elaph, which is based in London.

### Israel will hit Tehran if Iran attacks Tel Aviv



Coastal Tel Aviv is Israel's commercial capital, where its military is headquartered. Iran, which does not recognize Israel's right to exist, often threatens strikes on Tel Aviv. An Israeli-Iranian showdown has loomed since Feb 10, when Israel said an armed drone sent from a Syrian base penetrated its airspace. Israel blew up the drone and carried out a raid on Syrian air defenses in which one of its F-16 jets was downed.

On April 9, an air strike killed seven Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps members at the Syrian base. Tehran blamed Israel and vowed



**TABRIZ, Iran:** Iran's President Hassan Rouhani gives a speech in the city of Tabriz in the northwestern East-Azerbaijan province on April 25, 2018. —AFP

unspecified retaliation, drawing Israeli counter-threats to broaden attacks on Iranian military assets in Syria.

The Israelis say their strikes aim to prevent Iran's garrison in Syria from entrenching itself deeper in support of President Bashar Al-

Assad and linking with Hezbollah in Lebanon to form a broad front against them. "Every outpost in which we see Iran positioning militarily in Syria, we will destroy, and we will not allow this no matter what the price," Lieberman told Elaph.—Agencies

## Bahrain's King commutes four death sentences to life in prison

**DUBAI:** Bahrain's king has commuted death sentences handed down to four men by a military court to life in prison, state news agency BNA reported yesterday. The death sentences were the first to be issued by a military court in the Gulf Arab state against civilians, according to activists. In December, a military court sentenced six men to death and revoked their citizenship after they were convicted on charges of forming a terrorist cell and plotting to assassinate a military official.

BNA said King Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa reduced the sentences confirmed by a military appeals court the previous day. It was not immediately clear whether the death sentence was commuted for the remaining two men, who were listed as having fled to Iran and were tried in absentia. The military court had in December sentenced seven other people linked to the case to seven years in jail and revoked their citizenship, while five others were acquitted.

The island state had seen sporadic unrest since 2011 when authorities crushed protests mainly by the Shiite Muslim majority demanding a bigger role in running the country, which is ruled by a Sunni royal family. Last year, Bahrain executed three Shiite Muslim men convicted of killing three policemen, including an officer from the United Arab Emirates, in a 2014 bomb attack. They were the first such executions in over two decades and sparked protests. Bahrain accuses mainly Shiite Iran of arming and funding deadly attacks against its security forces in the kingdom, a strategic island where the US Navy's Fifth Fleet is based, charges Tehran denies.—Reuters

## Election offers a chance to settle scores in Anbar

**RAMADI:** In the vast desert province of Anbar where Islamic State group jihadists first emerged in Iraq, parliamentary elections next month are an opportunity for the predominantly Sunni residents to settle scores. Many of the new candidates are eager to push out lawmakers they believe minimized the danger of or even sympathized with the Sunni extremists that stormed across the country in the summer of 2014.

"The political class that existed before IS is no longer suitable. They have lost their credibility with the residents of Anbar," said Rafea Al-Fahdawi, who heads the candidate list in the province for the Victory Alliance led by Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi. "They were involved in bringing terrorism and made people believe that terrorists were just rebels belonging to our tribes. The people of Iraq will punish them at the ballot box," said Fahdawi, leader of the Tribes Against Terrorism coalition that battled jihadists in the western province. In the lush garden surrounding his home in the city of Ramadi, tents were set up to host crowds that came to listen to Abadi, part of the premier's campaign tour in the area.

"We fought against terrorism, and today, thanks to our campaign, we want to continue the fight against sectarianism. We have great hope for change," said Fahdawi, 62, dressed in a traditional white robe. In late 2013, Sunni tribes in Anbar rose up against the Shiite-led government in Baghdad. In January 2014, IS jihadists captured the city of Fallujah just west of the capital, and after a year of heavy fighting they took the city of Ramadi too. It was not until 2016 that the Iraqi army and the paramilitary forces of the Hashed al-Shaabi managed to retake the two cities, recovering full control of Anbar province in late 2017.

### 'Time for change'

The people of Anbar are eager for change, their feelings fuelled by burning disappointment with the political class. In the largely agricultural province, where tribes carry considerable weight, 352 candidates are competing on 18 lists for 15 seats. A quarter of the contenders are running for office for the first time, according to the electoral commission, who say the province's electoral lists include women and young people.

"The Iraqi people, in general, want to see radical and complete change. We will not accept the same faces under different (party) names and slogans," said Sheikh Mohammed al-Nimrawi, a leader of the Khalidiya tribes in Ramadi. In a sign of the times, election fever has taken over the province. It is a stark difference from previous polls and campaigns, which were bleak and almost secretive affairs as jihadists increased attacks on polling stations. Despite IS threats against this year's elections, campaign posters are everywhere in Anbar—hanging on the city's destroyed homes and on the walls of newly rented candidate offices.

Even more surprising is the presence of a list from the Conquest Alliance led by Hadi Al-Ameri, the most well-known leader of the largely Shiite Hashed Al-Shaabi. Ameri fought for Tehran in the 1980s during the Iran-Iraq war and has been accused of forming death squads in Iraq at the height of sectarian tensions nearly 10 years ago. "The time for change has come. Anbar will witness social and political revolution and choose men who can steer the ship to safety," said Khalaf Al-Jeblawi, a candidate on the Conquest Alliance list. "The province has emerged from a fierce war and the Hashed fighters played a big role in the battle," he said.

The Hashed Al-Shaabi paramilitary force was formed in 2014 at the urging of Shiite spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Sistani to counter the IS blitz. But three years of brutal jihadist rule may have helped ease sectarian tensions between Iraq's Sunnis and Shiites. "While sectarian identities do retain a (somewhat diminished) political relevance, when it comes to violence, today 'sectarianism' is yesterday's conflict," said Fanar Haddad, a senior research fellow at the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute.—AFP



## International

# Caution urged over latest violence in central Nigeria

## Nomadic herders accused of killing 18, including 2 priests

**LAGOS:** Nomadic herders have been accused of killing at least 18 people in central Nigeria, including two priests. But there are unanswered questions about who was really behind the attack. Tuesday's attack in Mbalom, south of the Benue state capital, Makurdi, appeared at first sight to be the latest outbreak of retributive bloodshed between cattle herders and farmers. Recent months have seen an escalation in the decades-old dispute over fertile land and water that has left thousands dead and heaped pressure on Nigeria's government to act.

On Wednesday, 11 ethnic Hausa traders were killed in Makurdi and two mosques were razed to the ground in violence sparked by the church attack. The acting state governor said Benue was "under siege" while the Roman Catholic Diocese of Makurdi declared it was the goal of "jihadists to conquer Benue." But analysts said both the location and religious target of the attack were unusual and warned against generalizing a complex conflict that is being increasingly politicized in the run-up to presidential polls in 2019. "The key thing is that the pattern of Tuesday's attack was different from prior attacks by the herdsman," Cheta Nwanze of SBM Intelligence said. "So, to my mind at least, someone is taking advantage of the problem."

### 'Bogeyman'

Since 2017, 385 people have been killed in Benue state alone as a result of the herdsman crisis, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED) project. There was a

sharp spike in the number of deaths at the beginning of this year, according to the US State Department-funded research. Pressure is mounting on Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari to contain the killings as the clashes over land escalate into a rift that is deepening along nominally religious lines.

Buhari has been accused of doing nothing to act because the cattle herders are his ethnic and religious kinsmen. But in the absence of a strong police force and an efficient judicial system, there have been few arrests and even less information on the perpetrators. "Herdsman" have become the "ambiguous bogeyman", said political analyst Chris Ngwodo, "an umbrella term for explaining the collapse of public order".

### 'Surprising' attack

Danladi Chiroma, from the Miyetti-Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) which represents herders across the country, called Tuesday's church attack "surprising". "No herders are allowed to graze in the area anymore. All herders are concentrated in the northern part of Benue," he added. "I've never heard of any incident in this area before then, that is so surprising such an attack could happen there." Chiroma said there was "obviously... a political agenda". Benue state lies in Nigeria's so-called Middle Belt that separates the predominantly Muslim north from the largely Christian south.

The area has long been a hotbed of ethnic, sectarian and religious tensions between indigenous farming communities, who are mainly



**BAMA, Nigeria:** Photo taken in Bama, Borno State, northeastern Nigeria, shows clothes and a stretcher soaked in the blood of a worshipper, injured following twin suicide blasts.—AFP

Christian, and the nomadic cattle herders, who are Muslim. The crisis has shone a light on how Nigerian politicians play a vicious game of identity politics, pitting ethnicities against one other to drum up support, explained Idayat Hassan, director of the Centre for Democracy and Development West Africa.

"It's an electioneering issue, it's something to galvanize the campaign around," she added. "Ethnicity against ethnicity, villagers against vil-

lagers, it's one of the biggest issues of the 2019 campaign." The attack against the Hausa—who like the Fulani herders are Muslim and mainly from the north—underlines the dangers of inflammatory language and identity politics. Rilwanu Adamu, an adviser to the Benue governor Samuel Ortom on Islamic affairs, said those targeted were neither farmers nor herders. "We do our trade peacefully and take care of our families," he said. —AFP

## Catholic Church urged to intervene in Cameroon crisis

**YAOUNDE:** The Roman Catholic Church should mediate in the crisis in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon, where separatists and security forces are embroiled in a dangerous conflict, a thinktank urged yesterday. "The Catholic Church could help break this dangerous stalemate," the International Crisis Group (ICG) said in a report. "Other than the Catholic clergy, there are few prospective peacemakers," it said. "If no one fills that role, the separatist sentiment already voiced by many anglophones will continue to grow, fuelling further violence and exacerbating the ongoing insurgency in the anglophone regions, with elections in late 2018 a flashpoint."

The crisis began in 2016, when activists in Cameroon's anglophone minority stepped up a campaign for greater autonomy. Their demands were rejected by President Paul Biya, prompting radicals to make a full-blown declaration of independence last October. Since then, 31 members of the security forces have been killed by separatists, according to an AFP toll based on official figures. The number of armed separatists or civilians killed by police and troops is unknown.

At the same time, humanitarian needs in the anglophone regions have grown. —AFP

## After Cape Town, Ivory Coast city feels the thirst

**BOUAKE:** Earlier this year, Cape Town grabbed the world's headlines as it careened towards a water armageddon. Crippled by a three-year-long drought, the South African city braced for a complete shutdown of domestic water supplies. In the event, Cape Town dodged the immediate bullet. But thousands of kilometers away, another African city has had far less luck—and much less attention for its ordeal.

"We haven't had a drop from our taps for three weeks," said a resident of Bouake, Ivory Coast's second largest city, while she awaited her turn to draw water from a well. "The situation is catastrophic," said an employee of the state-run water distribution company, Sodeci, who asked not to be named. Located in grassy savanna around 400 kilometers from the Ivorian economic capital of Abidjan, Bouake is a city of more than half million souls, with a million more in surrounding territory.

The area has been hit by a double whammy. The dammed lake that supplies 70 percent of the city's water has run dry. One factor is an unprecedented drought that has gripped the region—a phenomenon in line with expert warnings about climate change. But another, says the territory's director for water affairs, Seydou Coulibaly, is the impact of unregulated sand quarrying, which has altered the course of waterways feeding the reservoir. "We are struggling to get clean water for drinking and cooking," computer

technician Eliezer Konan said. "Washing has become difficult. It's a real ordeal." In a bid to bring some relief, the city has begun drilling wells to obtain fresh water. "We have finished a first operation and we'll be moving on to the second site in two to three hours," Hassane Cousteau Cissoko, director of the drilling firm Foraci, said last Thursday in the Houphouetville district. In all, 10 wells will be linked by pipes to a Sodeci water tower, which will then be able to distribute two million liters (more than half a million gallons) of water per day. This will "relieve the population" but is far from enough to replace the usual supply from the Loka dam, Cissoko said.

### 'Praying to God'

For now, Bouake hospital is being supplied by tanker trucks, along with the city's two prisons and the university campuses. Heavy rain fell one night last week, to the joy of many. "We collected lots of water that night. The heavy rain allowed us to fill all our receptacles," said Awa Coulibaly in the Belle Ville 1 district. "But once we've used up this hoard, what's going to happen then? We should go on praying to God for rain every day." In the Sokoura district, the owner of a car wash made the most of the downpour, selling jerrycans of 20 liters of water for 500 CFA francs (0.76 euro or \$0.93) apiece. He was swiftly overwhelmed.

No rain has fallen since, but in any event rainwater and tanks "are insufficient", said another resident, Mariam Konate. "The government must deal with this problem head on." Some people, however, long ago started to take precautionary measures. Aramata Toure, who sells vegetables in Dar-Es-Salam 1 district, has dug her own water supply. "Around here, it's the well water that we use, along with our neighbors," she said. But that is not a long-term solution for everybody. "Even the wells start to dry up when lots of people rush for water," said Amino Konan of the Ahoug-nansou district. —AFP



## International

# Turkey emergency laws create 'climate of fear'

## 50,000 taken into custody on terror charges

**ANKARA:** Amnesty International yesterday accused the Turkish government of creating a "chilling climate of fear" across society and curtailing the work of human rights activists since a failed 2016 coup. The rights group said freedom of expression and the right to a fair trial have been "decimated" under the state of emergency introduced five days after the attempted putsch on July 15, 2016. More than 1,300 associations and foundations have been shut down under the measures. In addition, more than 140,000 public sector employees have been sacked or suspended including judges over alleged links to putschists or Kurdish militants. Meanwhile, some 50,000 people have been taken into custody on terror charges.

Last week parliament approved the seventh extension of the emergency laws which Amnesty said had undermined the country's "once vibrant independent civil society". The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) staged nationwide rallies to protest the extension, with demonstrators in Istanbul shouting "No to emergency rule" and "Rights, law and justice". Ankara insists that it faces multiple terror threats and that the measures do not affect citizens' everyday lives. In a report titled "Weathering the storm: Defending human rights in Turkey's climate of fear", Amnesty lambasted the authorities' attacks on rights activists and their "abusive" use of the criminal justice system.



### Turkey hands jail sentences to journalists

"A chilling climate of fear is sweeping across Turkish society," the report said. The group cited examples of individuals it believes were being targeted and unfairly imprisoned including that of civil society activist Osman Kavala, who has been in prison since October. Amnesty has come under pressure itself since Taner Kilic, then the group's chairman in Turkey, was taken into custody last June. Kilic denies charges of belonging to the movement led by US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen, whom Turkey accuses of ordering the 2016 coup bid.

Under the cloak of the state of emergency, Turkish authorities have deliberately and methodically set about dismantling civil society, locking up human rights defenders, shutting down organizations and creating a suffocating climate of fear,"

Amnesty's Europe director, Gauri van Gulik, said in a statement. Amnesty also highlighted "unfair" restrictions on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) events in Turkey, with a ban in effect in the capital Ankara since November. "The blanket bans on activities threaten the very existence of these organizations and reverse these recent progressive steps to counter prevailing homophobia and transphobia," Amnesty wrote.

Meanwhile, a Turkish court on Wednesday convicted journalists from the opposition Cumhuriyet daily for helping outlawed "terrorist" organizations but editors remained defiant vowing their "honorable"



**SILIVRI, Turkey:** Cumhuriyet chairman Akin Atalay (right) and his wife Adalet Atalay (left) speak to journalists after being released from Silivri prison, in Silivri, outside of Istanbul yesterday. A Turkish court convicted journalists from the opposition Cumhuriyet Daily newspaper for helping outlawed 'terrorist' organizations, but editors remained defiant vowing their "honorable" journalism would not stop. —AFP

journalism would not stop. Cumhuriyet—which means simply "Republic"—was set up in 1924 after the Turkish republic was founded in 1923. The daily has been fiercely critical of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and has run front-page stories that have angered the Turkish head of state. The court in Silivri, outside Istanbul, handed out multiple sentences to 13 journalists and executives for "aiding and abetting terror organ-

izations without being a member" but they remain free pending appeal. "No penalty can stop us from doing journalism. If needed, we will go to prison again but we will continue to do journalism," editor-in-chief Murat Sabuncu who was among those convicted told AFP after the verdict. The judge ordered the release of Cumhuriyet chairman Akin Atalay who had been in jail for over 500 days despite his conviction.—Agencies

## Antidepressants may be linked to dementia: Study

**PARIS:** Long-term use of certain anti-depressants have been linked to dementia in a large British study, researchers said yesterday, though they could not definitively conclude that the drugs were the cause. The study in more than 300,000 people in Britain found that those diagnosed with dementia were almost a third more likely to have been prescribed so-called anticholinergic medicines to treat depression and certain bladder conditions between four and 20 years earlier.

"What we don't know for sure is whether the medication is the cause" of the dementia, said George Savva from the University of East Anglia's School of Health Science. He had co-authored the study in the BMJ medical journal. "It could be that these medications are being prescribed for very early symptoms indicating the onset of dementia." Anticholinergic drugs block certain nerve impulses to reduce spasms of the bladder muscles, for example, and to ease depression symptoms or Parkinson's Disease.

Anticholinergic anti-depressants include Amitriptyline, Doxepin, and Paroxetine, said the researchers who had compared the medical records of 40,770 dementia patients over 65 to those of 283,933 people without dementia. "More than 50 million people worldwide are affected by dementia and this number is estimated to be 132 million by 2050," Savva said in a statement. —AFP

## Chernobyl disaster zone lures tourists

**CHERNOBYL:** Camera? Check. Sunglasses? Check. And a Geiger counter? Check. For a growing number of thrill-seekers visiting Chernobyl's radiation-contaminated lands the device is used to help navigate the site of what remains the world's worst nuclear accident. The uninhabited exclusion zone, a 30-kilometre (19-mile) radius around the former nuclear power station, has seen a surge in tourists in the past few years.

Almost 50,000 people toured the area last year—a 35 percent rise on 2016 to see the plant that contaminated a large swathe of Europe when its fourth reactor exploded on April 26, 1986. 70 percent of visitors were foreigners. "(I wanted to) see something totally different," said Maja Bandic, a Croatian in her 50s, who described the day as "amazing". A souvenir kiosk at the main entrance to the exclusion zone sells T-shirts and fridge magnets with the black-and-yellow radiation warning symbol as well as Soviet-era gas masks.

It is even possible to stay a few nights in a basic hotel or one of two hostels near the power station. Viktor Kharchenko, whose travel agency Go2chernobyl.com has run tours to the site since 2012, says the growth in visitor numbers came after the 30th anniversary of the disaster in 2016 and the installation that year of a huge metal dome over the damaged reactor that significantly reduced radiation leaks. These developments were widely covered by international media and alleviated people's fears over whether it was safe to visit Chernobyl, Kharchenko said, arguing that the risk to tourists is minimal.

"A day's stay in the area equals two hours of flying over the

Atlantic Ocean in terms of the dose of radiation absorbed," he says. But one of the tour group member, Joel Alvarretto, a 28-year-old student from Argentina, confessed he is "a little afraid" of radiation, since he has heard "you can see the effects later, many years after". Leaving Chernobyl, everyone has to go through radiation checks. Members of the tour group take turns to stand inside a large dosimeter which indicates that they are all "clean."

### 'Nature is stronger'

Several Ukrainian travel agencies offer tours from one to seven days, priced from 25 to 650 euros (\$30 to \$790). The activities on offer include viewing the new shield covering the damaged reactor, feeding gigantic catfish in the radioactive waters of cooling pools, and driving past the "red forest" — where pine needles turned from green to red after the accident due to absorbing massive levels of radiation.

The trees were felled and buried during the clean-up operation, but even now, when a tour bus drives past the area without stopping, the tourists' Geiger counters all start beeping frenetically, signaling a very strong increase in radiation. "A symphony," one of the tourists said. The highlight of the trip is a visit to Pripyat, the ghost town built for nuclear workers a few kilometers from the plant. The nearly 50,000 residents were evacuated the day after the disaster, never to return home. Blocks of flats and schools where children's toys, books and handwritten notes still lie abandoned and a big wheel still rises above an amusement park on the central square.

Adam Ridemar, a Swedish student who came with his father to see this "iconic place" says that it is "very cool to see all this, to see how a whole city is just a relic of what it used to be." He voices surprise at the luxuriant vegetation, saying he had expected a "concrete jungle". —AFP



## International

# Chinese civilians drive Xinjiang crackdown: Eradicate tumors?

## Government battles separatism and 'religious extremism'

**MOYU COUNTY:** The civilian group descended on the village under government instructions to "win the people's hearts", but it also had a darker mission: identifying and punishing threats to the Chinese state. Four months after the Communist Party sent the "work team" to Akeqie Kanle, a fifth of its adult population—over 100 people—had disappeared into detention and re-education centers. The team—comprising staff from a regional university—was among more than 10,000 such groups that poured into rural Xinjiang last year as part of the government's battle against separatism and "religious extremism" in the region, home to several Muslim ethnic minority groups.

Called "research the people's conditions, improve the people's lives and win the people's hearts", the program recruits officials and university professors—mostly from China's Han majority group—to spread party propaganda, eliminate rural poverty and promote "ethnic harmony." The work is vital to a social engineering campaign that has permeated every aspect of daily life in the fractious far western state, with the aim of politically indoctrinating the entire population.

Last year, the party tasked participants with enforcing increasingly draconian restrictions on religious and personal freedoms in a process that echoes the decades of brutal thought reform under Mao Zedong. Teams like the one sent to Akeqie Kanle from



### Identifying and punishing threats to Chinese state

the Bingtuan Broadcast Television University (BBTU) have helped send vast numbers of people into jails and secretive re-education centers, breaking up families and decimating villages.

When the BBTU team arrived in early 2017, it helped hang crimson lanterns across the village to celebrate Chinese New Year and push the government's promises to provide job training, clean government and safe water. But its focus then turned to interrogating villagers for any signs of dissent. "The work team is resolute," BBTU's publicity department boasted on social media in an unusual public accounting of the dark side of a work team's operations. "We can completely take the lid off Akeqie Kanle, look behind the curtain, and eradicate its tumors." The school and Xinjiang's government declined to respond to AFP's questions about the program. But hundreds of state media reports, government documents and official social media posts clearly illustrate its methods and devastating impact.

#### 'Untrustworthy elements'

Akeqie Kanle is among hundreds of villages in Moyu County, part of a predominantly ethnic Uighur area of Xinjiang that has become one of the most policed places on earth. Since riots shook the regional capital Urumqi in 2009, Uighurs have been tied to mass stabbings and bombings that left dozens dead across

in order to end the crisis as soon as possible, the Kremlin said. The opposition has staged nearly two weeks of protests, forcing Sarkisian to quit as prime minister. The Russian embassy in Yerevan said Wednesday that its officials had met with Pashinyan. "The Russian side called on the organizers of the opposition protests and rallies to have a constructive dialogue with the current authorities and other political forces," it said. Protesters yesterday planned to block traffic in Yerevan and rally throughout the day, responding to Pashinyan's call to pressure the ruling party.

#### Threat to 'surround parliament'

"The Republican Party has to capitulate before the people," Pashinyan told large crowds in Yerevan's central Republic Square on Wednesday evening. The 42-year-old accuses the authorities of wanting to nominate a Republican Party candidate for prime minister and has warned that the opposition could boycott snap parliamentary elections. "In case the Republican party dares to nominate a candidate, the people will immediately surround the parliament," Pashinyan said. He has insisted the new premier must be a "people's candidate" and not a member of Sarkisian's party, and told reporters he was himself willing to lead.

Talks between the protest leader and acting government head Karen Karapetyan to discuss a "peaceful" transfer of power were cancelled this week. —AFP



**XINJIANG:** A man rides a donkey cart through the desert in Hotan Prefecture, in China's western Xinjiang region. The predominantly Uighur area in China's far western Xinjiang region has become one of the most policed places on earth. —AFP

the country. Civil unrest and clashes with the government killed hundreds more. The resulting crackdown has triggered international alarm, with the US State Department last week saying it is increasingly concerned over "widespread detentions and the unprecedented levels of surveillance".

Human right groups say anger over discriminatory Chinese policies stokes the violence, but Beijing faults Muslim extremists. In December 2016, three Uighur men stormed a Communist Party office in Moyu, killing two officials in an attack which became

a rallying cry for the crackdown. The government deployed tens of thousands of additional security personnel throughout Xinjiang, rolled out tough regulations on religious practices, and increased the use of compulsory re-education.

While surveillance cameras multiplied in public spaces, work teams served as the state's eyes and ears in rural households. Team members helped build infrastructure, provided job training, and encouraged people to "feel thanks for the party", according to media reports celebrating their work. —AFP

## Armenia turns to Russia as political turmoil worsens

**YEREVAN:** Armenia's top official was in Moscow for talks yesterday, his office said, as a political crisis deepened with opposition leader Nikol Pashinyan appearing resolute to force the ruling party in the ex-Soviet republic to cede power. Armenian acting Vice Premier Armen Gevorgyan's apparent move to secure support from the Kremlin came as protesters in the capital Yerevan took to the streets for a fresh day of rallies.

They want the ruling Republican Party to hand power after the country's former president Serzh Sarkisian, 63, stood down Monday from his new post of prime minister following mass demonstrations. Observers have warned the crisis could destabilize the Moscow-allied nation which has been involved in a decades-long territorial dispute with Azerbaijan. Russia has a military base in Armenia and President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday urged restraint when he spoke by phone to Armenian President Armen Sarkisian, who is no relation to Serzh Sarkisian and is a ceremonial figurehead.

Putin called for "all political forces in this country to show restraint and responsibility"

## Migrants die off Morocco

**MADRID:** Five migrants have died trying to cross the Mediterranean, the Spanish coastguard said yesterday after rescuing at least 105 others, while bad weather was hindering a search for another two boats with dozens aboard. Rescue boats and a helicopter from southern Spain carried out a series of rescue operations late Wednesday and yesterday, a spokeswoman said. They spotted three boats but one had capsized, and four migrants were already dead in the water some 40 kilometers off Morocco's coast. Another of those rescued died later of cardiac arrest, the spokeswoman said. Rescuers however managed to save at least 105 people.

Yesterday, rescuers were searching for another two boats in the Alboran Sea between Morocco and Spain's Andalusian coast, with a total of 107 people on board. But the coastguard said helicopters were grounded because of bad weather and

only rescue boats have been able to go out to sea. The news came as police said they had arrested 19 people for illegally transporting migrants across the Strait of Gibraltar to Spain using jet skis or small inflatable boats. They allegedly charged 4,000 euros (\$4,900) per crossing and another 500 euros if the person trying to get to Europe needed lodging once in Spain, police said in a statement.

Spain is the third busiest gateway for migrants arriving in Europe, still far behind Italy but catching up fast with Greece. Many Africans undertaking the long route to Europe are choosing to avoid crossing danger-ridden Libya to get to Italy along the so-called central Mediterranean route, choosing instead to get there via Morocco and Spain. According to the International Organization for Migration, more than 22,400 people arrived in Spain by sea last year, nearly triple the number for 2016. Some 223 people died along the way. So far this year, at least 3,778 migrants have arrived in Spain, with more than 180 losing their lives trying to cross the Mediterranean. —AFP



## International

# Indian journalists 'intimidated, ostracized' for criticizing Modi

## India ranked 138th out of 180 in press freedom index

**NEW DELHI:** India has constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and by some measures the biggest and most diverse media industry in the world. But journalists here say they are increasingly facing intimidation aimed at stopping them from running stories critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his administration. At least three senior editors have left their jobs at various influential media outlets in the past six months after publishing reports that angered the government or supporters of Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), according to colleagues.

