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Amir conveys Eid greetings as millions of pilgrims begin hajj

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KUWAIT/MAKKAH: The Amiri Diwan yesterday conveyed greetings from HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the people of Kuwait on the upcoming occasion of Eid Al-Adha. According to a Diwan statement, HH the Amir also congratulated Arab and Islamic nations on the advent of Eid Al-Adha, praying to Allah Almighty for its happy return with Kuwait and the rest of the world enjoying peace and security.

More than two million Muslims from around the globe started the hajj pilgrimage yesterday in Saudi Arabia, one of the world's largest annual gatherings in a country undergoing unprecedented change. The ultraconservative kingdom - where religion remains a guiding force amid dramatic social and economic reforms - has mobilized vast resources for the six-day journey, a pillar of Islam. "It's the dream of every Muslim to come here to Makkah," said Frenchman Soliman Ben Mohri. "It's the ultimate journey. What worries me is the return to my normal life. For the moment, I am in a dream," the 53-year old told AFP.

Every Muslim is required to complete the hajj journey to Islam's holiest sites at least once in their lifetime if they are healthy enough and have the means to do so. Tens of thousands of security personnel have been deployed for the pilgrimage. This year, the Saudis have

launched a "smart hajj" initiative, with apps to help pilgrims with everything from travel plans to medical care.

The interior ministry said on Saturday that the number of pilgrims arriving in Makkah had already surpassed the two million mark, mostly from abroad including large contingents from Egypt, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Wearing the simple white garb of the pilgrim, most of the faithful began moving yesterday from Makkah to the nearby Mina valley. They were to spend the night there in fire-resistant tents in the desert, where temperatures top 40 degrees Celsius.

Thousands of buses and vehicles carrying the pilgrims lined the eight kilometer road from Makkah to Mina. Many pilgrims made the journey walking under the scorching sun, some carrying white or blue umbrellas. For the Muslim faithful, hajj retraces the last steps of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and also honors the prophets Abraham (PBUH) and Ismael (PBUH). It ends with the Eid Al-Adha feast, which is marked by the slaughter of sheep, a tribute to Abraham's sacrifice of a lamb after God spared Ismael, his son.

Earlier in Makkah pilgrims performed a ritual walk seven times around the Kaaba, a black masonry cube wrapped in a silk cloth embroidered in gold with Quranic verses at the center of the Grand Mosque.

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KUWAIT: Shepherds lead sheep to the livestock market in Rai yesterday, ahead of Eid Al-Adha or the "Feast of Sacrifice", which marks the end of the hajj. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Iran announces new fighter jet, missile upgrades

TEHRAN: Iran will unveil this week a new jet fighter and upgrade its missile defenses to meet threats from Israel and the US, Tasnim news agency said yesterday quoting the defense minister. "Our first priority is our missile capability and we must enhance it... given the enemy's efforts in missile defense," said Amir Hatami in an interview on television late Saturday, according to Tasnim. He added that a new fighter jet "will fly on National Defense Industry Day", which falls on Wednesday.

Hatami said the defense program was motivated by memories of the missile attacks Iran suffered during its eight-year war with Iraq in the 1980s, and by repeated threats from Israel and the United States that "all options are on the table" in dealing with the Islamic republic. "We have learned in the (Iran-Iraq) war that we cannot rely on anyone but ourselves. We

saw that wherever we are not capable, no one will have mercy on us. Our resources are limited and we are committed to establishing security at a minimum cost. We upgrade our missiles according to our enemies' threats and actions, as a deterrent and to give a crushing response to the enemy," he said.

Hatami added that regional rival Saudi Arabia "has the largest military budget in the world after America and China... while our defense budget is limited". "What would any nation with such a situation and past do in our place?" he said. The defense minister dismissed the idea of an "Arab NATO" - an old concept that has recently resurfaced as Washington tries to push regional countries to accept a greater share of their defense. "Arab NATO is part of the game of creating discord by the enemy and it's not worth paying attention to," said Hatami. "It is unlikely that America and the Zionist regime (Israel) allow Muslim countries to come together. They know well that the aim of Muslim nations is to destroy the Zionist regime and defend Palestine," he added.

Iran's navy announced on Saturday that it has mounted a locally built advanced defensive weapons system on one of its warships for the

first time, as tensions mount with the US military in the Gulf. Iran unveiled in 2013 what it said was a new, domestically built fighter jet, called Qaher 313, but some experts expressed doubts about the viability of the aircraft at the time. Iran's functional air force has been limited to perhaps as few as a few dozen strike aircraft, either Russian or ageing US models acquired before the 1979 Iranian revolution.

Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi said on Saturday that "coastal and sea testing of the short range defense Kamand system were concluded successfully, and said this system was mounted ... on a warship and will be mounted on a second ship soon," Tasnim news agency reported. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said earlier this month it held war games in the Gulf aimed at "confronting possible threats" by enemies.

The US military's Central Command said it had seen increased Iranian naval activity, extending to the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway for oil shipments the Revolutionary Guards have threatened to block.

Iran has developed a large domestic arms industry in the face of international sanctions and embargoes that have barred it from importing many weapons. — Agencies

80 Indian nurses in limbo without work, residency

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Eighty Indian nurses promised jobs in Kuwait have been stuck here for more than two years due to paperwork and red tape. The group of nurses, all with nursing qualifications from India and recruited by health ministry officials, are living in government housing, but are unable to work because their certifications and licensing have been held up. "We are a group of 80 Indian nurses who came directly from India (Bangalore, Cochin, Delhi and Mumbai) and were hired directly by health ministry representatives after they held interviews from February to

April 2015," said Akhila Kumar, a 29-year-old certified nurse who is acting as the group's spokesperson.

She said those who passed the written and oral exams - around 1,500 nurses in total - were hired and issued temporary visas that allowed them to enter Kuwait. The 80 nurses were part of that batch. Despite having a legal visa to enter Kuwait, the nurses were prevented from working due to a delay in paperwork. Placed in the nursing accommodation from March 2016, they were initially told to wait while their papers and documents were being processed.

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As Duterte flags, daughter enters political limelight

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte thinks political dynasties are bad. But the way the prevailing political winds are blowing, it looks like a dynasty of his own might be taking shape. Nine months away from mid-term elections that could determine the success or failure of his presidency, his daughter, Sara Duterte, is fast emerging as a powerbroker who is aiming to shore up support for his ambitious policy agenda, and, say some experts and insiders, his eventual succession.

By his own admission, the 73-year-old president is flagging. On Tuesday, he lamented his uphill struggle to tackle illicit drugs and cut state corruption, predicting that he'll "hardly make a dent" in his remaining four years in office. During a ceremony and again at a dinner afterwards, he said he was tired, exasperated and thinking about quitting, and ended his somber, one hour, 20 minute speech with: "I'm telling you, I'm ready to step down and retire."

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More bodies found in Kerala as toll hits 370

THRISSUR, India: Rescuers searched submerged villages in southwest India yesterday in a desperate hunt for survivors after floods killed at least 370 people and drove more than 700,000 from their homes. Entire villages in Kerala have been swept away in the state's worst floods for a century. Rescuers fear the death toll will rise as they reach areas almost entirely underwater. Thousands remain trapped - often without food or water - in towns and villages cut off by the floods, and heavy rain forecast in coming days threatens to compound the disaster.

Nearly 725,000 people have taken shelter in relief camps, state government spokesman Subhash T V told AFP yesterday. Bedraggled survivors massing at evacuation centers have described desperate scenes after days without food or water. "They were the scariest hours of

our life," 20-year-old Inderjeet Kumar told AFP at a church doubling as a relief shelter in the hard-hit Thrissur district. "There was no power, no food and no water - even though it was all around us."

The overall death toll in the state since the start of the monsoon on May 29 had reached 370, the spokesman said. Forty-six of them were found dead in just the last 24 hours. In Thrissur, rescuers searching inundated houses discovered the bodies of those unable to escape as the floodwaters quickly rose. "They didn't think that it would rise this high - 10 to 15 feet at some places - when the initial warnings were issued," said Ashraf Ali K M, who is leading the search in the small town of Mala. "Some of them later gave distress calls when the water rose high and fast," he told AFP at the scene Sunday as the carcasses of cattle and other livestock floated past.

Among the dead were a mother and son whose home collapsed around them late Saturday. Another was a local man who volunteered for the search and rescue mission. His body was retrieved by comrades early yesterday, said Dibin K S, a Kerala firefighter, in a grim reminder of the perils facing rescuers.

Continued on Page 24



THRISSUR, India: Kerala and Tamil Nadu fire personnel carry children on their shoulders through floodwaters during a rescue operation in Annamanada village in the south Indian state of Kerala yesterday. — AFP

Bahraini PM congratulates Crown Prince, Premier on Eid Al-Adha

Defense Minister congratulates leaders on Eid holiday



Bahraini Prime Minister Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah



First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a phone call from Bahraini Prime Minister Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa yesterday, congratulating His Highness on Eid Al-Adha. Prince Khalifa wished His Highness Sheikh Nawaf a long and healthy life and for Kuwait further development and security. His Highness the Crown Prince thanked the Bahraini Prime Minister

for the kind feelings, wishing him a long and healthy life and more prosperity for the Kingdom. Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received greetings from Prince Khalifa on the joyful occasion of the Islamic festival of Eid Al-Adha. In a phone conversation they had yesterday, His Highness the Prime Minister thanked the Bahraini official for the warm sentiments,

wishing the two Gulf neighbors continued development and prosperity. Separately, Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah extended his "warmest greetings" yesterday to the country's political leadership ahead of the holy Islamic festival of Eid Al-Adha. "I am honored to convey the entire defense ministry's well-wishes on the

joyful occasion of Eid Al-Adha," the Kuwaiti defense minister wrote in a letter to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah were also the recipients of warm messages from the Kuwaiti defense minister. — KUNA

Four main slaughterhouses, 10 temporary ready for Eid



KUWAIT: Several images taken from the livestock market in Rai yesterday, which becomes lively at this time of the year ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid Al-Adha or the 'Feast of Sacrifice'. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The slaughterhouse official at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) Mohammad Al-Salem said the authority is ready for Eid Al-Adha at all slaughterhouses. Salem said four central slaughterhouses and 10 temporary ones cover Kuwaiti areas in cooperation with the Cooperative Union, Municipality and other concerned authorities. The meat will be tested to make sure it's safe for consumers. He asked the public not to use roaming butchers who may not be experienced and lack knowledge. In other news, Ahmadi public cleanliness and road occupancy department removed 27 slaughter areas as Kuwait Municipality is preparing for Eid Al-Adha.

Energy services

The annual development plan of the government guarantees everyone modern energy services at an affordable cost. The program aims at developing and increasing power and water production capacity to meet the increasing demand for power by various sectors, be it for consumption or production, and due to expanded construction. The program has four construction projects - the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) is participating with annual financial allowances estimated at KD 153 million, of which 27 percent was

spent at the end of the first quarter of 2018-2019.

Housing welfare

The government is serious about providing housing to citizens and reduce the number of those on the waiting list in its development report for the first quarter of 2018/2019. The report said the housing care program is working on five major construction projects being executed by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) in the long run. These include constructing integrated cities linked with infrastructure, power supplies and services. He said the completion percentage varies in the five projects as Jaber Al-Ahmad is over 80 percent complete, while South Saad Al-Abdullah and South Sabah Al-Ahmad are still in preparatory stages. South Mutlaa project is suffering from some obstacles that have not been resolved so far, such as leftovers from the Iraqi invasion. The South Abdullah Al-Mubarak project is also facing several obstacles.

Surprise visit

Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Mustafa Redha made a surprise visit to Amiri Hospital to ensure about patients' safety in wards and health services provided to them during Eid Al-Adha. Redha thanked all workers for their efforts in serving patients during the Eid break.



Local

Undersecretary for Border Security visits sea centers

No injuries in fire in Salmiya building's basement



KUWAIT: Scenes from the Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Border Security Maj Gen Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah's visit to the sea centers.



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Border Security Maj Gen Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah visited the sea centers Saturday. His inspection tours mostly covered southern centers including the Khairan, Um Al-Maradem island, Qaruh island and coastguards. He conveyed greetings of Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Undersecretary Lt Gen Essam Al-Nahham.

Salmiya fire

Salmiya Fire Center responded to a call about a fire in the basement of a Salmiya building. Bidaa and technical rescue centers also responded. The basement was used as a garment storehouse. The building was evacuated, and the fire was contained and put out. No injuries were reported.



Debris at the basement of a Salmiya building where a fire was reported.

Interior Ministry coordinates for pilgrims' safety

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The interior ministry's relations and security information department said Director General of Civil Defense Col Jamal Hussein Al-Foudary

headed an interior ministry delegation that is participating in Kuwait's hajj mission and attended coordination meetings of the Kuwaiti pilgrimage convoys that were held at the awqaf ministry and subsequent meetings that were held in Makkah to discuss preparations and readiness to receive Kuwaiti pilgrims. Foudari said the interior ministry delegation is keen on performing its duties through precise plans. He said the number of Kuwait hajj convoys is 49 and the number of Kuwaiti pilgrims is 8,500, along with 1,000 non-Kuwaitis.



Janitor stamped papers at health ministry department

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The health minister sent officials from a department that issues official documents for questioning after they were found to be lax in their performance. It was proven that their duties were being carried out by a janitor in the department, who was

stamping official papers in the presence of official employees.

Treatment abroad

In other news, Kuwait Medical Association rejected the interference of some MPs in the committees deciding treatments abroad, adding that one of the most important reasons for "medical tourism" is political pressure and interference by some MPs. This comes on the heels of statements by an MP against the head of the brain and neurosurgery committee chairman at Ibn Sina Hospital. Head of the society Dr Ahmad Al-Thuwaini strongly rejected interference of some MPs in specialized medical committees and its decisions. He said this matter is technical and it's up to doctors to decide whether the patient travels abroad or not.

Farwaniya police arrest 'major drug dealer'

KUWAIT: Farwaniya police arrested a major drug dealer who attempted to attack them, resisted arrest and attempted to run them over, but his attempts failed. He will be sent to the Drugs Control General Department. Police learned about a bedoon man nicknamed "Mercurial Jahrawi", who was known to trade in drugs in Farwaniya governorate. The suspect was then placed under surveillance. Eight bags of shabu, hashish and drugs paraphernalia were found with him.

Smuggling foiled

A Saudi man failed to smuggle 800 cartons of cigarettes in his car as Nuwaiseeb customs officers discovered the stash. The cigarettes have an estimated value of KD 5,600. The suspect and the contraband were sent to concerned authorities.

Man escapes abusive wife

A Bangladeshi man ran away from his


abusive wife, so she reported him missing. When policemen brought him back, they learned that he had fled on his own will due to stress because of her mistreatment, according to his statements. The man had refused to go with his wife at the beginning, but finally left the police station with her. The Sri Lankan woman had told Jahra police that her Bangladeshi husband was missing and did not respond to her calls. Police then called him, and when he answered, they told him to come to the police station.

Motorcycle accident

A ruling family member was injured in a motorcycle accident in the south of the country. He was taken to Adan Hospital for treatment. Investigations are underway to find out the reasons behind the accident.

Fugitive caught

Jahra police arrested a citizen and found out that he is wanted on 10 money-related cases after he was reported missing by his family. Police were able to locate him in a cafe in industrial Jahra and arrested him. He said he left home due to family problems, but he was found wanted and arrested. — Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa




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Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kuwait Towers light up the sky during twilight. — Photo by Odeh Ali (KUNA)

Kuwaiti artist wins award at Italy's art exhibition

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ROME: Kuwaiti Artist Naji Al-Hay presents one of his paintings to Kuwait's Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Sabah. — KUNA

ROME: Kuwaiti Artist Naji Al-Hay won a creative excellence award at an art exhibition in Rome, Italy, in recognition of his outstanding performance among selected European and Arab artists, a statement by Kuwait's embassy here said yesterday. Hay was honored for the recognition he received as a Kuwaiti artist in an essential art exhibition in Rome, which he considered a 'tribute' to every Kuwaiti artist, especially those with disabilities, the statement noted.

In this context, Kuwait's Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Sabah held a reception to celebrate Hay. Cultural presence in a form of an artist has positive impacts in strengthening Kuwaiti-Italian relations, the Ambassador stressed.

The artist thanked Ambassador Ali Al-Khalid for the honoring and hospitality. Artists from Kuwait, Italy, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Serbia participated in the exhibition. — KUNA

PIC committed to concept of sustainable development

KUWAIT: The Petrochemicals Industries Company (PIC) is committed to the concept of sustainable development and its practices in Kuwait, said Mohammad Al-Farhoud, CEO of the company, yesterday. His remarks came in a statement after PIC published its 2017-2018 sustainability report, which focused on the Company's contribution in preservation of the environment, as well as promoting businesses.

Committing to the concept of sustainable development would have a positive impact on societal prosperity and betterment of human resources, which would eventually lead to a better future, said Farhoud. He expressed pride over effective and safe work practices followed by PIC in a bid to integrate sus-

tainability into all Company tracks of work and decision-making mechanisms, be it economic, social or environmental.

PIC launched its 'Sustainability Goals' in 2013, setting ambitious targets for operational excellence and corporate social responsibility. PIC is a subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). In the downstream sector, PIC plays a key role in driving the diversification of the Kuwaiti economy and ensuring sustainable growth in the country. — KUNA



Mohammad Al-Farhoud

Caller ID software developer defends app, vows to launch new one with ‘different look’

Developer believes ban will be temporary, says app helped police arrest criminals

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Recently the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) decided to block caller identification applications for smartphones after some people complained that these applications negatively affected their lives. At first when these apps were blocked, people could still use them if they had proxies on their phones. But two days later, some of these apps decided to stop operating, claiming they had deleted their database, so users won't be able to use them even with a proxy.

CITRA claimed that blocking caller ID applications was due to their violations of the individual's private data, leaving them with security problems such as identity theft, fraud, domestic violence, family disputes and bank thefts. The caller ID applications were very useful for thousands of users, although many people

claimed they were offended by these apps. These applications work on using the names registered by people in their contact lists. So when a strange number calls you, you can identify it by how other users have saved this number.