Some reporters, as well as television anchors, have told Reuters they have been threatened with physical harm, abused on social media and ostracized by Modi's administration. In its annual World Press Freedom Index released on Wednesday, the Paris-based Reporters Without

Borders said that India was now 138th-ranked in the world out of 180 countries measured, down two positions since 2017 and lower than countries like Zimbabwe, Afghanistan and Myanmar. When the index was started in 2002, India was ranked 80th out of 139 countries surveyed.

Reporters Without Borders said that "with Hindu nationalists trying to purge all manifestations of 'anti-national' thought from the national debate, self-censorship is growing in the mainstream

media and journalists are increasingly the targets of online smear campaigns by the most radical nationalists, who vilify them and even threaten physical reprisals." The group said that "hate speech targeting journalists is shared and amplified on social networks, often by troll armies." Spokesmen for the government declined comment on the accusations by journalists. They did not immediately respond to the Reporters Without Borders report.

GVL Narasimha Rao, a spokesman for the ruling BJP, said the allegations of intimidation were far from the truth. "On the contrary, the BJP has been a victim of the viciousness of large sections of the media that flourished under the patronage of the Congress, left and other opposition parties," he told Reuters in e-mailed comments. "The unabashed bias of these media against the BJP has not dented our party's political growth."

Some journalists in India say they believe media freedoms are now under even more threat in the run-up to an election due next year. There have been some signs of increasing opposition to Modi's economic policies and to the BJP's muscular Hindu nationalism.

### Death, rape threats

"India is going through an aggressive variant of McCarthyism against the media," said Pranroy

Roy, co-founder of NDTV, India's first private news channel. NDTV, which some BJP leaders have called the least friendly of India's television channels, is being investigated for fraud by federal police. The company has called it a witch-hunt.



**NEW DELHI:** An Indian young boy uses his cellphone as other take nap along a roadside during a hot summer day in the old quarters of New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

The government declined to respond to Roy's comments. Sagarika Ghose, a columnist with the Times of India newspaper, said she is viciously harassed for any criticism of the administration. "The

minute I write something, I get droves of hate mail," Ghose said. "I have had death threats and gang rape threats on social media and also through letters sent to my home. They know where I live." Ravish Kumar, a news anchor who has been scathing about the government in his program for NDTV's Hindi-language channel, said he has been constantly harassed and threatened by pro-government activists. — Reuters



### At least 3 editors quit after reports critical of govt

## Texas executes man convicted of killing 2 at birthday party

**AUSTIN:** Texas on Wednesday executed a man convicted of opening fire at a children's birthday party in 2008, believing a rival gang member was present and fatally shooting a woman and her 5-year-old granddaughter in a spray of bullets. Erick Davila, 31, died by lethal injection at Texas' execution chamber in Huntsville, a prisons official said. It was the ninth execution this year in the United States, and the 550th in Texas since the US Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976, the most of any state. Texas has put five inmates to death this year. "I might have lost the fight but I'm still a soldier. I still love you all. To my supporters and family, y'all hold it down," Davila was quoted by prisons officials as saying in his last statement.

Prosecutors said Davila was a member of the Bloods street gang and drove by the party in Fort Worth, believing that members of the rival Crips gang were there. Using a semiautomatic rifle with a laser scope, he fired numerous shots into the group while attendees were eating cake and ice cream at the "Hannah Montana"-themed party for a girl, killing Annette Stevenson, 48, and her granddaughter, Queshawn Stevenson, court documents showed. He also wounded three other children and one woman, according to the documents. — Reuters

## Campaigners fume; India delays tough anti-trafficking law

**CHENNAI:** As a sex trafficking survivor, Lilufa Bibi was hoping that India would enact a new legislation aimed at helping thousands trapped in modern slavery. But lawmakers failed to table the bill in the last session of parliament, which ended this month. Bibi and other campaigners say they feel betrayed by the delay in passing the tough anti-trafficking law, which promises speedy justice and rehabilitation to survivors. "The delay only means that there are traffickers out on bail who continue to threaten victims, many of whom are still waiting for proper rehabilitation," said Bibi, 24, who escaped a brothel seven years ago.

Her concerns are echoed by campaigners who point to government data that shows reports of human trafficking increasing by almost 20 percent in 2016 against the previous year, to 8,132 cases. Survivors and activists are demanding that the bill is passed by parliament soon, amid fears it may fall off the radar with political attention expected to turn to general elections set for 2019. "The new law, which promises stringent punishment for traffickers and quick relief for victims, has the capacity to change the trafficking scenario completely," Bibi told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from Kolkata.

The draft bill aims to make India a leader in the fight against such crimes in South Asia, one of the world's fastest-growing regions for forced labor, begging and forced marriage. "There

is a huge urgency for this bill," said Tathagata Satpathy, a parliamentarian from the eastern state of Odisha, where authorities have for years recorded the trafficking of people into debt bondage, often in brick kilns. "The government is changing banking laws and introducing finance bills, but crucial social bills like this are on the backburner," he said.

### Tough law

Crucially, say campaigners, the new law would expand the focus to forced labor outside the sex trade, said P.M. Nair, a human trafficking expert and professor at Mumbai's Tata Institute of Social Sciences. "For the first time it moved away from just sex trafficking and recognized trafficking for labor, begging and marriage as offences," said Nair, who helped draft the legislation. Under the new law, traffickers could be jailed for 10 years or for life. Conviction would also incur a fine of at least 100,000 rupees (\$1,534). The legislation calls for special courts to expedite trafficking cases, and a rehabilitation fund to provide victims with legal aid, counseling and quick repatriation in cross border trafficking cases.

The bill also includes guidance on how evidence should be collected and presented in court, as well as witness protection, said Chetan Sanghi, joint secretary with the Ministry of Women and Child Development. "It goes beyond arrest of managers and handlers, and also talks of action against owners of these properties, who ought to have an idea of what's happening," said Sanghi, who helmed the drafting of the bill. In 2016, his ministry released the first draft, initiating consultations and crowd sourcing feedback. Sanghi said the law is long overdue. "We are not understanding the urgency," he said. "But for a person trapped, every minute counts." — Reuters



## International

# Generation gap: South Koreans fear, welcome and ignore North Koreans

## Pyongyang is the 'world's best liar'

**SEOUL:** In the freewheeling democracy of South Korea, views of the authoritarian North, the prospects for reunification, and today's summit between President Moon Jae-in and Pyongyang's leader Kim Jong Un vary widely. Attitudes differ along both generational and political lines, and AFP spoke to three South Koreans with very different perceptions of the situation.

### The survivor

Retired English professor Lew Je-bong was a teenager during the Korean War and remembers walking miles across the war-ravaged country with his family in search of safety after Pyongyang invaded. He is still wary about the North's intentions and warns the South should not play into its hands. Pyongyang is the "world's best liar", he said angrily, and Seoul should learn from its history of broken promises.



**Seoul urged to learn from North's history of broken promises**

"My hope for the South-North summit on April 27 is that our president does not get tricked," Lew said. "They will never give up nuclear weapons, and if they don't, nothing should be negotiated." During the so-called Sunshine Policy under liberal president Kim Dae-jung,

South Korea actively engaged the North economically and diplomatically and provided considerable humanitarian aid. Pyongyang went on to detonate its first nuclear device a few years later. "We gave them more than 10 trillion won (\$9 billion)," the 84-year-old said. "But they used it to make nuclear weapons and are threatening us with them."

Like many in his generation, Lew places utmost priority on national security and firmly believes the United States-Seoul's key military ally-will not allow another North Korean invasion. "It won't happen," Lew said reassuringly. "Because America will not tolerate it." Lew hopes the younger generation will never have to experience the pains of war, believes in a "peaceful reunification"-achieved on the South's terms-and

strongly opposes any role for Pyongyang. Otherwise, Lew warned, "We will be swept over by communism. If so, we will all die," he added. "You must remember that."

### The businessman

Businessman Lee Jeong-jin almost cried with joy when he heard that the two Koreas will hold



**PANMUNJOM:** South Korean soldiers (front) and North Korean soldiers (rear) stand guard before the military demarcation line on the each side of the truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas ahead of the inter-Korea summit. — AFP

their first summit after a decade of tensions. The 52-year-old is among the generation of South Koreans who attended college in the 1980s amid heightened pro-democracy and anti-US activism, partly fuelled by resentment over the division of the Koreas after World War II and Washington's alliance with the military dictators of the time.

He was once stationed at the now-shuttered Kaesong Industrial Complex in the North as the top on-site manager for the South's Korea Tele-

com. He worked with North Koreans every day, telling AFP: "I realized that we could quickly achieve harmony and become a prosperous nation." Lee is upbeat about the diplomatic developments and welcomes them as a promising step towards lasting peace on the peninsula. "We are one people," he said. "We've been divided for 70 years. The fact that both sides are willing to discuss peace and overcome differences is a big step forward." — AFP

## China's old soldiers hope summit brings Korean War closure

**SHANGHAI:** Sixty-five years after the Korean War's guns fell silent, Chinese army veteran Yu Jihua still shudders in the dark of night when a plane rumbles overhead, triggering traumatic memories of death-dealing US bombers. Like shrapnel that was never extracted, the lack of a formal peace treaty ending the conflict has festered among many of the Chinese soldiers who saw much of the war's bloodiest fighting.

But Yu, 86, and his ageing comrades are hopeful that closure is near, with a historic inter-Korean summit set for today that has fuelled speculation that a long-delayed final peace can be achieved. "At 86, I still wake up in terror at night. The war did a lot of harm to me," said Yu, who fought for two years in the 1950-53 conflict and is now retired in a quiet Shanghai suburb. "I hope one day to go to North Korea and sweep the tombs of my brothers in arms and tell them that our sacrifice was worth it, and that this day (peace) has finally arrived."

The North's Kim Jong Un will cross Korea's heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone today to meet the South's President Moon Jae-in. High on the agenda will be Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal, but a peace treaty and the powerful signal of reconciliation it could send-may also be discussed. Yu has been plagued for decades by the sense that, with a state of

war still technically in place, hostilities could flare again, subjecting his offspring to the horrors of conflict. "In my heart, I hope that we no longer use war to resolve conflicts between nations. This has been on my mind all these decades," said Yu, still spry and passionate about the subject.

### 'Chaos of war'

China threw hundreds of thousands of soldiers up against a militarily superior American-led UN coalition in what Chinese still call the "War to Resist US Aggression and Aid North Korea." These "human waves" turned the tide, sending UN forces retreating southward after they had pushed invading North Korean troops back nearly to the Chinese border. The fighting stopped in a stalemate, with little achieved.

Chinese war deaths are variously estimated at 180,000 by Chinese sources, and up to around 400,000 by Western tallies. Some Chinese survivors, huge numbers of whom were merely teens, are said to suffer post-traumatic stress, exacerbated by the lack of closure and modern-day tensions sparked by Pyongyang's pursuit of nuclear weapons. Yan Huaijian was a teenage tank driver until shrapnel ripped into his back. "I have shrapnel in my body, in my left lung. It aches on cloudy or rainy days. So I often think about the wounds from this war," said Yan, 86.

"War is extremely cruel, not only for me, but everybody. It is the ordinary people, women and children, who suffer the most from the chaos of war." Today's meeting in the 38th-parallel truce village of Panmunjom is intended to pave the way for a highly anticipated encounter between Kim and US President Donald Trump. — AFP

## Summit, skepticism on the bombarded island

**YEONPYEONG:** When a North Korean artillery shell slammed into her house and blew up the top floor in 2010, Kim Soon-ok ran barefoot into the street, terrified and screaming that war had broken out. The barrage of rounds on the island of Yeonpyeong eight years ago killed four people and reduced homes to smouldering ruins in the North's first attack on civilians since the 1950-53 Korean War. Residents still tremble at the memory and voice bitter suspicion of Pyongyang ahead of an inter-Korean summit today. "Whenever I hear a loud thump, I check outside by reflex," said cafe owner Kim. "I always go to bed with a bag packed just in case."

The island's 2,200 residents live just

1.5 kilometers (one mile) from a disputed maritime border with the North. The Northern Limit Line (NLL) is not recognized by Pyongyang, which argues it was unilaterally drawn by the US-led United Nations forces after the war. The boundary was the scene of deadly naval clashes in 1999, 2002 and 2009. The North said its November 2010 bombardment of Yeonpyeong was in response to South Korean shells falling in its territorial waters. A banner hanging loosely by an island roadside reads: "The bombardment of Yeonpyeong will be tolerated by neither God nor man."

On a clear day, white concrete buildings and grey huts in North Korea are visible from a mountain top on Yeonpyeong. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has inspected the unit on Mu islet responsible for the bombardment several times, honoring it with the title of "Hero Defense Detachment" and calling the 2010 incident "the most delightful battle". In a stunning turn of events, Kim will meet with South Korean President Moon Jae-in today for what will be just the third inter-Korean summit since the end of the war. — AFP



## International

# China flexes muscles with a new 'Guam killer' missile

## Chinese air force carries out more drills around Taiwan

**BEIJING:** China confirmed yesterday that it had put into a service a new missile that Chinese media has dubbed the "Guam killer" for its ability to hit the US Pacific Ocean base with a conventional or nuclear weapon. China is in the midst of an ambitious modernization program for its armed forces, developing stealth fighters, aircraft carriers and advanced missiles as it strives to become a world class military by the middle of the century.

That, along with an increasingly assertive stance in the disputed South China Sea and around Taiwan, claimed by China as its sacred territory, has rattled nerves around the region and in Washington. Speaking at a regular monthly news conference, Defense Ministry spokesman Wu Qian said that the military had begun putting into service the DF-26 intermediate range ballistic missile - called the "Guam killer" by media and defense experts. Wu gave few details, aside from that it can carry conventional as well as nuclear warheads and attack targets on land or at sea with precision.

China has made little secret of the DF-26



### China's military assertiveness alarms region

program. The missile appeared in a major military parade in Beijing in 2015. In a separate announcement, China's air force said that its aircraft had again flown around Taiwan, the latest in a series of exercises Taiwan has described as military intimidation. Taiwan is one of China's most sensitive issues and a potential military flashpoint. Over the past year or so, China has ramped up military drills around democratic Taiwan, including flying bombers and other military aircraft around the island.

The Chinese air force said in a statement it scrambled fighter jets, early warning aircraft, reconnaissance planes and H-6K bombers from multiple airports for "combat military drills" yesterday. The air force said its H-6K bombers had conducted numerous drills circling Taiwan since April 18 "to improve its ability to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity". Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it sent planes and ships to monitor the activity and ensure its maritime and airspace security, and there were no "abnormal situations".



**AT SEA:** Photo shows J15 fighter jets on China's sole operational aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, during a drill at sea. A flotilla of Chinese naval vessels held a 'live combat drill' in the East China Sea, state media reported - the latest show of force by Beijing's burgeoning navy in disputed waters that have riled neighbors. —AFP

China's hostility towards the island has grown since the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen from the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party. China has been issuing increasingly strident calls for Taiwan to toe the line, even as Tsai has pledged to maintain the status quo and keep the peace. On Wednesday, China's Taiwan Affairs Office,

said drills near Taiwan were designed to send a clear message to the island, and China would take further steps if Taiwan independence forces persisted in doing as they pleased. Defense Ministry spokesman Wu repeated that statement, and added his own warning. "Engaging in Taiwan independence is a dead end," he said. —Reuters

## Indonesia sentences eight Taiwanese drug smugglers to death

**JAKARTA:** Eight Taiwanese drug smugglers were sentenced to death by an Indonesian court yesterday after being nabbed with around a ton of crystal methamphetamine in a country that has some of the world's toughest anti-drug laws. The men were arrested during raids last July, when the drug network's suspected leader was killed in a shootout with Indonesian police. "The defendants have been found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of colluding and smuggling narcotics," presiding judge Haruno Patriadi said as he passed sentence at the South Jakarta District Court.

Tipped off by their Taiwanese counterparts, Indonesian police said they discovered some 1,000 kilograms (2,200 pounds) of crystal meth shipped by boat from China-packed inside about 50 boxes. The haul was reportedly worth some \$144 million. Some of the suspects were arrested at a beach where the drugs were delivered some 125 kilometers west of Jakarta, while others were apprehended in the suspected drug boat near Singaporean waters. The sentence passed on the men-Liao Guan-Yu, Chen Wei-Cyuan, Hsu Yung-Li, Juang Jin Sheng, Sun Kuo Tai, Sun Chih-Feng, Kuo Chun Yuan, and Tsai

Chih Hung-comes after 11 other Taiwanese drug smugglers were condemned to death in Indonesia in recent years.

Indonesia has some of the world's toughest anti-drug laws, with sentences including the death penalty for smugglers who carry five or more grams. Several foreign and Indonesian nationals have been executed by firing squad in recent years for drug trafficking, including Australians Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran in 2015, a case that sparked diplomatic outrage and a call to abolish the death penalty. Capital punishment is carried out by firing squad in Indonesia, which has slowed the pace of its executions in recent years despite broad public support for the penalty.

President Joko Widodo has said Indonesia is in the grips of a drug "emergency" and called for police to shoot suspected drug dealers who attempt to resist arrest. The police regularly announce drug busts including one in February when they seized 1.6 tons of crystal meth hidden on a Singapore-flagged ship between Indonesia's Sumatra island and the city state. A subsequent search of the ship turned up the huge haul of narcotics stuffed into some 81 rice sacks. Four Taiwanese crew were arrested including a 69-year-old man. Around 250 tons of illegal drugs passed through Indonesia's borders in 2016, according to figures from the National Narcotics Agency, with China listed as the biggest source country. —AFP

## The tamer tamed; who wins in the Trump-Macron friendship?

**WASHINGTON:** Emmanuel Macron's state visit to Washington was always going to be a charm offensive-aimed at winning key policy concessions from his powerful host. But after three days of back-slapping, hugs and handshakes, it was Donald Trump who appeared to have led the diplomatic dance-while giving little ground to his French guest. While the 40-year-old Macron himself can be tactile with his guests, he often seemed wrong-footed by the eager displays of affection from the 71-year-old US president-to the point of embarrassment. Setting the tone, an astonishing shot of the US president dragging his fellow head of state by the hand-as a father might a son-made the front page of The Washington Post midway through the visit.

Many observers judged the scene humiliating for Macron, the body language seeming to bode ill for France's ability to influence US policy on key areas of disagreement, most crucially Iran-which was the stated aim of Macron's high-profile trip. The optics were the exact opposite of the impression given in May 2017, when the young French leader

sparked an admiring buzz by gripping Trump in a white-knuckled handshake as they first met. Back then the French leader played along with the temptation to read diplomatic meaning into the gesture. "You have to show you will not make small concessions, even symbolic ones" he said at the time.

### 'L'affaire dandruff'

Fast forward to Tuesday in the Oval Office, where the US leader leaned over with the eyes of the world upon them-to brush what he said was a fleck of "dandruff" from Macron's jacket. "We have to make him perfect," Trump said, drawing uneasy laughter from his guest. "He is perfect." The sequence-replayed on loop around the globe-provided instant fodder to late-night comedy shows who have reveled in the seeming "bromance."

"The Daily Show" on Comedy Central ran a montage of their interactions-smiles exchanged, hand brushing hand-as a mock silent movie set to a romantic soundtrack. But their body language was also being analyzed for serious clues as to the power play. "On this trip, Trump is the alpha-and Macron has settled into obedience," wrote the Post in an editorial on what it dubbed "L'affaire dandruff," judging Macron to have emerged the loser of a year-long arm-wrestle for dominance. The New York Times and Germany's Der Spiegel both gave Macron more credit for investing in the much-vaunted friendship in a bid to win important concessions-but both were doubtful of his chance for success. —AFP



# Lifestyle

Friday Times

[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

A Samburu woman of the Lorubai traditional dance group is seen wearing traditional beaded bracelets during a Peace Marathon for pastoralist communities at the Archers post in Isiolo, Kenya yesterday. The aim of the event is to bring the warring pastoralist communities of Samburu, Turkana, Borana and others together, and end the rivalry due to scarcity of pasture and water in the region. The peace marathon is organized by Kenya's Northern Rangeland Trust. — AFP

**Fido funeral: In Japan,  
a send-off for robot dogs**

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## Lifestyle | Music &amp; Movies

# BRAZIL'S ANITTA: CAREFUL STRATEGY BEHIND SINGER'S RAGS-TO-RICHES TALE

First, Anitta conquered Brazil. Now, the singer best known abroad for her smoldering, booty-shaking video "Vai Malandra," has her eyes set on the rest of the world. It's been a fast but long ride from the rough Rio de Janeiro neighborhood of Honório Gurgel—where Anitta, 25, grew up—to the palm-lined condo she now calls home. But as Brazil's biggest pop star explained to AFP, it's not so much a fairy tale as a story of social media savvy and hard-headed business strategies. "An artist has to know who she is and to be consistent in building her career," she said in an interview at her lavish house in Rio's up-market western area of Barra da Tijuca.

"Vai Malandra" ("Go Naughty"), which features Anitta twerking to the sultry rhythm of baile funk-style rap, set social networks on fire and became the first Brazilian song to enter Spotify's Top 20 Global. The video is set in a Rio favela and celebrates the often violence-plagued neighborhoods' vibrant and sexy street culture, complete with women using electrical tape to create perfect tan lines and sculpted men with peroxide-blond hair and gold chains. The fact that she didn't airbrush out the cellulite on her now famously quivering backside only fueled the social media frenzy—and boosted her credentials as a singer who preaches female empowerment.

Spanish—and that's before you start looking further afield. While English is "the universal language," she is also focusing on Spanish-language songs to reach the rest of the Latino world, recording alongside Colombian artists Maluma and J Balvin. She spent two years visiting clubs in Spain, the United States and Mexico to get a feel for the market and her potential fans, seeing herself as Brazil's answer to the border-hopping Latin sensations Ricky Martin and Alejandro Sanz. "I just went ahead and tried to seize the moment," she said.

The strategy works, taking her from the 2016 Rio Olympics opening ceremony to an appearance last year on NBC's "Tonight Show." This summer, she'll be pushing the Anitta brand with shows at Rock in Rio Lisboa in Portugal, and in Paris and London. Billboard magazine named her number 10 on a list of the most influential artists of social networks last December, while this February, Vogue magazine places her among the world's most influential people.

## Diva moments

With its jacuzzi, palm trees and large swimming pool, Anitta's three-floor house is the cliché pop star's abode. But despite that and her large retinue of assistants, she says she keeps herself grounded. "I may have my diva moments but I don't want to get to where I'm considered untouchable," she said. In person, Anitta barely resembles the pouting, swaggering star of "Vai Malandra." She is diminutive, neatly dressed in black pants and a yellow sweater, and her hair falls in golden curls, rather than the dark braids of the video.

That chameleon-like adaptability, helped by several rounds of plastic surgery, is a big part of her rise. Her mantra, she says, "is to do things differently. I research the market but only so that I can do something other than follow the trends. I look for things that haven't been explored yet." And she clearly doesn't lack self-belief. "All my dreams that I had, I've fulfilled," she said. "I wanted to show people that it's possible to do everything that they say is impossible." — AFP

## World conquest

Brazil is Latin America's biggest country but Anitta says it's not big enough for her. "I thought I would get to where I wanted to in Brazil when I was about 30, but by 22, I was already doing great," she told a conference Harvard hosted for Brazilian business leaders, where she was a surprise guest this April. "I like challenges, so I studied the international market." Singing in English and Spanish overcomes the hurdle of having Portuguese as her native language. Although Brazil has a huge market, the rest of the continent speaks



Brazilian pop singer Anitta poses at her home in Rio de Janeiro. —AFP photos

Born Larissa Machado, she began singing in church with her family and at 17 she was discovered by a producer who saw her in a YouTube video. Five years later, Anitta found fame in Brazil with "Meiga e Abusada" ("Sweet and Sassy") and "Show das Poderosas" ("Show of the Powerful"), but her skills at navigating the online markets have been the key, helping catapult her to rapidly growing international stardom. She has 28 million followers on Instagram and her 2015 song "Bang" has been watched 343 million times on YouTube.



Christian Omar Palma Gutierrez

## MEXICAN RAPPER CONFESSES TO DISSOLVING FILM STUDENTS' BODIES IN ACID

A Mexican rapper and YouTube star with hundreds of thousands of followers confessed to dissolving the bodies of three missing film students in acid, authorities confirmed Wednesday. Christian Omar Palma Gutierrez—also known as "QBA"—is one of two people detained over the deaths of Salomon Aceves Gastelum, 25, Daniel Diaz, 20, and Marco Avalos, 20. Gutierrez admitted to state prosecutors that he disposed of the bodies after the trio's kidnapping, torture and murder in western Jalisco state last month.

"He has participated in three other previous murders," chief investigator Lizette Torres told AFP. Gutierrez said he received 3,000 pesos (\$159) a week to work for the Jalisco New Generation drug cartel, one of the most powerful in Mexico, having been recruited by a friend three months ago. Two separate Facebook pages belonging to Gutierrez have a combined 140,000 followers, while his YouTube channel has nearly 125,000 subscribers and millions of views. In songs with titles such as "Death Has No Schedule", Gutierrez sings about violence, weapons and drugs, almost always in a threatening tone. His professionally-shot videos are littered with images of poor neighborhoods where young gang members take drugs and show off weapons—while others feature the rapper and his friends showing off in luxury vehicles or on motorcycles. Torres confirmed the videos formed part of the criminal investigation into the murders. Prosecutors said Gutierrez and the other suspect will be charged with aggravated kidnapping, while five more suspects remain at large. — AFP

## 'A Quiet Place,' 'Star Trek' sequels announced



Paramount Pictures said Wednesday hit horror movie "A Quiet Place" was getting a sequel and ended mounting speculation over its lucrative "Star Trek" franchise by confirming two new movies. Chairman and CEO Jim Gianopulos opened the studio's segment at the annual CinemaCon film industry convention in Las Vegas with the news, praising director John Krasinski, who stars in the monster invasion thriller opposite real-life wife Emily Blunt.

"If you told me five years ago that an almost silent film starring the very funny guy Jim from 'The Office' would have been a hit at Paramount, I would have said, 'Well, I should go work at Paramount,'" said Gianopulos, who joined the studio a year ago. "A Quiet Place," which regained top spot at the domestic box office over the week-

end, has amassed more than \$200 million in revenue worldwide against a budget of just \$17 million and is Paramount's biggest hit since 2016's "Star Trek Beyond." It has been a ray of light in a dark year or more for Paramount, which has struggled to make the box office impact of its "big six" rival studios, all of which are presenting at CinemaCon.

Since the third of the rebooted "Star Trek" movies recouped almost \$350 million globally, Paramount's high-profile flops have included "Ben-Hur," "mother!" and Matt Damon vehicles "Suburbicon" and "Downsizing." Gianopulos acknowledged the studio had suffered a rough year but vowed that Paramount was "laying the foundation" to repeat its past successes. "I'm incredibly confident that we have the right team, culture, and attitude in place to

take Paramount to new heights," he said. "And we already started on that road to giant success with 'A Quiet Place.'"

Gianopulos announced a string of sequels in partnership with Skydance Media, including a new "Terminator" with Linda Hamilton from the original movie back on board with Arnold Schwarzenegger, "Top Gun: Maverick" with Tom Cruise and two new "Star Trek" films. Tantalizingly, he offered no details and it remains unclear if these will be a continuation of the reboot franchise or if they include a previously announced "Star Trek" movie from "Pulp Fiction" director Quentin Tarantino. Paramount initially said after "Star Trek Beyond" came out that a fourth release would bring back "Thor" star Chris Hemsworth as Captain James Kirk's father, George. — AFP





Pakistani Qawwali (Sufi devotional music) singer Talha Sabri (center) performs with his group during an event in Karachi. — AFP photos



Pakistani devotees enjoying a Qawwali (Sufi devotional music) performance at a shrine in Islamabad.

# Pakistan's qawwali music fights to be heard after singer's death

Nearly two years after Pakistan's foremost qawwali singer Amjad Sabri was gunned down in Karachi, the devotional music of Islam's Sufi mystical sect is struggling to survive, as fears of sectarianism and modern pressures slowly drown out its powerfully hypnotic strains. Thousands poured into the streets near Sabri's family home after his death for his funeral, a rare pub-



Pakistani performer Abdullah Niazi singing Qawwali (Sufi devotional music) at a shrine in Islamabad.

lic display of affection in Karachi. "He was a rockstar of the masses," explained journalist and musician Ali Raj, who studied under Sabri.

His murder was just the latest in a series of blows in recent years to strike at the heart of qawwali, which has thrived in South Asia since the 13th century. "I am still in shock," Sabri's brother Talha told AFP from his family home adorned with pictures of his superstar sibling, whose fame spanned the subcontinent and beyond. "Why do they hate qawwali? Why do they hate music?" Embraced widely as a part of Pakistan's national identity, qawwali has played a key unifying role, with city-dwellers and villagers flocking to Sufi shrines for concerts.

Performances traditionally last hours, with a troupe of musicians interweaving soulful improvisational threads under lyrical, lilting vocal lines to a steady beat of thundering rhythms on dholak and tabla drums and hand clapping, sending fans drifting into trance-like transcendent states. The genre entered a golden age in the 1970s as singers known as qawwals battled for prestige, with the Sabri Brothers—led by Amjad's father, Ghulam Farid Sabri—and Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan finding audiences around the world. Following the death of Ghulam, Amjad took the helm and slowly carved out his place as

Pakistan's most prominent qawwal, becoming a fixture on national television and radio. But now musicians worry that his murder—and the fear it sparked—has hastened the decline of qawwali.

## Fear, faith and finances

At Cafe Noor in Karachi where qawwals have gathered for decades, musicians said business has been falling for years, with fewer shrines willing to host performances. Sectarian militants have targeted Sufis, a mystical sect of Islam, for years—with the Taliban and increasingly the Islamic State sending suicide bombers to attack shrines over what they see as heretical displays of faith. Just months after Sabri was killed, IS claimed back-to-back attacks on shrines in the provinces of Balochistan and Sindh that killed more than 100 people combined. Earlier this month, the military approved death sentences for two militants linked to Sabri's killing. But questions linger over who ordered the murder—the Pakistani Taliban, or another group—forcing his brother to spend months guarded by elite paramilitary rangers. Such fears, meanwhile, are not the only factors triggering qawwali's decline. Inflationary pressures have also kept the qawwals' working-class fan base from hosting shows. Increasingly only the middle class

or elite can afford to pay a qawwali group to perform at parties or weddings. "In the good old times, even a poor man... would manage to organize qawwali," explained singer Hashim Ali, saying he is now lucky to play four or five shows during religious periods compared to dozens in the past. The rise of more globalized interpretations of Islam has similarly chipped away at qawwali's popularity, as Muslims in Pakistan increasingly depart from the subcontinent's syncretic religious traditions and look to the Middle East for guidance.

"People access... (qawwali music) as a part of their faith," said Ahmer Naqvi, chief operations officer for Pakistani music app Patari. "A lot of the younger population is abandoning the ways that the older generations worshipped."

Increasing conservatism has also hit the genre. Even before Karachi's Abdullah Shah Ghazi Mazar shrine—famed for hosting performances—was attacked by the Taliban in 2010, organizers had imposed restrictions on shows for years as part of a campaign against qawwali's hashish-smoking fans. The pressure has compelled more qawwals to try their hand at fusion, or even branch into more financially viable genres such as pop. Only a minority have embraced social media to promote themselves, journalist Raj said.



In this file photo Pakistani Qawwali (Sufi devotional music) singer Talha Sabri performs during an event in Karachi.

But they face an uphill battle. "The youth... they don't know what exactly qawwali is," said fan Muhammad Saeed, 24, citing the popularity of contemporary music at home and from abroad, during a private show in Islamabad.

## 'Under pressure'

After 16 years playing by his brother's side, Talha Sabri said he has struggled to find his place on stage until Amjad's own sons are old enough to perform. "We are under pressure," he said, with his long hair and neatly trimmed beard cutting a stark resemblance to his brother. But even as he fears the possibility of extremists striking again, he refuses to be cowed. "Regardless of these threats, we have to keep on," he said. For Sabri's mother Asghari Begum however, the murder of her son marked a turning point for qawwali, ringing the death knell for its future. Her family previously made it through the tumultuous 1980s, when political parties and gangs battled for turf, turning Karachi's streets into killing fields. But they were respected then, passing unscathed through the city's numerous pickets. Amjad's death proved things have changed. "He has gone now," she said. "And the passion of qawwali has gone with him." — AFP



Pakistani performers singing Qawwali (Sufi devotional music) at a shrine in Islamabad.



Pakistani devotees gather at the shrine of Sufi Saint Abdullah Shah Ghazi in Karachi.





This photo shows workers making a sand castle on the Philippine island of Boracay. — AFP photos



A general view shows the almost demolished West Cove Hotel on the Philippine island of Boracay.

# Philippine 'castle boys' in shifting sands of Boracay closure

Jessler Magbanua has been sculpting elaborate sand castles for tourist tips on the Philippine resort island of Boracay for years, but now that it is shut for clean-up he will have to switch to mixing cement. The six-month closure of Boracay to holidaymakers starting on Thursday is forcing thousands of workers employed by the bustling tourist trade to adapt in order to survive. Magbanua, a so-called "castle boy", said he would look for construction work in the absence of the lucrative business of cre-

ating sand art for photo snapping holidaymakers. "I will just be doing (manual) labour. I will mix cement," Magbanua, 17, told AFP on how he'll adapt. "There is no other work to be had here. I will just go into construction." Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte ordered Boracay closed for clean-up after calling it a "cesspool", saying local business owners were dumping sewage into the island's once pristine waters.

Boracay has been a top Philippine destination, morphing from a backpacker paradise in the 1980s to an increasingly developed beach resort, fuelled by a quadrupling of visitors in just a decade. The island saw some two million visitors last year, pumping roughly \$1 billion in revenue into the Philippine economy. The boom also made Boracay a magnet for Filipinos seeking well-paying jobs that they failed to find in rural areas or urban centers like the capital Manila. The closure will impact the livelihood of 17,000 hotel, restaurant and other tourism workers, plus about 11,000 construction workers. Magbanua says he used to earn 1,000 pesos daily (\$19) before the shutdown, more than double the local minimum wage. "I really want to have lots of tourists on Boracay," he said near one of his creations that spells out the island's name.

## Braiding policeman's hair?

Many workers were prepared to join the tourist exodus, as they headed home to other parts of the country. Life on the island comes at a high cost as prices are inflated for the tourist market. Faustino Cruz said he would return to becoming a coconut farmer in his province southeast of Manila after working his way up as a resort chef. "It's backbreaking work on the farm and the income is only every three months. It's half what I make here but we just have to bear it because I have young children to support," Faustino told AFP.

Like Cruz, hotel masseuse Dory Gaitano told her family sacrifices must be made. She asked her eldest child, a university student, to stop going to school in the meantime. "My kids were frowning. They were against it. I said what can I do, Boracay is closed?" Duterte earlier said he would release two billion pesos (\$38.2 million) to help the workers, but many said they have not seen a penny yet. The impact is hardest on informal workers like Iflin Bayato, who braids tourists' hair for a living. "Who will I cater to? The police have short hair!" she told AFP. In some cases entire businesses were moving.

Milky Maming on Wednesday moved his



A worker demolishes a wall of the West Cove Hotel on the Philippine island of Boracay.

160-strong staff to a branch in central Cebu island as he would have no more customers for his water sports business. "Businesses like ours are fleeing everywhere. Some are in Cebu or Bohol. We are looking for tourists so we can help our staff," Maming told AFP, referring to other tourist islands. Magbanua, the sandcastle maker, said he would stay on the island along with his buddies who would also do construction work. "All of us have the same plan. Maybe we can just build the sandcastles on the road," he said with a laugh. — AFP



A general view shows an empty beach on the Philippine island of Boracay.



A general view shows an empty beach on the Philippine island of Boracay.



Employees of Milky Maming working next to rental speedboats, jet skis and a parasailing boat on the Philippine island of Boracay.





A woman stands next to a super hero made with Lego bricks by US artist Nathan Sawaya yesterday in La Vilette hall in Paris prior the exhibition 'The Art of the Brick' displaying his sculptures. The exhibition will run from April 29 to August 19, 2018. — AFP photos



US artist Nathan Sawaya poses during a photo session yesterday in Paris prior the exhibition 'The Art of the Brick' displaying his sculptures of super heroes made with Lego bricks.

# The Art of the Brick



Workers prepare the exhibition 'The Art of the Brick' yesterday in La Vilette hall in Paris.



US artist Nathan Sawaya poses during a photo session yesterday in La Vilette hall in Paris prior the exhibition 'The Art of the Brick'.



A man works near a head of a super hero made with Lego bricks by US artist Nathan Sawaya.



People stand near a sculpture of a super heroes made with Lego bricks by US artist Nathan Sawaya.



A person walks by sculptures of super heroes made with Lego bricks by US artist Nathan Sawaya.





Sawang Janpram, 98, competing in the javelin. — AFP photos



An elderly competitor showing off his medals during Thailand's first national Elderly Games.



An elderly woman in the 65-70 age category competing in the 400-metre race.

# PACEMAKERS: THAI SENIORS COMPETE IN FIRST 'ELDERLY GAMES'



Elderly women in the 80-85 age category running the 400-metre race.

**A**ged 98 Sawang Janpram cruised to victory in the 100-metre sprint, came first in the discus and set a record in the javelin—the undisputed star of Thailand's first national Elderly Games held this week. Competitors who gathered in northern Nan province defied age stereotypes and the searing sun in the government-backed sporting event, organized to promote an active lifestyle among seniors as Thailand tries to stave off an ageing crisis.

"I saw many people my age ailing in bed and I didn't want to be like that. So I began to exercise," the spry Sawang told AFP after setting a record of 15.3 meters in the javelin throw—albeit as the sole competitor in his 95-99 age category. Back in his hometown in eastern Thailand, he has watched as his less active peers "all passed away," the former school principal explained with a wry chuckle. Thailand's population is getting older, and fast, posing risks to the middle-income country's social and medical services as well as its economic productivity.

By 2031, the percentage of the population over 60 is expected to nearly double to 28 percent, according to the National Economic and Social Development Board. "Now Thailand is a fully-fledged

ageing society it's the right time and place to hold these activities," Nattavuth Ruengves, deputy governor of the Sports Authority of Thailand, told AFP on the sidelines of the competition. The event, which concludes today, aims to boost healthcare among seniors, with the added social draw of competitors enjoying the opportunity to meet friends.

## Body-building and ballroom dancing

Held in an outdoor sports complex, the atmosphere was festive, with cheering crowds and athletes helping each other after they crossed the finish line. "It doesn't matter if I get a medal or not, I feel happy to see friends competing together," said Duangpee Sansing, the 81-year-old winner of a 400-metre race. "I am not that tired because I am happy," she told AFP as she hugged a friend and fellow runner. The seven-day event drew more than 1,000 athletes from across the country.

They battled it out in sports as far apart as football, body building and ballroom dancing to sepak takraw, a traditional volleyball game in which players use their feet instead of hands. The age groups competing ranged from those approaching middle age to Sawang's bracket, 95 to 99. The 98-year-old participated in an unofficial version of the event organized last year by the Senior Citizens Council. He also represented Thailand at a regional elderly games held in China last year where he broke a record for the shot-put, according to his daughter.

Determined to excel again this time around, he has stayed in shape with a daily walking regimen. Although his athletic prowess helped him blitz his rivals with a 24.59 second dash to claim the 100-metres, Sawang said the event was more about camaraderie than crowing. "I want to be here to meet many friends and most of the athletes here are nice and helpful—it makes me feel warm inside," he said. "I feel proud." — AFP



Sawang Janpram, 98, receiving a medal during Thailand's first national Elderly Games in the northern Thai province of Nan.



A doctor attending to an elderly man in the 70-75 age category after he competed in the 400m sprint.





Kofukuji temple chief priest Bungen Oi offers a prayer for Sony's pet robot AIBOs displayed on an altar prior to hold the robots' funeral at the Kofukuji temple in Isumi, Chiba yesterday. — AFP photos



A man organizes Sony's pet robot AIBOs on an altar prior to hold the robots' funeral at the Kofukuji temple.



Kofukuji temple chief priest Bungen Oi holds a Sony's pet robot AIBO after a robots' funeral at the Kofukuji temple.



Last version of Sony's pet robot AIBO moves in front old version displayed on an altar prior to hold the robots' funeral at the Kofukuji temple.



Sony's pet robot AIBOs are line up on an altar prior to hold the robots' funeral at the Kofukuji temple.

## Fido funeral: In Japan, a send-off for robot dogs

The robot dogs lined up in their dozens yesterday in Japan were no tech fair display. They were the dearly departed being honored with their own traditional "funeral." In some respects, it was a funeral like any other in Japan, with incense smoke wafting as a priest chanted a sutra, praying for the peaceful transition of the souls of the departed. But the departed were 114 of Sony's old generations of AIBO robot dogs, each wearing a tag to show where they came from and to which family they belonged.

Electronics repair company A FUN, which specializes in fixing vintage products, has sent off some 800 AIBOs this way in recent years at a centuries-old Buddhist temple. With the AIBO no longer in production, owners of old or "dead" robodogs often send them to the company, the only way it can obtain genuine parts to use in repairs. The defunct dogs serve as the equivalent of organ donors for defective robots, but before they are put to use, the company honors them with a traditional send-off. The dogs often arrive with letters that give their names, how they spent their lives, and other details. "I feel relieved to know there will be a prayer for my AIBO," one owner said in a letter. Another owner wrote: "Please help other AIBOs."

Tears rose in my eyes when I decided to say goodbye." Bungen Oi, the priest at the 450-year-old Kofukuji temple in Isumi, east of Tokyo, dismisses the idea that holding memorials for machines is absurd.

"All things have a bit of soul," he told AFP after the service. Nobuyuki Norimatsu, who heads A FUN, also says he feels the robodogs have souls, even if they are destined to be "donors." "We'd like to return the souls to the owners and make the robot a machine to utilize their parts," he said. "We don't take parts before we hold a funeral for them," he says.

### Combined hearts

The AIBO was the world's first home-use entertainment robot capable of developing its own "personality". Sony rolled out the

first-generation AIBO in June 1999, with the initial batch of 3,000 selling out in just 20 minutes, despite the hefty 250,000 yen (more than \$2,000) price tag. Over the following years, more than 150,000 units were sold, in numerous iterations, ranging from gleaming metallic-silver versions to round-faced cub-like models. By 2006, however, Sony's business was in trouble and the AIBO, an expensive and somewhat frivolous luxury, had to go.

The company kept its "AIBO Clinic" open until March 2014, but then told dedicated and loving owners that they were on their own. Desperate owners have turned to A FUN, which draws on the knowledge of former Sony engineers, to get repairs. In January, Sony unveiled a new version of its robot dog, the "aibo", packed with artificial intelligence and internet connectivity, but it has not resumed repairs of old models. The media fanfare did however prompt many owners of older models to look for ways to repair their faithful friends, or to donate those behind salvage. A repaired AIBO is the product of generous owners, whose own dogs have become lifesaving donors, Narimatsu said. "I feel it moves on the combined hearts of owners," he said. — AFP



A girl wraps a Sony's pet robot AIBO after a robots' funeral at the Kofukuji temple.



## Lifestyle | MixTape

## Film Review

# 'The End of the World' is Netflix at its crazy best

By Aakash Bakaya

The moment James and his partner Alyssa decide to steal his Dad's car and run away was the moment both the show writer's and maybe even Netflix said to themselves "let's just go, do whatever we want and see what happens". The result is 'The End of the F\*\*\*\*\* World', and it is a work of manic, self aware genius. There are no rules and little boundaries to this television series and bless the madmen at Netflix for continuing to take chances like these. Getting two relatively unknown actors to lead an entire season of mouthing people off, murder and being enormous twats isn't really the recipe for success but somehow writer Charlie Covell (adapting the graphic novel of the same name) manages to create something both immensely deplorable and strangely lovable at the same time.

The entire format precedes the forthcoming oddities of the show. An eight episode season having run time varying from 19-22 minutes per episode is miles away from industry standard, even in the UK which usually broadcast six episode seasons. That clocks in the entire season at a little over two and a half hours - which is a little longer than your average movie run-time. It worked so well I started wishing more television shows start doing something similar, cut all that extra fat, trim down the number of episodes in a season and improve the pacing tenfold (I'm looking at you 'WestWorld').

### Deliciously dark

Getting back to the plot, the show revolves around two 17 year olds James and Alyssa. James, a strange and distant kid, who wholly believes he's a psychopath because he enjoys killing animals in his free time. Alyssa on the other hand is introduced to audience by smashing her cell phone in front of her friends (for good reason) and finds James, who is sitting having murder fantasies by himself. James, who at that moment was beginning to get tired of killing random animals, decides to he wants to murder even bigger prey - and since Alyssa decides to just show up in front of him, he picks her.

As dark as all that might sound (and it is dark), there's a light-hearted, comedic touch to every episode that places the show squarely in one of my personal favorite genres - the black comedy. There's an unfortunate lack of them on television so I was delighted



that the humor remained consistent and deliciously dark from the very start. There's a wonderful voice-over narration from both of the main characters and when the first episode ends with James saying in his head - "I didn't know where we were going, or when I was gonna kill her, but I punched my dad in the face and stole his car. And that felt like a good place to start" you just know you're in for a bloody good time. What follows is road-trip through England's dreary south with two kids who don't know where they are going or how even to get there. The only thing they know is that they don't want to go home, not even when they total the car right at the start of the next episode.

Although the show begins with James seemingly as the main character, it's Alyssa that becomes the primary focus. Actors Alex Lawther and Jessica Barden, both in their first major roles, bring tremendous depth to their respective characters. Lawther's gradual turn from mumbling discomfort to showing legitimate concern for the person he was planning to kill is subtle brilliance but Barden's Alyssa is the real star turn here.

She's brazen, speaks her mind and has reached a point where she simply no longer cares what anyone else thinks. Her house life is troubling but she doesn't look for sympathy from anybody. As a character, she's definitely a little over the top but Barden brings just enough humanity to her to make her arc immensely relatable. Alyssa, like James, are both simply lost. Lost in a world they don't understand and a world that refuses to understand them. They lash out and lose the innocence that once protected them from the consequences of their untended actions. As the series continues, we get a greater insight to why they behave the way they do. Their back-stories deal with heavy themes of loss, abuse and emotional longing but even then the writing weaves well between humor and seriousness.

### The world ends

What develops from all this is one of the most surprisingly touching love stories you'll see on television. There's a vague, sometimes un-understandable aspect to the way they treat each other, actions that only make sense if you're in your late teens. Past the half-way mark, the plot begins to play out like a mix of 'Bonnie and

Clyde' and your typical teen romance and even though the main development is a massive coincidence, it fails to derail the authentic portrayal of two people falling for each other while being confused at why it's even happening.

The entire affair actually under-stays it's welcome. The finale is great with an ambiguous ending but ultimately comes off feeling a bit rushed. As amazing as that last scene was, I came away wanting to have spent more time with the weird and interesting characters they meet in their journey. The pacing overall is still pretty much perfect and even the side-plot that arises out of nowhere midway through the season develops in a satisfying way. There's talk of a second season in the works and as good as that sounds, I wish they leave James and Alyssa where they are after the final credits role. Falling in love as a teen feels like the end of the f\*\*\*\*\* world and the show captures that tragic magic in one of the most fun and creative ways possible. Could a second season top it? I sincerely hope so.







## COOKING ON DEADLINE:

# *Greek Roasted Chicken Breasts*

By Katie Workman

Oregano, lemon, garlic, glugs of olive oil ... these are just a few of the ingredients that make Greek food so appealing. They match up well with all sorts of other hero ingredients, from potatoes to chicken to seafood.

In this recipe, chicken gets a nice soak in a Greek marinade with all of those delicious flavors and then is simply roasted in the oven. You can use that time to putter around making a salad, and trying to get someone else to set the table. Try serving them up with some simply cooked millet or orzo, and a very lightly dressed baby greens salad.

Boneless chicken breasts with the skin left on have a few really good things going for them. One, the skin keeps the chicken moist as it cooks. Two, the skin crisps up in the hot oven, and I know of few chicken-loving people who don't covet the crispy skin. Three, the absence of the bone allows the chicken to cook more quickly than bone-in chicken.

Boneless chicken breasts with the skin are not always easy to find pre-packaged in the supermarket, but you can ask the butcher to cut the bones out for you. You can also, of course do it yourself with a steady hand and a very sharp knife, but feel no shame if this isn't within your comfort zone. Boneless, skinless chicken breasts are also just fine, and if you want to use bone-in chicken breasts, just add another 15 to 20 minutes of cooking time. You could serve these with some wedges of lemon in case people want one last hit of fresh, tart citrus.

### Greek Roasted Chicken Breasts

#### Ingredients:

Serves 4  
Start to finish: 30 minutes plus marinating time  
1/4 cup olive oil  
1 teaspoon minced garlic  
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice  
1 tablespoon vinegar

2 teaspoons dried oregano  
2 teaspoons kosher or coarse salt  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
4 boneless skin-on chicken breasts (6 to 8 ounces each)  
Lemon wedges to serve

#### Preparation:

In a large bowl, container or sturdy zipper-top bag, combine the olive oil, garlic, lemon juice, vinegar, oregano, salt and pepper. Stir or shake to combine thoroughly. Add the chicken, turn it to coat well, and then cover or seal and refrigerate for 12 to 24 hours (or even up to 2 days).

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil and spray with nonstick cooking spray. Remove the chicken from the marinade and place on the baking sheet skin side up. Roast for about 25 minutes until cooked though. Serve hot, warm or cold, with lemon wedges if desired.



# Spatzle Primavera is made with vegetables, cream and cheese

By Sara Moulton

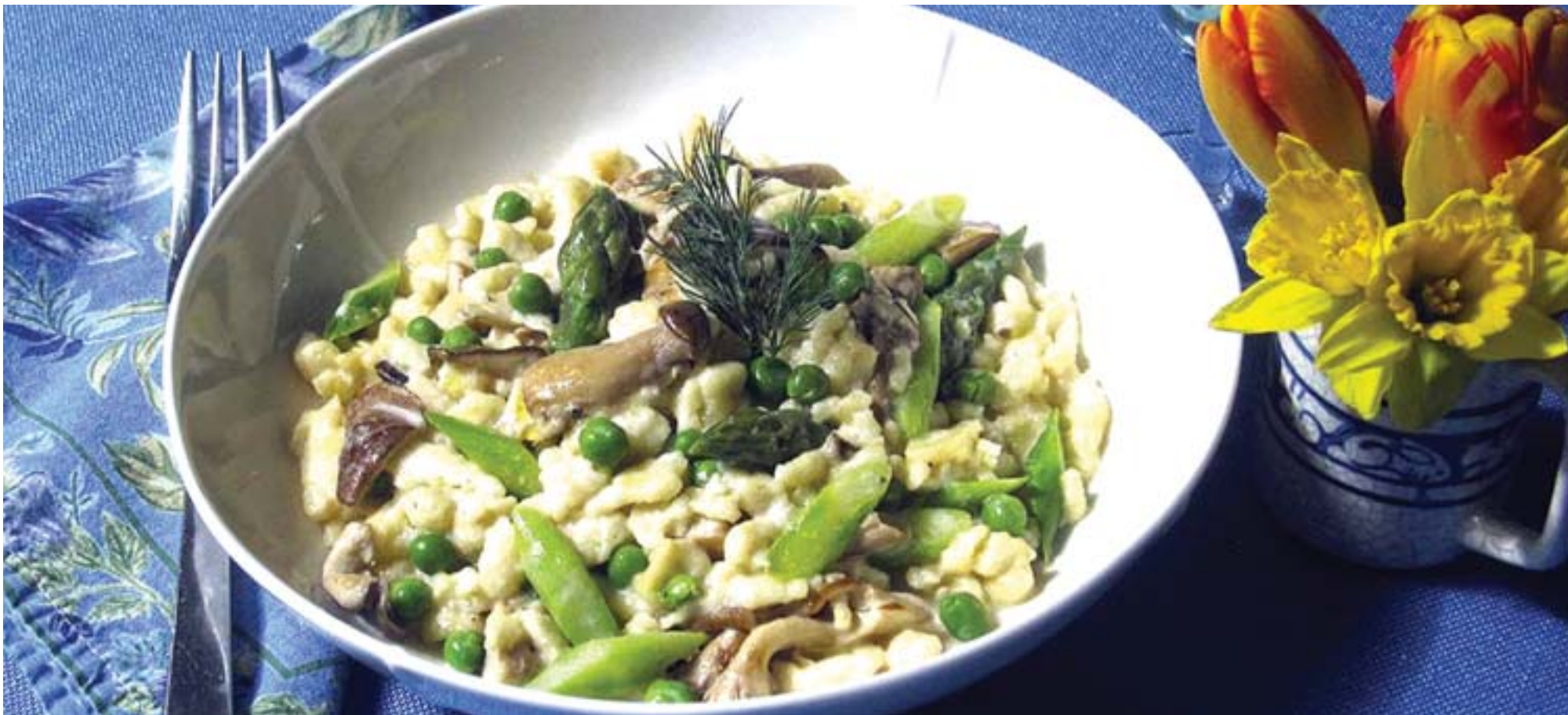
Springtime is the right time for Pasta Primavera, which is, after all, the Italian word for spring. There's some controversy about who invented this wonderful dish, but everyone agrees that it was made famous in the late '70s at New York's Le Cirque restaurant. In any case, the recipe consists of spring vegetables, cream and cheese. How far wrong can you go?

My take on this classic swaps out the traditional Italian pasta for the fresh egg pasta called spatzle, a kind of soft noodle that's widespread throughout southern Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, Moselle and South Tyrol. "Wait a minute," you say. "Homemade pasta? Sounds like too much work." Not to worry. The spatzle will be ready to cook in the time it takes to bring a pot of water to a boil.

Spatzle dough is about the consistency of a thick pancake batter, which means it's much more liquid than typical pasta dough. You can make it with

electric beaters or by hand. The only requirement is using the right tool for the job: a spatzle maker. The device looks like a metal washboard with holes on it, topped by a small open box made of metal. You set the "washboard" over the pot of boiling water and pour the batter into the little box. The dough drips through the holes as you slowly move the metal box back and forth along the washboard to cut the strands of pasta. Some folks have suggested that you can use a colander with large holes instead of a spatzle maker, but I've never had success with that utensil.