When a user downloads the app, he must agree to the terms and conditions. The terms include access to the user's contact list. As some users have saved certain people's phone numbers in their contact lists with insulting or bad names, these names will appear to others. So some users complained of these embarrassing names that caused them problems.

Although it's not the fault of the app that some users save others' details with these names, it offered complaining users to delete their embarrassing names from the database free of charge. The app also provided the option of appearing invisible to other users and not appearing in a search completely for a nominal fee.

Menodag (who called?) is one of the most popular caller ID apps in Kuwait. It was blocked by CITRA and is no longer working. "I will sue CITRA if their procedure is illegal. Other applications should be blocked and not just caller ID apps, as many other types of apps that are more harmful and in conflict with our traditions and religion are still operating," the developer of the app told Kuwait Times. This decision of blocking the app caused him financial losses. "I completed my obligations towards the advertisers in my app before closing it completely. Yet shutting my app cost me a lot as I can't take any ads," added the owner.

He believes that this situation won't last forever. "I think it's a temporary procedure, as we can't stop the Internet evolution. For instance, there are many other applications and social media programs such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and others, where many users have committed violations and these were not blocked. I think that users who violate the law should be penalized and not the media or app," he said.

The developer said that he stopped the app as he respects the law, and refused to comment whether he



can reactivate the deleted database again. "This decision of CITRA won't stop me from creating a new app with a similar concept but different look, and I will launch it soon. CITRA's decision only applies to Kuwait and is not an international law," he said. Menodag was useful even for public authorities. "Menodag led to the arrest of many criminals including drug dealers and others, and I cooperate with all public and security institutions in Kuwait to maintain security in our country. This is just my opinion and I'm not against any laws," he concluded.

Kuwait Times contacted three CITRA officials to comment on this matter and answer a few questions, but didn't get any response after a week of waiting. CITRA previously published on its website that it affirms its complete rejection of violations that invade privacy and the protection of personal data. CITRA considered the move to ban caller ID smartphone applications to be a positive objective, since it's relat-

ed to citizens' privacy, security and safety. CITRA has approved privacy protection regulations to ensure that the personal data of individuals are protected. Sharing private information with third parties is forbidden without the individual's knowledge and permission. Whoever violates the regulation will be legally liable.



The Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority's (CITRA) logo.



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Baghdad gun shops thrive

Trump lashes out at Russia probe as ‘McCarthyism’



PEMENANG: Indonesian Military shows a soldier talking to residents in Pemenang, northern Lombok, after a 6.9 magnitude earthquake struck. — AFP

Fresh quake rocks Indonesia’s Lombok

Strong earthquake triggers landslides, damaging buildings

MATARAM: A strong earthquake rocked the Indonesian island of Lombok yesterday, triggering landslides, damaging buildings and sending people fleeing just two weeks after a tremor killed more than 480 people there. The 6.3-magnitude quake, centered in East Lombok, struck at a relatively shallow depth of seven kilometers (four miles) and was felt across the island, officials said.

It was the third major quake in less than a month to rock the island, after deadly tremors on July 29 and August 5 and numerous aftershocks. “The earthquake caused people to panic and flee their houses,” national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told Metro TV. “There have been no reports of death or (serious) damage but people are traumatized.” At least one person suffered minor injuries while two more

fainted from shock, he added. Landslides were reported in a national park on Mount Rinjani where hundreds of hikers had been briefly trapped after the quake in late July. The park has been closed since then. Local disaster mitigation agency spokesman Agung Pramuja said several houses and other structures in the district of Sembalun, on the slopes of Mount Rinjani, collapsed yesterday after being damaged by the previous two quakes. The structures included checkpoints once used by trekkers climbing the mountain, Pramuja said, adding that the exact number of damaged buildings was still being checked.

Residents said the latest earthquake was felt strongly in East Lombok. “I was driving to deliver aid to evacuees when suddenly the electricity pole was swaying. I realized

it was an earthquake. “People started to scream and cry. They all ran to the street,” East Lombok resident Agus Salim told AFP. The tremor was also felt in the island’s capital Mataram and on the neighboring resort island of Bali. “Everybody ran outside their house. They’re all gathering in an open field, still terrified,” said Endri Susanto, a children’s rights activist in Mataram. “People are traumatized by the previous earthquakes and aftershocks never seem to stop.”

The latest tremor comes two weeks after a shallow 6.9-magnitude quake on August 5 damaged tens of thousands of homes, mosques and businesses across Lombok. At least 481 people died and thousands were injured. The

hardest-hit region was in the north of the island, which has suffered hundreds of aftershocks. A week before that quake, a tremor surged through the island and killed 17. The August 5 quake left more than 350,000 displaced, with many sleeping under tents or tarpaulins near their ruined homes or in evacuation shelters, while makeshift medical facilities were set up to treat the injured.

Badly damaged roads, particularly in the mountainous north of the island, are a headache for relief agencies trying to distribute aid. The economic toll of the quake is estimated to be at least five trillion rupiah (\$348 million). Dubbed “The Island of a Thousand Mosques”, Muslim-majority Lombok is a less popular destination than its neighbor Bali, the Hindu-majority island that is the backbone of Indonesia’s \$19.4 billion tourist sector. — AFP

Genoa’s death toll rises to 43

GENOA: The toll of Genoa’s bridge collapse rose to 43 yesterday as rescuers confirmed they had found the remains believed to be of a missing family, a day after Italy held a funeral for the disaster victims. Firefighters discovered the three bodies, reported to be those of a couple and their nine-year-old daughter, overnight inside a car extracted from the rubble of the viaduct. The findings mean that all those reported missing after Tuesday’s tragedy have now been accounted for, although rescuers said the would continue combing the wreckage.

“The bodies of the final three missing people were found overnight,” Italy’s fire service said on Twitter yesterday. “The fire service is continuing its inspection of the area in order to rule out the eventual presence of people not reported missing.” The announcement followed the discovery Saturday of the body of a laborer in his 30s in the rubble and the death of another man in hospital. The disaster has caused public outrage and unleashed a fierce debate over the state of Italy’s infrastructure.

Rome has blamed the collapse on Autostrade per l’Italia, which manages almost half of the country’s motorway network including the stricken A10 road. The prosecutor investigating the bridge collapse has criticized past management of Italy’s infrastructure.

Francesco Cozzi said the state had “abdicated” its responsibility to ensure road safety by handing motorway management to the private sector, in an interview published yesterday. “The philosophy of our system today sees a state stripped of its powers, a sort of absent

owner,” he told the Corriere Della Sera newspaper.

‘Won’t accept handouts’

Italy bid farewell to the victims, including several children, in Saturday’s solemn funeral that was boycotted by a majority of the families, who resented the presence of politicians and derided the ceremony as “a farce”. Thousands of mourners packed into a flower-filled makeshift chapel where the coffins of 19 victims had been lined up. An imam led prayers for two Muslim victims – a poignant gesture in a staunchly Catholic country where the far-right is now in power and which has seen a rise in attacks on foreigners. Shortly after the official ceremony, Autostrade announced it would make 500 million euros (\$570 million) available to help those affected by the tragedy and rebuild the partially collapsed bridge.

The Morandi viaduct dates from the 1960s and has been riddled with structural problems for decades, leading to expensive maintenance and criticism from engineering experts. The company’s boss Giovanni Castellucci said it would take eight months to build a new steel bridge in place of what was left of the viaduct. But co-deputy prime ministers Luigi Di Maio and Matteo Salvini rejected the offer as insufficient. Di Maio said “the state won’t accept Autostrade’s handouts” and demanded “credible compensation”, while Salvini called the sum “the bare minimum”. “If they think that they have paid for their mistakes then they are mistaken,” said Salvini on Saturday.

The government plans to strip Autostrade of all of its lucrative contracts, which total 3,020 kilometres (1,870 miles) of Italy’s 7,000 km-long motorway network. The Liguria region, where Genoa is located, declared a year-long state of emergency in the aftermath of the collapse. — AFP

Forty years ago: Three popes in three months

VATICAN CITY: The death 40 years ago of Pope John Paul I, who reigned for just 33 days in 1978, paved the way for the Roman Catholic Church to have three pontiffs in three months. And his death was followed by the election of the first non-Italian pope in 400 years, John Paul II.

The ‘smiling pope’

On August 6, 1978, Pope Paul VI dies aged 80 of a heart attack after 15 years at the Vatican. On August 26, Cardinal Albino Luciani—the patriarch of Venice—is elected pope under the name John Paul I. Aged 65, the son of a bricklayer from northern Italy has “two deep creases which go right down to his chin, features which tell of his peasant origin: Venetian mountain people, simple, honest and hospitable,” AFP reports at the time. He demonstrates a more direct leadership style than his predecessors and avoids ceremony wherever possible.

Highly sensitive to poverty, the man known as the “smiling pope” for his warm and pastoral demeanor, calls for a fair wage for all. But on the night of September 28–29, he suddenly dies, apparently of a heart attack, just 33 days after his election. He becomes one of the shortest-lived popes in history. The next morning, Vatican workers gather around little portable radios under the porch to discreetly listen to the news, AFP reports. “To pilgrims who enter the basilica, they have to answer the question ‘is it really true that the pope has died?’ They reply ‘yes’ nodding their heads solemnly.”

Poisoned?

The Vatican refuses to perform an autopsy, with speculation stirred by discrepancies between the official story of the discovery of his body and the facts. “The pope was found on Friday morning with a serene face,

whereas, according to a reliable Vatican source, the reported myocardial infarction should have affected his limbs or his facial features,” AFP wrote.

Providence, negligence-intentional or not-of his own health, or a conspiracy: numerous theories will question the official account. In 1984, British author David Yallop, who writes mostly about unsolved crimes, publishes “In God’s Name” which suggests John Paul I was poisoned because he was determined to oppose the domination of the Vatican by the notorious P-2 masonic lodge. The Holy See dismisses the theory as “completely absurd”. The book is published in 30 countries and is translated into nine languages.

According to other conspiracy theories, the pope wanted to address alleged corruption at the Vatican Bank, notably involving its president, Monsignor Paul Marcinkus, who was suspected of links to the mafia. A 2017 book by Italian journalist Stefania Falasca, however, refutes the criminal hypotheses. She says he was found in the early morning by a nun who said he was sitting on his bed wearing reading glasses with several typewritten sheets in his hands. The Vatican balked at the idea of telling the world a woman had been in his bedroom and seen the body, so it changed the story, Falasca claims.

First non-Italian pope

Rocked by the death of two popes in the space of two months, the Church has to find a successor. “It was already difficult to find a successor to Paul VI. How will the cardinals find such a good, such a cordial pope as Pope Luciani?” one retired woman said. On October 16, after eight rounds of voting, white smoke finally emerges from the Sistine Chapel, the signal from the 111 cardinals that a new pope has been elected. The massive crowd waiting in St Peter’s Square celebrates joyfully. “Non-Italian pope elected” AFP flashes, even before giving the name. Against all expectations, the 58-year-old Polish Archbishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyla, is chosen by the conclave. It is a small revolution for the Church, which has not had a non-Italian pope in more than 400 years.

Wojtyla adopts the name of John Paul II in



NEW YORK: Pope Francis greets Donald Cardinal Wuerl (left), Archbishop of Washington, at the Apostolic Nunciature to the United States upon returning from his visit to Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. — AFP

homage to his predecessor. He is enthroned on October 22, 1978 at the height of the Cold War. Charismatic, a stickler for tradition, a doctrinal conservative while embracing modern ways of spreading the Gospel, he is credited with helping to bring down communism in eastern Europe while fighting against unbridled capitalism. Although he does not succeed in fulfilling all his commitments, he is idolized by many worshippers as “God’s athlete” for his physical presence. He dies in 2005 after suffering for years from Parkinson’s disease and is made a saint in 2014. — AFP

International

Angry US leader lashes out at Russia probe as ‘McCarthyism’

US points at China, not Russia, on election meddling

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump yesterday angrily denounced the federal probe of Russia's 2016 election meddling as “McCarthyism at its WORST!” insisting he had authorized his White House counsel to testify to bring the matter to a close. Trump's Twitter storm was set off by a front-page report in the New York Times that said White House counsel Don McGahn had provided Special Counsel Robert Mueller with an unusually detailed account of Trump's thinking during key episodes under investigation.

Trump—who had already addressed the issue late Saturday—stepped up his attacks on the story and the probe in a series of angry morning tweets, slamming The New York Times for implying that McGahn had turned on him. “I have nothing to hide ... and have demanded transparency so that this Rigged and Disgusting Witch Hunt

can come to a close. “So many lives have been ruined over nothing – McCarthyism at its WORST!” Mueller is investigating whether the president sought to obstruct justice as well as whether his campaign colluded with Russia's covert effort to sway the 2016 presidential election in Trump's favor.

In more than 30 hours of testimony over the past nine months, the Times said McGahn laid out for investigators Trump's fury over the probe and the ways in which he asked McGahn to respond to it. Among the episodes he testified to were Trump's firing of former FBI director James Comey, and his obsession with putting a loyalist in charge of the probe, according to the Times. It noted that McGahn played a key role in stopping Trump from firing Mueller, who was made special counsel after Comey's firing.

“Many lives have been ruined over nothing”

”

Trump called the story a “Fake piece” and seemed particularly incensed at the suggestion that McGahn was a “RAT” like John Dean, the former White House counsel who testified against president Richard Nixon during the Watergate scandal.

“The Failing New York Times wrote a story that made it seem like the White House Counsel [sic] had TURNED on the President, when in fact it is just the opposite - & the two Fake reporters knew this. This is why the Fake News Media has become the Enemy of the People. So bad for America!” “Study the late Joseph McCarthy, because we are now in period with Mueller and his gang that make Joseph McCarthy look like a baby! Rigged Witch Hunt!”

China, not Russia
Meanwhile, US National Security Advisor John Bolton

yesterday singled out China, North Korea and Iran as countries who could possibly meddle in American elections—as President Donald Trump railed about a probe into Russian interference in 2016. Trump himself pointed the finger of blame on Saturday, tweeting: “All of the fools that are so focused on looking only at Russia should start also looking in another direction, China.”

When asked about the tweet, Bolton also mentioned Beijing, which is currently at an impasse with Washington on trade talks. “I can say definitively that it's a sufficient national security concern about Chinese meddling, Iranian meddling and North Korean meddling that we're taking steps to try and prevent it,” Bolton told ABC News. “So all four of those countries, really.”

When pressed for further details, especially with relation to China, Bolton was vague, saying he could not offer



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump speaks to the press before boarding Marine One at the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP

details. “I'm telling you (that) looking at the 2018 election, those are the four countries that we're most concerned about,” he told the network's “This Week” news program. Trump has intensified his attacks on special counsel

Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, and whether his campaign team colluded with Moscow to sway the contest in the Republican's favor. — Agencies

Gaza crossing shut down after border violence

JERUSALEM: Israel closed yesterday its only crossing for people with the Gaza Strip except for humanitarian cases after weekend border clashes, the latest tightening of its blockade on the Palestinian enclave despite truce efforts. The move could prevent Gazans from travelling via the crossing for this week's Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, which runs from Monday night until Thursday night, but Israeli officials did not say how long the closure would last.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said in a statement the closure was due to “violent incidents on the border last Friday”. The Palestinian Authority civilian affairs office in the Gaza Strip also confirmed the closure except for medical cases and Palestinians seeking to cross back into the enclave. Border protests and clashes on Friday saw two Palestinians killed by Israeli gunfire. Israel's army said firebombs and improvised explosive devices were also hurled at the border fence, while a number of Palestinians briefly crossed into Israeli territory.

No Israelis were reported wounded. The closure and border incidents occurred despite attempts by Egypt and UN officials to reach a long-term truce between Israel and Hamas, the Islamist movement that runs the blockaded Gaza Strip. Israel has enforced an air, land and sea blockade on the Gaza Strip for more than a decade, but grants permission to a limited number of people to cross for various reasons.

The two sides have fought three wars since 2008. Israel had just last week reopened its only goods crossing with Gaza after closing it to most deliveries for more than a month over border tensions. Gaza's only other border is with Egypt but the Rafah crossing with the enclave had largely been kept closed in recent years. Cairo opened it in mid-May and it has mostly remained so since. Separately yesterday, US President Donald Trump's national security adviser John Bolton arrived in Israel for talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at a time of shared concerns over Syria, Iran and the Gaza Strip.



DEIR EL-BALAH: Relatives of Karim Abu Fatayer, a 30-year-old member of the Islamist movement Hamas' military wing Al-Qassam Brigades who was shot the day before while demonstrating near the border with Israel, mourn during his funeral in Gaza. — AFP

‘A big step forward’

Protests and clashes began on the Gaza border on March 30 and have continued at varying levels since then. At least 171 Gazans have been killed by Israeli fire during that time. One Israeli soldier was shot dead by a Palestinian sniper in July. There have also been several severe military flare-ups, including three since July. The latest was on August 9, when Israel responded to some 180 rockets and mortars fired from Gaza with widespread air strikes.

UN officials and Egypt have been seeking to secure a long-term truce between Hamas and Israel to allow for humanitarian issues in the impoverished enclave of two million people to be addressed. Israel is demanding calm and a return of the remains of two soldiers Hamas is believed to be holding. Two Israeli civilians, both said to be mentally unstable, are also believed to have entered Gaza

and to be held by Hamas. Israel is also seeking their return. Senior Hamas official Khalil Al-Hayya said on Friday that he believed a durable truce with Israel was near.