"Who needs yet another kitchen gadget?" you say. I strongly believe that you do. With a spatzle maker in house - you can easily find them online for about \$12 - you'll find yourself making fresh pasta once a week, because doing so is that simple. Here I've combined the pasta with typical spring ingredients - asparagus and peas - along with mushrooms, to make it more substantial. But you're welcome to toss it instead with any of your favorite sauces.



## Ingredients

Start to finish: 1 hour (30 active)

Servings: 4 to 6

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt plus extra for salting the water

1 pound asparagus

1 pound shelled fresh or defrosted frozen peas

8 ounces assorted whole mushrooms, halved or quartered, if large

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

2 cups chicken or vegetable broth

1 cup heavy cream

240 grams (about 2 cups) all-purpose flour

2 large eggs, lightly beaten

1 ounce grated Parmigiano-Reggiano, plus extra for garnish

Chopped fresh dill for garnish

## Preparation

Bring a large pot of boiling salted water to a boil. Break or cut off the bottom tough part of the asparagus and, if it is thicker than 1/3-inch, peel it from right underneath the tip all the way to the bottom of the stem. Working in a few batches, add the asparagus to the water and simmer until they are al dente but not cooked through (1 minute for thin asparagus and 2 minutes for thick), transfer them to a bowl of ice and water to chill.

When they are chilled, pat them dry and slice them crosswise, at an angle, 1/2-inch thick. Set aside. If using fresh peas, add them to the water and simmer them until al dente, about 2 minutes. Use a strainer to remove them from the water and set them aside. If using defrosted frozen peas, do not cook them at this point (they were already blanched before they were frozen).

In a large skillet cook the mushrooms in the oil over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until they are golden, about 8 minutes.

Add the chicken broth and cream and bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer and simmer until thickened, about 5 minutes. Set aside. In an electric mixer stir together the flour and 1/2 teaspoon salt, add the eggs and 1 cup water and beat until the mixture is smooth. The consistency should be like that of thick pancake batter. If it is thicker, add additional water, a few tablespoons at a time, until it reaches the desired consistency. Place the spatzle maker over the pot of boiling water and slowly pour the batter into the box, letting it drip down into the water.

Boil for a few minutes (taste a piece of pasta to see if it is just al dente). Strain the spatzle and add it to the skillet along with the asparagus, peas and cheese. Bring to a boil and simmer, stirring, until just heated through. Add salt and pepper to taste and serve right away topped with additional cheese, if desired, and the dill.





# HOW TO TURN EGGPLANT AND ZUCCHINI INTO DEEP-FRIED DELICIOUSNESS

By Jean Marie Brownson

Once upon a time, it felt lonely to cook for a hobby. Thanks to YouTube and countless food websites and blogs, I connect easily with kindred spirits now. So when I spend a gloomy Saturday in the kitchen working on a technique, or recreating a favorite restaurant dish, I know I am not alone.

Deep-frying is one of those techniques for which I welcome tips from others. As with any new-to-me cooking technique, I take my time. Thin slices of zucchini are a good start. Deep-fried, wow, delicious. A light coating of potato starch or cornstarch adds a crisp, light texture. Sprinkle the slices with salt as soon as they come out of the oil, then serve them with a dipping sauce or slip into brothy soups or omelets for a rich, intriguing element.

Golden, pudding-tender slices of eggplant rest in a sweet, spicy broth surrounded by bouncy nameko mushrooms and crispy-chewy mochi nuggets tucked under a pile of aromatic greens. Absolutely delicious. The combination of textures and flavors, and the richness of the fried eggplant, make this Japanese bowl a standout worthy of my time to perfect.

Making the broth proves simple - especially since I rely on instant dashi purchased from a local Asian market. At its simplest, dashi, Japan's most basic cooking stock, combines sea kelp (kombu) simmered in water. Easy enough to do at home. (Kelp is available at Whole Foods and most large supermarkets.) More common is the addition of dried fish known as bonito; it's in the powdered dashi I rely on for speed. Low sodium chicken broth makes a fine substitute in this dish.

The tricky part of this dish is deep-frying thick slices of eggplant to tender, creamy goodness. First, salt the eggplant to draw out some of the water. After standing, it's important to pat the eggplant absolutely dry before immersing in the oil. Same goes for nearly anything you're frying - use care to prevent dangerous hot splatters.

Use a deep, heavy-bottomed saucepan or wok that holds heat well. Have a paper towel-lined tray nearby, as well as a

slotted spoon or wire skimmer. It's smart to have a large box of kitchen salt handy should you need to douse flames. Of course, never put water into hot oil.

Always use the best oil you can afford. I prefer safflower or sunflower oil for its high heat cooking properties and odorless frying. Rice bran oil, peanut oil and expeller-pressed canola oil also are good. Ordinary vegetable oil, or regular canola oil, overheat easily and give off a fishy smell when frying. To regulate the oil temperature, I recommend investing in a good deep-fry thermometer.

## Japanese-Style Eggplant and Mushrooms in Spicy Broth

Prep: 25 minutes  
Stand: 20 minutes  
Cook: 20 minutes  
Makes: 4 to 6 servings

### Ingredients

2 medium purple eggplants, about 12 ounces each  
1 ounce dried nameko or shiitake mushroom caps  
2 cups dashi broth or chicken broth, see note  
1/4 cup mirin (rice wine) or dry sherry  
2 tablespoons soy sauce  
1 tablespoon each: unsweetened rice wine vinegar, sugar  
1/4 teaspoon Asian chile paste with garlic (or crushed red pepper flakes), or to taste  
1 tablespoon potato starch (or 1 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch) dissolved in 2 tablespoons water  
Safflower, sunflower or expeller-pressed canola oil for frying  
4 ounces dried unsweetened mochi cakes, cut into small cubes, optional  
12 to 16 ounces firm tofu, drained, patted dry, cut into 1-inch cubes  
1 cup baby arugula leaves  
4 green onions, trimmed, thinly sliced  
1/2 cup cilantro leaves

### Preparation

- Trim ends off eggplants. Cut eggplants crosswise into 1-inch-thick slices. Salt the slices and let stand in a colander, about 20 minutes.
- Meanwhile, put mushrooms into a small dish; add 1 cup hot water to cover. Set a small plate on top to keep the mushrooms submerged. Let soak until tender, 10 to 20 minutes. Remove the mushrooms and cut them in half. Reserve the soaking liquid.
- Strain the mushroom soaking liquid into a small saucepan. Add the dashi broth, mirin, soy sauce, vinegar, sugar and chile paste. Heat to a simmer. Cook until reduced a bit, about 10 minutes. Stir in the dissolved potato starch. Cook and stir until boiling and thickened. Add mushrooms. Remove from heat.
- Pour oil into a small, deep saucepan to a depth of 2 inches. Set the pan over medium heat. Put a deep-fry thermometer into the pan and monitor the heat until the oil reaches 350 degrees. Pat the eggplant dry and slip 2 or 3 slices gently into the oil. Fry, turning once, until golden and the center is fork tender, 2 to 2 1/2 minutes. Remove eggplant with a slotted spoon to a piece of paper toweling. Repeat to fry the rest of the eggplant in small batches, adjusting the heat as necessary to maintain 350 degrees.
- If using the mochi, slip a few cubes into the hot oil and fry until they puff into white irregular mounds, about 1 minute. Remove with a slotted spoon to drain on paper toweling.
- To serve, put 3 or 4 slices of eggplant into each serving bowl. Top with some of the tofu cubes and the fried mochi, if using. Reheat the broth to a simmer. Divide the hot broth and mushrooms over the eggplant. Top with equal portions of the arugula, green onions and cilantro leaves. Serve right away.



# THE SIMPLE PLEASURE OF COOKING FOR ONE

By Daniel Neman

When I was single, I usually cooked enough food for at least two meals - dinner one night and leftovers the next. It was easier that way, and more economical. Also, I'm lazy, and getting more than one meal out of one day's cooking appealed to my slothful side. A dinner of corned beef turns into corned beef sandwiches the next day and corned beef hash for breakfast. But sometimes, you just don't want leftovers. Sometimes, you truly want to cook just one meal for just one person: you. And cereal doesn't count.

I was in a celebratory mood, so I started with the salmon. It was easy getting a single fillet - I just asked the fish guy at my grocery store for one. And making the sauce for it was almost as easy. The sauce is a simple matter of whisking together mayonnaise, Dijon mustard, lemon zest, lemon juice and a bit of garlic. And when I tell you that it is a phenomenal sauce that I can't wait to try again, I'm not being all food "writery" and saying that everything I make is incredible. I'm telling you: It's a phenomenal sauce that I can't wait to try again.

I'm sure it would go well with other fish and even shrimp. For that matter, it would probably be excellent with chicken, too. But I can't see how it could be better with anything than it is with salmon; it is a perfect pairing. I sautéed my salmon in a skillet, giving it a delicious, crispy sear. But the sauce is so great you could also bake the salmon, or even poach it. Any way you do it, you'll be happy.

## Salmon Fillet with a Lemon, Tarragon and Garlic Sauce

### Ingredients

Makes 1 serving  
 1 4-ounce salmon fillet  
 Salt AND pepper  
 2 tablespoons mayonnaise  
 1/2 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
 1 tablespoon olive oil, divided  
 1/4 teaspoon garlic, minced  
 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest  
 1 teaspoon lemon juice  
 1/2 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon

### Preparation

Season the salmon with salt and pepper. Whisk together the mayonnaise, mustard, 1/2 tablespoon oil, garlic, lemon zest, lemon juice, tarragon and a pinch each of salt and pepper. Set aside. Put the remaining 1/2 tablespoon oil in a cast-iron, nonstick or carbon-steel skillet over medium-high heat until the oil shimmers. Cook the salmon flesh-side down for 5 to 7 minutes, depending on how done you want it. Flip and then cook the skin side for 1 to 2 minutes. Serve with the sauce.





## Comic

### WORD SEARCH

#### Volleyball

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 39 letters spell a secret message.

G N I K C O L B V O S T G N I K I P S  
 A L W S I D E O U T S R W O L E T Y B  
 M R E E K C A T T A A A I I A L U O F  
 E E C E A T E A M S P J P T U P M U B  
 E T N V S K P M U D P E E A E R O C S  
 V A E A T U S L L W R C F T A N D E M  
 R O F S O O B I F O O T W O R K I L L  
 E L F S P S H S D A A O S R E T T I H  
 S F O I S T E S T E C R D F H O R C I  
 G S I S P N H N E I H Y O E Q C A A R  
 L L R T I A P R I S T R O U F P T E L  
 Y L R E N S E O D L M U I R T E T A H  
 C A A K Y F L A I A E C T A E T N C M  
 C T L B E A P I T N K D I I E B A C L  
 O R L R Y E L I D H T N I S O O I L E  
 U O Y E E K O P I E D S M S C N I L N  
 R P T N O N S T N E T I H E L B U O D  
 T S K T S T V E R T I C A L J U M P E

- |            |            |           |               |
|------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| APPROACH   | FOOTWORK   | QUICK HIT | SKY BALL      |
| ASSIST     | FORMATIONS | RALLY     | SLIDE         |
| ATTACK     | FOUL       | REFEREE   | SPIKING       |
| BLOCKING   | GAME       | ROTATION  | SPORT         |
| BUMP       | HITTER     | SAVE      | SUBSTITUTION  |
| CAPTAIN    | KILL       | SCORE     | TANDEM        |
| COACH      | KNEE PADS  | SERVE     | TEAMS         |
| COURT      | LIBERO     | SETS      | TOPSPIN       |
| DEFENCE    | MATCH      | SETTER    | TRAJECTORY    |
| DOUBLE HIT | OFFENCE    | SHANK     | VERTICAL JUMP |
| DUMP       | PASS       | SHOT      | WEAK SIDE     |
| FAULT      | PLAYERS    | SIDELINES | WIPE          |
| FLOATER    | POINTS     | SIDE OUT  |               |

### CROSSWORD 1894



#### ACROSS

- The state of matter distinguished from the solid and liquid states by.
- Someone who grants absolution.
- A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
- Government agency created in 1974 to license and regulate nuclear power plants.
- United States poet (1892-1982).
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
- (Philippine) A dish of marinated vegetables and meat or fish.
- Tear down so as to make flat with the ground.
- American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
- Argentinian carima.
- (British informal) Cuddle and kiss.
- A bag used for carrying money and small personal items or accessories (especially by women).
- Antiarrhythmic drug (trade name Enkaid) used to treat life-threatening arrhythmias but increases the risk of sudden death in heart attack patients.
- An informal term for a father.
- Australian clover fern.
- The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Thailand and Burmese borderlands.
- Personification of the sky or upper air breathed by the Olympians.
- Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
- A river that rises in central Germany

- and flows north to join the Elbe River.
- British dominion over India (1757-1947).
- A room or establishment where alcoholic drinks are served over a counter.
- The sciences concerned with gathering and manipulating and storing and retrieving and classifying recorded information.
- An alert and refreshed state.
- Large elliptical brightly colored deep-sea fish of Atlantic and Pacific and Mediterranean.
- The month following March and preceding May.
- Other than what is under consideration or implied.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- Battle in 401 BC when the Persian King Artaxerxes II defeated his younger brother who tried to usurp the throne.
- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- Unpleasantly cool and humid.
- Being ten more than one hundred eighty.
- Muslim name for God.
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- Cheap showy jewelry or ornament or clothing.
- Reprehensible acquisitiveness.
- A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
- A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- Neckwear consisting of a long narrow piece of material worn (mostly by men) under a collar and tied in knot at the front.

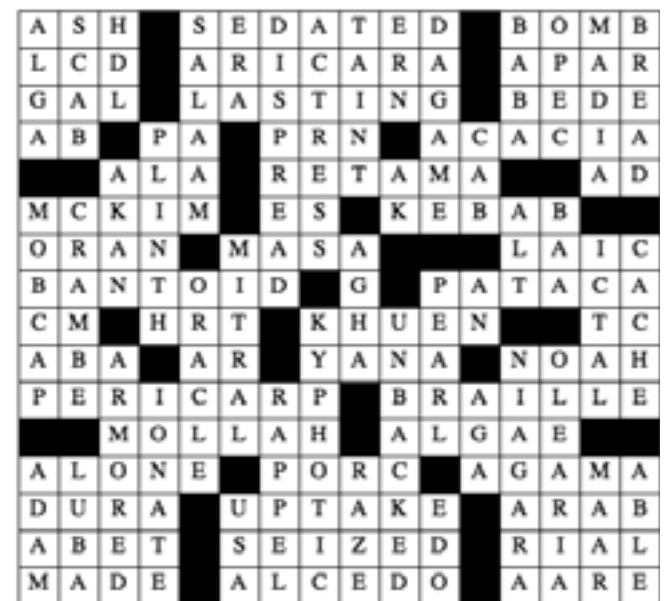
- Having any of numerous bright or strong colors reminiscent of the color of blood or cherries or tomatoes or rubies.
- Taxonomic kingdom comprising all living or extinct animals.
- A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.

- The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
- A large galleon sailed in the Mediterranean as a merchantman.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- A city in the Saxony region of Germany on the Saale River.
- An informal term for a father.
- A full skirt with a gathered waistband.
- The capital of Western Samoa.
- Relating to the deepest parts of the ocean (below 6000 meters).
- A radioactive transuranic element that is similar to uranium.
- Being seven more than eighty.
- The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- (Irish) The sea personified.
- A body of (usually fresh) water surrounded by land.
- (Welsh) A warrior god.
- Marked by firm determination or resolution.
- A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
- Evergreen tree of eastern Asia and Philippines having large leathery leaves and small green-white flowers in compact cymes.
- Harsh or corrosive in tone.
- (archaic) A fitting reward.
- A nurse who has enough training to be licensed by a state to provide routine care for the sick.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.

#### DOWN

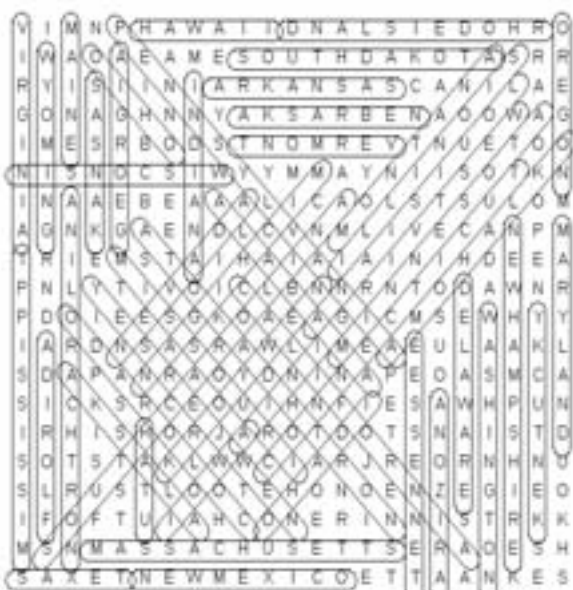
- Grind together, of teeth.
- Type genus of the Ardeidae.
- Lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike.
- Pertaining to or resembling amoebae.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- Lean end of the neck.
- Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
- Decrease in size, extent, or range.
- The capital and largest city of Austria.
- A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
- Cracks or fissures in the skin (especially around the mouth or anus).
- Strong and sharp.
- Large gregarious predatory feline of Africa and India having a tawny coat with a shaggy mane in the male.
- A vigorous blow.
- Someone who makes an offer.
- A fee charged for exchanging currencies.
- (informal) Roused to anger.
- Long green edible beaked pods of the okra plant.
- South American herb with sticky glandular foliage.
- Someone who brews beer or ale from malt and hops and water.
- With the mouth wide open as in wonder or awe.

### Yesterday's Solution



### Yesterday's Solution

#### USA States



- |             |               |                |                |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| ALABAMA     | INDIANA       | NEBRASKA       | SOUTH CAROLINA |
| ALASKA      | IOWA          | NEVADA         | SOUTH DAKOTA   |
| ARIZONA     | KANSAS        | NEW HAMPSHIRE  | TENNESSEE      |
| ARKANSAS    | KENTUCKY      | NEW JERSEY     | TEXAS          |
| CALIFORNIA  | LOUISIANA     | NEW MEXICO     | UTAH           |
| COLORADO    | MAINE         | NEW YORK       | VERMONT        |
| CONNECTICUT | MARYLAND      | NORTH CAROLINA | VIRGINIA       |
| DELAWARE    | MASSACHUSETTS | NORTH DAKOTA   | WASHINGTON     |
| FLORIDA     | MICHIGAN      | OHIO           | WEST VIRGINIA  |
| GEORGIA     | MINNESOTA     | OKLAHOMA       | WISCONSIN      |
| HAWAII      | MISSISSIPPI   | OREGON         | WYOMING        |
| IDAHOO      | MISSOURI      | PENNSYLVANIA   |                |
| ILLINOIS    | MONTANA       | RHODE ISLAND   |                |

The hidden sentence is: IN AMERICA ANY BOY MAY BECOME PRESIDENT AND I SUPPOSE IT'S JUST ONE OF THE KISSES HE TAKES

### Daily SuDoku



### Yesterday's Solution





## TV Listings

**OWN MOVIES**  
**ACTION**

01:25 Term Life  
03:05 The Bodyguard  
04:45 Abducted  
06:30 Allegiant  
08:35 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II  
10:55 Term Life  
12:35 Being Evel  
14:20 Allegiant  
16:25 Starship Troopers: Traitor Of Mars  
18:00 Gridlocked  
20:00 Rise Of The Legend  
22:15 Striking Distance

**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

00:45 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker  
01:40 Cats 101  
02:35 Swamp Brothers  
03:00 Shamwari: A Wild Life  
03:25 Whale Wars  
04:45 North Woods Law  
05:02 North America  
05:49 Untamed & Uncut  
06:36 Swamp Brothers  
07:50 Shamwari: A Wild Life  
08:15 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker  
09:10 Cats 101  
10:05 North America  
11:00 Swamp Brothers  
11:28 Shamwari: A Wild Life  
11:55 Whale Wars  
12:50 North Woods Law  
13:45 Cats 101  
14:40 North America  
15:35 Untamed & Uncut  
16:30 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker  
17:25 The Vet Life  
18:20 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet  
19:15 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
20:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life  
21:05 The Vet Life  
22:00 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet  
22:55 Wildest India  
23:50 Untamed & Uncut

**BBC FIRST**

00:25 The Detectorists  
00:55 Death In Paradise  
01:50 Holby City  
02:45 Orphan Black  
03:30 Orphan Black  
04:15 Mum  
04:45 The Detectorists  
05:15 The Coroner  
06:00 Doctors  
06:30 EastEnders  
07:00 Holby City  
07:55 Doctors  
08:30 Doctors  
09:00 EastEnders  
09:30 Bad Move  
09:55 I Want My Wife Back  
10:25 Death In Paradise  
11:20 Father Brown  
12:10 Holby City  
13:10 Doctors  
13:40 EastEnders  
14:10 Father Brown  
15:05 Bad Move  
15:25 I Want My Wife Back  
16:00 Doctors  
18:30 I Want My Wife Back  
19:00 Death In Paradise  
20:00 The Child In Time  
21:35 Father Brown  
22:25 Poldark  
23:20 Poldark

**ci crime & investigation network**

00:00 The Zodiac Killer: Case Closed?  
01:00 Cold Case Files  
01:55 Crimes That Shook Australia  
02:50 The First 48

03:45 The Zodiac Killer: Case Closed?  
04:30 Cold Case Files  
05:15 The First 48  
06:00 The First 48  
07:00 It Takes A Killer  
07:20 The First 48  
08:05 Cold Case Files  
08:50 Homicide Hunter  
09:35 The First 48  
10:30 Cold Case Files  
11:25 Crimes That Shook Britain  
12:20 Cold Case Files  
13:15 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath  
14:10 The First 48  
15:05 Cold Case Files  
16:00 Homicide Hunter  
17:00 Britain's Biggest Heists  
18:00 Britain's Biggest Heists  
19:00 American Murder  
20:00 The First 48  
21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
22:00 Jonestown: The Women Behind The Massacre

**Discovery Family**

00:30 Destroyed In Seconds  
00:55 Destroyed In Seconds  
01:20 How It's Made  
01:45 How It's Made  
02:10 Out Of Egypt  
03:00 Tanked  
03:50 Ultimate Survival  
04:40 Space Dealers  
05:30 Secret Space Escapes  
06:20 How It's Made  
06:40 How It's Made  
07:00 Destroyed In Seconds  
07:25 Destroyed In Seconds  
07:50 Out Of Egypt  
08:40 How It's Made  
09:05 How It's Made  
09:30 Tanked  
10:20 Ultimate Survival  
11:10 Destroyed In Seconds  
11:35 Destroyed In Seconds  
12:00 How It's Made  
12:25 How It's Made  
12:50 React To That  
13:15 React To That  
13:40 The Carbonaro Effect  
14:05 The Carbonaro Effect  
14:30 Out Of Egypt  
15:20 How It's Made  
15:45 How It's Made  
16:10 Ultimate Survival  
17:00 Out Of Egypt  
17:50 Tanked  
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds  
19:05 Destroyed In Seconds  
19:30 React To That  
19:55 React To That  
20:20 The Carbonaro Effect  
20:45 The Carbonaro Effect  
21:10 How It's Made  
21:35 How It's Made  
22:00 Ultimate Survival  
22:50 React To That  
23:15 React To That  
23:40 The Carbonaro Effect

**ID**

00:45 Most Evil  
01:40 Betrayed  
02:35 Bride Killers  
03:30 Deadly Sins  
04:25 Blood Relatives  
05:20 I Almost Got Away With It  
06:10 Grave Secrets  
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
07:25 I'd Kill For You  
08:15 Blood Relatives  
09:10 Evil Online  
10:05 Murder Comes To Town  
11:00 Forbidden: Dying For Love  
11:55 I'd Kill For You  
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:45 Grave Secrets  
14:40 Reasonable Doubt  
15:35 I Am Homicide  
16:30 I'd Kill For You  
17:25 Blood Relatives  
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It  
19:15 Grave Secrets  
20:10 Reasonable Doubt  
21:05 Obsession: Dark Desires  
22:00 The 1980s: The Deadliest Decade

22:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
23:50 Bride Killers

**Disney Channel HD**

00:00 Hank Zipzer  
00:25 Alex & Co.  
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Binny And The Ghost  
02:55 Hank Zipzer  
03:15 Disney Mickey Mouse  
03:20 Hank Zipzer  
03:45 Alex & Co.  
04:10 Alex & Co.  
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
05:25 Binny And The Ghost  
05:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks S1  
06:00 Jessie  
06:25 Elena Of Avalor  
06:50 Descendants Wicked World  
06:55 Kitty Is Not A Cat S1 Splits  
07:05 Kitty Is Not A Cat S1 Splits  
07:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
07:45 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
08:10 Tangled: The Series  
08:35 K.C. Undercover  
09:00 Raven's Home  
09:25 Bizaardvark  
09:50 Bunk'd  
10:15 Stuck In The Middle  
10:40 Starstruck  
11:55 Liv And Maddie  
12:20 Liv And Maddie  
12:45 Liv And Maddie  
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
14:00 The Zhuzhus S1  
14:15 Bunk'd  
14:40 K.C. Undercover  
15:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
15:10 Kitty Is Not A Cat S1 Splits  
15:20 Kitty Is Not A Cat S1 Splits  
15:35 Elena Of Avalor  
16:00 Big Hero 6  
17:40 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
18:05 K.C. Undercover  
18:30 Bunk'd  
18:55 Descendants Wicked World  
19:00 Raven's Home  
19:25 Liv And Maddie  
19:50 Jessie  
20:15 Disney Mickey Mouse  
20:20 Tangled: The Series  
20:45 Bizaardvark  
21:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
21:35 Stuck In The Middle  
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...  
22:50 Lolirock  
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

**Disney Junior**

00:00 Trulli Tales  
00:30 PJ Masks  
00:55 Trulli Tales  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:30 The Hive  
02:40 Loopdidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopdidoo  
03:50 Calimero

04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:00 Art Attack  
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:45 Loopdidoo  
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
06:15 Calimero  
06:30 PJ Masks  
07:00 Unbungalievable  
07:05 The Lion Guard: Return Of The Roar  
07:50 Unbungalievable  
08:00 The Lion Guard  
08:30 The Lion Guard  
09:00 The Lion Guard  
09:30 The Lion Guard  
10:00 The Lion Guard  
10:30 The Lion Guard  
11:00 The Lion Guard  
11:30 Lion Guard: Rise Of Scar  
12:20 Unbungalievable  
12:30 Sofia The First  
13:00 PJ Masks  
13:30 PJ Masks  
14:00 P-King Duckling  
14:30 Vampirina  
15:00 Puppy Dog Pals  
15:30 Sofia The First  
16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
16:30 Doc McStuffins  
17:00 PJ Masks  
17:05 PJ Masks  
17:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
18:00 The Lion Guard  
18:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
19:00 Trulli Tales  
19:30 The Lion Guard  
20:00 Vampirina  
20:30 PJ Masks  
21:00 Trulli Tales  
21:30 Sofia The First  
22:00 P-King Duckling  
22:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
23:00 Miles From Tomorrow  
23:30 PJ Masks