He said that UN and Egyptian talks taking place in Egypt with various Palestinian factions have “taken a big step forward towards understandings with the occupation... and the possibility of restoring calm”. An Israeli official said on condition of anonymity Wednesday that an initial set of “understandings” had been reached with the help of the UN and Egypt, leading to several days of calm on the border last week and the opening of the goods crossing. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas has however expressed concern over any agreement that bypasses the Palestinian Authority. Hamas and Abbas's Fatah, based in the occupied West Bank, have been deeply divided for more than a decade. — AFP



PACARAIMA: Photo shows the remains of belongings of Venezuelan immigrants burnt by residents of the Brazilian border town of Pacaraima after they attacked their two main makeshift camps. — AFP

who were camped out here,” Ismael said. He said police were looking for the four men.

“Out, out, out, go back to Venezuela,” demonstrators shouted at the Venezuelans as they rushed passed the border post carrying what they could, video images distributed by the Roraima government showed. The four Venezuelan suspects stole 23,000 reais (\$5,800) from the restaurant owner, identified only as Raimundo. He suffered head injuries and was taken to hospital unconscious but was reported to be out of danger, Castro said. Brazilian army soldiers stationed at Pacaraima to help maintain order asked Venezuelan immigrants to return across the border for their own safety, Castro said.

Venezuela's economy has been in steep decline and there are periodic waves of protests against the leftist government of President Nicolas Maduro. Maduro argues that he is the victim of a Washington-led “economic war” designed to sabotage his administration through sanctions and price-gouging.

“The only people responsible for this tragedy are Maduro and his gang,” tweeted Venezuelan opposition politician Ismael Garcia about the flare-up in Brazil. The Roraima government has declared the immigration influx a social crisis and asked Brazil's federal government to close the border, which it will not do for humanitarian reasons. — Reuters

Brazilian border town drive out Venezuelans

BRASILIA: Angry residents of a Brazilian border town, Pacaraima, ran riot and drove out Venezuelan immigrants on Saturday after a local restaurant owner was stabbed and beaten, residents and government officials said. The demonstrations forced hundreds of Venezuelans to flee back across the frontier on foot and residents set fire to the belongings they left behind and to tires to block the only road crossing between the two countries, video images released by the state of Roraima government showed. The outburst of anger was sparked by the robbery and severe beating of a resident in his home on Friday night. Roraima state security secretary Giuliana Castro said by telephone.

After crossing back into their country, Venezuelans attacked a group of 30 Brazilians who were shopping across the border and who had to be taken to a shelter, Castro said. Venezuela's Information Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for information. Tens of thousands of Venezuelans have poured over the border into Roraima state over the last few years, fleeing economic and political turmoil in their country. The influx has overwhelmed the state's social services and brought a rise in crime, prostitution and disease, as well as incidents of xenophobia, Brazilian government officials say.

A Pacaraima resident who asked to be identified only as Ismael said by telephone that four Venezuelans allegedly entered the restaurant owner's home, tied him and his wife up and stabbed and beat the man severely before robbing his house. “The people here are up in arms. They are burning the belonging of Venezuelans

In war-torn Syria, Russian aid helps families survive

RASTAN: In regime-held central Syria, Suleiman Berber carried his son in his arms, anxiously observing Russian soldiers unload food parcels from a truck. His face suddenly lit up as his wife managed to grab one, while journalists on a media tour with Russia's army watched on. Seven years into Syria's civil war, some 6.5 million people in the country are unable to meet their food needs, the United Nations says. In the town of Rastan in the central province of Homs, 31-year-old Berber said he and his family depend on aid from government ally Russia to survive.

Before the regime returned to Rastan, “it was really tough. We didn't have enough to eat or drink,” said Berber, dark rings under his eyes. “Now there's this aid, it's better.”

Around him, dozens of Syrians and their children, many dressed in dusty clothes, gathered to receive parcels of rice, flour and condensed milk. Each package bore Russia's flag and the message “Russia is with you” in Cyrillic script. Backed by Russian warplanes since 2015, President Bashar al-Assad's regime has recovered large parts of Syria through a combination of deadly bombing campaigns, crippling sieges and surrender deals. Assad's forces took back control of Rastan in May, under an agreement that saw rebels and their family members bused out of the town and up to northern Syria.

Farming ‘at a loss’

Russian army spokesman Igor Konachekov said the regime ally delivers food to the town once a day. “We will continue until the food situation in Syria improves,” he said. “After the war is finished, it could still take several months.” In July, the UN's World Food Program distributed food assistance to more than three million people in Syria. “Soaring food and fuel prices, stagnant salaries, loss of livelihoods and reduced food production have led to widespread food insecurity across the country,” it said.

In the neighboring province of Hama, more than a dozen Syrians worked away on a farm. Ahmad Al-Tawil, the owner of the land, said some had returned to work after they were displaced to other parts of Syria or abroad. Others had rented a plot to help feed their families, after the fighting between rebels and regime fighters subsided.

“The fighting happened just five kilometers from here,” Tawil explained, standing in an orchard where he said he has found landmines. “When the shooting got too intense, the workers couldn't come.” His yield has been good this year, he said, after “lots of rain, which is perfect for potatoes and fruit”.

But due to low exports Tawil is selling them cheap and his farm is “working at a loss”, he said, complaining about the high price of fertilizer. Regime forces now control 60 percent of the country, after earlier this year securing control of Damascus, the country's centre and regaining most of its southwest. Syria's Prime Minister Imad Khamis this week said developing the agricultural sector was a priority in areas the government controlled. Measures are to include abolishing certain taxes for family agriculture projects, a cabinet statement said. — AFP

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Baghdad gun shops thrive after a rethink on control

Shop owner sees increasing demand from women

BAGHDAD: In the middle of Baghdad's busy commercial neighborhood of Karrada, where most retail outlets sell home appliances, shoppers can now also buy handguns and semi-automatic rifles legally for the first time in decades. After the toppling of Saddam Hussein in 2003, illegal weapons trade flourished across the country. Looted guns from ransacked police stations and military bases were sold in streets and public areas to residents seeking to protect themselves in a state that was largely

lawless. The authorities have since been battling to curb illegal weapon sales and the government has stepped up efforts to control gun ownership through regulation.

The latest initiative came into force this summer and allows citizens to own and carry handguns, semi-automatic rifles and other assault weapons after obtaining official authorization and an identity card that also details the individual's weapons. Previously, gun sales were restricted to firearms for

hunting and sport. Hamza Maher opened his new gun shop in Karrada after receiving official approval from the Interior Ministry and says there has been growing demand for his wares. "Customers are mainly men, but the number of women buyers is growing," said Maher inside his shop, where a variety of pistols and assault rifles are on display.

"The reason for buying is self-defense, and it's safer for citizens to buy a weapon from an authorized store instead of from an unknown source."

Pistol prices in Maher's shop range from \$1,000 to \$4,000, while Kalashnikov assault rifles can be had from as little as \$400 up to \$2,000, depending on the brand and manufacturing origin, he said. Haider al-Suhail, a tribal sheikh from Baghdad, welcomed the legalization of gun stores. "Yes, it will decrease crime," he said on a visit to Maher's shop to buy assault rifles for his ranch guards. "The criminal who plans to attack others will understand that he will pay heavy price." — Reuters

US missionary at the centre of Turkey-US crisis

IZMIR: When Andrew Brunson saw a police summons on his door in late summer 2016, the US evangelical pastor thought it was a routine appointment to sort out his residency papers in Turkey, his home for nearly a quarter of a century. He went to the police station on Oct 7, 2016, was detained and later charged with involvement in a coup attempt. He is still in detention and is now at the centre of a diplomatic row that has fuelled Turkey's most serious currency crisis for almost two decades.

"Obviously he was more than surprised" to be detained, Brunson's lawyer, Ismail Cem Halavurt, told Reuters in an interview on Friday. Brunson lived and preached in Izmir, a city on Turkey's Aegean coast near some of the sites of Christianity's first communities. At his first hearing in April, attended by Reuters, Brunson said he was "raising disciples for Jesus" in a country he deeply loved. In July, after nearly two years in prison, Brunson was moved to house arrest. A court on Friday rejected an appeal to release him, saying evidence was still being collected and he posed a flight risk, according to a copy of the ruling seen by Reuters.

US President Donald Trump has demanded Brunson's unconditional release, describing him as a "great patriot hostage", and has slapped sanctions and tariffs on Turkey which have helped push the lira currency to record lows. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has linked Brunson's release to the fate of Fethullah Gulen, a Turkish Muslim cleric living in the United States whom he blames for the July 2016 coup attempt. Erdogan has raised tariffs on US cars, alcohol and tobacco in a tit-for-tat response.

"You have one pastor as well. Give him (Gulen) to us... Then we will try him (Brunson) and give him to you," Erdogan said in a speech last September to police officers in Ankara. It is a suggestion Washington has dismissed. The breakdown in relations between the two NATO allies has thrust Brunson's case to international prominence and made the 50-year-old American the unlikely centre of attention in a currency crisis that has shaken global emerging markets.

Turkish courts have rejected several appeals for Brunson to be freed and allowed to leave Turkey. A senior Turkish official, asked about the case, said that the judiciary is independent and the verdict is up to the courts. Halavurt, Brunson's lawyer, said the North Carolina pastor was not unduly alarmed when he first went to the police station. He expected at worst to be given a two-week deadline to leave the country - standard practice with residency violations - and to return to Turkey when his papers were sorted out.

Instead, he was held in a detention centre for two months before being formally arrested on Dec. 9, 2016.

He was charged with crimes committed on behalf of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), a Kurdish militant group which has waged a three-decade insurgency against the Turkish state, and on behalf of Gulen's network, according to the indictment seen by Reuters. Both are designated terrorist groups by Ankara. He was also charged with disclosing state information "for political or military espionage". Brunson has denied all the charges against him.

Secret witnesses

His indictment, interviews with his lawyer, and three trial sessions attended by Reuters show the accusations against Brunson centre around support for separatist Kurds and connections with alleged coup plotters. "I came to Turkey in 1993 to tell people about Jesus," he told the judge at his first hearing in April. Dressed in a black suit and white shirt, he spoke in fluent Turkish, ignoring the two court translators. "I've never done something secretive in my time in Turkey. The government monitored us all the time but I've never done anything against Turkey," he said.

The judge told Brunson he was not on trial for carrying out missionary activities but to face the charges against him. Prosecutors questioned why he travelled hundreds of miles from his church on Turkey's western coast to the mainly Kurdish southeast interior, where the PKK is active. Messages on his phones, travel details, testimony from his congregation and what the indictment refers to as three secret witnesses, code-named "Prayer", "Fire" and "Meteor", were cited in evidence against him.

The indictment cites GPS data showing trips to Suruc, near the Syrian border, and the mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir, as well as a meeting in 2010 with a man described by one of the secret witnesses as a US special forces soldier. Brunson said his trips to Kurdish areas were to help refugees who had escaped war in neighboring Syria. "I do not accept that I acted in accordance with PKK targets ... We wanted to convert Syrian refugees coming to Izmir. I do not differentiate between their ethnic identities," he said.

"Prayer", the secret witness, was quoted in the indictment as saying Brunson was linked to prominent suspected members of Gulen's network. Halavurt said the witness had failed to offer concrete evidence of any such connections. The prosecution said in its indictment that Brunson's phone records and witness testimony did establish the connections. Turkey has detained 160,000 people since the abortive putsch, almost half of them formally charged and kept in jail during their trials.

Brunson was not in the country at the time of the coup attempt but returned soon afterwards, according to his lawyer. In a text message cited in the indictment, he said the coup attempt "was a shock". "We were waiting for some events that would shake the Turks - preparing the conditions for Jesus' return ... I think the situation is going to get worse. We'll win in the end," said the message, which was dated July 21, 2016 and addressed to a fellow pastor, according to the indictment. Brunson did not deny sending the message but said it had been misunderstood, the indictment said.



US pastor Andrew Craig Brunson

'We didn't know him'

In the Alsancak district of Izmir where Brunson lived, a pharmacy owner described him and his wife as "quiet people". The owner of a boutique two streets from his home said she never met him. "I know everyone in this neighborhood and I had no idea these people lived here," she said. Turkey's government says it was similarly unaware of Brunson until his case was raised by the US consulate. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said this month that the case was triggered by a criminal complaint filed by a translator who had worked for Brunson and denied that the pastor had been detained for use as a political pawn. "What possible benefit could we get from this person," Cavusoglu said at a meeting of Turkey's ruling party in the southern coastal town of Alanya.

The senior Turkish official said negotiations had been held with US counterparts "in different formats" but declined to comment further. At a NATO summit in Brussels last month, Trump and Erdogan discussed Brunson. Trump thought he and his Turkish counterpart had agreed a deal to release the US pastor, according to two US sources. Turkey has denied any such swap was agreed upon. Erdogan had sought US help to persuade Israeli authorities to release a Turkish woman being held in Israel, accused of ties to the Palestinian militant group Hamas. In exchange, Ankara would release Brunson, a senior White House official said.

Israel deported the Turkish detainee, Ebru Ozkan, on July 15 and later confirmed that Trump had requested her release. Ankara has denied ever agreeing to free Brunson in return. Brunson's transfer to house arrest 10 days later was deemed too little, too late by Washington and a phone call between the two leaders on July 26 "did not go well", according to the US official. Hours later, Trump announced sanctions against two Turkish government ministers. "They should have given him back a long time ago, and Turkey has in my opinion acted very, very badly," Trump told reporters at the White House on Friday, referring to Brunson. — Reuters

As killings rise, aid workers confront era of growing risk

DAKAR: Working in conflict zones for years does not make it any less frightening when armed militiamen storm the hospital you run, says Colette Gadenne of medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). This happened three times in three weeks from May to June in Central African Republic, where Gadenne is head of the mission. In one case, the fighters fired 21 rounds before leaving.

Central African Republic is a particularly bad case, but aid workers worldwide are facing an increase in raids, killings and kidnappings as fighters flout the international laws meant to protect humanitarians, aid groups said. This has changed the way agencies operate, forcing staff at all levels to grow accustomed to a constant level of danger and hone skills such as negotiating with armed groups, experts said.

"It is scary. Even if you have experience, even when you know you have a good network, it remains scary," Gadenne told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by telephone from Central African Republic's capital, Bangui. Nearly 140 aid workers were killed last year worldwide, a 23 percent rise over 2016, according to data released this week by independent research group Humanitarian Outcomes. South Sudan was the most dangerous country for the third year in a row, while Central African Republic rose to fourth on the list, after Syria and Afghanistan, following a three-fold rise in attacks.

The dangers limit the areas aid workers can enter, leaving more and more people without help, said Sofie Garde Thomle, head of the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in West and Central Africa. "Most importantly, the lack of access means we see a much higher loss of lives," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "If you look back 10 or 20 years ago, it was completely different," she added, speaking ahead of World Humanitarian Day on Sunday, a tribute to aid workers who risk their lives.

Today there is less respect for the rules of war, the international laws that protect people in conflict zones who are not fighting, Thomle said. "We could expect to be spared because our medical actions are extremely clear," said Gadenne of MSF. MSF staff in Central African Republic are in constant contact with various militias to negotiate access and give help to those who need it, she said. But the staff fell victim to 40 attacks in the country last year. "We do a lot of discussion with armed groups ... and it didn't work," Gadenne said. — Reuters



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MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2018

Business

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14 Venezuela on edge as Maduro unveils raft of financial reforms



VIENNA: In this file photo, the venue for OPEC meeting is seen in Vienna. Iran told OPEC yesterday no member country should be allowed to take over another member's share of oil exports.

Iran: No OPEC member can take over its share

Tehran seeks OPEC's support against US sanctions

LONDON: Iran told OPEC yesterday no member country should be allowed to take over another member's share of oil exports, expressing Tehran's concern about Saudi Arabia's offer to pump more oil in the face of US sanctions on Iranian oil sales.

In a meeting with OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo, a senior Iranian diplomat urged him to keep the group out of politics. "No country is allowed to take over the share of other members for production and exports of oil under any circumstance, and the OPEC Ministerial Conference has not issued any

license for such actions," Iran's oil ministry news agency SHANA quoted Kazem Gharibabadi, the permanent envoy to Vienna-based international organizations, as saying.

In May, US President Donald Trump pulled out of an international nuclear deal with Iran and announced sanctions against the OPEC member. Washington is pushing allies to cut imports of Iranian oil to zero and will impose a new round of sanctions on Iranian oil sales in November.

Iran is the third-largest oil producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting

Countries after Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Trump has called on OPEC to pump more oil to bring down prices. Energy ministers of Saudi Arabia, a US ally, and Russia said in May they were prepared to ease output cuts to calm consumer worries about supply.

"Iran believes that OPEC should strongly support its members at this stage and stop the plots of countries trying to politicize this organization," Gharibabadi said.

Regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran are involved in proxy wars, including in Yemen and Syria. Iran and other signatories of the nuclear

deal, including Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China, have been working to find a way to salvage the agreement despite US pressures.

Iran's vice president said yesterday that the government was seeking solutions to sell oil and transfer its revenues despite fresh US sanctions on Iranian energy and banking sectors. "We are hopeful that the European countries can meet their commitments but even if they cannot, we are seeking solutions to sell our oil and transfer its revenues," Eshaq Jahangiri was quoted as saying by the state news agency IRNA.

Jahangiri said European countries had prom-

ised to make up for Iran's loss after the new round of US sanctions hit its energy and banking sectors, but did not give more details.

In August, Washington imposed sanctions on acquisition of US dollar bank notes by the government of Iran, Iran's trade in gold and precious metals, and its automotive sector.

On Nov. 4, Washington will reimpose sanctions on Iran's oil exports and energy sectors, financial institutions conducting transactions with the Central Bank of Iran, as well as sanctions related to Iran's port operators and shipping sectors. — Reuters

Greece emerges from bailouts relieved, but not euphoric

ATHENS: The youngest Greeks may not be able to remember what life was like beforehand: the third and last of the country's international bailouts comes to an end today and while Greece is faring better, it still bears the scars of eight years of austerity.

After Portugal, Ireland, Spain and Cyprus, Greece was the last eurozone member to benefit from an international bailout program in the fall-out from the eurozone crisis.

In three successive programs — 2010, 2012 and 2015 — the European Union, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund loaned debt-racked Greece a total 289 billion euros (\$330 billion). But the economic reforms its creditors demanded in return almost brought the country to its knees, with a quarter of its gross domestic product (GDP) evaporating over eight years and unemployment soaring to more than 27 percent. The economy is now expanding and the jobless rate in May was back below 20 percent for the first time since 2011.

But "it would be arrogant to say that we did everything right in Greece", said Klaus Regling, head of the European Stability Mechanism, which is in charge of the current program, in a German magazine interview last week.

Regling told the online edition of the weekly Der Spiegel that he felt "tremendous respect" for the Greeks, whose salaries and pensions had been



ATHENS: A woman walks past a derelict building covered by a giant banner in Athens, yesterday. Today, Greece's third and final bailout officially ends after years of hugely unpopular and stinging austerity measures. — AFP

cut by as much as a third during the crisis. Nevertheless, many economists, such as Theodoros Stamatiou of Eurobank, argued that while bailout programs were "unavoidable" in a country lagging far behind in reforms, they were also too harsh.

No new collapse

Leftist Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and his then Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis tried to soften the terms of the second program when they came into power in January 2015.

But despite the resounding "No" of the Greek population to the international creditors in a public referendum, Tsipras-faced with a possible ejection of Greece from the single currency area-was compelled to sign a third bailout program the following July. Nonetheless, all of Greece's major political parties, including Tsipras's Syriza, are convinced of the need for serious reforms. Economics professor Nikos Vettas regards this as a favorable development and says that "nobody really thinks any more that Greece will collapse", a view that appears to be widely shared. — AFP

UK's richest man forced out of the shadows

LONDON: Reclusive titan of industry Jim Ratcliffe has found himself under unusual scrutiny after being declared Britain's richest man, with his political leanings and tax affairs coming under the microscope. The 65-year-old head of the Ineos chemicals group has assets worth an estimated £21 billion (\$26.7 billion, 23.5 billion euros), putting him top of the 2018 Sunday Times rich list.

He was only 18th on last year's list but the value of his company, of which he owns 60 percent, soared last year, propelling him up the ranks and earning him a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II.

It is a long way from his humble beginnings, growing up in social housing in Manchester, northern England. After earning a chemistry degree from the University of Birmingham and an MBA from the London Business School, Ratcliffe began a 40-year career in the business world at investment company Advent International before creating Ineos in 1998. The company went on to become an industrial juggernaut in a country increasingly dominated by the service sector. The group now has annual sales of \$60 billion and employs over 18,000 people in 24 coun-

tries. Chemicals manufactured by Ineos are found in various everyday products, from shower gel to medication.

Motorbikes and football

Ineos grew through acquisitions, including the \$9 billion purchase of petrochemical group Innovene, a subsidiary of BP. He acquired the giant Grangemouth refinery in Scotland as part of the deal, where he was soon plunged into battle with unions.

The group's tactics have led to accusations of asset stripping, but Ratcliffe told the BBC's HARDtalk program in 2016 that it merely pursued "management with more cost effectiveness". Ratcliffe is also a strong advocate of shale gas, organizing in late 2016 the arrival from the United States of the first cargo destined for Britain. The entrepreneur even tried his luck finding reserves at home, but progress has been slow in a country reluctant to embrace the shale revolution. Ratcliffe has continued to diversify his group, entering into the automotive sector with the aim of building the successor to the rugged Land Rover Defender car.

The group will decide in the coming months whether assembly will take place in Britain or on the continent. The marathon-running entrepreneur has also invested in the Belstaff motorcycle-clothing specialist and Swiss football club FC Lausanne, despite being a Manchester United fan. — AFP



Jim Ratcliffe

Business

‘Everything’s business’: Rohingya crisis offers earning opportunity

Cox’s Bazar district hosts one million Rohingya from Myanmar

TEKNAF, Bangladesh: Captain Min Min, a Buddhist from Myanmar, looks on as a stream of Muslim Rohingya laborers zig-zag up narrow gangplanks hauling sacks of ginger from his boat onto Bangladeshi soil—one of many seizing the economic opportunities presented by a refugee crisis.

“I don’t worry about conflict... everything is just business,” the ethnic Rakhine skipper says, offering beverages, cigarettes and big betel nut-stained smiles as he waits for his nine-ton cargo to be unloaded.

The Bangladeshi district of Cox’s Bazar now hosts around one million Rohingya from Myanmar, the vast majority of whom fled their country a year ago, driven out by the army and mobs of ethnic Rakhine, who falsely brand the Muslim minority as “Bengali” intruders.

The makeshift Rohingya camps have now congealed into tent cities spread out across hills and farmland. They contain new and dynamic economies, pump-primed by donor money and driven by a captive market of hundreds of thousands in need of food, shelter, work and-for those who can afford it-consumer goods.

For generations trade has diluted ethnic and religious rivalries among the Rakhine, Rohingya and Bangladeshis who flit between the two countries.

Commerce was barely interrupted as scores of Rohingya villages were torched in August last year, sparking an exodus of around 700,000 people by land and sea into Bangladesh.

The skies were heavy with smoke, but Min Min says he carried on delivering his “Made in Myanmar” cargo to Teknaf port-rice, ginger, make-up, noodles and the “ain-

shi” chestnuts ubiquitous at Rohingya snack stalls. The refugee influx has been good for business, adds his friend Thoin Line, an ethnic Rakhine importer from the Bangladesh side of the border.

“The Rohingyas are tough... they work night and day,” he says, adding, “and their wages are not too high.” Below, a line of drenched, wiry workers emerge from the hull of the boat, each shouldering two 30-kilogramme (66-pound) sacks of ginger imported from Myanmar.

They will earn between 300-500 taka (\$3-6) a day for their back-breaking efforts—a decent wage of sorts for laborers officially barred from working in Bangladesh and thus compelled to pay a share of their earnings to camp leaders who cherry-pick the workforce.

Most refugees are either jobless or stuck at the bottom of the labour ladder, a place they have occupied since Myanmar first began expelling its Rohingya in 1978.

Praying for rain

At the Kutupalong megacamp Bangladeshi entrepreneur Kamal Hussein, 24, is praying for rain. His income comes from a row of nearly 50 mobile phone charging points secured by bamboo struts.

“Business is slow... it is sunny and most people have solar panels so they don’t need our shop,” he says. Business is better when it rains because then “the solar panels don’t work”, he adds. Consumer goods like mobile phones are in hot demand as refugees settle in, spending salaries and remittances from relatives overseas.

Salesman Kaiser Ahmed says before last August’s crisis he sold five or six phones a

week at the existing camps. “Now it is around 300,” he explains.

Like many other Bangladeshis, Kaiser’s income has surged in step with the crisis.

Stores to repair and pawn Rohingya jewelry, stalls selling gaudy saris and shops charging refugees 30 US cents to watch live English Premier League football matches on their TVs have sprung up around the camp fringes over the past year.

NGO influx

Furthermore, the non-profits which work in the camps are big buyers of local bamboo, tarpaulins, concrete, pots, pans and blankets and employ thousands of Bangladeshi and Rohingya staff.

Bangladeshi Mohammad Jashan, 26, whose home is just outside Kutupalong, says he has climbed up the value chain in each of the three jobs he has held in foreign organizations in the last 12 months.

He now earns \$300 a month for a British charity—several times higher than the national average.

“My next salary will be higher as I have more skills,” he says, beaming proudly.

But pinch points are emerging. Poorer Bangladeshis say the Rohingya influx has collapsed wages. Crime, drugs and prostitution are rising, while the foreign NGO influx has warped prices-making owners of apartments, cars, hotels and restaurants richer, but sharpening the poverty of the locals with nothing to offer them.

Even among the Rohingya resentments are emerging. “After the new refugees came the NGOs put all the focus into them,” says Setara Begum, who was born in Kutupalong and is one of the roughly quarter million



TEKNAF, Bangladesh: In this photo, Rohingya workers transport 30kg sacks of ginger from a boat, which arrived from Myanmar’s Rakhine state, to waiting trucks at Teknaf port near Cox’s Bazar. — AFP

refugees to have lived in Bangladesh for years. “We only get basic rations now,” the 18-year-old said.

Keeping the peace

In June the World Bank moved to head off angst between the Rohingya and their Bangladeshi hosts, offering nearly half a billion dollars in grants for refugee health, education and sanitation.

The aim is to help ease Dhaka’s burden and establish services that will also be used-and staffed by-Bangladeshis. With refugees unlikely to be repatriated any time

soon, cash and jobs are the best route to keeping the peace.

At a beach outside the Shamlapur camp, Rohingya fisherman Mohammad Hossain says he worked his way up over two decades from crew to become the co-owner of two of the distinctive crescent-shaped boats that dot the coastline.

It is a dangerous job in the high monsoon seas. But there is no shortage of willing crew so the number of boats braving the waves has increased along with the catch, as money is spun from desperation. — AFP

NBK continues to serve customers during Eid Al-Adha

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait remains at the service of customers throughout the Eid Al-Adha holidays, giving them access to its services through the Bank’s Airport branch, toll free numbers available in eight countries, NBK WhatsApp service as well as through the Online and Mobile Banking.

NBK’s Airport branch will continue to receive customers around the clock, during the holidays, providing all various banking services available at other branches. The branch also exclusively carries Multi-Currency ATMs to allow travelers to withdraw from six currencies that are the Kuwaiti Dinar, US Dollar, Euro, British Pound Sterling, UAE Dirham, and Saudi Riyal. The ATMs are conveniently located between the departure gates and the arrival area.

In addition to the branch, NBK has made available its toll-free numbers for travelers to connect with the Bank while traveling. The numbers are available in eight of the most popular travel destinations: USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Turkey, Italy and Spain.

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- United Kingdom: 08000988456
- Canada: 1-855-577-7625
- France: 0805080765
- Germany: 08001811475
- Turkey: 008001139247
- Italy: 800792255
- Spain: 900839159

“NBK stays close to you wherever you are this Eid. We’ve made communicating with us easier and available at all times to ensure the best and most convenient

baking experience,” said Tamer Allam, Head of Contact Center, National Bank of Kuwait. “Whether by visiting the Airport branch or contacting us through the available numbers, customers can choose how they would like to complete their transactions, anywhere and anytime.”

Allam, added: “In addition to the convenience of the Airport branch and toll-free numbers, customers can continue benefiting from all our added-value service through the Online and Mobile banking services. Our aim is to always improve our banking experience to ensure the customers enjoy their travels.”

Customers can also contact an NBK call service agent directly and anytime from anywhere in the world at +96522248361 or by sending a text on the NBK WhatsApp number at +9655221333.

NBK customers can manage their accounts and finances as well round the clock via NBK Online Banking or NBK Mobile Banking available for all smartphones.

Providing convenience and reliability when traveling, NBK continues to offer its customers a wide range of exclusive services and offers to satisfy the needs of customers. NBK has the widest banking presence, available across four continents in cities and countries that comprise Geneva, London, New York, Paris, Shanghai and Singapore. Meanwhile, regional coverage extends to Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and UAE.



Ghadeer Al-Awadhi



Tamer Allam

S Africa land reform debate hots up as showdown looms

VEREENIGING, South Africa: “We live like sardines while white farmers live on hectares of land. Bring back our land!” declared Nthabiseng Tshivhenga, a black civil servant.

Her intervention prompted enthusiastic applause at a public hearing organised by parliament on the hugely sensitive issue of reforming land ownership in South Africa.

“Our forefathers were robbed of their dignity through brutal colonialists” who seized land, she said.

“The majority of the people in this country are black. Yet they are the poorest. Let’s expropriate without compensation!” said the mother with her fist raised.

As elections due in 2019 approach, President Cyril Ramaphosa has intervened to accelerate land reform in order to “undo a grave historical injustice” against the black majority during colonialism and the apartheid era that ended in 1994. Twenty-four years on and the white community that makes up eight percent of the population “possess 72 percent of farms” compared to “only four percent” in the hands of black people who make up four-fifths of the population, according to Ramaphosa.

To remedy the imbalance, the president recently announced that the constitution would be altered to allow for land to be seized and redistributed without compensation to the current owners.

Many black voters welcomed the announcement that provoked unprecedented concern among the white minority that has been aired at a series of public hearings across the nation this June, July and August to debate the combustible issue. In a public hall in Vereeniging, a town an hour south of the commercial capital Johannesburg, more than 1,000 people turned out to make their voices heard. In the front row sat a group of women wearing traditional Sotho dress.

‘We never stole land’

“Why should we compensate people who didn’t acquire the lands rightfully?”, asked Tsabeng Ramalope, a 30-year-old black nurse.

“Are we waiting for a civil war for this matter to be resolved?” she asked, speaking into a microphone, referring to several illegal land occupations seen in mostly urban areas in recent months.

A lawmaker who mediated the debate, Vincent Smith, will on September 28 submit to parliament a report either recommending or rejecting the proposed constitutional change, considering feedback from the local consultations. “What the Zimbabwean experience is telling us is that expropriation without compensation is a catastrophically bad idea,” warned white 37-year-old Carley Denny.

Carley spoke on behalf of her father who owns a farm of 100 hectares (245 acres) that has been in her family for five generations. “The Zimbabweans might have seized land without compensation, but they are still paying for it through years of economic decline,” she added, referring to the disastrous legacy of land reform launched by former leader Robert Mugabe in 2000.

The smattering of white audience members applauded her point. — AFP

Hammering of copper price a worrying signal for global growth

LONDON: The plunge in the price of copper by more than 20 percent since the beginning of June has worried analysts who see it as a bad signal for the global economy. The red metal has acquired the sobriquet Doctor Copper for its ability to take the temperature of the world economy.

Why trust Dr Copper?

Doctor Copper is able to tell when the world economy is going to get sick or get better because of the ubiquity of copper in the modern world. It is used in plumbing, heating, electrical and telecommunications wiring. “Trains, planes and automobiles are full of copper, so too are homes and appliances,” said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell. So, it is hard to imagine economic growth without copper, and the market price of the metal reflects fluctuations

in demand. Economists at the Bank of England who monitor the global growth to set monetary policy said on their blog that for them it “is crucial to assess what is happening in the world economy in real time or ‘nowcast’ economic activity.” Copper prices provide such a real time signal.

How good are his diagnoses?

Last year’s acceleration of global growth surprised the International Monetary Fund and several central banks. The Bank of England economists noted that: “Metals prices rose 30 percent over 2017, reflecting the continued and surprising strength of the global economy”.

It also works the other way. “The price of copper fell steeply during the global financial crisis,” said Andrew Kenningham, Chief Global Economist at Capital Economics.

“And if it continues for much longer, the latest leg down will begin to look ominous.”

But copper prices aren’t a foolproof signal as they are also due to supply factors. “Copper prices are driven not only by physical demand but also by supply shocks, speculation and exchange rate movements,” said Kenningham. As copper is traded in dollars, when the value of the Chinese yuan or other emerging market currencies fall it becomes more expensive, dampening demand and pulling the price of the metal lower. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

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CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
		Europe
British Pound	0.382219	0.396119
Czech Korune	0.005531	0.014831
Danish Krone	0.042568	0.047568
Euro	0.341664	0.355364
Georgian Lari	0.137932	0.137932
Hungarian	0.001146	0.001336
Norwegian Krone	0.031950	0.037150
Romanian Leu	0.065164	0.082014
Russian ruble	0.004563	0.004563
Slovakia	0.009088	0.019088
Swedish Krona	0.029172	0.034172
Swiss Franc	0.299589	0.310589

Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.214884	0.226884
New Zealand Dollar	0.196249	0.205749

America

Canadian Dollar	0.227886	0.236886
US Dollars	0.300050	0.305350
US Dollars Mint	0.300550	0.305350

Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003004	0.003806
Chinese Yuan	0.042929	0.046429
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037004	0.039764

Indian Rupee	0.003884	0.004666
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002671	0.002851
Korean Won	0.000261	0.000276
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070834	0.076834
Nepalese Rupee	0.002630	0.002970
Pakistan Rupee	0.001915	0.002685
Philippine Peso	0.005748	0.006048
Singapore Dollar	0.216739	0.226739
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001564	0.002144
Taiwan	0.010436	0.010616
Thai Baht	0.008840	0.009390

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.791661	0.808161
Egyptian Pound	0.014368	0.020086
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000200	0.000260
Jordanian Dinar	0.424685	0.433685
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022483	0.046483
Omani Riyal	0.783682	0.789362
Qatar Riyal	0.079252	0.084932
Saudi Riyal	0.080020	0.081320
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.106358	0.114358
Turkish Lira	0.048173	0.059373
UAE Dirhams	0.081384	0.083084
Yemeni Riyal	0.000989	0.001069

Bloodbath in emerging markets pushes dollar higher; euro firms

Turkey reassures investors over currency

KUWAIT: The US dollar continued its upward momentum last week fueled by the bloodbath in emerging markets following the turmoil in Turkey. Though the US has limited exposure to Turkey, the recent volatility was spread to other parts of the world, especially emerging markets, and could heighten worries on US trade relations with major partners. European Central Bank regulators also reported concern on the exposure of banks in the region, specifically Spain, Italy, and France. The concern is that Turkish borrowers may default on loans denominated on stronger currencies, as banks stand at a risk. Turkey's finance minister Berat Albayrak reassured investors in a call last week that the government is committed to tackling rampant inflation.

The possibility of a breakthrough in the US-China trade dispute eased the worries in the markets which were struck by the infusing financial crisis in Turkey. US equities recouped their losses as investors brushed-off the political conundrums. Nevertheless, demand on treasuries as safe-havens continued and kept the 10-year US treasury yield at around 2.85 percent level.

On the FX front, the US dollar had a volatile week reacting to sudden changes in the trade-war rhetoric and the developments in the Turkey crisis. The greenback gained as much as 0.75 percent during the past week and was supported by solid retail figures on Wednesday. The currency closed the week at 96.101.