**Discovery Channel HD**

00:15 Ice Cold Gold  
01:05 Killing Fields: Murder Isle  
01:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert  
02:35 Kidnap And Rescue  
03:20 Street Outlaws  
04:05 Buying Alaska  
04:27 Buying Alaska  
04:50 Kindig Customs  
05:35 Storage Hunters  
06:00 The Liquidator  
06:23 Property Wars  
06:45 Storage Hunters  
07:10 Storage Wars Canada  
07:35 Buying Alaska  
07:57 Buying Alaska  
08:20 The Liquidator  
08:45 Property Wars  
09:10 Dirty Jobs  
09:55 Buying Alaska  
10:20 Buying Alaska  
10:45 Dirty Jobs  
11:30 Ice Cold Gold  
12:20 The Liquidator  
12:43 Property Wars  
13:05 Storage Hunters  
13:30 Storage Wars Canada  
13:55 Dirty Jobs  
14:40 Ice Cold Gold  
15:30 Dirty Jobs  
16:15 Manhunt With Joel Lambert  
17:05 The Liquidator  
17:28 Property Wars  
17:50 Buying Alaska  
18:15 Buying Alaska  
18:40 Flipping Ships  
19:25 Ice Cold Gold  
20:15 Diesel Brothers  
21:00 Street Outlaws vs Fast N' Loud  
21:50 Street Outlaws vs Fast N' Loud  
22:40 Twin Turbos  
23:30 Fast N' Loud

**XFL**

06:00 DuckTales  
06:25 Lab Rats  
06:50 Gravity Falls  
07:15 Marvel's Spider-Man

07:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
07:45 Lab Rats: On The Edge  
08:35 DuckTales  
09:00 DuckTales  
09:25 Mighty Med  
09:50 Mighty Med  
10:20 Phineas & Ferb  
10:45 Phineas & Ferb  
11:10 Lab Rats  
11:35 Lab Rats  
12:00 Right Now Kapow  
12:25 Two More Eggs  
12:30 Right Now Kapow  
12:55 Kirby Buckets Warped  
13:20 Kirby Buckets Warped  
13:45 Gravity Falls  
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
14:15 Johnny Kapa'hala: Back On Board  
15:45 Milo Murphy's Law  
15:55 Two More Eggs  
16:00 DuckTales  
16:25 DuckTales  
16:50 Mech-X4  
17:15 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man  
18:05 Gravity Falls  
18:35 Right Now Kapow  
19:00 DuckTales  
19:25 DuckTales  
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot  
19:55 Kickin' It  
20:20 Kickin' It  
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
21:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot  
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
21:45 Lab Rats  
22:10 Lab Rats  
22:35 Phineas & Ferb  
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

**EHD**

00:05 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
00:55 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
01:50 E! News  
02:50 Botched  
03:40 Botched  
04:35 Botched  
05:30 Celebrity Style Story  
06:00 Botched  
06:55 E! News Middle East  
07:10 Botched  
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop  
09:10 WAGs Miami  
10:05 WAGs Miami  
11:00 WAGs Miami  
12:00 E! News Middle East  
12:15 Botched  
13:10 Botched  
15:00 E! News Middle East  
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop  
16:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
17:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
18:05 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
19:00 E! News  
20:00 Botched  
21:00 Citizen Rose  
23:00 E! News Middle East  
23:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

**itv HD CHOICE**

00:10 Alphabetical  
01:00 Emmerdale  
01:30 Coronation Street  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 The Chase  
03:25 Cannonball  
04:20 Change Your Tune  
05:15 Alphabetical  
06:15 Guess This House  
07:10 The Chase  
08:05 Cannonball  
09:00 Change Your Tune  
09:55 Alphabetical  
11:00 Guess This House  
11:50 The Chase  
12:45 Emmerdale  
13:15 Emmerdale  
13:45 Coronation Street

14:15 Guess This House  
15:10 The Chase  
16:00 Prince Harry And Meghan Truly, Madly, Deeply  
16:55 Prince Harry In Africa  
17:50 Alphabetical  
18:50 Emmerdale  
19:15 Emmerdale  
19:45 Coronation Street  
20:10 The Chase  
21:00 Prince Harry And Meghan Truly, Madly, Deeply  
21:55 Prince Harry In Africa  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Emmerdale  
23:40 Coronation Street

**ITV2 HD**

00:00 Ancient Discoveries  
01:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
02:00 UFO Hunters  
02:50 Ancient Aliens  
03:40 Ancient Impossible  
04:30 Hoard Hunters  
05:20 Hangar I: The UFO Files  
06:10 Hangar I: The UFO Files  
07:00 Ancient Discoveries  
08:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
09:00 UFO Hunters  
10:00 Ancient Aliens  
11:00 Ancient Impossible  
12:00 Hoard Hunters  
13:00 Ancient Discoveries  
14:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
15:00 UFO Hunters  
16:00 Ancient Aliens  
17:00 Ancient Impossible  
18:00 Ancient Discoveries  
19:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
20:00 UFO Hunters  
21:00 Ancient Aliens  
22:00 Missing In Alaska  
23:00 Hoard Hunters

**NAT GEO people HD**

00:15 United Plates Of America  
00:45 Maximum Foodie  
01:10 Miguel's Feasts  
01:40 The Diving Women Of Jeju  
02:35 Bangkok Airport  
03:30 What's For Sale?  
03:55 A Is For Apple  
04:25 Dog Whisperer  
05:20 Dog Whisperer  
06:15 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
07:10 The Diving Women Of Jeju  
08:05 Bangkok Airport  
09:00 What's For Sale?  
09:25 A Is For Apple  
09:55 Dog Whisperer  
10:50 Dog Whisperer  
11:45 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
12:40 David Rocco's Dolce India  
13:05 David Rocco's Dolce India  
13:35 Bangkok Airport  
14:30 A Is For Apple  
14:55 A Is For Apple  
15:25 Dog Whisperer  
16:20 Dog Whisperer  
17:15 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
18:10 Street Food Around The World  
18:35 A Taste Of South Africa  
19:05 Bangkok Airport  
20:00 A Is For Apple  
20:30 A Is For Apple  
21:00 Dog Whisperer  
22:00 Dog Whisperer  
22:55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
23:50 Street Food Around The World

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD**

00:10 Nazi Death Camp: The Great Escape  
01:00 Mega Breakdown  
02:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey  
03:00 One Strange Rock  
04:00 Nazi Death Camp: The Great Escape



## TV Listings

05:00 Situation Critical  
 06:00 Mega Factories  
 07:00 Jackie Chan's Green Heroes  
 08:00 Years Of Living Dangerously  
 09:00 Situation Critical  
 10:00 Breakout  
 11:00 Miracle Hospital  
 12:00 Route Awakening  
 12:30 Route Awakening  
 13:00 Mega Factories  
 14:00 Genius  
 15:00 Genius  
 16:00 Breakout  
 17:00 My Fighting Season  
 18:00 Nazi Death Camp: The Great Escape  
 19:00 Surrender  
 20:00 Breakout  
 20:50 My Fighting Season  
 21:40 Nazi Death Camp: The Great Escape  
 22:30 Surrender  
 23:20 Situation Critical



00:20 Africa's Hunters  
 01:10 World's Deadliest Compilations  
 02:00 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn  
 02:50 My Life Is A Zoo  
 03:45 Wild 24  
 04:40 Animals Gone Wild  
 05:35 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn  
 06:30 My Life Is A Zoo  
 07:25 Wild 24  
 08:20 Animals Gone Wild  
 09:15 Snakes In The City  
 10:10 Wild India  
 11:05 The Naked Superhero  
 12:00 Shark vs Predator  
 12:55 Africa's Hunters  
 13:50 Deadly Instincts  
 14:45 Wild Amazon  
 15:40 Alaska's Deadliest  
 16:35 Snakes In The City  
 17:30 Wild Nile  
 18:25 Alaska's Deadliest  
 19:20 Wild Amazon  
 20:10 Alaska's Deadliest  
 21:00 Snakes In The City  
 21:50 Wild Nile  
 22:40 Alaska's Deadliest  
 23:30 Shark vs Predator



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 00:36 Rabbids Invasion  
 01:00 Rabbids Invasion  
 01:24 Sanjay And Craig  
 01:48 Sanjay And Craig  
 02:12 Winx Club  
 02:36 Winx Club  
 03:00 Harvey Beaks  
 03:24 Harvey Beaks  
 03:48 Rabbids Invasion  
 04:12 Rabbids Invasion  
 04:36 Breadwinners  
 05:00 Breadwinners  
 05:24 The Loud House  
 05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 06:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 06:36 Harvey Beaks  
 07:00 Breadwinners  
 07:24 Get Blake  
 07:48 Sanjay And Craig  
 08:12 Rabbids Invasion  
 08:36 The Loud House  
 09:00 Regal Academy  
 09:24 Winx Club  
 09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School  
 10:12 Game Shakers  
 10:36 School Of Rock  
 11:00 Big Time Movie  
 12:12 Rank The Prank  
 12:36 Massive Monster Mayhem  
 13:00 Hunter Street  
 13:24 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
 13:48 Toon Marty  
 14:00 Toon Marty  
 14:12 Harvey Beaks  
 14:36 Breadwinners  
 15:00 Blurt!  
 15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 16:36 The Loud House

17:00 Toon Marty  
 17:12 Toon Marty  
 17:24 Massive Monster Mayhem  
 17:48 Hunter Street  
 18:12 Henry Danger  
 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
 19:00 School Of Rock  
 19:24 Game Shakers  
 19:48 The Thundermans  
 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 21:00 Harvey Beaks  
 21:24 Breadwinners  
 21:48 Get Blake  
 22:12 Sanjay And Craig  
 22:36 Rabbids Invasion  
 23:00 The Loud House  
 23:24 Regal Academy  
 23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:06 Max & Ruby  
 00:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
 00:40 Kiva Can Do!  
 00:51 The Day Henry Met  
 00:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 01:41 Paw Patrol  
 01:53 Kid-E-Cats  
 01:57 Kid-E-Cats  
 02:03 Shimmer And Shine  
 02:25 Nella The Princess Knight  
 02:37 Paw Patrol  
 03:00 Max & Ruby  
 03:23 Dora The Explorer  
 03:46 Sunny Day  
 04:08 Nella The Princess Knight  
 04:30 Shimmer And Shine  
 04:53 Wallykazam!  
 05:17 Zack & Quack  
 05:27 The Day Henry Met  
 05:32 The Day Henry Met  
 05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 06:00 Rusty Rivets  
 06:14 Paw Patrol  
 06:25 Paw Patrol  
 06:37 Dora The Explorer  
 07:00 Nella The Princess Knight  
 07:22 Kiva Can Do!  
 07:33 Kiva Can Do!  
 07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 08:06 Paw Patrol  
 08:17 Paw Patrol  
 08:29 Shimmer And Shine  
 08:52 Nella The Princess Knight  
 09:15 Paw Patrol  
 09:39 Rusty Rivets  
 10:02 Wallykazam!  
 10:24 The Day Henry Met  
 10:30 Bubble Guppies  
 10:54 Team Umizoomi  
 11:16 Kid-E-Cats  
 11:21 Shimmer And Shine  
 11:45 Sunny Day  
 12:07 Max & Ruby  
 12:30 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
 12:41 Kiva Can Do!  
 12:52 The Day Henry Met  
 12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 13:20 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 13:42 Paw Patrol  
 13:54 Kid-E-Cats  
 13:59 Kid-E-Cats  
 14:05 Shimmer And Shine  
 14:27 Nella The Princess Knight  
 14:39 Paw Patrol  
 15:02 Max & Ruby  
 15:24 Dora The Explorer  
 15:47 Sunny Day  
 16:09 Nella The Princess Knight  
 16:31 Shimmer And Shine  
 16:54 Wallykazam!  
 17:17 Zack & Quack  
 17:28 The Day Henry Met  
 17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 18:00 Rusty Rivets  
 18:14 Paw Patrol  
 18:25 Paw Patrol  
 18:37 Dora The Explorer  
 19:00 Nella The Princess Knight  
 19:22 Kiva Can Do!  
 19:33 Kiva Can Do!  
 19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines

20:06 Paw Patrol  
 20:30 Shimmer And Shine  
 20:53 Nella The Princess Knight  
 21:16 Paw Patrol  
 21:39 Rusty Rivets  
 22:02 Wallykazam!  
 22:25 The Day Henry Met  
 22:31 Bubble Guppies  
 22:54 Team Umizoomi  
 23:17 Kid-E-Cats  
 23:22 Shimmer And Shine  
 23:45 Sunny Day



00:20 How I Met Your Mother  
 00:45 How I Met Your Mother  
 01:10 Seinfeld  
 01:35 Seinfeld  
 02:00 Til Death  
 02:25 Men At Work  
 02:50 Men At Work  
 03:15 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
 04:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
 04:50 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 05:40 The Michael J. Fox Show  
 06:05 Til Death  
 06:30 The Good Place  
 06:55 Mom  
 07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
 08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
 09:50 The Simpsons  
 10:15 The Last Man On Earth  
 10:40 The Michael J. Fox Show  
 11:05 Til Death  
 11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 12:20 The Good Place  
 12:45 Mom  
 13:10 How I Met Your Mother  
 13:35 How I Met Your Mother  
 14:00 Seinfeld  
 14:25 Seinfeld  
 14:50 The Michael J. Fox Show  
 15:15 The Simpsons  
 15:40 The Last Man On Earth  
 16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 17:00 The Good Place  
 17:30 Mom  
 18:00 How I Met Your Mother  
 18:30 How I Met Your Mother  
 19:00 Seinfeld  
 19:30 Seinfeld  
 20:00 The Carmichael Show  
 20:30 The Carmichael Show  
 21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
 22:00 Better Late Than Never  
 23:00 Hit The Road  
 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:45 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest  
 03:30 The Little Mermaid  
 05:00 The Game Plan  
 07:00 The Lion King  
 08:45 Pocahontas  
 10:15 The Little Mermaid 2: Return To The Sea  
 11:45 The Game Plan  
 13:45 Finding Dory  
 15:30 Planes  
 17:15 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End  
 20:15 Alice Through The Looking Glass  
 22:15 Finding Dory



00:00 The Americans  
 01:05 APB  
 01:55 The Fosters  
 02:40 Lethal Weapon  
 03:30 S.W.A.T.  
 04:20 The Americans  
 05:20 Chicago Med  
 06:10 Switched At Birth  
 07:00 Good Morning America  
 09:00 The View  
 10:00 S.W.A.T.  
 11:00 Chicago Med  
 12:00 Switched At Birth  
 13:00 Chicago P.D.  
 14:00 Lethal Weapon  
 15:00 The View

16:00 Live Good Morning America  
 18:00 Switched At Birth  
 19:00 Chicago Med  
 20:00 Chicago P.D.  
 21:00 Survivor: Ghost Island  
 22:00 Once Upon A Time  
 23:00 WWE Experience



01:20 A Stand Up Guy  
 02:45 A Date With Miss Fortune  
 04:25 Made In America  
 06:20 The Discoverers  
 08:05 The Family Fang  
 09:55 A Date With Miss Fortune  
 11:35 Made In America  
 13:30 The Discoverers  
 15:15 The Family Fang  
 17:05 Little Loopers  
 18:40 Barbershop: The Next Cut  
 20:35 Sam  
 22:20 Get A Job  
 23:50 Stay Hungry



00:55 Jennifer Eight  
 03:05 The Challenger  
 04:50 All The Wilderness  
 06:15 The Benefactor  
 08:00 The Challenger  
 09:45 The Shamer's Daughter  
 11:30 Newsies: The Broadway Musical  
 13:50 Little Man Tate  
 15:35 The Salesman  
 17:45 Reds  
 21:05 The Kite Runner  
 23:15 Amistad



00:35 Back To The Sea  
 02:15 Catcher: Cat City 2  
 03:55 Rainbow Valley Heroes  
 05:30 Freddy Frogface  
 07:00 Ploddy Police Car  
 08:20 A Town Called Panic  
 09:45 Ivan The Incredible  
 11:15 Moomin And Midsummer Madness  
 12:40 Rainbow Valley Heroes  
 14:15 Freddy Frogface  
 15:45 The Adventures Of Scooter The Penguin  
 17:15 Ivan The Incredible  
 18:45 Felix The Toy Rabbit And The Time Machine  
 20:15 Ozzy  
 21:55 The Adventures Of Scooter The Penguin  
 23:25 A Town Called Panic



01:55 Oleanna  
 03:35 Alvin And The Chipmunks: The Road Chip  
 05:15 Eyes Of An Angel  
 06:55 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Dog Days  
 08:40 Around The World In 80 Days  
 10:50 A Thousand Words  
 12:25 Star Trek Beyond  
 14:35 Ice Age: Collision Course  
 16:15 Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children  
 18:25 Splash  
 20:20 My Super Ex-Girlfriend  
 22:00 Wild At Heart



00:30 How Do They Do It?  
 00:55 Food Factory USA  
 01:20 Street Science  
 01:45 Street Science  
 02:10 Da Vinci's Machines  
 03:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
 03:48 Mythbusters

04:36 How Do They Do It?  
 05:00 Food Factory USA  
 05:24 Street Science  
 05:48 Street Science  
 06:12 Da Vinci's Machines  
 07:00 How Do They Do It?  
 07:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
 08:14 Mythbusters  
 09:02 Da Vinci's Machines  
 09:50 How Do They Do It?  
 10:14 Food Factory USA  
 10:38 Street Science  
 11:02 Street Science  
 11:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
 12:14 Mythbusters  
 13:02 How Do They Do It?  
 13:26 Food Factory USA  
 13:50 Da Vinci's Machines  
 14:38 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
 15:26 Street Science  
 15:50 Street Science  
 16:14 Mythbusters  
 17:02 Da Vinci's Machines  
 17:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
 18:40 Mythbusters  
 19:30 How The Universe Works  
 20:20 How Do They Do It?  
 20:45 Food Factory USA  
 21:10 Da Vinci's Machines  
 22:00 How The Universe Works  
 22:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
 23:40 Mythbusters



01:05 Pink  
 03:00 Pink  
 03:30 The Front Row  
 04:05 Koffee With Karan  
 05:00 Coolie No.1  
 07:35 Sargam  
 10:20 One Two Three  
 12:50 Khatta Meetha  
 15:40 Guest In London  
 17:55 Dishoom  
 20:00 Ek Villain  
 22:20 Waiting



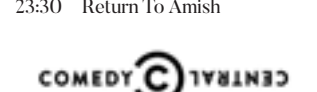
00:30 The Aviator  
 03:15 Hyde Park On Hudson  
 04:45 Frank  
 06:15 A Walk To Remember  
 08:00 The Animal  
 09:30 The Blair Witch Project  
 11:00 Australia  
 14:00 Hyde Park On Hudson  
 15:30 When Love Came To Town  
 17:15 The Aviator  
 20:00 The Imitation Game  
 22:00 The Singing Detective  
 23:45 Heshner



00:00 Mistresses  
 01:00 Mistresses  
 02:00 Grey's Anatomy  
 03:00 Married At First Sight  
 04:00 Who Lives Here?  
 04:30 Who Lives Here?  
 05:00 Devious Maids  
 06:00 Mistresses  
 07:00 Mistresses  
 08:00 Grey's Anatomy  
 09:00 Married At First Sight  
 10:00 Who Lives Here?  
 10:30 Who Lives Here?  
 11:00 Devious Maids  
 12:00 Mistresses  
 14:00 Grey's Anatomy  
 15:00 Married At First Sight  
 16:00 Who Lives Here?  
 16:30 Who Lives Here?  
 17:00 Along For The Bride  
 17:30 Along For The Bride  
 18:00 The Fashion Fund  
 19:00 The Fashion Fund  
 20:00 Project Runway All Stars  
 21:00 Project Runway  
 22:00 Project Runway  
 23:00 Grey's Anatomy



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress  
 01:05 90 Days To Wed  
 01:50 90 Days To Wed: Before The 90 Days  
 02:35 Unveiled  
 02:57 Unveiled  
 03:20 Our Little Family  
 03:43 Our Little Family  
 04:05 My Big Fat Fabulous Life  
 04:50 My 600lb Life: Where Are They Now?  
 05:35 Say Yes To The Dress  
 06:00 Our Little Family  
 06:23 Our Little Family  
 06:46 Our Little Family  
 07:09 Our Little Family  
 07:31 Our Little Family  
 07:53 Our Little Family  
 08:15 Say Yes To The Dress  
 09:00 Cake Boss  
 09:25 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 09:47 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 10:10 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 10:32 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 10:55 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 11:17 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 11:40 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 12:02 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 12:25 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 Bridesmaids  
 12:47 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 Bridesmaids  
 13:10 7 Little Johnstons  
 13:55 Say Yes To The Dress  
 14:40 Cake Boss  
 15:02 Cake Boss  
 15:25 Cake Boss  
 15:47 Cake Boss  
 16:10 Cake Boss  
 16:35 Cake Boss  
 17:00 Little People, Big World  
 17:50 Diva Brides  
 18:50 Hair Goddess  
 19:40 Cake Boss  
 20:10 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 20:35 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
 21:00 Sister Wives  
 21:50 Little People, Big World  
 22:40 Too Ugly For Love?  
 23:30 Return To Amish



00:05 This Is Not Happening  
 00:30 Tosh.0  
 00:55 Russell Simmons Presents The Ruckus  
 01:20 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper  
 01:45 South Park  
 02:10 South Park  
 02:35 Tosh.0  
 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
 03:25 South Park  
 03:50 South Park  
 04:15 Ridiculousness Arabia  
 04:40 Workaholics  
 05:05 Workaholics  
 05:30 Workaholics  
 05:55 Workaholics  
 06:20 Workaholics  
 06:50 Lip Sync Battle  
 08:55 Friends  
 09:20 Friends  
 09:45 Friends  
 10:10 Hillbillies For Hire  
 10:35 Hillbillies For Hire  
 11:00 Friendszone  
 13:05 Disaster Date  
 13:30 Disaster Date  
 13:55 Disaster Date  
 14:20 Key And Peele  
 14:44 Key And Peele  
 15:08 Key And Peele  
 16:25 Takeshis Castle Thailand  
 16:50 Takeshis Castle Thailand  
 17:15 Friends  
 17:37 Friends  
 17:59 Friends  
 18:21 Friends  
 19:05 Nathan For You  
 20:30 Graves  
 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
 21:30 The Opposition With Jordan Klepper



## Stars

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

Something you've wanted badly shows up causing serious temptation! Think carefully before making a decision that could cause drastic changes. Vibrations of self control is available if you choose to accept them. Your contributions are held in high esteem and very welcome. Taking one more look at a perplexing problem reveals answers you have sought for some time. On a personal note, if you demand too much you could do irreparable damage. The mood to see about your personal financial affairs is prominent. You could be quick witted and fast with your words; stay in control of this or you could create a rift. Enjoy some time outside this evening; now could be the time to try out one of your new electronic gadgets with a friend.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**

Your mind is focused on what needs to be done; when blockages occur you become hard to deal with. Friends call on you to pitch in on a large project; your contributions help more than you know. The budget for this project forces you to do with less but the group overcomes to complete a nice finished product. You stay quiet when someone comes in with some gossip; avoid adding your thoughts as this is petty behavior you don't like. When a minor emergency arises you think of taking from savings; remember you don't need every item you want. You are impractical later when you spend money on an item you feel you need to stay in competition with others. Money matters could prove tough if you continue spending foolishly.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**

You realize your worth and have a much better opinion of yourself. You could discover that you have warm feelings for an elder or a person in authority. You stumble upon something you have been wanting to purchase; be mindful of your budget and you could actually find it at a better price another time. Keep an eye on your pocket book as there could be someone wanting you to be generous when perhaps you shouldn't. You could be overwhelmed with getting your affairs in order; this could pertain to personal business or a work situation. You could seem anxious when you're actually only impatient; make sure to take a deep breath and try to slow down. Someone compliments your taste and beautiful or handsome appearance.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

Accomplishment is the name of the game as you wrap up your plans to complete a project; positive results soon! You keep your eyes on the prize as you cut a straight path to reaching a certain milestone in life; this could indicate marriage, birthday, retirement or the like. The energy of the day is connected as though magically. An initiation into a club you'd rather not join is near. This may mean experiencing something unwanted, but remember we sometimes find joy through unwanted events. You could look deeply at yourself and those you surround yourself with. You like duties and tasks required by your job or profession. Self-respect is growing; you feel content this evening as you open a letter from someone you miss.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

You could feel this day is one of boredom and a total waste of time; in actuality, surprising results could be set into motion, keep your eyes open to this possibility. If you feel disoriented or excluded there could be a good reason; can you think of any of your quirks and unusual way of thinking is admired by some you spend time with. You lend a helping hand to a friend in need that's helped you in the past. Your ideas about eternity and what happens as we age are striking; listen to intuition when seeking answers in this area. Your down to earth approach to a project turns out to be more valuable than you thought. You figure out a workable plan for the team to use. Your love of beautiful things is highlighted as you visit a museum or antique shop.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**

Your focus is on finishing up the details of a project your happy to see ending. You're serious about getting your emotional affairs in order and coming to some realizations spurs this on. The sense of confusion and foggy lifts and drifts away; try meditating and focusing on your desires to help with this. While you're certain of your methods and direction, others aren't and they don't mind saying so in what could seem a very rude manner. Take a moment and listen to the other side of things; your open minded attitude snaps to the obvious conclusion with ease. You ponder the afterlife, various mysteries of other spiritual realms, the possibility of their existence. Make no decisions this evening as you'd only have to redo them tomorrow.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)**

You know who you are and, as you examine it, you feel good about your direction. If there are rough edges, as there are with most human beings, flaws help us to remain humble if we're smart enough to see them. A sense of peace, prosperity and general happiness are prominent just now and into the year. This is by and large nice a period for you as you meet new people and go new places; you'll look back on this time with fondness. You complete tasks or duties almost automatically and with speed and accuracy that others appreciate; you could be considered for a raise! If you encounter problems or slow-downs, you'll figure out how to get around or fix them; let your unique interests or hobbies relax you into the evening. Sweet dreams, idealistic.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

Something or someone you absolutely can't resist shows up unexpectedly! You wrestle with doing the right thing; remember, we get what we give. If you insist on having your way in a certain situation you could do irreparable harm; this is written in the stars, heed it. You could allow yourself to be misled as you have in the past; learn from past mistakes or you set yourself up to have to learn again. You desire to keep something you have loved and worked hard for; you're in a position to find the will to win if you choose. When you're called on for a donation of time or money you gladly oblige and plan to help further. You could feel lonely or discarded; have you hurt someone's feelings meditate and relax with someone special tonight.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**

You're in touch with the feelings and opinions of others, perhaps too much so. Time spent with someone close to your heart recharges your mind and your spirit. Your new exercise program and food changes agree with you and someone says so. A feeling of comfort and satisfaction is prevalent at this time and into the month. Your skills of persuasion could land you in trouble; be careful who you share financial plans with. Circumstances give you the perfect opening to perform at your highest level regarding your work. You could become restless if you spend too long in a meeting or at an appointment. You may not like the new information you receive, but it's nice to have a clue when something shocking is headed your way.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

Stay on the straight and narrow right now instead of taking risks. You struggle to be satisfied with mundane, ordinary things but now's not the time to try anything you're uncertain about. You may have to deal with some painful truths about yourself; remember, though, you can only fix it if you can see it! Mental powers are strong and clear. You have no shortage of dear friends who love you. You're in touch with those around you and they know it; everyone looks to you to solve any problems or blockages that arise! You suspect someone of trying to do something behind your back or of talking about you to others; keep this to yourself and continue to observe. You hear scandalous gossip this evening regarding someone you know.

**Aquarius (January 20-February 18)**

There are those at work today that don't like your new methods and they say so. It would be best to stick with the old ways at work and let things proceed as usual. You could want to recede and stay to yourself today but be careful not to come across as pouting or brooding. Continuing your organizational tasks could prove a valuable distraction and produces rewarding results. This could be the evening you try a new recipe for dinner as you continue on your quest for health. Give some special attention to your life-mate this evening, there could be a bit of insecurity involved. Someone needs your help on a matter of private issues. It's okay to be assertive! You can clearly see the problem and counsel this dear one on how to solve it.

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**

You may come face to face with your insecurities and thinking; it could seem as though you are on the outside looking in. The realm of dreams and cosmic laws will continue to be a fascination you can't do without; let yourself relax when you research these subjects. Items you have looked for will become available to you perhaps via the internet. Watch your money; just because you have it doesn't mean you absolutely have to spend it. If you feel disgruntled with your home or belongings, remember this energy will be short lived. You may hold something against someone that you think let you down; release this and keep going. At home you may enjoy a late nap and early dinner with loved ones who could surprise you with a small gift.

## COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Jordan	00962
Albania	00355	Kazakhstan	007
Algeria	00213	Kenya	00254
Andorra	00376	Kiribati	00686
Angola	00244	Kuwait	00965
Anguilla	001264	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Antigua	001268	Laos	00856
Argentina	0054	Latvia	00371
Armenia	00374	Lebanon	00961
Australia	0061	Liberia	00231
Austria	0043	Libya	00218
Bahamas	001242	Lithuania	00370
Bahrain	00973	Luxembourg	00352
Bangladesh	00880	Macau	00853
Barbados	001246	Macedonia	00389
Belarus	00375	Madagascar	00261
Belgium	0032	Majorca	0034
Belize	00501	Malawi	00265
Benin	00229	Malaysia	0060
Bermuda	001441	Maldives	00960
Bhutan	00975	Mali	00223
Bolivia	00591	Malta	00356
Bosnia	00387	Marshall Islands	00692
Botswana	00267	Martinique	00596
Brazil	0055	Mauritania	00222
Brunei	00673	Mauritius	00230
Bulgaria	00359	Mayotte	00269
Burkina Faso	00226	Mexico	0052
Burundi	00257	Micronesia	00691
Cambodia	00855	Moldova	00373
Cameroon	00237	Monaco	00377
Canada	001	Mongolia	00976
Cape Verde	00238	Montserrat	001664
Cayman Islands	001345	Morocco	00212
Central African Republic	00236	Mozambique	00258
Chad	00235	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Chile	0056	Namibia	00264
China	0086	Nepal	00977
Colombia	0057	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Comoros	00269	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Congo	00242	New Caledonia	00687
Cook Islands	00682	New Zealand	0064
Costa Rica	00506	Nicaragua	00505
Croatia	00385	Niger	00227
Cuba	0053	Nigeria	00234
Cyprus	00357	Niue	00683
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Norfolk Island	00672
Czech Republic	00420	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Denmark	0045	North Korea	00850
Diego Garcia	00246	Norway	0047
Djibouti	00253	Oman	00968
Dominica	001767	Pakistan	0092
Dominican Republic	001809	Palau	00680
Ecuador	00593	Panama	00507
Egypt	0020	Papua New Guinea	00675
El Salvador	00503	Paraguay	001758
England (UK)	0044	Peru	0051
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Philippines	0063
Eritrea	00291	Poland	0048
Estonia	00372	Portugal	00351
Ethiopia	00251	Puerto Rico	001787
Falkland Islands	00500	Qatar	00974
Faroe Islands	00298	Romania	0040
Fiji	00679	Russian Federation	007
Finland	00358	Rwanda	00250
France	0033	Saint Helena	00290
French Guiana	00594	Saint Kitts	001869
French Polynesia	00689	Saint Lucia	001758
Gabon	00241	Saint Pierre	00508
Gambia	00220	Saint Vincent	001784
Georgia	00995	Samoa US	00684
Germany	0049	Samoa West	00685
Ghana	00233	San Marino	00378
Gibraltar	00350	Sao Tome	00239
Greece	0030	Saudi Arabia	00966
Greenland	00299	Scotland (UK)	0044
Grenada	001473	Senegal	00221
Guadeloupe	00590	Seychelles	00284
Guam	001671	Sierra Leone	00232
Guatemala	00502	Singapore	0065
Guinea	00224	Slovakia	00421
Guyana	00592	Slovenia	00386
Haiti	00509	Solomon Islands	00677
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Somalia	00252
Honduras	00504	South Africa	0027
Hong Kong	00852	South Korea	0082
Hungary	0036	Spain	0034
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sri Lanka	0094
Iceland	00354	Sudan	00249
India	0091	Suriname	00597
Indian Ocean	00873	Swaziland	00268
Indonesia	0062	Sweden	0046
Iran	0098	Switzerland	0041
Iraq	00964	Syria	00963
Ireland	00353	Taiwan	00886
Italy	0039	Tanzania	00255
Ivory Coast	00225	Thailand	0066
Jamaica	001876	Toga	00228
Japan	0081	Tonga	00676



Health

# Brotherly bond saves French burn victim

PARIS: "Life". For Franck Dufourmantelle the word tattooed on his charred arm in English was like "a nod from destiny". The 34-year-old French laboratory technician from the northern city of Amiens was given less than a one-percent chance of survival after a workplace accident in September 2016, when a can of chemicals he was holding exploded, setting him ablaze.

The burns covered 95 percent of his body, sparing only his pubis, feet and face-plus the prophetic tattoo, now framed by thick pink scars. Eighteen months later, thanks to skin grafts from his twin brother Eric, Franck has made a miraculous recovery and is set to give life himself, as an ex-

pectant father. His story is one of courage, genetic luck and medical ambition.

In most serious burn cases, the skin of a deceased, unrelated donor is grafted on. While the skin is likely to be rejected it acts as a place-holder while new skin grows or doctors harvest skin from other parts of the body. But Franck had almost none left. In stepped Eric, who gave up nearly half his own skin to save his brother's life.

**'Like wearing a jumpsuit'**

"The crazy thing," Eric told AFP in an interview together with his brother Franck, was that at first their twinhood almost went unnoticed. The doctors

had only seen Franck's face when it was covered in bandages, so they couldn't see the resemblance. It was Eric's insistence on helping, when all looked lost, that clinched the decision of surgeon Maurice Mimoun at Saint-Louis Hospital in Paris.

The advantage of a skin graft between identical twins is there is no chance of rejection, since they're genetically the same. But doctors had never carried out a twin-on-twin skin transplant over such a large area, with previous reported cases in the world ranging from six to 68 percent of the patient's body. Franck underwent about a dozen operations, during which doctors grafted on skin taken from his brother's skull, back and thighs.

Before the transfer, the doctors stretched the skin in a machine to cover a larger area, giving it a somewhat taut appearance. Today, Eric only has a few red patches on his back, the remaining traces of where his skin was "peeled off with a knife." Franck's arms and hands, by contrast, are ribbed with red welts and puckered where the skin is pulled tight. He still has "a sense of discomfort, like wearing a jumpsuit" and is looking at years of rehabilitation, including between 10 and 20 years of thermal spa treatments. But he can already write, eat with his right hand and "do other daily movements", including lighting up the occasional cigarette. —AFP

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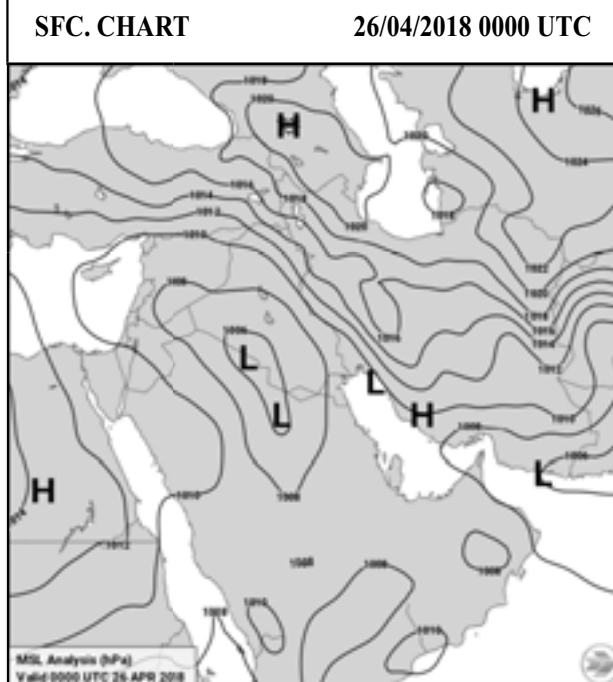
## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Unstable with moderate to fresh south easterly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h causing rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

**BY NIGHT:** Unstable with moderate to fresh south easterly wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 22 - 60 km/h causing rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

<b>WEATHER WARNING</b>	Unstable weather
------------------------	------------------

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	32 °C	26 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	34 °C	20 °C
ABDALY	35 °C	23 °C
BUBYAN	28 °C	22 °C
JAHRA	34 °C	24 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	31 °C	23 °C
SALMIYAH	27 °C	25 °C
AHMADI	28 °C	24 °C
NUWAISIB	31 °C	22 °C
WAFRA	32 °C	21 °C
SALMY	34 °C	21 °C



## 4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	04/27	Partly cloudy to cloudy and rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	35 °C	21 °C	SE-S	20 - 55 km/h
Saturday	04/28	Partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain	33 °C	22 °C	SE-VRB	08 - 32 km/h
Sunday	04/29	Relatively hot and some scattered clouds will appear	34 °C	22 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Monday	04/30	Relatively hot and some high clouds will appear	36 °C	23 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 30 km/h

## PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	03:45
Sunrise	05:10
Zuhr	11:46
Asr	15:21
Sunset	18:21
Isha	19:43

## RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	32 °C
MIN. Temp.	23 °C
MAX. RH	37 %
MIN. RH	19 %
MAX. Wind	SE 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

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has changed my name to  
Durgam Ganganna.(C 5395)  
23-4-2018

## EMERGENCY

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## AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787



# Business

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

**39** The disappearing jobs of yesterday



**40** Deutsche Bank cuts deeper to fight its profit plunge



**41** Asia equities mostly down on tech selling but dollar rises



BEIJING: A Dongfeng Aeolus car is displayed at the Beijing auto show. —AFP

## China's electric carmakers bloom

### Chinese motoring ahead at Beijing auto show

**BEIJING:** Auto executives from across the globe are plugging their plans for an electric car future in China at the Beijing auto show, but they will find their Chinese counterparts are already motoring ahead. Local carmakers and upstarts flaunted their latest plug-in models at the industry extravaganza this week, from sedans to SUVs and futuristic supercars fitted with the latest gadgets. While American, Japanese and European auto giants dominate sales of combustion engine vehicles, Chinese firms are in the driver's seat when it comes to electric cars. Policymakers in Beijing have been pushing the market to go electric, using a carrot and stick to drag along consumers and automakers through a quota system for manufacturers and subsidies to car buyers.

China hopes to reduce its dependence on imported

oil and cut pollution, both strategic priorities for Beijing, and it has announced plans to phase out fossil fuel vehicles at a yet-to-be-decided date. Unable to seed a company capable of competing on the global stage, the shift conveniently provides China a new opportunity to foster local champions in the world's largest car market. Unencumbered by history and the billions sunk into refining gasoline engines, electric presents a clean competitive slate for homegrown automakers.

"The entry hurdle is lower with an electric drive train than it has been with a combustion engine, which requires experience or where at least the contenders have experience of 130 years," Dieter Zetsche, head of Mercedes-Benz cars, said at the auto show. Zetsche welcomed the Chinese newcomers: "The moment you don't have competition you get lazy."

#### Xi's market goals

But it is unclear if the competition will take place on a level playing field. "The government is supporting the development of EVs," said Li Zhuhui, marketing manager at newcomer Hanteng Auto, which is pushing into the electric vehicle market. "There are financial incentives to research and build electric," he said. One key industrial policy wielded by Chinese President Xi Jinping called "Made in China 2025" aims for domestic automakers to control 70 percent of the electric vehicle market by 2020 and 80 percent by 2025. Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla motors, compared the environment to "competing in an Olympic race wearing lead shoes", in a tweet to United States President Donald Trump last month.

Still, China is one of Tesla's largest markets. Roughly

three-quarters of the gleaming electric car models on display in Beijing are homegrown, reflecting domestic firms' dominance on their home turf. Last year new energy vehicles sales exploded 53 percent to 780,000 units in China, though they still constitute only 2.7 percent of the market. International behemoths like Volkswagen and General Motors sold most of the 28.9 million units that changed hands here last year. Despite both companies—and a heap of other foreign automakers—announcing huge investments in electric projects recently, Chinese companies have beaten them to the pavement. China's BAIC ranked first in global EV sales last year, turning over 96,000 units, according to data from automotive research firm Jato Dynamics. Chinese firms ZD, Geely, BYD, Zotye and JAC also racked up enough sales to make the top ten list of EV sales by volume. —AFP



## Business

# Peak or pause? Global economy's hesitation unnerves markets

## Threats of a global trade war have hogged the headlines

**LONDON:** World markets entered 2018 speculating that the most synchronized global economic expansion in a decade was about to overheat but growth has since proved underwhelming. While missile strikes and threats of a global trade war have hogged the headlines, it's an unexpected loss of economic momentum, particularly in Europe, that has frightened investors who played down political risks for years and stayed firmly focused on brisk economic growth and rising corporate profits.

The recent surge in oil prices, adding inflation to the economic mix, may also weigh further on markets assessing whether a slowdown is afoot, or if the first quarter was merely a soft patch before the boom resumes. "For the first time in 18 months, markets no longer have the protective shield of growth momentum," said Luca Paolini, chief strategist at Pictet Asset Management, who so far considers the soft economic data an air pocket.

"There is not enough evidence to say this is the beginning of the end, yet if you look at fundamentals, there is deterioration relative to last year, no question about that." Big multilateral forecasters remain broadly optimistic. The International Monetary Fund predicts robust 3.9 percent growth for 2018 and next year, though it too warned last week of risks from trade tensions or the waning impact of US tax cuts. Data this week showed euro zone business morale worsened further in April, while German authorities have cut growth forecasts after business confidence hit its lowest level in more than a year. US first-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) data due on Friday is predicted by the latest Reuters polls to show a 2.2 percent expansion, down from a forecast in March of 2.6 percent growth.

Adding to investors' concerns are warnings from companies such as heavy equipment maker Caterpillar Inc., which said on Tuesday its forecast-beating first-quarter profits and sales were probably a high watermark for the year. Richard Turnill, global chief investment strategist at BlackRock, told clients equities would continue to do

well but he predicted lower returns and higher volatility than in 2017, partly because there was "less room for growth to top expectations."

### Reasons to be cautious

So where, besides Europe's faltering Purchasing Managers' Indexes (PMIs), are concerns about growth evident? Perhaps most illustrative are government bonds in Western countries where yield curves, the gap between short- and long-term interest rates, have inexorably narrowed all year - a fairly reliable indicator of growth pessimism. Some of the curve flattening has reversed slightly after the oil price jump increased inflation worries and lifted long-term yields. But the gap between US 2-year and 10-year yields remains almost 30 basis points below the highs hit this year. "I don't think the curve is telling us anything different from other indicators," Pictet's Paolini said. "It's telling you that over the next one to two years there is reason to be cautious."

Shipping market bellwether, the Baltic Dry Freight Index, fell to eight-month lows this month and while it has rebounded in recent days, it is still 20 percent off its December highs. Copper, another growth barometer, has come off four-year highs hit late in 2017. Then there are indexes that estimate how much pessimism or optimism is priced into markets, based on how often data beat or miss forecasts, and by how

much. Perhaps the most closely watched is Citi's Economic Surprise Index, which has slumped into the red after hitting 7-1/2-year highs at the end of 2017.

And finally, equities. After a record 15-month winning streak, world stocks are 7 percent below end-January highs. Even more telling, US shares in so-called defensive sectors such as telecoms and utilities have modestly outperformed cyclicals such as technology stocks since mid-March, Morgan Stanley analysts said last week. Defensive stocks usually fare better during downturns while cyclicals thrive in booms. The slight shift may indicate, "economic

growth is likely peaking not accelerating at this point in this cycle", Morgan Stanley told clients.

### Back in sync

What if markets are reading it wrong? Most still believe that while growth has stuttered rather than roared into 2018, a powerful expansion continues nonetheless. Seasonal adjustments after a long and severe Northern hemisphere winter, early Easter holidays and China's New Year, may also be to blame. Barclays, for instance, believes US growth did lose steam in the first quarter and has downgraded its forecasts. But it sees "residual seasonality" also playing a role. Even though the US government's Bureau of Economic Analysis has adjusted its methodology to account for seasonal factors, they still cause weak reported growth in the first quarter each year and buoyant activity later, Barclays said. In Europe too, analysts have blamed weak data on one-offs such as the harsh winter, Easter vacations and high sick levels of sick leave due to flu. Finally, some such as Sebastian Raedler at Deutsche Bank don't see indicators, market levels and growth forecasts as out of kilter. Instead, purchasing manager indexes were over-optimistic from late 2017, especially in the euro zone, he said.—AFP

“

Not the beginning of the end

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## Germany downbeat on trade tariffs

**BERLIN:** Germany expects US tariffs on European steel and aluminium products to kick in on May 1, a senior government official said before Chancellor Angela Merkel travels to Washington to meet US President Donald Trump today. Trade will be a major topic for discussion at the meeting, before an exemption from US tariffs on steel and aluminium imports granted to the European Union expires on May 1.

"From today's point of view, one has to expect that the tariffs will come on May 1," the official said, stressing Germany would continue to negotiate on the trade issue and try to reach a broader package across industries. "We want to negotiate industry tariffs overall," the official said, noting: "There are certain differences within Europe." Merkel's one-day trip follows a three-day state visit to Washington by French President Emmanuel Macron. Macron called on the United States not to abandon a multinational Iran nuclear deal as Western envoys said Britain, France and Germany were nearing a package that seeks to

persuade Trump to save the pact. Trump has described the 2015 accord, under which Iran agreed to curb its nuclear activities in return for the lifting of economic sanctions, as the worst deal ever negotiated and has threatened to wreck it by reimposing US penalties next month unless the three European allies agree to fix its "flaws". "The premise of Macron's proposal is that the agreement remains in its existing form and additional elements come on top," another German government official said. "In our view this agreement should be maintained."

Trump may try to seize on a planned Russian gas pipeline running under the Baltic Sea to Germany as a bargaining chip during the talks. The United States sees the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline as a threat to Europe's energy security. Merkel appeared to harden her line on the pipeline project earlier this month, saying: "It is not just an economic issue but there are also political considerations." But the German officials defended the project, arguing that Germany was not making itself more dependent on Russia by agreeing to the pipeline. "Our analysis is ... that does not make us more dependent on Russia," one of the two officials said. "Russia is a very reliable supplier." The official also said in an effort to reassure Ukraine, which is worried it will lose earnings from its gas transit pipeline, Germany was trying to help find foreign investors for the infrastructure.—Reuters

## Italy presents conservative economic plan

**ROME:** Italy's caretaker government yesterday passed its latest multi-year economic plan, confirming most of the forecasts made in September as political parties have been unable to form a new government since last month's inconclusive election. Speaking after a cabinet meeting, Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoan said gross domestic product (GDP) would rise 1.5 percent this year, the same rate as last year.

He said the forecast was "prudent" even though much recent economic data has pointed to a slowdown, including monthly drops in industrial output in January and February. The Economic and Financial Document (DEF) had to be sent to Brussels, which reviews it, this month. Since the March 4 national election ended with a

hung parliament, the Democratic Party (PD), which heads the caretaker government, passed the DEF.

At the vote, a centre-right alliance led by the anti-immigrant League won the most seats, and the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement emerged as the biggest single party. The centre-left PD came in a distant third. Whatever new government emerges, the DEF's forecasts may be changed in September, just before Italy, which has the second-largest debt-to-GDP ratio in the euro zone after Greece, presents its draft 2019 budget.

The budget deficit will decline to 1.6 percent of GDP this year, down from 2.3 percent last year, Padoan said, also in line with the previous target. In 2019, GDP growth in the euro zone's third-largest economy is seen slowing to 1.4 percent, with growth projected at 1.3 percent in 2020. Debt is seen falling to 130.8 percent of GDP this year, down a percentage point from 2017, but up from the previous forecast of 130.0 percent. It will fall to 128.0 percent in 2019, according to the DEF.—Reuters



**NEW YORK CITY:** Traders work on the floor at the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange. — AFP



## Business

# The disappearing jobs of yesterday

People around the globe whose jobs are becoming increasingly rare



HONG KONG: Neon sign maker Wu Chi-kai poses during an interview.



KOLKATA: This picture taken on April 19, 2018 shows an Indian hand-pulled rickshaw runner transporting passengers. —AFP Photos

**PARIS:** Ahead of May Day, AFP reporters, video and photo teams spoke to men and women around the globe whose jobs are becoming increasingly rare, particularly as technology transforms societies.

## The last street clerks of Bogota

Inserting a blank sheet into her Remington Sperry, Candelaria Pinilla de Gomez starts typing. One of Bogota's street clerks, she has spent the last 40 years typing up countless thousands of documents. Aged 63, she is the only woman among the street clerks who have set up their tiny tables on the pavement outside a modern office block in Bogota. Wearing suits but no ties, the writers work in the open air, under a parasol, seated on a plastic chair with the typewriter on their knees.

Once upon a time, these clerks played an essential role—with public deeds, tax documents and contracts all passing through their hands. Pinilla de Gomez learned the trade from her husband when they arrived in the Colombian capital in the 1960s. He had a farm “but the guerrillas took it off him,” she says. “In Bogota, he told me I should learn how to type... and to spell. He taught me (the job) and then he died.” Cesar Diaz, now 68, prides himself on being the pioneer of a trade which has ended up becoming a “refuge” for pensioners looking to top up their monthly allowances.

They work from Monday to Friday and earn less than \$280 which is the minimum wage. Until now, they have managed to survive pretty much everything—except perhaps the advent of the internet. “These days, a mother will ask her son to download a form, fill it in and send it by internet,” admits Pinilla de Gomez. “That really screws things up for us.”

## Washerwomen disappearing like soap in water

Delia Veloz's hands have almost lost their fingerprints from the constant rhythmic motion of rubbing dirty clothes against rough stones at an old public laundry in Quito. With a mop of curly grey curls, this 74-year-old is one of the few people left in Ecuador who still practices the ancient and demanding work of a washerwoman—a trade which is increasingly rare due to the widespread use of domestic washing machines.

“I don't like washing machines, they don't wash very well. You can scrub things better by hand,” Veloz tells AFP with pride as she pours a jar of freezing water from the Andes over a jacket. For more than five

decades she has been working at the Ermita, a public laundry in the colonial centre of Quito with her rectangular stone, tank of water and various wires for hanging things out to dry.

For every 12 articles of clothing, she earns \$1.50 (1.20 euros) from her increasingly few customers—mostly those who don't have a washing machine or who prefer things to be washed by hand. On a good day, she can make between \$3 and \$6. In Quito, there are still at least five public laundries which were built in the first half of the 20th century. There are also those who come to use the laundry to wash their own clothes or those belonging to their employers—for which there is no fee. And once a month, they all get together to keep the premises neat and tidy.

## Waterboys beginning to run dry

The lack of running water in Kenya's poorest neighborhoods have, for the last 18 years, meant a living for Samson Muli, a water seller in Nairobi's Kibera slum. “Growing up I wanted to be a business man,” says the 42-year-old father of two, who supplies water to butchers, fishmongers and restaurants in the crowded Kenyatta market. Dressed in a dun dustcoat Muli uses a hose to fill his array of cylindrical 20-litre jerrycans with water from three freestanding 10,000-litre tanks. He loads 15 at a time onto a trolley, and hauls them off to his clients.

The margins are tiny—Muli buys water at five shillings (\$0.05) a can and sells for 15 — but it can add up to 1,000 shillings a day, enough to make a difference. “This job has changed my life because my children are able to go to school and I am able to afford to pay school fees for them,” he says. But Kenya's gradual development and the spreading provision of basic infrastructure, including piped water, means Muli's profitable days are numbered.

## Rickshaw pullers fade from India's streets

Mohammad Maqbool Ansari puffs and sweats as he pulls his rickshaw through Kolkata's teeming streets, a veteran of a grueling trade long outlawed in most parts of the world and slowly fading from India too. Kolkata is one of the last places on earth where pulled rickshaws still feature in daily life, but Ansari is among a dying breed still eking a living from this back-breaking labor. The 62-year-old has been pulling rickshaws for nearly four decades, hauling cargo and passengers by hand in drenching monsoon rains and stifling heat that envelops India's heaving eastern metropolis.

Their numbers are declining as pulled rickshaws are relegated to history, usurped by tuk tuks, Kolkata's famous yellow taxis and modern conveniences like Uber. Ansari cannot imagine life for Kolkata's thousands of rickshaw-wallahs if the job ceased to exist. “If we don't do it, how will we survive? We can't read or write. We can't do any other work. Once you start, that's it. This is our life,” he tells AFP. Sweating profusely on a searing-hot day, his singlet soaked and face dripping, Ansari skillfully weaved his rickshaw through crowded markets and bumper to bumper traffic.

Wearing simple shoes and a chequered sarong, the only real giveaway of his age is a long beard, snow white and frizzy, and a face weathered from a lifetime plying this trade. Twenty minutes later, he stops, wiping his face on a rag. The passenger offers him a glass of water—a rare blessing—and hands a bill over. “When it's hot, for a trip that costs 50 rupees (\$0.75) I'll ask for an extra 10 rupees. Some will give, some don't,” he says. “But I'm happy with being a rickshaw puller. I'm able to feed myself and my family.”

## Hong Kong's neon nostalgia

Neon sign maker Wu Chi-kai is one of the last remaining craftsmen of his kind in Hong Kong, a city where darkness never really falls thanks to the 24-hour glow of myriad lights. During his 30 years in the business, neon came to define the urban landscape, huge flashing signs protruding horizontally from the sides of buildings, advertising everything from restaurants to mahjong parlors. But with the growing popularity of brighter LED lights, seen as easier to maintain and more environmentally friendly, and government orders to remove some vintage signs deemed dangerous, the demand for specialists like Chi-kai has dimmed.

Despite a waning client-base, the 50-year-old continues in the trade, working with glass tubes dusted inside with fluorescent powder and containing various gases including neon or argon, as well as mercury, to create different colors. He bends them into shape over a powerful gas burner at a scorching 1,000 degrees Celsius. “Being able to twist straight glass materials into the shape I want, and later to make it glow—it's quite fun,” he tells AFP, though it is not without risks. Chi-kai works without a safety visor and has been scalded and cut by glass which sometimes cracks and explodes.