US retail figures

US retail sales rose more than expected in July as households boosted purchases of

Rates – 19 th August, 2018							
Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month	
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1388	1.1301	1.1445	1.1438	1.1215	1.1520	1.1521
GBP	1.2773	1.2162	1.2827	1.2750	1.2580	1.2840	1.2810
JPY	110.43	110.11	111.43	110.50	109.35	111.45	109.70
CHF	0.9945	0.9901	0.9982	0.9956	0.9855	1.0060	0.9871

motor vehicles and clothing, suggesting the economy remained strong early in the third quarter. The Commerce Department said retail sales increased 0.5 percent last month. But data for June was revised lower to show sales gaining 0.2 percent instead of the previously reported 0.5 percent rise. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast retail sales nudging up 0.1 percent in July. Retail sales in July increased 6.4 percent from a year ago. July's increase in core retail sales suggested the economy started the third quarter on a solid footing after logging its best performance in nearly four years in the second quarter.

Eurozone inflation steadies

Yearly inflation in the eurozone remained static at 2.1 percent in July with no movements from the prior reading. Similarly, core inflation reading came at 1.1 percent on yearly basis in July as well. The ECB have pledged to end the QE by the end of the year and start reducing the 30 billion in monthly asset purchases to 15 billion start-

ing September 2018. The current readings of inflation may warrant such reductions, yet the market is still uncertain on the effect on inflation readings and the economy after the reductions of the QE program.

On the FX side, the euro started the week at 1.1388 and traded in a narrow range while losing ground to the dollar to reach 1.1301 on Wednesday. The single currency was supported at the 1.13 levels as the crisis in Turkey started taking a turn in the right direction at least.

UK unemployment rate

The unemployment rate in the UK dropped to 4 percent, its lowest level in 40 years as reported by the Office for National Statistics on Tuesday. Due to a reportedly high number of job vacancies, employment is expected to rise significantly in the near future. On the other hand, wage growth reported slower growth rising at just 2.4 percent, below economists' forecasts. The pound initially spiked, but quickly declined due to the weaker than expected wage growth data



gaining just 0.09 percent on the day.

Inflation met expectations in July and reversed the 2018 downward trend, rising to 2.5 percent. The Office for National Statistics report revealed that the rise is attributed to higher transport fees and fuel, along with irregular computer game prices.

The sterling continued its bearish move last week reaching 13-month low of 1.2662 even though robust economic figures on the labor market and inflation surfaced. The market is expecting a no deal Brexit by March 2019 and is pricing it in the currency levels at the moment.

Economic output in China eases

Retail sales growth dropped to 8.8 percent in July, compared with the 9.0 percent gain in June. It was lower than the 9 percent

median estimated in an MNI survey. The slowing was due to restaurant sales growth falling to 9.4 percent in July from 10.1 percent in June, and goods sales growth decreasing to 8.7 percent in July from 8.9 percent in June. From January to July, the growth slowed overall, to 9.3 percent from 10.4 percent in the same period last year. Industrial production growth was reported as 6.0 percent yearly in July, unchanged from the reading in June but well below analysts' predictions of a 6.4 percent yearly growth in an MNI survey. The year-to-date data, which was 6.6 percent y/y, was down 0.1 percentage point from last month.

Kuwaiti dinar
USDKWD opened at 0.30330 yesterday morning.

French farm aims to grow new crop of farmers

BELBERAUD, France: They bandy about terms like “co-working” but instead of coding and developing algorithms in open space offices they work out in the open trying to tease tomatoes from the soil.

Welcome to the Hundredth Monkey Farm where aspiring farmers can benefit from the same type of coaching and shared resources that many hi-tech startups get from business incubators or co-working.

The name pays homage to the hundredth monkey effect, the concept that an idea or behaviour will spread rapidly once it is adopted by a critical mass.

This farm in Belberaud outside the southern French city of Toulouse is seeking to promote a “more sober, more durable” alternative to industrial farming, one that is adapted to small holdings. And its “monkeys” aren't necessarily born into farming. Sacha Danjou, 25, is a former aeronautical engineer learning to manage a farm.

“Being a farmer, it's a different world that touches on a lot of different areas:

biology, management, accounting,” he said standing amongst rows of tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and other vegetables.

“When you are not part of it, it's difficult” to get started, he added. Here, for roughly 300 euros (\$340) per month, Danjou gets to test his hands with a parcel of 5,000 square meters (half a hectare, 1.2 acres) that has access to water and electricity. Moreover, he has access to farm machinery that all the aspiring farmers share.

The tractors and tillers alone cost around 40,000 euros. Adding that to the cost of land shows how setting up a farm is a costly endeavor.

“The risk is there when you start,” said Danjou. “You buy, you have huge costs, you need to generate a certain amount of sales from the first year, you can't make any mistakes,” he said as he worked the soil. “Without experience, it's scary.”

‘Agricultural co-working’

Amandine Largeaud, one of the founders of the Hundredth Monkey Farm, calls their model “agricultural co-working”. Co-working emerged a decade ago as an option for freelance employees and internet startups, where renters share not only office space but form a community where they can share experience and expertise.

Largeaud acknowledged some might find it surprising applying the concept to the fields, but “it's like office co-working, actually. We simply share the



In this file photo, a woman harvests eggplants (aubergines) at “The 100th Monkey” or “Le 100e singe” collaborative farm in Belberaud near the southern French city of Toulouse. — AFP

spaces and tools.”

In 2016, after several years in the solidarity economy, she joined up with 11 other people to launch the Hundredth Monkey Farm on a 19th century holding of five hectares.

Largeaud noted that as the French agricultural system is based on handing down land and skills through families, it is difficult for outsiders to break into the sector.

“When you want to get started you don't realize how much paperwork there is and the different agencies that you need to deal with,” said Danjou. “You

don't learn that overnight.”

That is why the Hundredth Monkey Farm is also a business incubator, offering aspiring farmers training and coaching as well as some administrative and legal assistance.

The aspiring farmers all sign a special type of pact that guides associations in France which help entrepreneurs that define what help they receive and as all have been recognized by the authorities as switching professions, they continue to receive unemployment benefits or payments for low-income workers. — AFP

Ghana backpedalling out of banking crisis

ACCRA: Ghana is backpedalling out of a banking crisis as the government takes on debt to save a troubled sector and vows to punish the executives responsible.

Early in August, Ghana's central bank revoked the licenses of five local banks and combined them into one—the newly created state-run Consolidated Bank-issuing 5.8 billion cedis (\$1.2 billion) in bonds to clear their debt. The Bank of Ghana (BoG) accused the collapsed banks of a range of issues, including poor corporate governance, questionable transactions and dishonest reporting.

The merger was just one step out of many that President Nana Akufo-Addo's government has been forced to take in order to reform Ghana's rotten banking sector, brought close to collapse as a result of bad governance and weak lending.

This past week, Ghana's deputy central bank governor Elsie Addo Awadzi said in an interview that law enforcement agencies will “further investigate criminal behavior” connected to the failed banks.

Ghana faces a “now or never” decision to clean up the banking sector, economist Eric Osei-Assibey told AFP. “This central bank is carving a niche for itself. It is beginning to bite and that alone could engender some confidence in the medium and long term,” Osei-Assibey said.

‘Good progress’

The banking intervention will add to Ghana's already high debt burden, said Razia Khan, Africa economist at Standard Chartered, in a note to investors earlier this month.

Ghana is currently in its final year of an IMF bailout totalling almost \$1 billion, with its debt as a percentage of gross domestic product hovering over 60 percent. Along with the Consolidated Bank loan, the central bank will give support to other banks in order to help them meet a minimum capital requirement of 400 million cedis by the end of 2018.

Despite the turmoil, “Ghana has made good progress on fiscal consoli-



ACCRA: Ghana's central bank revoked the licenses of five local banks and combined them into one, issuing 5.8 billion cedis in bonds to clear their debt. —AFP

dation in recent months”, said Khan. “The action taken to strengthen the banking system is likely to be viewed as a necessary measure by the fund and we do not expect this to disrupt disbursements under the current IMF program,” she said.

If Consolidated Bank is run properly,

it may even play a positive role in the economy, said Souhir Mzali, Africa editor at Oxford Business Group, a London-based research firm. “It might transform from a debt burden to an asset by the time the government is expected to offload shares in 2020,” Mzali said. — AFP

Has the eurozone learned from its Greek odyssey?

BRUSSELS: Greece will formally turn the page on its debt saga this week, but the eurozone remains vulnerable to further crises, with economists particularly worried about the situation in Italy.

After eight long years and three austerity-heavy bailouts, Athens will on Monday formally leave the financial rescue umbrella of its creditors from the EU and International Monetary Fund.

But while both European and Greek politicians have hailed its return to the markets as “historic” good news, serious challenges remain for the 19 countries that use the single currency.

The Greek boomerang

“The Greek crisis has not been solved, it has just been postponed,” said Charles Wyplosz, Professor of International Economics at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.

Athens will not even start to repay until 2032 the bulk of its huge debt, which remains at a colossal 180 percent of Greece's gross domestic product. In the meantime it is impossible to say where the country will be politically and economically. The IMF has in recent months issued a series of warnings about the long-term sustainability of Greek debt despite the eurozone's latest arrangements to reduce it.

Wyplosz criticized the EU's “spectacular cynicism” during the crisis. “The problems weren't solved but they pretended to believe they were.”

“One way or another it will explode. Greece will be in crisis again well before 2032.”

Europe's debt mountain

“We have in no way resolved the problem of public debt, which remains large in Italy, Greece and Portugal, despite their efforts,” warned Anne-Laure Delatte, deputy director of the French global economy research body CEP11. European heavyweights France and Spain also have significant debt, which could further weigh down the eurozone.

“Debt is a factor in vulnerability, which can be so violent that it passes onto the markets,” added Delatte. But other countries that have adopted the euro have seen their debt fall and so the single currency area is increasingly polarized between the “good students” and the others, with diverging interests. The first group back budgetary rigor and spending controls—the second call for more solidarity.

Italy is becoming a serious risk for the eurozone because of its debt, its fragile banks, and above all because of a populist government that seems bent on confrontation with Brussels, say economists. “You've got a country with debt at 130 percent of GDP, serious internal problems, a dirty banking system, and now it's led by people who don't know what they're going to do. The threat is very clear,” said Charles Wyplosz. — AFP

Technology

Robot wars: China shows off automated doctors, teachers

China is deadly serious about riding the robotic wave



BEIJING: This file photo taken on August 15, 2018 shows a woman using a mobile phone to take a picture of a robot at the 2018 World Robot Conference. — AFP photos



BEIJING: This file photo taken on August 15, 2018 shows robot arms playing music at the 2018 World Robot Conference.



BEIJING: A boy looking at a robot arm at the 2018 World Robot Conference.

BEIJING: Robots that can diagnose diseases, play badminton and wow audiences with their musical skills are among the machines China hopes could revolutionize its economy, with visitors to a Beijing exhibition offered a glimpse of an automated future. The popular stars of this year's World Robot Conference, which ends Sunday, were undoubtedly the small, amateur-made "battle bots" which smashed, hammered and saved their way through their opponents to a cacophony of cheers and shouts from a rapt audience.

"With this robot, I can fully express myself. I love the sparks," said Huang Hongsong, one of around a dozen Chinese youths whose creations went head-to-head. But while the battle bots are designed largely to entertain onlookers, China is deadly serious about riding the robotic wave with an eye on its economy. Cheap manufacturing propelled the populous giant to become the world's second largest economy in just a few decades. But the country's population is ageing, leaving it facing a double whammy of a worker shortage and increased labor costs as it gets wealthier.

Automated machines offer a possible way out with President Xi Jinping in 2014 calling for a "robot revolution". Under the ruling Communist Party's road map for its industrial future — dubbed "Made in China 2025" — state subsidies are pouring into the sector. And at the robot show, a vast array of machines demonstrated how technol-

ogy may eventually replace human workers. In one corner, a mechanical arm — designed to teach children — painted an elegant Chinese character while a robotic fish explored its tank and a bat flapped its mechanical wings overhead.

Delicate balance

By 2020, China is aiming for half of the industrial robots sold in the country to be made by Chinese companies, up from 27 percent currently — with a target of 70 percent by 2025. "Robots are the jewel in the crown for the manufacturing industry... a new frontier for our industrial revolution," said Xin Guobin, China's vice minister of industry, as he opened the conference. But it is a delicate balancing act for Chinese policy-makers due to the potential for human job losses — a 2016 World Bank report said automation could threaten up to 77 percent of jobs in China's current labor market. Nonetheless a great robotic leap forward has already been made.

China is now the world's number one market for industrial robots with some 141,000 units sold last year, accounting for a third of global demand, according to the International Federation of Robotics, which says demand could rise an additional 20 percent per year until 2020. "China has huge opportunities to increase the level of its industrial automation (and) industrial robotisation," said Karel Eloo, an expert at consultancy firm McKinsey.

He notes that China still has huge room for growth giv-

en that competitors like Japan and Germany have four times the level of robotisation in their factories compared to the Asian giant. Qu Daokui, president of local firm Siasun, which was showing off a snake-like robot that can operate in narrow passages, said China needs to increase the quality and sophistication of its robots, particularly in the field of AI. "We used to focus on the accuracy, reliability and speed of robots — now it's their flexibility, intelligence and adaptability that makes the difference," he said, adding robots needed to interact and adapt to their environments and "make independent decisions".

Doctor Bot

Outside China's factories, robots are becoming a more visible presence, deployed in restaurants and banks and even delivering parcels. China's iFlytek, a specialist in speech recognition systems, presented a new "medical assistant" robot at the Beijing show which it said was able to help identify up to 150 diseases and ailments — even passing a national medical qualification exam with a high score.

The robot, which operated in conjunction with a doctor, asks patients a series of diagnostic questions and can also analyze X-rays. "It's already being used in hospitals since March and has made some 4,000 diagnoses," company president Liu Qingfeng said, adding such a device could be particularly useful for clinics in more remote parts of



BEIJING: A robot moving at the 2018 World Robot Conference.

China. Chindex, a subsidiary of the conglomerate Fosun, also distributes the "Da Vinci System" in China, an American built robot with arms and high-tech cameras to aid surgeons in the operating theatre. "It transcends the limits of the (human) eye," chief operating officer Liu Yu enthused. But like the diagnostic robot, it still needs a helping human hand. "It only helps the doctor, it cannot replace them. It would not be ethical, the human body is still too complicated," he said. — AFP

HUAWEI nova 3i now on shelves in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG), the global smartphone giant, yesterday announced that its latest HUAWEI nova 3i is now available in Kuwait. The new, trendy and fashionable HUAWEI nova 3i is powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) in its overall functioning and camera features. With dual front camera (24MP+2MP), users can expect the best-in-technology 'selfie' that a smartphone can offer. The HUAWEI nova 3i can beautify you with the advanced algorithm to be natural and appealing. Moreover, the powerful AI scenery recognition can adjust the surroundings to match your true beauty in the selfie.

HUAWEI nova 3i has a very young and trendy appeal to it. It comes in fashionable Pearl White, Black and Iris Purple colors, making it a statement accessory for consumers who look at smartphones as an extension of their personality. The 6.3-inch FHD+ (2340 x 1080) provides a wide view of your world while fitting in your pocket. The HUAWEI nova 3i is now on the shelf across select retailers in Kuwait. The HUAWEI nova 3i will be available in

Iris Purple, Pearl White and Black colors at KWD 99.9.

Consumers can experience the innovative and stunning devices first hand at the Huawei roadshow taking place at the Marina Mall, Salmiya and choose from the variety of products suited to their style and budget. HUAWEI CBG has also collaborated with Kuwaiti Celebrity Singer, Humood Al Khudher, to explore the breakthrough AI features of the new HUAWEI nova series. Huawei nova 3i series features the AI-enhanced dual front cameras (24MP + 2MP)

The intelligent smartphone is equipped with a 24MP camera both in the front and at the rear to capture the best-looking selfies. The AI enhancements will create selfies at the first click by capturing both the face and the surroundings. HUAWEI nova 3i's primary lens captures the image data, whilst the secondary takes in depth-of-field data. The 24MP f/2.0 wide aperture camera on HUAWEI nova 3i boasts incredible image processing power; and the 2MP secondary camera collects depth-of-field data with specialized hardware to produce professional bokeh effects.

Enabled with Kirin chipset with AI capability

HUAWEI nova 3i is equipped with a Kirin 710 AI processor and EMUI 8.2 for flagship performance. Huawei nova 3i is equipped with AI scene recognition and with over 200 different scenarios across



eight unique categories that include blue skies, beaches, plants, night, stage performances, flowers, rooms and snow. Hence, the AI powered phones will recognize the background and capture every detail to create an enhanced shot that offers best color optimization features.

HUAWEI nova 3's camera has a set

focal length of 35mm for selfies providing the best-in-technology to capture a stunning AI selfie. The AI enabled beauty algorithm offers seven skin tones and textures for users to choose from and customize their selfies to create their own definition of beauty.

First satellite to measure global winds set for launch

PARIS: A satellite designed to measure Earth's global wind patterns is set to be hoisted into orbit tomorrow from the Arianespace launch site in French Guiana. The European Space Agency's (ESA) Aeolus mission — named for the guardian of wind in Greek mythology — promises to improve short-term weather forecasting and our understanding of manmade climate change.

"Meteorologists urgently need reliable wind-profile data to improve accuracy," the ESA said in a statement. Tropical winds in particular are very poorly mapped because of the almost complete absence of direct observations. Once in orbit, Aeolus can retrieve data from anywhere on the planet, include remote regions lacking ground-based weather stations.

The satellite will carry a large telescope measuring 1.5 meters (five feet) across, an ultra-sensitive



This August 13, 2018 Aqua satellite image courtesy of the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center Earth Science Data and Information System (ESDIS) shows clouds of smoke from the Mendocino fire. — AFP

receiver, and a Doppler wind lidar, nicknamed Aladin. The Doppler lidar transmits short, powerful pulses of laser light toward Earth in the ultra-violet spectrum. Particles in the air — moisture, dust, gases — scatter a small fraction of that light energy back to the transceiver, where it is collected and recorded. The delay between the outgoing pulse and the so-called "backscattered" signal reveals the wind's direction, speed and distance travelled.

Once per orbit, data is down-loaded to a ground station in

Svalbard, Norway. The 1,260-kilo payload will be hoisted into a 320-kilometre (200-mile) orbit on a Vega rocket, with lift-off scheduled for Tuesday at 21:00 GMT. Aeolus will be the fifth of the ESA's planned Earth Explorer missions. Others already completed or in operation have measured Earth's gravity and geomagnetic fields, soil moisture, ocean salinity and frozen expanses collectively known as the cryosphere. The new mission will be Arianespace's 50th launch for the European Space Agency. — AFP

Lawmakers want British vaping rules relaxed to help smokers quit

LONDON: Vaping rules should be relaxed to allow the promotion of e-cigarettes as tools to help tobacco smokers quit, British lawmakers said on Friday. This could include prescribing medically licensed e-cigarettes to assist smoking cessation efforts. Vaping, or using e-cigarettes, is estimated to be 95 percent less harmful than smoking conventional ones, according to the British parliament's science and technology committee, which sees big health benefits if smokers can be encouraged to switch.

There is still fierce global debate as to whether e-cigarettes represent a health risk or a benefit, since their long-term effects are unclear. A study found that e-cigarette vapour may cause adverse changes in lung cells. But the British lawmakers concluded that the balance clearly favored vaping over tobacco smoking and it urged greater regulatory leniency to allow advertising of the relative benefits of e-cigarettes.

It also called for incentives to promote them as a less harmful option, in the form of lower levels of taxation, a relaxation of curbs on their use in public places and a review of approval systems for prescribing them as quit-smoking products. "Concerns that e-cigarettes could be a gateway to conventional smoking, including for young non-smokers, have not materialized," said committee chairman Norman Lamb. "If used correctly, e-cigarettes could be a key weapon in the NHS's (National Health Service) stop smoking arsenal." The charity Action on Smoking and Health welcomed the committee's findings and said allowing e-cigarettes to be prescribed by doctors could be particularly important to people on low incomes and those with high levels of addiction. — Reuters

Sightings and satellites help track France's mysterious ocean giant

BREST: The sight of a basking shark's brooding silhouette gliding through the waters off western France is more than just a rare treat for sailors — it is a boon for scientists trying to trace its secretive migrations across the globe. It may be the world's second largest fish, growing to more than 10 metres (35 feet), but the basking shark, or *Cetorhinus maximus*, is an enigma for scientists eager to help preserve the plankton-eating giant after centuries of overfishing.

Hunted voraciously for its massive fin — highly prized for sharks' fin soup in China — as well as its oily liver and meat, global populations of basking shark declined precipitously during the 20th century. The species has struggled to recover because of slow reproduction rates. While the sharks have captured the imagination of sailors for hundreds of years — some think early seafarers mistook the massive sharks swimming in single file for sea monsters — crucial details about their behaviour remain elusive to researchers.

"It's a shark that remains very mysterious," said Alexandra Rohr of the research group APECS, which is based in the Brittany town of Brest and dedicated to the study of sharks, skates and rays. Even population estimates, the age of sexual maturity and where and when the sharks reproduce are not known for certain, Rohr said.

They are spotted more frequently during the summer months while in winter they all but vanish from view, leading to theories that they migrate to warmer regions or dive down into the ocean depths. Using new tracking technology, APECS researchers monitoring sharks when they are near the water's surface have discovered evidence of a much greater migratory range than previously thought. One tagged female was tracked off the coast of northern Scotland on September 20, 2016, and then resurfaced four months later south of the Canary Islands. By May 2017 the shark was back in the Bay of Biscay, south of Brittany.

APECS also relies on crowd-sourced information from divers, sailors and other members of the public. Alain Quemere sighted a basking shark during a fishing trip in the Glenan archipelago off the south coast of Brittany and reported details to APECS, enabling a research team to find the shark and fit it with a satellite tracker. "I just saw the tip of his fin," said Quemere, still enraptured by the memory of his five-hour encounter. "One moment it grazed the front of the boat, which made me laugh because my boat is barely five and a half meters and the shark was eight." — AFP



A basking shark. — AFP

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Food

A simple shrimp pad thai that requires just one skillet

By America's Test Kitchen

Our version of this take-out classic is surprisingly easy to make and requires just one skillet. While truly authentic pad thai, with its sweet, sour, and salty flavors, requires hard-to-find ingredients like preserved daikon, palm sugar, and dried shrimp, our simplified weeknight recipe uses accessible ingredients to create a simple flavor profile.

ONE-PAN SHRIMP PAD THAI

Ingredients:

Servings: 4

Start to finish: 1 hour

8 ounces (3/8-inch-wide) rice noodles

1/3 cup lime juice (3 limes)

1/3 cup packed brown sugar

1/4 cup fish sauce

1 pound extra-large shrimp (21 to 25 per pound), peeled and deveined

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

4 garlic cloves, minced

8 ounces (4 cups) bean sprouts

Fresh cilantro

1/4 cup dry-roasted peanuts, chopped

Preparation:

Bring 3 quarts water to boil in large saucepan. Place noodles in large bowl. Pour

boiling water over noodles. Stir, then let soak until noodles are soft and pliable but not fully tender, stirring once halfway through soaking, 12 to 15 minutes. Drain noodles and rinse under cold running water until water runs clear. Drain well and set aside. While noodles soak, squeeze 1/3 cup lime juice. Whisk sugar, fish sauce, and lime juice together in bowl. Mince garlic. Chop 1/4 cup cilantro. Chop peanuts. Peel and devein shrimp. Pat shrimp dry with paper towels.

Heat oil in 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until just smoking. Add shrimp in single layer and cook until spotty brown and cooked through, about 2 minutes per side. Stir in garlic during last minute of cooking. Transfer shrimp to plate and tent loosely with aluminum foil.

Add noodles and lime juice to mixture to now-empty skillet and cook over medium heat until sauce is thickened slightly, about 4 minutes. Add sprouts and shrimp to skillet and cook until shrimp and sprouts are warmed through and noodles are well coated and tender, about 3 minutes. Sprinkle with cilantro and peanuts and serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 478 calories; 98 calories from fat; 10 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 143 mg cholesterol; 1894 mg sodium; 76 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 21 g sugar; 21 g protein.



IN 20 MINUTES, YOU CAN HAVE SUMMER ON THE PLATE WITH FISH

By Melissa D'Arabian

Grilled fish is the official dish of summer around our house. There is nothing I love to eat more in warm weather than a piece of fresh seasonal fish cooked on the grill – the slightly sweet flesh offset by a tiny bit of char.

You can use some fish from your freezer stash in a pinch, but ask at the fish counter what is seasonal and freshest, and you won't regret the few extra dollars you'll pay. I used Alaskan halibut for today's recipe, but any firm white-fleshed fish will work great. (Skip the flaky thin fish like Dover sole for indoor cooking, or use a special fine-meshed metal grate.) Halibut is mild, tender and sweet, and it's a fantastic lean source of protein. A 4-ounce serving has 24 grams of protein, a little over 2 grams of fat, and offers a nice showing of B vitamins and minerals, all for 120 calories.

My go-to strategy for grilling mild white fish is to keep it super simple on the actual grill, and then top it with a quick sauce made from a few ingredients. Pat the fish dry gently, and toss on the grill with just a little salt, pepper and olive oil.

Once the fish is cooked, I top it straight from the grill with the sauce. While the fish is cooking, whip up a sauce with a little acid (like lemon or vinegar), aromatics (like minced garlic, shallot or green onion), herbs, and a tiny touch of fat (like olive oil or butter). Pouring it on while the fish is hot makes the simple flavors come alive like Hugh Jackman playing PT Barnum. Grilled Halibut with Butter Caper Herb Sauce is an excellent starting point for mastering this



easy fish-grilling blueprint that you'll use both on weekends and busy weeknight meals. In under 20 minutes, you can have summer on the plate.

GRILLED HALIBUT WITH BUTTER CAPER HERB SAUCE

Ingredients:

Servings: 6

Start to finish: 20 minutes

1 3/4 pounds of fresh Alaskan halibut fillet

1/2 lemon, for squeezing

2 teaspoons olive oil

Salt and pepper

Sauce:

2 tablespoons butter

1 clove garlic, minced

2 tablespoons capers, plus a little of the juice

2 tablespoons lemon juice

A handful of chopped tender herbs, like basil, parsley, or cilantro

Preparation:

Heat a gas or charcoal grill to medium high. Scrub the grill grates with a wire brush or tongs and ball of foil to clean off burnt food debris, and lightly oil the grates. Squeeze a little lemon juice on the halibut and let it sit a few minutes before blotting it dry gently with a paper towel. Season the fish with a little salt and pepper. Drizzle the olive oil over both sides of the fish, and use your fingers to coat the whole fillet lightly with oil. Once the grill is hot, place the fish flesh side down on the grill. Allow to cook about 5-6 minutes on the first side. Use a metal spatula to flip the fish to cook the second side, until cooked through but not dry, about 3-4 more minutes. (To help keep the fish from sticking, don't flip it too soon, and flip the fish with a purposeful, quick motion.)

Meanwhile, heat the butter and garlic in a small sauce pan on the stove at medium heat until the garlic is aromatic, about 2 minutes. Add the capers with a little caper liquid and the lemon juice and whisk to combine. Remove from heat, stir the herbs into the sauce and then pour over the fish just as it comes off the grill. Serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 198 calories; 76 calories from fat; 9 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 104 mg cholesterol; 625 mg sodium; 3 g carbohydrate; 0 g fiber; 0 g sugar; 28 g protein.

A tangy, tomatoey sauce is the star of barbecued chicken

By America's Test Kitchen

A tangy, tomatoey, molasses-laced sauce is the indisputable star of traditional American barbecued chicken. The brick-hued sauce should be mopped on as the chicken cooks, resulting in a beautifully browned (not charred) exterior surrounding moist, evenly cooked meat. Our Classic Barbecue Sauce gave simple chicken parts all the intense, multidimensional flavor we craved, but the real secret to this recipe was the method: A two-level grill fire allowed us to cook the chicken most of the way through on the cooler side of the grill, rendering the fat without causing flare-ups, and then we moved the chicken to the hotter side to get a lacquered layer of sauce.

Applying the sauce in coats and turning the chicken as it cooked encouraged the sauce to thicken and caramelize, perfectly glazing the chicken. Don't try to grill more than 10 pieces of chicken at a time; you won't be able to line them up. You can use a mix of chicken breasts, thighs, and drumsticks, making sure they add up to about 10 pieces.

CLASSIC BARBECUED CHICKEN

Ingredients:

Servings: 4 to 6

Start to finish: 1 hour and 45 minutes (plus 30 minutes to prepare barbecue sauce)

1 teaspoon salt & pepper

1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper

3 1/2 pounds bone-in chicken pieces

(split breasts cut in half, drumsticks, and/or thighs), trimmed

1 (13 by 9-inch) disposable aluminum roasting pan (if using charcoal)

Classic Barbecue Sauce

Makes about 2 cups

This sauce can be used on just about anything. For a thinner, smoother texture, strain the sauce after it has finished cooking.

1 tablespoon vegetable oil

1 onion, chopped fine

Salt and pepper

1 garlic clove, minced

1 teaspoon chili powder

1 1/4 cups ketchup

6 tablespoons molasses

3 tablespoons cider vinegar

2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

Preparation:

Heat oil in medium saucepan over medium heat until shimmering. Add onion and pinch salt and cook until onion is softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in garlic and chili powder and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Whisk in ketchup, molasses, vinegar, Worcestershire, and mustard. Bring sauce to simmer and cook, stirring occasionally, until thickened and reduced to about 2 cups, about 25 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. (Sauce can be refrigerated for up to 4 days.)

Combine salt, pepper, and cayenne in bowl. Pat chicken dry with paper towels and rub with seasoning mixture. For a charcoal

grill, open bottom vent completely and place disposable pan on one side of grill. Light large chimney starter filled with charcoal briquettes (6 quarts). When top coals are partially covered with ash, pour evenly over other side of grill. Set cooking grate in place, cover, and open lid vent completely. Heat grill until hot, about 5 minutes.

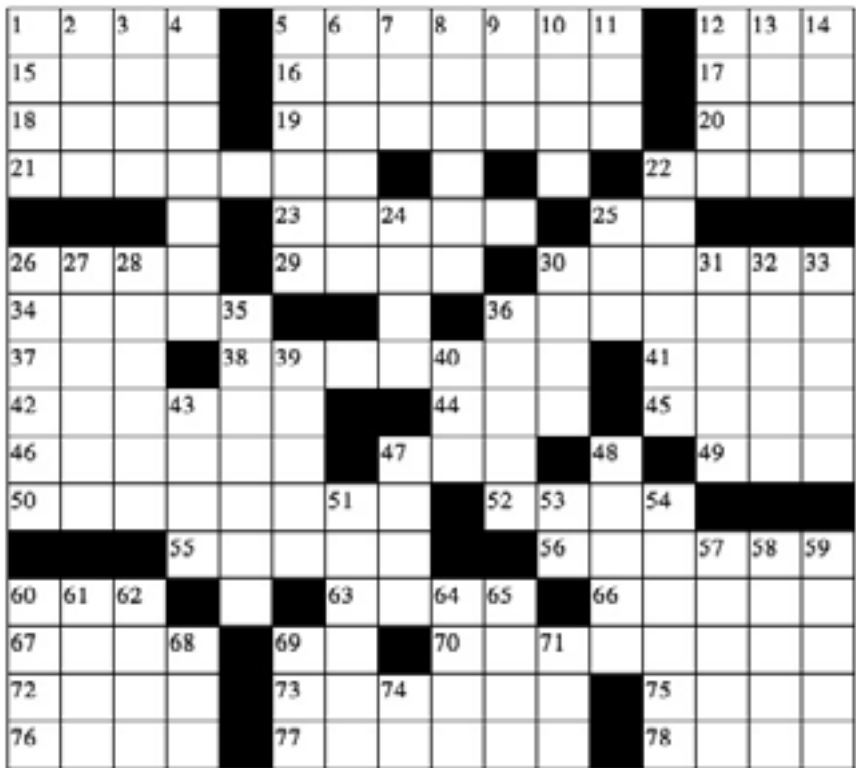
For a gas grill, turn all burners to high, cover, and heat grill until hot, about 15 minutes. Leave primary burner on high and turn off other burner(s). (Adjust primary burner as needed to maintain grill temperature around 350 F) Clean and oil cooking grate. Place chicken, skin side down, on cooler side of grill. Cover and cook until chicken begins to brown, 30 to 35 minutes.

Slide chicken into single line between hotter and cooler sides of grill. Cook uncovered, flipping chicken and brushing every 5 minutes with some of sauce, until sticky, about 20 minutes. Slide chicken to hotter side of grill and cook, uncovered, flipping and brushing with remaining sauce, until well glazed, breasts register 160 degrees, and drumsticks/thighs register 175 degrees, about 5 minutes. (Smaller pieces may cook faster than larger pieces. Remove pieces from grill as they reach correct temperature.) Transfer chicken to serving dish, tent with aluminum foil, and let rest for 5 to 10 minutes. Serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 349 calories; 74 calories from fat; 8 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 133 mg cholesterol; 1020 mg sodium; 27 g carbohydrate; 0 g fiber; 23 g sugar; 41 g protein.



CROSSWORD 1990



ACROSS

- 1. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- 5. Lacking a bib.
- 12. Any of various trees of the genus Ulmus.
- 15. The basic unit of money in Western Samoa.
- 16. An abnormal condition in which a normal opening or tube in the body (as the urethra) is closed or absent.
- 17. A doctor's degree in education.
- 18. A theocratic republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
- 19. Shockingly repellent.
- 20. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
- 21. Any of the yeastlike imperfect fungi of the genus Candida.
- 23. A theatrical performer.
- 26. (computer science) A standardized language for the descriptive markup of documents.
- 29. The lower house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
- 34. Relatively low in price or charging low prices.
- 37. The network in the reticular formation that serves an alerting or arousal function.
- 38. New Guinea echidnas.
- 41. A coil of rope or wool or yarn.
- 42. A large fleet.
- 44. Antibacterial drug (trade name Nydracid) used to treat tuberculosis.
- 45. Other than what is under consideration or implied.
- 46. A minor match preceding the main event.
- 49. An erratic deflection from an intended course.
- 50. A city in central New York.
- 52. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- 55. Follower of Rastafarianism.
- 56. Bearing or characterized by a blade or sword.
- 60. A light touch or stroke.
- 63. God of fire.
- 66. A compound derived from ammonia by replacing hydrogen atoms by univalent hydrocarbon radicals.
- 67. The sixth month of the civil year.
- 70. Consistent with or based on or using reason.
- 72. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 73. Any of numerous ornamental shrubs grown for their showy flowers of various colors.
- 75. Remaining after all deductions.
- 76. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
- 77. A motley assortment of things.
- 78. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).

DOWN

- 1. Of or relating to near the ear.
- 2. (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
- 3. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
- 4. The basic unit of luminous intensity adopted under the System International d'Unites.
- 5. Capital and largest city of Iraq.
- 6. A college town in central New York on

Lake Cayuga.