“The painful experiences are the memorable ones,” he adds philosophically. His father used to

scale Hong Kong's famous bamboo scaffolding while installing neon signs across the city. Believing the installation work too dangerous for his son, he instead encouraged him to learn to make the signs as a teenager. Chi-kai became one of only around 30 masters of the craft in Hong Kong, even in neon's heyday. Although demand is now significantly lower than at neon's peak in the 1980s, he says, there has been renewed interest and nostalgia for its gentler glow, immortalized in the atmospheric movies of award-winning Hong Kong director Wong Kar-wai. Some of Chi-kai's clients are now requesting pieces for indoor decoration. “I've been working with neon lights all my life. I can't think of anything else I'd be better suited for,” he says.

## Developing film as if digital didn't exist

With an ancient 50-year-old Olympus camera and an enlarger that he bought in 1980, Venezuelan photographer Rodrigo Benavides works his “magic” inside a tiny improvised darkroom at home. Although working with equipment and techniques that have virtually disappeared, he carries on as if digital photography doesn't exist. “Doesn't interest me at all,” he says.

Using his bathroom as a makeshift lab, he develops negatives, turning them into black and white prints. And it still fascinates him every time as the image slowly emerges on coming in to contact with the chemicals. “I have always tried to be economical with my resources, always have done, always will do,” he says, extolling the wonders of his Olympus 35 SP which uses a reel of film, doesn't need batteries and is completely manual.

Born in Caracas 58 years ago, he still remembers the excitement when, at the age of 19, he bought the enlarger in London. And it was there that he became a keen follower of Group f/64, an influential movement of photographers who championed sharp-focused, un-retouched images of natural subjects. He thinks technology has “upended” photography, turning it into a work of “fiction.” “We have become desensitized to reality, which is much more interesting than fiction,” he says. Some 400 of his pictures taken over 30 years have been compiled into a book on the Venezuelan plains. Others are stacked up in his living room, forming a towering pile, some two meters high. “They are like my children,” says Benavides, who describes himself as a documentary photographer practicing a trade on the verge of extinction. —AFP



## Business

# Deutsche Bank cuts deeper to fight its profit plunge

## Deutsche must demonstrate a 'clear vision' and 'discipline'

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** Germany's biggest lender Deutsche Bank announced yesterday deep cuts to its flagship investment banking division and a new focus on Europe, hoping to drag itself out of years of losses as it reported falling profits in the first quarter. In the past, "we took too long and we re-treated (from) decisions which were taken and were not executed," newly-installed chief executive Christian Sewing, 47, said in a telephone conference.

From now on, Deutsche must demonstrate a "clear vision" and "discipline" to see change through among top managers, he declared. "There is no time to lose as the current returns for our shareholders are not acceptable," Sewing added. He takes the reins less burdened by lingering fallout from the years leading up to the financial crisis—when Deutsche strained to compete with US-based investment banking titans—that dogged the leadership of former boss John Cryan.

The crisis-fighting British chief extricated the bank from painful legal hangovers but failed to steer it back to profitability, reporting three annual losses in a row. First in line for reform under Sewing's reign is the cherished corporate and investment bank. In corporate banking, Deutsche plans to slash its commitment to the United States and Asia, saying it would address clients "whose activities are closely

aligned with the strengths of the German and European economies".

Meanwhile it will also withdraw from some trading in shares and services offered to investment firms. Sewing warned there would be "painful but regrettably unavoidable" job losses "to ensure our bank's competitiveness in the long run", while declining to name a number of departures.

### 'More stable'

The corporate and investment bank accounted for more than half of Deutsche's revenue in the first quarter. But executives hope to shift the ratio so income from "more stable" sources like the retail and commercial bank and the asset management division—floated on the stock market earlier this year—make up 65 percent of revenue.

A modest ambition according to calculations from business daily Handelsblatt, which reckoned that they already made up 62 percent over the full year in 2017. Other items on Deutsche's restructuring list include fully integrating subsidiary Postbank into its German retail banking operations and further reducing its massive holdings of financial derivatives. Finance chief James von Moltke lifted his estimate for the total cost of the changes to 800 million euros (\$974 million), from 500 million previously.

“Painful but regrettably unavoidable”

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## Over 40 companies pledge to cut UK plastic pollution

**LONDON:** More than 40 companies, including Britain's biggest supermarkets, Coca Cola, Nestle and Procter & Gamble, have bowed to growing pressure to tackle pollution by committing to cut plastic use over the next seven years. The companies have promised to hit a target by 2025 to eliminate unnecessary single-use plastic packaging in the United Kingdom.

Signing up to the UK Plastics Pact, launched yesterday by sustainability campaign group WRAP, they have pledged that 100 percent of plastic packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable by that date. Other targets are that 70 percent of plastic packaging is effectively recycled or composted, and that all plastic packaging will have 30 percent average recycled content.

Food and drink manufacturers and retailers around the world are under pressure to act on plastic waste given growing concern from the public and lawmakers about its damaging impact on the environment. Prime Minister Theresa May has pledged to eradicate avoidable plastic waste in

Britain by 2042 as part of a "national plan of action" and her government is looking at a range of options including banning some products and using the tax system to change consumers' behaviour.

The 42 Plastic Pact companies are responsible for over 80 percent of the plastic packaging on products sold through UK supermarkets, according to WRAP. Market leader Tesco, Sainsbury's, Walmart's Asda, Morrisons, Marks & Spencer, discounters Aldi and Lidl have all signed up. Other signatories include the UK government and trade associations. "Together, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rethink and reshape the future of plastic so that we retain its value, and curtail the damage plastic waste wreaks on our planet," said WRAP CEO Marcus Gover. In January, privately-owned Iceland became the first British supermarket to promise to eliminate plastic packaging from all of its own brand products and called on the industry to follow its lead.

Morrisons, Britain's fourth largest grocer, which unlike rivals makes about 30 percent of the food it sells, said yesterday it would work through all of its own brand products to identify, reduce and remove any unnecessary plastic packaging. It said black plastic trays used for fresh meat and fish will be phased out by the end of 2019, while customers will be allowed to use their own containers for produce purchased from its butcher and fishmonger counters. —Reuters



The towers of German Company Deutsche Bank

### 'Hunter mindset'

Sewing promised to bring back "the virtues on which the company was built nearly 150 years ago"—"clarity and vision, disciplined execution and pride to work at a bank that takes bold moves." But boosting morale is a tricky proposition at a bank which booked net profits of just 120 million euros in the first quarter, down 79 percent year-on-year. The bank's pre-tax profit fell 51 percent, to 432 million euros, on the back of revenues down 5.0 percent at 7.0 billion euros. Von Moltke said higher contributions to Europe's Single

Resolution Fund, created to help wind up failing lenders, and increased IT costs weighed on the bottom line, while unfavorable exchange rate movements squeezed revenues. Executives did not offer any forecast for the bank's performance over the full year, saying only they were sticking to a target to keep annual costs below 23 billion euros. Investors gave a muted welcome to Deutsche's new direction, lifting the bank's share price by 0.4 percent around 11:25 am (0930 GMT), to 12.04 euros—making it one of the top performers on the DAX index of blue-chip German shares. —AFP

## As philanthropy grows, what are the rich spending money on?

**LONDON:** As the rich get richer, the world has entered an "age of philanthropy", with education the most popular focus of some 260,000 foundations globally, researchers said yesterday. Increasing numbers of rich individuals, families and corporations are setting up foundations for social investment amid persistent inequality, said study author Paula Johnson of Harvard University's Hauser Institute for Civil Society.

"(Due to) the rapid growth of wealth around the world, more individuals and families (have) the ability to create philanthropic capital," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The richest 1 percent of the world's population owns half of its wealth, up from 43 percent in 2008, propelled in part by gains in financial assets, like stocks and bonds.

Many super rich Americans have set up foundations which run their own programs or give grants, including Bill Gates of Microsoft, Warren Buffett, who heads the Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate, and the industrialist Koch brothers. There are more than 15 million millionaires and

close to 2,000 billionaires in the world, while 10 percent of the population live on less than \$1.90 a day, said the report, which was funded by the Swiss bank UBS.

Globally, foundations have combined assets of \$1.5 trillion slightly more than the US federal government's 2018 budget - the report found in an assessment of 39 countries around the world, including in Asia, Latin America and Africa. The sector is notable for its youth and recent growth. Almost three-quarters of 80,000 foundations that gave their age were started in the last 25 years, the report said.

"We indeed live in a 'global age of philanthropy'," it said. "If this trajectory continues, philanthropy will be poised to have an increasingly significant social and economic impact." Many wealthy people were driven by a sense of moral obligation, as well as a fear that "when inequality becomes too acute it may threaten peace, stability, and the free enterprise system that created such wealth", it said. Education was the main funding focus globally, followed by social welfare, health, arts and culture and reducing poverty.

"Education is seen as both a way to provide for individual opportunity - to bring individuals out of poverty - and at the same time as an engine for national growth," Johnson said. Researchers were unable to get data from a large number of countries. About 95 percent of foundations surveyed were in Europe and the United States, where governments use tax incentives to encourage philanthropy. —Reuters



## Business

# Asia equities mostly down on tech selling but dollar rises

## Federal Reserve will hike interest rates four times this year

**HONG KONG:** Further weakness in the technology sector dragged on Asian equities yesterday while the dollar extended recent gains as US Treasury yields sat at four-year highs. Expectations the Federal Reserve will hike interest rates four times this year—instead of the three times previously thought—have increased as the improving economy, rising oil prices and Donald Trump's huge tax cuts fan inflationary pressure.

This has led the yield on 10-year Treasuries—which are used as a benchmark for mortgage rates—to break the three-percent mark Tuesday. The dollar has also pushed to multi-month highs against the yen and euro with the single unit also weighed by fading chances for monetary tightening by the European Central Bank.



while the euro could dip to \$1.2150. Dealers are keeping a close eye on US growth data Friday for a better idea about the Fed's monetary policy plans.

### Tech firms' woes

With safe government debt offering more attractive returns, riskier assets such as equities have also been hit, though Stephen Innes, head of Asia-Pacific trade at OANDA, said "it looks like the three percent 10-year Treasury doom-and-gloom hand was overplayed".

The Dow and S&P 500 ended with gains in New York but the Nasdaq retreated. In Asia, most major markets were in the red. Hong Kong fell 1.1 percent and Shanghai shed 1.4 percent, while Sydney and Singapore each dipped 0.2 percent. Manila, Wellington and Bangkok also sank. Jakarta dived more than two percent on worries Indonesia's central bank is preparing to raise interest rates.

However, Tokyo ended 0.5 percent higher thanks to a weaker yen, while Seoul jumped more than one percent and the won also gained ahead of a historic North-South Korea summit on Friday. Technology firms again struggled on

### Weighed by fading chances

"The US dollar is breaking out and if the ECB is even slightly dovish (at its policy meeting Thursday) — or perhaps not hawkish—the euro could break wide open and with that, the big surge in the dollar will have truly begun," said Greg McKenna, chief market strategist at AxiTrader. The greenback reversed early losses yesterday against its major peers and analysts say it could soon test the 110-yen level

## Nintendo annual net profits soar

**TOKYO:** Nintendo yesterday said its annual net profit soared 36.1 percent, thanks to the immense popularity of its Switch console, and announced it was appointing a new president. Shuntaro Furukawa, 46, who currently oversees marketing and other divisions at the Kyoto-based video game giant, will succeed 68-old-year Tatsumi Kimishima, who has headed up the firm since 2015.

Nintendo has been on a winning streak, with its Switch console flying off the shelves since its launch last year. The company said its net profit for the year to March reached 139.6 billion yen (\$1.27 billion), beating its own expectations despite repeatedly raised annual targets. Its operating profit saw a six-fold increase to 177.6 billion yen, and its sales more than doubled from the previous year, to 1.056 trillion yen.

Nintendo projected further improvements during the ongoing year to March 2019, forecasting annual net profit would improve 18.2 percent to 165 billion yen and operating profit would reach 225 billion yen, a 26.7 percent rise. Annual sales are expected to reach 1.2 trillion yen, up 13.7 percent.

"The results for this fiscal year show a very positive trend in global hardware sales for Nintendo Switch, which sold a total of 15.05 million units during this fiscal year," the company said in a statement. "On the software end, Super Mario Odyssey has been a major hit with audiences

worldwide, and sold 10.41 million units," it said, adding that Switch software sales reached 63.51 million units this fiscal year.

Nintendo 3DS hardware sales remained solid even after the launch of Nintendo Switch, with sales during this fiscal year reaching 6.40 million units, the company said. Analysts saluted Nintendo, creator of Pokemon and Super Mario, for its innovative hardware and expanding game offerings. "Nintendo Switch is in excellent shape. While demand for the hardware remains solid, its software lineup is expanding," Yasuo Imanaka, an analyst at Rakuten Securities in Tokyo, told AFP ahead of the earnings announcement.

"The yen's appreciation is a concern but sales of Switch are strong enough to offset the negative factor. It is expected to continue to be a hit over the next three years," he said. Hideki Yasuda, an analyst at Ace Research Institute in Tokyo, echoed the sentiment and pointed to external factors such as currency fluctuation and US trade policy as possible risks going forward. He said Switch's new line of cardboard DIY accessories, "Labo", could be boosting the game console's popularity.

"Labo is a potential driver to boost Switch, but it may take some time to confirm it," Yasuda said before the earnings figures were released. "Possible concerns are foreign exchange losses or the impact of additional tariffs in the US imposed by President (Donald) Trump as Nintendo produces hardware in China," he said. The company said it was appointing Furukawa to replace Kimishima, who is retiring. Kimishima assumed the position in September 2015 after the sudden death of respected chief executive Satoru Iwata at age 55. —AFP



**TOKYO:** Pedestrians are reflected on a stock indicator showing share prices of the Shanghai B-share stock price. —AFP

worries about the smartphone sector, which has seen Apple shares battered over the past week. A strong earnings report from South Korean titan Samsung saw its stock jump 3.5 percent but it warned about falling demand for high-tech handsets as well as competition from Chinese companies.

Apple supplier LG Display fell 3.2 percent in Seoul while in Taipei, chip giant TSMC slipped 1.3 percent and Foxconn shed 1.2 per-

cent. Among other tech firms, Hong Kong-listed AAC Technologies dived 3.5 percent and Tencent shed 1.2 percent. Oil prices built on recent gains as uncertainty over Trump's decision regarding the Iran nuclear deal, along with the OPEC-Russia output cap, helped offset a disappointing reading on US stockpiles. In early European trade, London fell 0.3 percent, Paris was flat and Frankfurt shed 0.2 percent. —AFP

## China warns US against causing 'damage' to trade

**BEIJING:** China warned the United States yesterday against harming trade after a report that US authorities had opened an investigation into suspected violations of Iran sanctions by China's Huawei Technologies. A US Justice Department probe would come on the back of subpoenas issued to the company by the US Commerce and Treasury Departments over sanctions-related issues, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Huawei—one of the world's largest telecommunications equipment and services providers—has been under tough scrutiny in the United States, where government national security officials say that its alleged close links to the Chinese government make it a security risk. Its US business has been tightly constrained by worries it could undermine US competitors and that its cellphones and networking equipment, used widely in other countries, could provide Beijing with avenues for espionage.

The Journal report gave no details about the investigation. The New York Times has reported that

the company has been subpoenaed by the Commerce and Treasury Departments over alleged violations of Iran and North Korea sanctions. Huawei would not comment on the Journal report. "Huawei complies with all applicable laws and regulations where it operates, including the applicable export control and sanction laws and regulations of the UN, US and EU," spokesman Charles Zinkowski said in a statement.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said she had seen the report. "We hope that the US doesn't take any further steps to damage confidence in the American business environment," Hua said at a regular press briefing. Hua added that China hopes "the US doesn't do things that damage its domestic economy and the normal, transparent, mutually beneficial development of international trade."

Signaling the rising unease in the United States towards Huawei and fellow Chinese telecoms group ZTE Corp, last month the Federal Communications Commission proposed a new rule that would restrict small telecoms carriers from purchasing "equipment or services from companies that pose a national security threat." Major US telecoms companies have already steered clear of the two Chinese firms, sometimes on the strong suggestions of US officials. The cases come as the United States and China are gearing up for a potential trade war, with the high-tech sector among the concerns for both sides. —AFP



## Sports

# IAAF's new athletics testosterone rule threatens Semenya's career

## 'I am 97 percent sure you don't like me but I don't care'

**LONDON:** The IAAF confirmed a new hyperandrogenism rule yesterday that could prevent South African runner Caster Semenya from competing in 800m and 1500m races.

The new rules effectively give Semenya a choice of taking the medication to restrict her testosterone or move to longer distance events.

To compete internationally, athletes with a Difference of Sexual Development (DSD) must:

- Be recognised at law either as female or as intersex (or equivalent).
- Must reduce her blood testosterone level to below five (5) nmol/L for a continuous period of at least six months (e.g., by use of hormonal contraceptives).

- Thereafter she must maintain her blood testosterone level below five (5) nmol/L continuously.

Semenya, double Olympic and triple world champion over 800m and who completed the 800-1500 double at the Commonwealth Games this month, responded to the new rules on Twitter: "I am 97 per cent sure you don't like me but I'm 100 per cent sure I don't care."

Athletics authorities have struggled to find a solution to the issue that respected the rights of Semenya while also providing what they says is a "level playing field".

Some female rivals had complained that the 27-year-old's hyperandrogenism gave her an unfair competitive advantage. The condition is characterised by higher than usual levels of testosterone, a hormone that increases muscle mass, strength and haemoglobin, which affects endurance.

The IAAF's previous attempts to regulate the issue fell foul of a Court of Arbitration for Sport ruling in 2015 following an appeal on behalf of Indian athlete Dutee Chand, who had been banned from competing because of her testosterone levels.

IAAF President Sebastian Coe said: "We want athletes to be incentivized to make the huge commitment and sacrifice required to excel in the sport, and to inspire new generations to join the sport and aspire to the same excellence."

Coe has previously said that nobody was suggesting Semenya had done anything wrong.

**We want athletes to be incentivized**



Caster Semenya

Athletics South Africa said: "Athletics South Africa has taken note of the new classification for females. As a federation, we will study the new regulations and compare them with the CAS recommendations to see if they are compatible and in line."

"We will further seek support from the Min-

ister of Sport and Recreation, SASCO, other expert institutions and relevant organisations or individuals, so that we have a full grasp of this matter and how it should be properly handled."

These new Regulations, approved by the IAAF Council in March, will come into effect from Nov 1. —Reuters

## Hawkins blanked out after collapsing at Games marathon

**LONDON:** Scottish runner Callum Hawkins said he could not remember attempting to carry on after collapsing during the men's marathon at this month's Commonwealth Games.

Hawkins held an almost two-minute lead in the marathon after two hours of running in the blazing temperatures on the Gold Coast before collapsing on the road. He then got back up to run a short distance and collapsed again.

The 25-year-old was released from hospital the day after his collapse. "I remember thinking 'If I can just get up and finish, I'll probably get a medal but if three people go past then I'll throw the towel in'," Hawkins told BBC Scotland. "But I don't remember getting up and actually running those extra metres..."

"I remember falling off the side of the road and trying my best to get back up but my legs were like jelly. Next thing I remember is being in an ambulance." Hawkins said he regained consciousness in the ambulance and asked the staff if he had won the race.



Callum Hawkins

"I knew the answer before I asked, but I remember asking 'Did I win?'" he added. "I thought there might have been a chance I went on auto-pilot and finished it but nobody answered and I knew straightaway, 'that's a no.'"

Hawkins' collapse drew widespread criticism from former athletes and fans on social media, who expressed their dissatisfaction with the delay in medical attention provided to the runner. —Reuters

## Reed plans to keep on 'grinding'

**NEW YORK:** US Masters champion Patrick Reed does not feel any different with a Green Jacket in his possession and has vowed to stay focused on golf rather than letting too many off-course commitments get in the way. Reed has had two weeks off since his victory at Augusta National, a relatively long break for one of the most frequent competitors among the game's very elite, and he has not forgotten what got him to the pinnacle. "You have to get back grinding, playing some golf," the 27-year-old Texan told reporters at TPC Louisiana on Wednesday ahead of the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, the only official team event on the PGA Tour.

"First things first, you've got to focus on golf, because the time you (don't) focus on golf is the time you go backwards. "There's nothing like being back out here, getting inside the ropes, playing with the guys and competing," added Reed, who played 33 tournaments worldwide last year. "To get back to playing golf, into normal routine, has been nice ... I don't feel any different. It's just another day at the golf course."

Reed will partner Patrick Cantlay this week in an event that comprises two rounds of four ball (best ball) and two rounds of (alternate shot) foursomes.

The format has helped attract an outstanding field with many of the game's elite. Among the big names is Jordan Spieth, who also makes his first start since his brilliant final-round Augusta charge propelled him into contention. "I truly could have shot 59 without doing much more than making a few more putts," said Spieth, who finished third behind Reed and Rickie Fowler and



Patrick Reed

missed out on matching the course record when he bogeyed the final hole for 64.

"It was a day that almost was, but from nine (strokes) back and in ninth place, there were just too many variables. "I would have had to get really lucky with Patrick (and other players) backing up. It was just a little too much and that's what I thought going into the day, but to have a chance in general was a new experience for me. "I proved that in any situation, if you can do it there, you're never really out of it if you're within 10 shots." —Reuters



## Sports

# England begin 2019 World Cup quest against S Africa

## India take on Pakistan at Old Trafford

**LONDON:** Hosts England will begin their quest for a maiden 50-overs World Cup title against perennial under-achievers South Africa on May 30 next year with Lord's staging the final on July 14, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced yesterday.

One-day cricket's most coveted trophy has eluded three-times finalists England who staged the first three World Cups between 1975-1983 and also in 1999.

England could not advance beyond the group stage of the 2015 edition but have since grown into a formidable ODI outfit, rekindling hopes of breaking their World Cup duck on home soil.

They begin against a South Africa side who have never been beyond the semi-finals. Ashes rivals Australia, currently recovering from a ball-tampering scandal, will begin their title defence against plucky qualifiers Afghanistan on June 1 at Bristol.

Cricket Australia is searching for a new one-day captain after slapping 12-month bans on former skipper Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner following last month's fiasco in South Africa.

While both will be free to play in the tournament, Smith has also been barred from captaincy for two years, while Warner will not be considered for any leadership role again. Old Trafford will host the 10-team tournament's most-anticipated match on June 16 between Asian arch-rivals India and Pakistan.

The collapse of bilateral cricket between the bitter South Asian neighbours means their fans can only watch them in ICC events. "Because of the UK's diverse population, every competing team will also be guaranteed

### Lord's stages final on July 14



a 'home crowd' every time they play at some of the most iconic cricket grounds in the world," the tournament's managing director Steve Elworthy said in a statement.

"The Cricket World Cup is the third most watched global event and has huge interest and appeal among cricket fans. Our ambition is to grow the game and deliver the greatest ever cricket celebration..." he added.

The 46-day tournament will be played across 11 venues in England and Wales with Manchester's Old Trafford venue hosting six matches. The tournament will follow its 1992



England team celebrates their victory. England, which will attempt to win its maiden 50-over ICC title when it hosts next year's ICC Champions Trophy, has sent out a warning to the other sides after its impressive series win against Pakistan. —File photo

format with all 10 teams playing each other in the round-robin league to determine the four teams who will advance to the semi-finals at Old Trafford and Edgbaston. Lord's will host a World Cup final for the fifth time. "We know

from previous ICC events that every country will be proudly supported at each of the venues creating an exceptional atmosphere and a real celebration of the game," ICC chief executive Dave Richardson said. —Reuters

## Dhoni triumphant as IPL sixes record smashed

**BANGALORE:** MS Dhoni smashed the ball into the crowd seven times—including to seal the winning runs—in a match that racked up a record number of Indian Premier League sixes as his Chennai Super Kings beat Royal Challengers Bangalore to go top of the table. Dhoni hit an unbeaten 34 ball 70 while opener Ambati Rayudu hit eight sixes in his 82 as Chennai passed Bangalore's 205 for eight with two balls to spare. Dhoni hit New Zealander Corey Anderson over long on for six to claim the brilliant victory.

The two sides hit 33 sixes in all — 17 for Chennai—in the dramatic game, beating the 31 in one IPL game set by Chennai and Kolkata Knight Riders earlier this month, and Delhi Daredevils and Gujarat Lions in 2017. "I thought it was a difficult chase when I saw AB de Villiers batting to see them over 200, I thought it was 15-20 beyond par," Dhoni commented after. "We also lost some key batsmen early but it's a small ground, the ball travels a lot here."

The win took Dhoni's side, returning to the IPL after a two year corruption ban, to the top of the IPL table with five wins from six games. Indian captain Virat Kohli's Bangalore are in a slump with just two wins and the IPL season now half gone.

Kohli will need to study his tactics after his batsmen delivered—South Africans Quinton De Kock (53) and AB de Villiers (68) plundered 103 for the second wicket in under nine overs—but his bowlers failed. Chasing a huge total in their 20 overs, Chennai lost Australian opener Shane Watson with just eight runs scored and then fell to 74-4 before a 101-run partnership between Rayudu and Dhoni turned the game. Rayudu was dismissed in the 18th over but Dhoni saw his side home. —AFP



BANGALORE: File photo shows Chennai Super Kings batsman and captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (R) plays a shot as Royal Challengers Bangalore wicket keeper Quinton De Kock looks on during the 2018 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 cricket match. — AFP

## New 100 balls format still in England's sights

**LONDON:** Plans to establish a new 100 balls side tournament in English county cricket remain in place despite a review into the domestic set-up. Wednesday saw the England and Wales Cricket Board announce the creation of a "working group giving fresh thought to refining the structure of men's county cricket that has been agreed for 2020".

Last week the ECB revealed its intention to establish an eight-team city-based 100 balls per side tournament to start in 2020, despite it having been previously thought this would be another Twenty20 event in addition to the existing 'Blast' featuring all 18 first-class counties. But given fewer than half of England's professional players will be involved in an eight, as opposed to 18, team event, doubts remain about the type of cricket those excluded from the 100-ball format will play.

Gordon Hollins, the ECB's chief operating officer, said the working group had been set up, in part, to address that question. "A number of subjects and proposals have been raised in various forums over the last few weeks and

months, such as a new conference structure for the Specsavers County Championship, and the question of what other cricket should be played during the new ECB tournament later in the summer of 2020," Hollins said in a statement. He added: "In striving to reach a new audience, we must not neglect county cricket, nor its great tradition."

England captain Joe Root said 100-balls-a-side—which will be shorter even than Twenty20 (120 balls per side) — could attract a new audience but David Gower, another ex-England captain suggested Wednesday the new format was "going to be 12 years out of date before it starts". Meanwhile England's Professional Cricketers' Association issued a statement Wednesday voicing its "major concern" around the "lack of information and clarity regarding the new tournament". Amid all the furor, the ECB said it would set up a working group chaired by Leicestershire chief executive Wasim Khan.

The group's members will also include ECB England director of cricket Andrew Strauss, three county directors of cricket, as well as PCA representatives, with a report to be submitted later in the English season. Strauss, himself a former England captain, came under fire for saying in a radio interview last week that the 100-ball tournament was aimed at "mums and kids", with some female cricket followers resenting the implication that women do not understand the game's existing formats. —AFP



## Sports

# ICC asks panel to suggest harsher punishment for ball-tampering

## Governing body reviewing current code of conduct

**KOLKATA:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has asked an internal panel to suggest harsher punishment for ball-tampering and other misbehaviour by players in its bid to establish a "culture of respect", chief executive Dave Richardson said yesterday.