- 7. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
- 8. Least expensive statin drug (trade name Lescol).
- 9. Standard time in the 5th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 75th meridian.
- 10. Any of various young herrings (other than brislings) canned as sardines in Norway.
- 11. The chance to speak.
- 12. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
- 13. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
- 14. Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the brain with serotonin) but to avoid the drug laws.
- 22. Flightless New Zealand birds similar to gallinules.
- 24. A native American tent.
- 25. A flexible container with a single opening.
- 27. A horse-drawn carriage in India.
- 28. Austrian physician who tried to treat diseases with a form of hypnotism (1734-1815).
- 30. Not only so, but.
- 31. A republic in southern Europe on the Italian Peninsula.
- 32. A faint constellation in the polar region of the southern hemisphere and containing part of the Large Magellanic Cloud.
- 33. Turned or twisted toward one side.
- 35. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- 36. A communist state in Indochina on the South China Sea.
- 39. French writer who portrayed the human condition as isolated in an absurd world (1913-1960).
- 40. Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.
- 43. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
- 47. Small beads made from polished shells and formerly used as money by native Americans.
- 48. East Indian tree yielding a resin used medicinally and burned as incense.
- 51. A fixed number of lines of verse forming a unit of a poem.
- 53. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- 54. Shrubby plant with aromatic grayish-green leaves used as a cooking herb.
- 57. A person eating a meal (especially in a restaurant).
- 58. Related on the mother's side.
- 59. A low triangular area where a river divides before entering a larger body of water.
- 61. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- 62. A small cake leavened with yeast.
- 64. Agency of the United States government charged with mediating disputes between management and labor.
- 65. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
- 68. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
- 69. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 71. A label made of cardboard or plastic or metal.
- 74. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

It may seem you are the center of attention. Today could find you in the limelight. Your superiors at work seem to be paying close attention. Your job has become something you find great pleasure in and you actually enjoy going to work. Your peers seem to find great value in your ability to make practical decisions and admire you for your work ethic. You are able to clearly see what others want and need and seem to be in the right place at the right time to provide this for them. That brings much admiration your way. You may find you are looked at as a role model for many. You seem to have the ability to make clear decisions and will find this to be an extremely productive day.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You seem to be able to enjoy and value where you are at this point in your life. Great value is also placed on the person you have become. You love you. Your heart is filled with kindness. You may find yourself wanting to do something extra special for someone you love today. Do not be surprised if you receive several compliments on your style or actions throughout this day. It seems you will feel great support from your peers. Your happiness is contagious and others will be drawn towards this. Keep being you, Taurus. Others appreciate the friend you have become.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Hungry for knowledge would be a great way to describe you today. Spending time with family and neighbors is a good way to spend some of your time this evening. A long visit on the porch with a cold beverage and long talks will bring peace your way and satisfy a craving for you. Your feelings and the feelings of those close to you become very important right now. This is a time you may find yourself extremely sensitive. You are very understanding of others. Being more involved with family is very rewarding to you now. This is a peaceful time in your world.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Dream on dreamer. You may find yourself lost in a dreamy mood and your mind may be far away from the day to day realities. This may catch your friends off guard and they may not appreciate this side of you. It seems as if the nature of time is starting to catch your attention now. You realize life is passing by and time is slipping away. It seems as if when you are older time seems to fly by faster with each passing year. You learn to appreciate each day and look at each day as a blessing. You are happy and thankful to be alive and plan on living it to the fullest.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

What may come easy isn't always the right thing. You may find career decisions that point in the direction of true success may go against your sense of values. This is a road to success you just are not willing to take. If making it to the top means traveling this path then you will choose to take a detour. You have a choice to continue to ignore your responsibilities at home and push on towards career success, or focus on your family and do the right thing. Ask yourself who is going to be there in the long run, Leo? Follow your heart.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Make time for a loved one today. This doesn't have to take hours of time or big-time spending. Write a note. Make a phone call. Take a single long-stem flower. Don't scoff at double consequences. You may find your thoughtfulness enriches your life as much as theirs, Virgo. Sometimes the smallest of gestures mean the most to others.

Wordsearch Puzzle

A Christmas Carol

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



- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ANGRY | CHRISTMAS PAST | HUMBUG | NIGHTCAP |
| APPRENTICE | CHRISTMAS PRESENT | JACOB MARLEY | OFFICE |
| AVARICE | CHRISTMAS YET TO COME | KNOCKER | OLD FEZZIWIG |
| BAH | CLERK | LONDON | PETER |
| BED | COUNTING HOUSE | MARLEY'S GHOST | REDEMPTION |
| BELENGA | CRUTCH | MARTHA | SNOW |
| BELLE | CURTAINS | MERRY CHRISTMAS | SPRITS |
| BOB CRATCHIT | DRESSING GOWN | MRS CRATCHIT | TINY TIM |
| CAUSTIC | EBENEZER SCRUDGE | MRS FEZZIWIG | TURKEY |
| CHAINS | FOG | NEPHEW | WINTER |
| CHARLES DICKENS | GREEDY | | |

Libra (September 23-October 22)



A day of laughter and fun is on the menu today. This will be served with love and admiration from your family. All is well in your world. You are most comfortable and pleased when all lines of communication are open. The days you feel like everyone around you really gets you and understands you with ease are the days you enjoy the most. Your mind may be in overdrive as your analytical abilities are at their peak. Not only are the ideas flowing, everyone you encounter is extremely receptive to what you have to say. You may be sought out for advice today and will be greatly admired for your intelligence. When it comes to management choosing the right person for a new project, don't be surprised if all eyes are on you.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may feel as if you know what is about to happen before it does. You seem to be in touch with a highly sensitive side. Call it intuition or psychic ability, the truth is you totally can see the future. You are able to see and sense things others can not. This may cause others to take a step back from you. People seem to be uncomfortable when faced with the unexplainable. This may not be a very practical time for you. You seem to focus heavily on your home and family life now, Scorpio. This may be just where your attention needs to be.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be feeling a need for change. A deep desire for emotional security takes hold now and you feel your most content when surrounded by family and those closest to you. Relationships are a priority in your world now. You feel as if things in your life are monotonous and you are ready to spice things up. This may mean a shiny new car purchase, a vacation, or simply surrounding yourself with a new group of friends. Any direction you choose, this will be a time of excitement and give you a fresh start and a more focused outlook. We all need a bit of change from time to time. Keep life interesting and exciting.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

If you could choose a super power today it would be the ability to make yourself invisible. Enough is enough. When you are strong and independent with a kind heart, it seems like the weak and needy seem to be drawn to you. There are times when you need to learn to say no. Today is one of those days. You may find hiding in a dark movie theater would be a great escape for you today. Go to the movies, or curl up with a book. Just take some time to relax and rejuvenate.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are determined and focused on making good impressions and putting your best foot forward. This is what is extremely important to you now. Your appearance and style have suddenly become important to you. You are successful, and you want to present yourself as such. You desire others take notice of your success and how far you have come in life. You may find pleasure in spending time out and about. Taking in a play or enjoying another form of the arts may be just where your time spent would be most enjoyed.

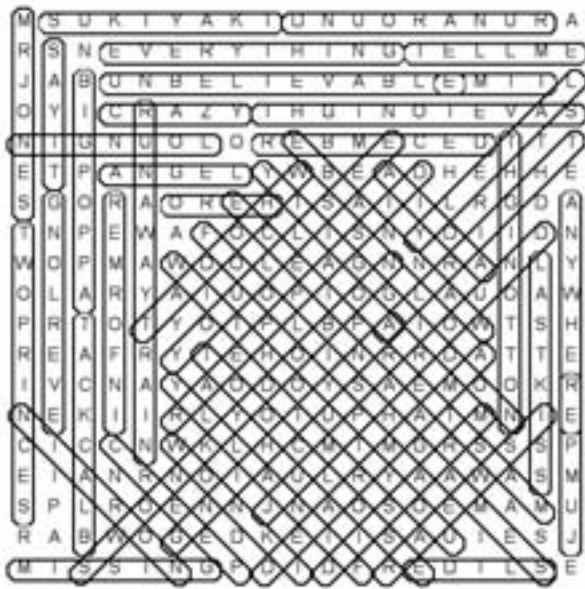


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

It is time to play things safe and conservative now. The responsible approach is your best bet. Expect the unexpected and planning for the worst, will prevent you from being caught off-guard. This is a time tighten your belt and set your mind to the task at hand. Stay focused or you may find you could face set backs. You may turn to someone older, you look to as a mentor. This person will help lead you in the right direction. This is a time you have a very serious outlook on life. Situations may require you to have this attitude.

Yesterday's Solution

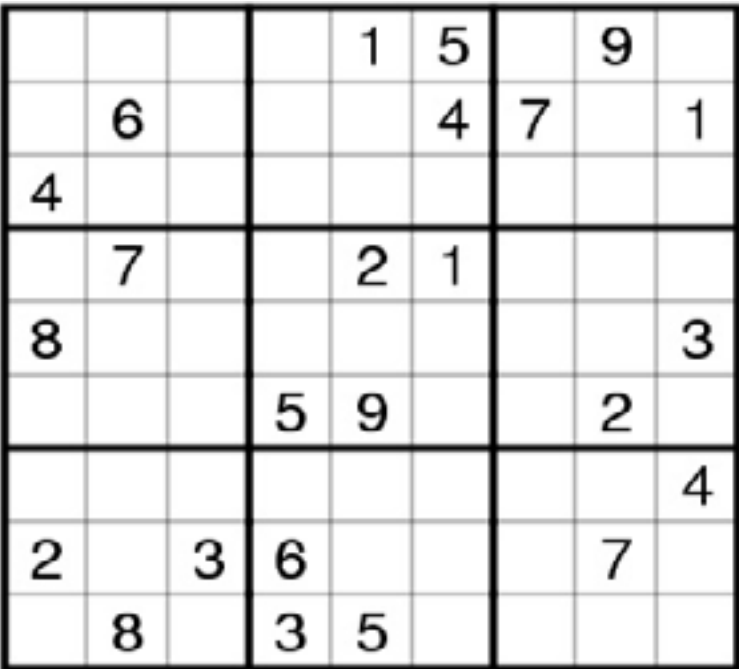
90's Songs 4



- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| ADA | DISARM | LATELY | SAY IT |
| ALRIGHT | EVERLONG | LOUNGIN | SLIDE |
| ANGEL | EVERYTHING | MASTERPIECE | SUKERAI |
| ANYWHERE | FINALLY | MISSING | TELL ME |
| BIG POPPA | FOOLISH GAMES | MR. JONES | TIME |
| BLACK CAT | HERO | NO DIGGITY | TOO CLOSE |
| CRAZY | I KNOW | NO RAIN | TWO PRINCES |
| CREEP | I SWEAR | NORODY KNOWS | UNBELIEVABLE |
| DEAR MAMA | INFORMER | NOT TONIGHT | WANNA BE |
| DECEMBER | JUMP AROUND | RUN AROUND | WHO DAT |
| DISAPPEAR | LAST KISS | RUNAWAY TRAIN | WITHOUT YOU |
| | | SAVE TONIGHT | YOU'LL SEE |

The hidden song title is: ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2018



This picture shows abandoned by individual keepers goldfish displayed after quarantine at the Aquarium in Paris. — AFP (See Page 22)

Masterpiece theatre: Chinese make-up artist brings paintings to life



Makeup artist He Yuhong, also known as "Yuya", poses during a photo shoot following her transformation into the "Girl with a Pearl Earring".



Makeup artist He Yuhong, also known as "Yuya", applies makeup during a recording of her transformation into the "Girl with a Pearl Earring".



Makeup artist He Yuhong, also known as "Yuya", uses her makeup brush during a recording of her transformation into the "Girl with a Pearl Earring".

Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn and Cristiano Ronaldo are just a few of the famous faces that Chinese make-up artist He Yuhong can transform her features into, but now she's turning to famous artworks. The 27-year-old has gone viral on Chinese social media for her videos of her make-up transformations, drawing a million followers on popular video and music platform TikTok. "It's more difficult to do this kind of make-up, because it's more like drawing," said He, who is based in the southwestern city of Chongqing. "I

need to draw other people's faces onto my own, with a lot of details added, and I need to change my facial features."

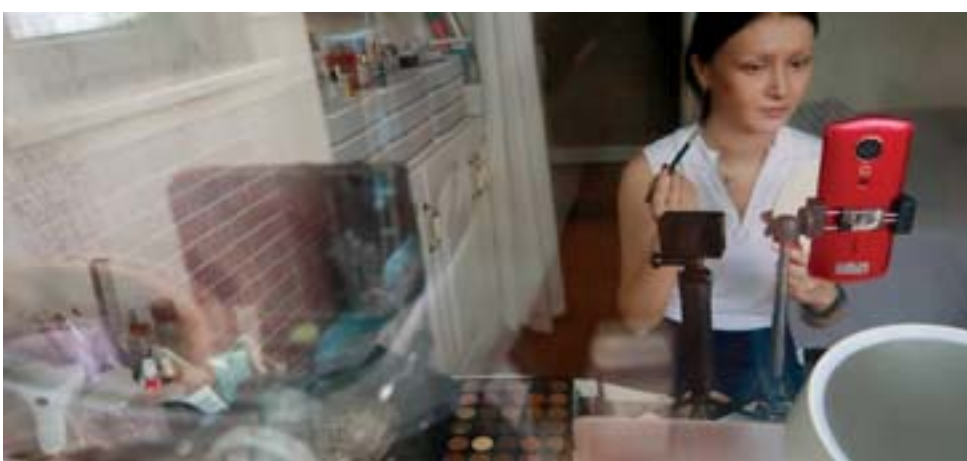
He has even taken on characters from paintings, such as the "Girl with a Pearl Earring" by 17th-century Dutchman Johannes Vermeer. It took her more than six hours to recreate, carefully adding layers of foundation to her face to replicate shadows, and wearing a headscarf to match the one on the canvas.

In May, He kicked off her video series, unexpectedly bringing to life Leonardo Da

Vinci's "Mona Lisa" in a recreation that captured attention on social media. Before she became a blogger on the transformative use of make-up, she had her own studio, applying cosmetics in preparation for weddings and advertisement shoots. Now she estimates her monthly spend on make-up is up to 10,000 yuan (\$1,452). She is backed by corporate sponsors. "I like to try new things," He said, adding that characters from the "Lion King" and princesses in Disney animated films are next in her lineup for imitation. — Reuters



A combination picture shows makeup artist He Yuhong, also known as "Yuya", posing without her makeup and garments (left), and without her makeup (center) following her transformation (right) into the 'Girl with a Pearl Earring', the 17th century oil painting by Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer, at her house in Chongqing, China. — Reuters photos



Makeup artist He Yuhong, also known as "Yuya", applies makeup during a recording of her transformation into the "Girl with a Pearl Earring".



Makeup artist He Yuhong, also known as "Yuya", poses during a photo shoot following her transformation into the "Girl with a Pearl Earring".



Rihanna documentary coming soon

A Rihanna documentary will be released in two months. The 'Work' hitmaker is the subject of a new film by Peter Berg - who gave the star her first major acting role in his 2012 movie 'Battleship' - and the director promised it will offer a "comprehensive profile" of the 30-year-old singer and what has made her so successful. He told SlashFilm: "I think she's an extraordinary young woman and it really is kind of a pretty comprehensive profile of what goes in to making her this talent that she is. The work ethic, the talent, luck, the hustle, the vision. She's a really, really interesting woman and the movie will be out in about a month and half, two months we'll be able to start showing it." Details of the feature-length production were first announced back in 2015. At the time, the documentary was described as an "unfiltered look into Rihanna's life and how she's ascended to become a global icon" and promised to be "much more a character study than a music film." It was suggested

the inspiration for the documentary was to make it a contemporary version of DA Pennebaker's classic 1967 film about Bob Dylan, 'Don't Look Back'. In April, it was rumored that Rihanna has been working on two new albums. The singer was reportedly disappointed with how her last LP, 'Anti' performed, and is planning to storm the charts with a double-disc record of sizzling tracks. A source said at the time: "Rihanna wasn't happy with how her last album performed - even though she loved how it turned out, she knows she needs a new project full of smash hits to avoid two back-to-back flops. "She's currently recording two albums - one full of chart-friendly songs, and another made up of moody and experimental tracks - and is considering releasing a double disc if she feels the songs won't mesh well on the same album." 'Anti' was released in 2016 and was placed at number 32 in the UK in the end of year charts and five in the 2016 US Billboard 200.



Rod Stewart blasts Bob Dylan

Rod Stewart "had a good laugh" at Bob Dylan's album of Frank Sinatra covers. The 'Maggie May' singer has always counted the 'Like a Rolling Stone' hitmaker as one of his idols but doesn't think he made the right choice in recording his own versions of American standards, largely made famous by the legendary crooner, for his three most recent albums, 'Shadows in the Night', 'Fallen Angels' and 'Triplicate'. Rod - who has recovered a number of cover albums himself - said: "We all had a good laugh at that one. "Me and the band sat around and listened to the one that came out about four years ago. "He shouldn't really try that stuff. He should stay where he is." And the 73-year-old singer slammed Bob, 77, for being a disappointment on stage, insisting the folk star and fellow music veteran Van Morrison should do more to engage with their audiences. He said: "He's

one of my idols. I was very disappointed when I went to see him in concert though. "He doesn't acknowledge the audience. The songs are nowhere near what they're meant to sound like. "Van Morrison's another one. He just puts his head down and gets on with it. "I got my three daughters tickets to see him. Within two songs, they were on their cell phones. "Apparently, he told a joke on stage about six months ago. But he's great, so is Bob." However, Rod thinks the 'Blowin' in the Wind' singer is one of the greatest songwriters. He told Uncut: "Him and Tom Waits are the two people I look up to as lyricists. They're so good at imagery. "I don't have that quality in me, I just tell stories. "For a song to work for me, I have to connect with the lyrics and I have to find them different. "I can't stand words that rhyme for the sake of rhyming. "Tom Waits is an absolute exception."