The game's image was sullied in Cape Town last month when Australia batsman Cameron Bancroft was caught on camera tampering with the ball during the third test of the ill-tempered series against South Africa.

Bancroft, then captain Steve Smith and opener David Warner, were promptly sent home and handed hefty bans by Cricket Australia. Addressing a news conference after an ICC board meeting, Richardson said the punishments under its code of conduct for such misbehaviour were inadequate.

"We want to move towards stricter and heavier sanction for ball-tampering and all other offences that are indicative of a lack of respect for your opponent, for the game, for the umpire, for fans, for the media etc," he told reporters.

"We want penalties in place which act as proper deterrent. Fines are not proving to be the answer." ICC's Cricket Committee, chaired

by former India captain Anil Kumble, will review the current ICC code of conduct and recommend suitable punishments for rogue behaviour.

"We've got the spirit of cricket in the laws but we need to define it in the modern day and age," Richardson, a former South Africa player, said. "Both the CEC (Chief Executives' Committee) and the board were very supportive of trying to develop a culture of respect across the game, both on the field and off the field."

"Hopefully through these actions of reviewing the code of conduct and developing a culture of respect... we will achieve that goal." Borrowing soccer's red and yellow cards and handing out instant punishment would be considered, though Richardson was sceptical about the idea of

using cards. "Whether we introduce red or yellow cards, we'd leave it to the committee. I'm not convinced that it would as easy to implement as it is in other sports."

### OLYMPIC AMBITION

The quarterly ICC meeting acknowledged Twenty20 cricket as the vehicle to globalise the English game, deciding to grant international



**KOLKATA:** International Cricket Council chief executive Dave Richardson addresses a press conference in Kolkata yesterday. Cricket's world body said it wants tough new sanctions against ball-tampering in place within months as it struggles with fallout from the cheating scandal involving top Australian players. — AFP

status to all 20-overs matches between its members. Richardson said it could prove a major step towards cricket's Olympic inclusion at the 2028 Games in Los Angeles.

"Assuming that we get all of cricket united in the desire to be part of the Olympics, we will have a very good chance of persuading the IOC (International Olympic Committee) that cricket can add value to Olympics.

"Already we've missed the boat for applying to the IOC through the front door, we can't go

to Paris. We'll continue to talk with LA in due course, and hopefully by 2028 we will have cricket in the Olympics."

The governing body approved a new Future Tours Programme for the 2019-23 cycle, which replaces the 2021 Champions Trophy with a World Twenty20, less than a year after Australia hosts the 2020 edition of the event. Richardson said was not ideal but that there was no other window in the crammed calendar. — Reuters

## Champions Trophy to be replaced with world T20 tournament

**KOLKATA:** The International Cricket Council said yesterday it will kill off the Champions Trophy tournament and replace it with a world T20 championship that will be held every two years.

The death-knell for the 50-over Champions Trophy is the latest stage of efforts to use 20 over cricket in a new campaign to get wider recognition and a potential Olympic place.

"The T20 format we always knew was the vehicle for growing the game and transforming the game from being a sport played by a few countries to a truly global sport," ICC chief executive Dave Richardson said after the world body met in

Kolkata. The next Champions Trophy "will be turned into a world T20 and that fits in with our strategy to use T20 as a way of growing the game," Richardson added. It means there will be a World T20 in Australia in 2020 and another the following year. But Richardson said after 2021 the World T20 would be held every two years "to provide more teams with more opportunities to play".

The 50-over World Cup will remain a four yearly event. It is in England next year and India in 2023. Richardson said cricket still holds out hope of getting an Olympic place by the time of the 2028 Los Angeles Games. — AFP

## Arthur eager for Pakistan to resume full home schedule

**CANTERBURY:** Nine years on from the armed attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore, Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur says he hopes "we're really close" to the world's leading teams touring there again. International cricket in Pakistan was effectively suspended for several years after the 2009 attack.

Zimbabwe, however, played several limited-overs fixtures in Pakistan three years ago. Pakistan have subsequently welcomed a World XI and last year played a Twenty20 international against Sri Lanka in Lahore, while earlier this month they completed a 3-0 at home to the West Indies, the World Twenty20 champions.

But Test cricket has yet to resume in Pakistan, with the United Arab Emirates remaining their 'home away from home'. "I hope we're really close," Arthur told

reporters on Wednesday. "The colour, the passion, the excitement for our local people to see cricket there was amazing and for our players to play in front of their fans and families and just play at home was amazing.

"We've had a couple of those now—the World XI, Sri Lanka and now the West Indies," he added. "They were great occasions so let's hope that opens the door for a lot more cricket in Pakistan."

Arthur, a former head coach of both his native South Africa and Australia, was speaking at Canterbury, where Pakistan begin their tour of Britain and Ireland with a four-day warm-up match against Kent starting tomorrow.

Arthur's first Test series in charge of Pakistan ended in an impressive 2-2 draw in England in 2016. He then oversaw Pakistan's 2017 Champions Trophy triumph, which culminated with a stunning win over arch-rivals India in the final of the one-day international tournament at The Oval in London.

Pakistan, after providing the opposition for Ireland's inaugural Test, face England in a two-match series. England will come into that campaign following Test series defeats in both Australia and New Zealand, but Arthur expects them to prove far more threatening on home

soil. "It's a little bit early to get too controversial," said a smiling Arthur when asked if Pakistan could exploit the "weakness" of an England top-order featuring captain Joe Root.

"I saw Dawid Malan play exceptionally well in Perth...we know Root is world-class, (Jonny) Bairstow is world-class, they are a really good side."

### 'NUMBER ONE AMIR'

Pakistan, described by Arthur as a "young team, trying to resurrect our Test side" following the retirements of Misbah-ul-Haq and Younis Khan, will look to left-arm paceman Mohammad Amir to lead their attack.

Amir, whose career was almost ended by a jail term and suspension for 'spot-fixing' during the 2010 Lord's Test, has been a key man for Pakistan since making his international return in 2016. The 26-year-old, a proven swing bowler in English conditions, had his entry to the UK delayed by visa problems but Amir was expected to join the rest of the squad later. "He's our number one bowler, we back him in tough situations," said Arthur.

"We need him to get the ball swinging, we need him to get his length slightly fuller, and if he gets that he's going to ask a lot of questions." — AFP



## Sports

# Rockets ousts Timberwolves, James and Westbrook dominate

## Raptors take a 3-2 series lead over Wizards

**LOS ANGELES:** James Harden scored 24 points as the Houston Rockets booked their spot in the second round of the NBA playoffs by crushing the Minnesota Timberwolves 122-104 in game five on Wednesday.

Clint Capela scored a team-high 26 points and had 15 rebounds for the top seeded Rockets who pulled away in the third quarter to win their series four games to one. "When I get that confidence from my teammates there is no limit to what I can do," said Harden.

"We knew how tough this game was going to be. We wanted to continue to grind it out and came out with the win. In the second half we picked up our intensity and won the game."

Elsewhere, LeBron James capped another milestone night with a buzzer-beating three-pointer that lifted the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 98-95 win over Indiana and within one win of advancing in the playoffs.

Not to be outdone, Russell Westbrook scored 45 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder came back from 25 points down in the second half to fight off elimination and beat the Utah Jazz 107-99. Houston will now play the

winner of the Utah-Oklahoma City series, which the Jazz now lead 3-2.

The Rockets are off to the second round for the second year in a row after eliminating the eighth-seeded Timberwolves.

After scoring 22 points in Houston's 50-point third quarter in a game four rout on Monday, Harden tallied half of Houston's 30 points in the third quarter on Wednesday to give Houston the lead for good.

Karl-Anthony Towns led the Timberwolves with 23 points and 14 rebounds, and Jamal Crawford added 20 points off the bench. Houston's series clincher highlighted the Western Conference matchups but James provided the night's biggest individual fireworks. In Cleveland, the victory gave the Cavs a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference series, which they'll try to finish off today in Indianapolis.

James blocked a driving Victor Oladipo's shot at the rim to keep the score tied at 95-95, keeping the Cavs alive and ensuring them the final possession with three seconds remaining.

Cleveland got the ball to their superstar, who dribbled in, pulled up at the top of the arc and fired over Thad-

deus Young for his only three-pointer of the game. James beat his chest in triumph, then jumped on the scorers' table to acknowledge the crowd.

He finished with 44 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, making all 15 of his free throws.

His 21st playoff game of 40 points or more saw James move past Jerry West for second all-time on a list led by Michael Jordan with 38.

### STAY ALIVE

In Oklahoma City, the Thunder fended off elimination on the back of their superstar Westbrook, who scored 20 of his 45 points in the third quarter. Westbrook also had 15 rebounds and seven assists. Paul George added 34 points and eight rebounds. "All pride, all pride," said George. "We're not gonna lose here. "He was special," George said of Westbrook. "A lot of what went on in that third quarter was because of him. His energy was everything."

Westbrook registered back-to-back three-pointers, then made a layup with five minutes left in the third quarter to cut Utah's lead to 73-60.

Westbrook's drained another three-pointer tied the game 78-78



**HOUSTON:** Jeff Teague #10 of the Minnesota Timberwolves takes a shot defended by Clint Capela #15 of the Houston Rockets and James Harden #13 in the second half during Game Five of the first round of the 2018 NBA Playoffs at Toyota Center on Wednesday in Houston, Texas. — AFP

heading into the fourth quarter. "Just picked my spots and tried to be aggressive," Westbrook said. Utah takes a 3-2 lead back to Salt Lake City for game six on Friday. In Toronto, the Eastern Conference top seeds Raptors moved within one victory of advancing, taking a 3-2 series lead over the

Washington Wizards with a 108-98 home win. DeMar DeRozan scored 32 points, Kyle Lowry added 17 as the Raptors bounced back from defeats in games three and four.

Delon Wright scored 16 off the bench for Toronto, producing nine of their last 14 points of the game. — AFP

## Brewers take winning streak to 8 games with a win over Kansas

**KANSAS CITY:** Ryan Braun had three hits and beat out an infield single to key a four-run fourth inning as the visiting Milwaukee Brewers ran their winning streak to eight games with a 6-2 victory over the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday. Jesus Aguilar had two RBIs as the Brewers swept the two-game interleague series. Mike Moustakas hit his seventh homer and Salvador Perez had an RBI groundout in his second game back from a knee injury for Kansas City, which dropped to 1-9 at home. Milwaukee's Jhoulys Chacin (2-1) gave up four hits and two runs in 5 2/3 innings for his second consecutive victory. He struck out three and walked one.

### ASTROS 5, ANGELS 2

Alex Bregman hit a three-run double, and Jose Altuve and Jake Marisnick homered to back seven innings of strong pitching by ace Justin Verlander as Houston beat visiting Los Angeles to salvage the final game of a three-game series. Verlander (4-0) surrendered just two runs while scattering four hits in seven innings. He struck out nine and didn't walk a batter. Since joining the Astros' rotation on Sept. 5, 2017, he is 9-0 in his 11 starts and has allowed just 38 hits while striking out 91 batters.

He joins Roger Clemens (9-0 in 2004) as the only Houston pitchers to win their first nine decisions with the team.

### MARLINS 8, DODGERS 6

Trevor Richards struck out 10 in 4 2/3 innings and as visiting Miami beat Clayton Kershaw at Los Angeles. J.T. Realmuto hit a pair of home runs, giving him a hit in all 19 of his games played against the Dodgers, the longest streak against the franchise to start a career since at least 1900. Richards, who said he was on his first-ever trip to the West Coast, made it a memorable one by giving up just one hit. He did not get the required 15 outs to qualify for the victory, though.

### RANGERS 4, A'S 2

Isiah Kiner-Falefa singled home the go-ahead run with two outs in the fifth inning, and the Texas bullpen pitched no-hit ball the rest of the way, helping the Rangers close out a losing homestand with a victory over Oakland. The A's had a four-game winning streak snapped despite a two-run home run by Khris Davis, his seventh of the season. Jesse Chavez, Alex Claudio and Chris Martin shut out the A's through the sixth, seventh and eighth inning. Keone Kela

recorded his fourth save with a 1-2-3 ninth, striking out two.

### INDIANS 4, CUBS 1

Trevor Bauer allowed one run in 6 2/3 innings, and Brandon Guyer, Francisco Lindor and Edwin Encarnacion hit solo home runs as Cleveland defeated Chicago to earn a split of the two-game series between the teams that played in the epic 2016 World Series. Bauer (2-2) allowed four hits while striking out eight and walking three. Chicago's Jon Lester (2-1) took his first loss of the season despite scattering four hits in seven innings with four strikeouts and two bases on balls.

### RAYS 8, ORIOLES 4

Brad Miller's sacrifice fly produced the go-ahead run in a four-run fifth inning, and surging Tampa Bay Rays went on to take the victory at Baltimore. The Rays have won five straight, their longest winning streak since a five-game run from April 22-26, 2015. The Orioles have lost four straight and 10 of 11. The Orioles carried a 3-1 lead into the fifth, but Alex Cobb, making his third start for Baltimore after seven seasons with Tampa Bay, allowed six of the eight batters he faced that inning to reach base.

### PHILLIES 5, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Jake Arrieta pitched seven strong innings, Aaron Altherr hit a three-run home run, and Philadelphia defeated visiting Arizona. Arrieta (3-0) gave up four hits and three runs (one earned) while throwing 107 pitches, 63 for strikes. Cesar Hernandez was 3-for-4 with two runs for Philadelphia, and Carlos Santana went 2-for-4 with a run and an RBI. Arizona starter Zack Greinke (2-2) was uncharacteristically ineffective in allowing nine hits and five runs in six innings. He struck out nine while walking just one.

### CARDINALS 9, METS 1

Michael Wacha won his fourth straight start, and Jedd Gyorko cracked his 100th career home run as host St. Louis routed sloppy New York. Wacha (4-1) sailed through six innings, yielding just five hits and a run with one walk and a season-high eight strikeouts. The outing avenged his only loss of the year against New York on March 31 in a game where Wacha failed to make it out of the fifth inning. Steven Matz (1-2) was knocked out during St. Louis' four-run fourth inning that essentially ended the game's competitive phase. Matz was charged with five hits and seven runs, three earned, in 1 1/3 innings. — Reuters



## Sports

# Messi scores in EU court battle to trademark name

## Messi may register trademark 'MESSI' for sports equipment, clothing

**BRUSSELS:** Lionel Messi, the world's top earning footballer, won a legal battle yesterday to register his name as a trademark to sell sports goods after an EU court ruled that he is too famous to be confused with other businesses.

The Barcelona and Argentina attacker rode out a seven-year challenge by a Spanish cycling gear manufacturer called Massi, which protested that his trademark was too similar to its own.

"Lionel Messi may register his trade mark 'MESSI' for sports equipment and clothing," said a ruling by the General Court of the European Union, the bloc's second-highest court. "The football player's fame counteracts the visual and phonetic similarities between his trade mark and the trade mark 'MASSI' belonging to a Spanish company," the Luxembourg-based court said. The ruling comes days after it emerged that Messi has overtaken Cristiano Ronaldo as the highest earner in world football, according to France Football magazine.

The Barcelona attacker is making 126 million euros (\$154mn) in salary, bonuses and commercial revenue for the current season while his great Real Madrid rival is making 94mn euros. Messi first tried in 2011 to trademark his own name with the EU's intellectual property office for use on "sports and gymnastics clothing, equipment and protective equipment and in-

struments". The boss of the Massi cycling goods company filed an appeal the same year, saying there was a "likelihood of confusion" with its own trademark. The trademark office agreed, and dismissed an appeal by the five-time world footballer of the year in 2014.

### 'PUBLIC FIGURE'

But while judges admitted that the trademarks "are very similar phonetically", they said the IPO was wrong to assume that Messi was only known by people who were interested in football or sport. "Mr Messi is, in fact, a well-known

public figure who can be seen on television and who is regularly discussed on television or on the radio," the court said.

"It seems unlikely that an average consumer of those goods will not directly associate, in the vast majority of cases, the term 'Messi' with the name of the famous football player." It is not the first time that Messi's business interests have ended up in court.

In 2016 a Spanish court sentenced him to 21 months in jail and fined him more than two million euros for tax evasion, although the prison sentence was later commuted to another fine. He was found guilty of using companies in Belize, Britain, Switzerland and Uruguay to avoid paying 4.1 million

“  
Messi's fame  
keeps soaring  
”



Lionel Messi

euros in taxes on income he earned from his image rights.

While Messi's finances go from strength to strength, despite the Spanish case, he is at risk of missing out on a sixth Ballon d'Or this year. He has locked down the footballing award in duopoly with Ronaldo for a decade, but Egypt's Liverpool star Mohamed Salah threat-

ens to break their stranglehold after a stunning year. But Messi's fame keeps soaring—he has been unveiled as the subject of a painting modelled on Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel on the ceiling of a football club in Buenos Aires. In it he features as Adam being touched by the "Hand of God"—belonging to Argentina football legend Diego Maradona. —AFP

## England's FA in negotiations to sell Wembley Stadium

**LONDON:** England's Football Association is in negotiations to sell Wembley Stadium, the home of the national soccer team, to US billionaire Shahid Khan, owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

A spokesman for the FA confirmed yesterday it had received an offer to buy the stadium and British media said the deal could be worth up to 1 billion pounds (\$1.40 billion). Under the plan, the FA would keep Wembley as the main venue for major matches, including England internationals and the FA Cup Final, but the national soccer team could play elsewhere in October and November due to clashes with the U.S. National Football League (NFL) season. In a statement Khan said his bid was not a precursor to moving the Jaguars, who have played one home NFL game per season at Wembley since 2013, to London permanently. "For the

Jaguars, it would deliver another - and very significant - asset and local revenue source that would further strengthen our investment in London," Khan who is also the owner of English second tier soccer team Fulham, said.

"Today's news changes none of what we envision for the long-term promise for the Jaguars here in Jax, and it changes nothing as to the goals we have for your downtown." British media reported that Khan, who is worth \$7.2 billion according to Forbes, is ready to pay more than 500 million pounds.

He would also allow the FA to keep the Club Wembley debenture and hospitality business that is valued at a further 300 million pounds. The 90,000-seater stadium was rebuilt at a cost of 757 million pounds on the site of the original ground where England won the World Cup in 1966. The new stadium opened in 2007 and the FA said last January it would repay its debt, which was reported by the Evening Standard to be 142 million pounds, by 2024. The money from the sale of Wembley would allow the governing body to reinvest in the English game's grassroots, particularly pitches, and stage more England games way from the capital, a plan to which it is already committed.—AFP

## Japan football coach Halilhodzic in Tokyo for 'explanations'

**TOKYO:** More than two weeks after he was ceremoniously fired as Japan's national football coach, Vahid Halilhodzic says he is still in "shock" and weighing legal action. "Even in my worst nightmares I couldn't have imagined that one day something like this could happen," he told AFP in Tokyo. With just two months to go until the World Cup, the sacked coach says he thought it was a "joke" when the Japanese Football Association told him about the decision in early April.

"I was beyond shocked, afterwards I was replaying it all in my head like a film," he said. The JFA announced the shock firing on April 9, describing it as an "emergency measure".

Halilhodzic had been haunted by reports that he could be ousted for months, with rumours of discord with the team and discontent over a string of poor performances by Japan in the run-up to the World Cup. But he insisted yesterday

that he was blindsided by the decision. "No one ever warned me that there was... danger" of being sacked, he said, describing the shock public firing as "a humiliation" and the "toughest" moment of his career.

He found the turn of events all the more astonishing given Japan's famous sense of decorum. "Respect, it's the core of the society," he said. He denied any communication problems with players, despite reports that his abrasive style had created problems of team cohesion. That was among the reasons cited by JFA president Kozo Tashima when he announced the firing, along with the national team's embarrassing recent performances, including a draw with Mali and a loss to Ukraine. Halilhodzic, who was appointed in March 2015, said he believed he had carried out his mission by successfully carrying the Blue Samurai through to the World Cup finals in Russia.

He said he had observed plenty of support from the Japanese public, and railed against the JFA. "I got the team qualified, and now they stop me from trying for something bigger," he said, still visibly shaken by the situation. The experience isn't entirely unfamiliar for the Franco-Bosnian, who was fired by the Ivory Coast just months before the team played in the 2010 World Cup. But he broke into expletives as he said he was back in Tokyo, having been in Paris when he was fired, seeking answers. "I need a response. I deserve explanations," he said. —AFP



## Sports

# Liverpool look to avoid more late drama against Stoke

## City in mood for records at West Ham United

**LONDON:** Stoke City will hope that the Liverpool they face tomorrow is the team that wobbled alarmingly in the final 10 minutes of their Champions League semi-final against AS Roma, not the one that dismantled the Italians over the previous 80.

Nothing is ever clear with Juergen Klopp's side who ended up kicking themselves after the whistle went at Anfield on Tuesday despite ending up the right side of a 5-2 first-leg scoreline. Liverpool also conceded twice late on in their previous league game at West Bromwich Albion to prove that, no matter what magic Mohamed Salah provides, there is always hope against them if you hang in long enough.

Or, at least, that will probably be the gist of Stoke manager Paul Lambert's team talk as he contemplates the daunting challenge of securing an away win in the battle against relegation.

Four points off safety with only three games remaining, Stoke could even go down if they lose and Swansea City beat Chelsea, who are still intent on denying Liverpool a top-four finish. That should be motivation enough for Liverpool to ensure they do not slip up again although Klopp faces a tricky job in deciding his line-up after injuries reduced him to three fit midfielders.

Even that may not be too much of a problem, however, if Salah continues in his current form as he chases down the five goals required to beat Ian Rush's club record of 47 goals in a season.

Champions Manchester City will also be in the

mood for records at West Ham United on Sunday. City need just six more goals and two wins from their final four games to establish new Premier League scoring and points records, both of which look well within their grasp.

But, as one of 11 teams still scrapping to avoid relegation, West Ham have every incentive to put up a fight. The Hammers are six points above the drop zone, where Southampton sit just above Stoke and West Brom, who must beat Newcastle to stand any hope of survival. Saints manager Mark Hughes has never experienced relegation as manager or player but, having also been in charge of Stoke this season, he could yet break his record by helping to take two teams down in one campaign.

Only victory will do on Saturday at home to neighbours Bournemouth, who probably need just a point to secure their own safety. Crystal Palace and Huddersfield Town look to have winnable games against Leicester City and Everton respectively while Brighton and Hove Albion travel to Burnley.

Time was when Manchester United v Arsenal at this time of the year would have been a title decider but on Sunday most interest will centre on whether Jose Mourinho pitches Alexis Sanchez against his former side as United seek to consolidate their hold on second place. Tottenham Hotspur, who they beat in last week's FA Cup semi-final, play Watford on Monday. Like Liverpool, Spurs must keep their momentum to hang on to a top-four position. — Reuters



**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool team pose before the UEFA Champions League first leg semi-final football match between Liverpool and Roma at Anfield stadium in Liverpool, north west England on April 24, 2018.—AFP

## Warnock eyes spot in English football history

**CARDIFF CITY:** Cardiff City manager Neil Warnock could make English football history this weekend by notching a record eighth promotion as the Bluebirds seek to return to the Premier League after four years. If Fulham lose to Sunderland today, Cardiff would go up by beating Hull City in their penultimate game tomorrow. More likely, the race will go to the final day on May 6 but, with Cardiff having a one-point advantage over their London rivals, they remain clear favourites. For the 69-year-old Warnock, who is one year older than Arsene Wenger, promotion would represent the crowning glory on a career that began more than half-a-century ago as a winger with Chesterfield. After a non-distinguished playing career, Warnock has made his mark as a manager, going up seven times in a career spent with 15 different clubs over 38 years, a promotion record he shares with Dave Bassett, Graham Taylor and Jim Smith. Much of that time has been spent in England's lower leagues although he has also taken two teams, Sheffield United and Queens Park Rangers, into the Premier League where he also managed with Crystal Palace.

For all his travelling, Warnock has always embraced his image as the homely Yorkshireman and caretaker of the English game's traditional values, a role which sometimes put him into conflict with other, often foreign, managers.

Earlier this season, he accused Manchester City's Pep Guardiola of "blowing hot air out of (his) mouth" for complaining about Cardiff's roughhouse tactics during their FA Cup fourth-round clash in January. He also recently clashed with Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo, whom he said showed a "lack of class" for over-celebrating their 1-0 win, a game in which Cardiff missed two late penalties. Yet Warnock's feisty approach belies an im-

pressive ability to communicate with players, who are sometimes more than 50 years his junior. "We haven't got what I would call 'stars'," he told the Daily Mail in an interview earlier this season. "They're just a genuine bunch. It (promotion) would be the biggest achievement I've had by a mile when you look at where we were 16 months ago and what we've spent."

Much of Warnock's secret involves taking players like centre half Sol Bamba, who are struggling elsewhere and injecting them with an impressive sense of belief.

The 33-year-old Ivorian, who was released on a free transfer by Leeds in 2016, has responded by becoming one of Cardiff's stars of the season. Warnock even said he prefers Bamba to Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk, the world's most expensive defender.

"It wasn't me being clever. I just felt that they don't offer any more. Yes, (Van Dijk) is better on the ball but I'd rather have a Bamba than a Van Dijk. I tried to sign Van Dijk for Palace and the chief scout said he's not quick enough." —Reuters

Live		MATCHES ON TV	
		LOCAL TIMING	
<b>SPANISH LEAGUE</b>			
22:00	<b>Levante v Sevilla</b>		22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3			
<b>GERMAN BUNDESLIGA</b>			
21:30	<b>TSG 1899 Hoffenheim v Hannover 96</b>		21:30
beIN SPORTS			
<b>French League</b>			
21:45	<b>Montpellier HSC v Saint Etienne</b>		21:45
beIN SPORTS			

## Juve visit old rivals, Napoli face nemesis

**MILAN:** The Serie A title race takes another intriguing twist at the weekend as leaders Juventus visit Inter Milan and second-placed Napoli face a Fiorentina side whose coach often throws a spanner in their works.

Napoli threw the title race wide open with their 1-0 win at Juventus on Sunday which has left the Turin side with a one-point lead going into the final four games. There is probably nothing Inter fans would enjoy more than seeing their team help derail Juve's bid for a seventh successive Serie A title at San Siro on Saturday. Yet Inter have their own concerns as they are attempting to end a six-season absence from the Champions League and are one point and one place outside the top four, where they need to finish to qualify for next season's competition.

"I hope Inter fans flock to the stadium to urge us on to a victory we need for our own objectives, and not just to hope for Juve's downfall," said Inter coach Luciano Spalletti. Incredibly, Inter were top of the table and unbeaten when the two sides drew 0-0 in their first meeting of the season in December but they are now 19 points behind Juventus.

A group of Juventus "ultras" visited the team's Vinovo training ground on Wednesday and let off fireworks to "encourage" the team following Sunday's loss. "We knew that the championship this year would be difficult and Napoli have been outstanding," said Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri. "We have four matches left, we have had one week to get our energy back and prepare for this finale." — Reuters



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HOUSTON: Eric Gordon #10 of the Houston Rockets steals the ball from Andrew Wiggins #22 of the Minnesota Timberwolves in the second half during Game Five of the first round of the 2018 NBA Playoffs at Toyota Center on Wednesday in Houston, Texas. — AFP

## Rockets ousts Timberwolves, James and Westbrook dominate

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