Shawn Mendes can't drink and sing

Shawn Mendes insists it's "physically impossible" for him to drink alcohol while on tour. The 20-year-old pop star feels he has to be an "athlete" while on the road because if he makes a mistake on stage, he's aware the social media age means all of his fans will soon hear about it. He said: "Have you sung on stage for 60 minutes? It's hard. And almost impossible hungover. There's certain magic drugs that can help, but I'm not interested in those, so when I'm flying 10 hours and there's a three-hour drive to the venue and I'm doing three interviews, honestly, it's physically impossible to drink. You have to be an athlete in the pop world, I'm not kidding." Asked what Rolling Stones legend Sir Mick Jagger would think of his clean-living ways, he said: "He didn't have cellphones recording him 24/7. If he sounded like s**t, no one would know. If I

mess up, it's going viral." But the 'Treat You Better' hitmaker admitted he needs to find more time to "enjoy life" instead of concentrating too much on his work. He told Sunday Times Style magazine: "I actually need to work on that. I'm not much of a partier. Honest to God, I need to enjoy my life more and stop worrying about work, but I find it difficult." However, Shawn does go out sometimes and doesn't feel he needs to take an entourage with him. He said: "I don't worry about it. If people want a photo, then I take the photo." When he does have time off, the 'Stitches' singer values time alone at his home in Toronto. He said: "You're out touring and waking up in London one morning and Paris the next. Then one day you wake up in your condo in Toronto and it's quiet and no one's there. That's literally potion for writing music."



TOM CRUISE 'TOO OLD FOR STUNTS'

Ving Rhames thinks Tom Cruise is getting too old to do his own stunts. The 59-year-old actor stars opposite Tom, 56, in the 'Mission: Impossible' series and after his friend broke his ankle shooting a scene for the latest movie in the series, 'Mission: Impossible - Fallout', he thinks it's time he left the tougher challenges to stunt professionals. He told Empire magazine: "I was in Los Angeles, getting ready to go to London [when Tom broke his ankle]. "I'm sorry he got injured, but (director Christopher) McQuarrie got more time to work on the script and I stayed home Tom's getting older now. I know he loves doing his own stunts, but as a friend, after we get the close-up, maybe we should let the stunt guy do it. Maybe." Simon Pegg was on a break from filming when the accident happened and though Tom's fall - where he stumbled after jumping onto a building - was caught on camera, he won't watch the footage. He said: "I'd taken a break from production. I went off to do 'Slaughterhouse Rulez' and while I was away, my assistant phoned me and said, 'I think Tom has hurt himself.' So my week-long hiatus turned into three months. "I still haven't seen it. I refuse to watch it. I'm squeamish about bones." But another star of the film, Vanessa Kirby, was stunned by how quickly Tom bounced back and threw himself back into work. She said: "I wasn't on set that day. It was a Sunday. "One of the ADs rang me and said, 'There's been an accident so I'm not sure filming is going to go ahead tomorrow.' Suddenly it



was three months later. Within a few months, Tom was back running and doing loads of things I couldn't do."



Girls Trip set for sequel

A 'Girls Trip' sequel is in the works. The 2017 comedy starred Jada Pinkett Smith, Regina Hall, Queen Latifah and Tiffany Haddish as a reunited group of college friends and the actresses are trying to co-ordinate their other commitments in order to make a follow-up movie, though there are few details about the project as yet. Reggina revealed to BuzzFeed News: "We're trying to make [a sequel] happen. "So we're trying to get everything together with the schedule. I think they're working on something. "I don't know where we're going. I don't know where the girls are going, but... we're going somewhere." Jada previously admitted she was keen to make a sequel to the road trip movie because she was so proud of how well it had performed. She said: "We've talked about doing a sequel, so we'll see if it happens, but I think with the success of the movie it will happen ... It's just done \$30 million at the weekend, so I'm so proud. They're saying that we've taken rated R comedies out of their slump so it's a nice moment for us for sure. "The movie has a lot of heart and great messages about empowerment and living your truth so you get a little bit of everything." The 45-year-old actress believes the secret to the success of the movie is that the four main stars and the rest of the cast had so much fun during shooting and that spirit of fun and camaraderie comes through on the big screen. She added: "Making the movie was a girls' trip we really had a special bond and I think that audiences can feel that. It's naughty." Universal has yet to make an official announcement about 'Girls Trip 2'.

PETER ANDRE WANTS SON TO PLAY HIM IN BIOPIC

The 'Behind Closed Doors' hitmaker would feel uncomfortable having his life story played out on screen, but if such a project was ever commissioned, he thinks 13-year-old Junior - his oldest child with ex-wife Katie Price - would be perfect for the lead role. Asked who could play him in a film of his life, he said: "My son would - if anyone could it would be him. "I'd hate to see it, as there'd be things about myself where I'd be like, was I really acting like that?" Junior has won a drama scholarship, which starts in September, and his famous father - who also has Princess, 11, with Katie, and Amelia, four, and Theo, 20 months, with spouse Emily - thinks he'll do well. He told OK! magazine: "I think he's really good at the drama. "When I was rehearsing lines for my upcoming film [The Inheritance], I was getting him to do some of them with me - the non-swearing ones, of course. And I just thought, 'Wow, he is really good.' "He's got a beautiful singing voice too, so I think if he focuses the right way he could be really good." But the 45-year-old star doesn't want to push his son into showbiz and would like him to wait until he's older before launching a career, just like his own parents did when he was offered a recording contract at the age of 16. He said: "My dad wouldn't let me sign [the contract].



"He signed it and made them have a side letter stating they weren't allowed to record me until I finished school. They wanted to make music with me at 16 and my dad just wouldn't allow it. At the time I was devastated, but looking back it was the best thing. "Junior has got the whole of his adult life to be a slave to a schedule - and not listen to what I say." — Bang Showbiz

Benedict Cumberbatch set for huge Marvel pay rise

Benedict Cumberbatch will receive £7.5 million for 'Doctor Strange 2'. The 42-year-old actor will reportedly see his pay increased by £5 million more than he received for the original Marvel Cinematic Universe movie in 2016 for the upcoming sequel, which is set to start filming next spring and is expected to take up to six months to complete. And his commitment to the franchise means his work on popular drama series 'Sherlock' - in which he plays titular detective Sherlock Holmes - could be delayed indefinitely. A source told the Sunday Mirror newspaper: "Benedict has become a huge player in the Marvel universe. "But the nature of the shoot for the sequel means we're looking at 2020 for the next time we see the sluth in a full series - if it happens at all." The British actor has

already made £4.2 million for playing Doctor Strange in the first standalone movie, 'Thor: Ragnarok' and two 'Avengers' films. And Benedict could be set to bring in more if he finally gets his wish and sees his alter ego land his own range of merchandise like so many of his Marvel co-stars. He previously joked: "This is a point of contention. "Tom Hiddleston, he comes back from doing Thor and he's like, 'Look, dude! And he's got a Thor lunchbox, a Thor slurpy cup and Thor backpacks. "And there's Spider-Man backpacks and Hulk backpacks too. "And I'm like, 'I'm a Marvel superhero too! Where's my Doctor Strange backpack for Christ's sake? Where's my merch? I can bloody manipulate time. I can fly!' "Kids need to realise the potential value of having a Doctor Strange backpack."





The Clutch beauty bar is seen at the Girls Auto Clinic garage in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. — AFP photos



Sue Sweeney, shop forewoman at the Girls Auto Clinic, prepares a car service at her garage.

In one Philly garage, women using their own elbow grease



Sue Sweeney, shop forewoman at the Girls Auto Clinic, performs transmission service at her garage.



The Clutch beauty bar is seen at the Girls Auto Clinic garage.



Patrice Banks, founder and owner of the Girls Auto Clinic, mounts a wheel on a car at her garage.

On the outside, the auto body shop looks like the three other garages in this unassuming suburb of Philadelphia. Inside, classic rock is blaring from a radio and the sweltering August heat is unforgiving. But it's quickly apparent that this is no ordinary garage. Shop forewoman Sue Sweeney—clad in black shorts, a black tank top and a bandana—is inspecting a car on a lift above her, while another woman passes her tools from a tray of equipment resting on a work bench. There are hardly any men to be seen. Welcome to Girls Auto Clinic, where a fleet of women mechanics is breaking the mold in the male-dominated industry. “I used to be a woman in the automotive industry that hated all my experiences,” founder and CEO Patrice Banks told AFP. “I called myself an auto airhead. I always felt like I needed a guy to go to the mechanic with me or that I was being taken advantage of.”

Banks was 31 and working as a manager at an engineering lab in 2012 when she decided to switch gears, head back to school and become a mechanic herself. What began as monthly car workshops for women turned into a successful business. Last year, Banks opened Girls Auto Clinic—complete with a nail salon for its predominantly female customers. “I wanted to create a business where they feel welcomed and they

feel empowered,” the bubbly Banks said with a smile. “If we are the number one customer, so many of us shouldn’t be feeling mistreated or misunderstood.”

‘Women get it’

In the United States, women make up about half of all drivers, according to the Department of Transportation, but they only account for about three percent of all automotive technicians and mechanics. At Girls Auto Clinic, nine of the 10 employees are female. They call themselves “She-canics.” “I can come in, be me, I can dress however I want and I’m not going to get judged whether I look girly enough or too boyish because of the type of work I’m going to do,” said Sweeney, 42. During her 23 years in the business, Sweeney has heard every cliché in the book. One former colleague told her she “should be barefoot and pregnant in the kitchen.”

But she says blatant sexism based on the physical nature of the work never deterred her. As Sweeney hoists an engine into a car, Banks says: “She’s incredible. And I’m like, who passed up on her?” Banks, who sports a pair of red heeled work boots, changes a tire with ease, narrating her actions step by step, as she does in her recent book, “Girls Auto Clinic Glove Box Guide.” “It’s relatable—women get it,” she says.



Sue Sweeney, shop forewoman at the Girls Auto Clinic, performs transmission service with a colleague at her garage in Upper Darby.

“It’s not boring car stuff like ‘Let’s talk about carburetors or horsepower,’” Girls Auto Clinic has been open for just over a year, but has already built a loyal customer base. Banks estimates that 75 percent of her customers are women, many of

whom drive a few extra miles for the unique repair experience. “The skilled and construction trades have tried for decades to incorporate more women with limited success, but having a female-owned and -operated business with

trained professionals sounds like a good idea,” said Arthur Wheaton, professor of industrial and labor relations at Cornell University.

“There is certainly room for growth in the auto repair sector as fewer people go into the skilled trades,” Banks is hoping to capitalize on her success and turn the shop into a nationwide franchise. A recently launched crowd funding campaign aims to help open two new locations in 2019 and three more by 2020. “What’s bigger than female empowerment right now?” Banks asked, convinced Girls Auto Clinic will become a household name among female drivers. “We’re riding that wave, people are looking for things like this. This is the right time.” — AFP



The Girls Auto Clinic garage is seen in Upper Darby.

Aretha: Muse and soundtrack of US civil rights movement



Flowers and tributes continue to be placed on the star for Aretha Franklin on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California. — AFP photos

From singing for free to raise money for the cause, to uplifting activists with her phenomenal voice and upbeat anthems, Aretha Franklin was indelibly linked to the US civil rights movement. Her signature song, “Respect”—recorded as a feminist anthem—became a rallying cry as African Americans rose up nationwide in the 1960s to fight peacefully for racial equality. Jesse Jackson, the veteran civil rights activist who was part of Martin Luther King Jr’s inner circle, hailed Franklin as “a source of joy” who “used the platform for issues other than just singing,” in an interview with AFP.

Jackson, who said he first met the singer when they were teenagers, told AFP by telephone from Chicago that “it was very difficult to say goodbye” when he visited and prayed with the music legend shortly before her death on Thursday at age 76. “Some singers, they compromise their racial and gender dignity to make

hit records,” Jackson said—but not Franklin. Her music was “always upbeat, lifting people higher and higher,” he noted.

‘She stood tall’

Franklin was born in the segregated American South in Memphis, Tennessee on March 25, 1942, before moving with her family to Detroit. Her father, C.L. Franklin, was a prominent Baptist preacher and civil rights activist, who in June 1963 helped King organize the Walk to Freedom through downtown Detroit, only two months before King’s historic March on Washington and “I Have a Dream” speech. King was a good friend of her father, occasionally visiting Detroit to spend time in their home or at her father’s New Bethel Baptist Church, Franklin told NPR in 1999.

And Jackson recalled one time when Franklin personally stepped up to help King—with her voice. “One occasion, when we were having



The Fillmore in Downtown Detroit pays its respects to the late Aretha Franklin with the title of one of her songs in Detroit, Michigan.

trouble raising money because of Dr King’s anti-war stance, she sang for free, raising money for the cause,” he told AFP. “One night in Houston, Texas, she went on stage and they put tear gas in the fan and she kept singing—she stood tall,” he remembered. When King was assassinated in 1968, Franklin sang at his funeral. Forty years later, she sang at the inauguration of Barack Obama, America’s first African-American president. “In her voice, we could feel our history, all of it and in every shade—our power and our pain, our darkness and our light, our quest for redemption and our hard-won respect,” Obama said this week.

‘She embodied what we were fighting for’

The NAACP, the country’s largest civil rights organization, presented Franklin with an award in 2008 for her role in advancing awareness of racial and social issues. “No one can discuss the

civil rights movement nor music without paying respect to the Queen of Soul,” said NAACP Chairman Leon Russell. She gave generously both in terms of finances and advice to US civil rights activists, and led hometown tributes to Nelson Mandela. In 1990, she sang at a rally in his honor in Detroit after his release from prison in South Africa. Taking to the stage, Mandela spoke about listening to and appreciating “the sound of Detroit” while in prison.

“When she sang, she embodied what we were fighting for, and her music strengthened us. It revived us,” said long-time congressman John Lewis, another civil rights icon who worked alongside King.

“She was like a muse whose songs whispered the strength to continue on. Her music gave us a greater sense of determination to never give up or give in, and to keep the faith.” To generations of women, especially black women, Franklin was

an icon, an inspiration and a role model, who embodied not just the fight for racial but also gender equality.

Shawn Frazier, 59, a manicurist to the singer for years, told AFP at a salon outside Detroit that the civil rights movement sometimes came up for discussion while the “Queen of Soul” was getting her nails done. “She mainly would talk about her dad and his involvement,” Frazier said, adding that Franklin was “very strong about the things that women or blacks were able to do, or that were accomplished.”

Outside the church of Franklin’s father on the evening she died, factory worker Maurice Black, 53, who grew up in the neighborhood, said his mother was driving up from Alabama in a convoy of two cars for her funeral. “You’ve got to understand—she was civil rights, so all the people from down south will be up here in Detroit,” he said. “Believe that.” — AFP



A fan outside the New Bethel Baptist Church to pay his respects for the late Aretha Franklin in Detroit, Michigan.

Paris aquarium offers haven for unwanted goldfish



These pictures show goldfish abandoned by individual keepers during quarantine at the Aquarium in Paris. — AFP photos

Paris's biggest aquarium has created a refuge for goldfish, providing a second life for any unwanted pets who might otherwise find themselves flushed down the toilet. The Aquarium de Paris allows the city's residents to drop off their fish, with the numbers using the service swelling around the time of the long summer holidays. Instead of facing death in the city's sewerage system, the rejected goldfish find themselves given a full medical checkup involving antibiotics and anti-parasite treatments. After a month in quarantine, during which a minority succumb to the trauma caused by the change in location, they are then released into a giant tank where they go on display to the public. "Some of them arrive very weak," said Celine Bezault, who cares for the fish at the giant aquarium complex which is located opposite the Eiffel Tower.

Since it was created two years ago, the goldfish rescue service has been used by around 50 people a month and the tank now contains about 600 specimens, mostly the classic golden-red version, as well as striped and black ones. Rather than spending all day

banging into the glass of a small bowl, here the fish have space to swim and plenty of company, allowing them to socialize and move around in groups. Some owners hand over their pets tearfully, motivated by concern for their fish, while others appear relieved to be rid of them and the routines of feeding and cleaning. "It was in a small bowl and I think it'll be better here," a 32-year-old called Alexandre told an AFP reporter as he dropped off a friend's goldfish called Nemo before the holidays. "It's better than flushing it away."

New life

Once in the bigger tank, some of the fish undergo a remarkable transformation. Being confined in a bowl stunts their growth, but the bigger space means some of them will expand to full adult size. "They can reach up to 20-30 centimeters (8-12 inches)," Bezault said. For Alexis Powilewicz, director of the Aquarium, the service is part of efforts to promote awareness about animal welfare. Goldfish are domesticated forms of wild carp originally found in east Asia and the practice of keeping



them in bowls has existed for hundreds of years. It is thought to have originated in China. "I think there's growing awareness that the

mistreatment of animals is a real problem," Powilewicz told AFP. For goldfish owners, the aquarium advises that the tank should be at

least 100 liters (20 gallons), should contain more than one fish, as well as a filtration system and decoration. The animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has long campaigned against keeping goldfish in bowls or giving away fish in plastic bags as prizes at funfairs. In 2004, the Italian town of Monza made headlines when it banned putting goldfish in bowls, while Switzerland has animal rights legislation that makes flushing a fish down the toilet illegal.

For those who dispose of their pets in ponds or rivers, scientific studies have found that some goldfish thrive afterwards—but at a cost to the local ecosystem because the fish are an invasive non-native species. In 2015, officials in the western Canadian province of Alberta launched a "Don't Let it Loose" campaign, pleading with locals to stop releasing goldfish into the waterways. The ethical disposal service available at the Aquarium de Paris is aimed at offering an alternative. Owners are also able to return afterwards to try to spot their former pets: quite a challenge in a tank of 600. —AFP

Migrants unseen in Israeli photographer's exhibition

Photographer Ron Amir spent years visiting African migrants in the Israeli desert to understand the new world they had created. He came back with a provocative set of pictures—without people in them. The human-less photographs include objects such as a makeshift bench and gym or a mud oven, composed in a way that hints at the migrants' desperation and their attempts to manufacture new lives. The exhibition, previously on display in Israel, is set to move to the Museum of Modern Art of the City of Paris, where it will open on September 14 and run until December 2. Amir said recently at the Israel Museum, where the exhibition appeared in 2016, that keeping people out of the pictures was a way to stimulate questions about what the viewer sees.

It was a means to "open another channel of observation that enables developing broader connotations on these sites," the Israeli photographer said. In one, a plank of thin metal sits atop three stones, wild shrubs behind it leading to a cloudless sky and a red ball attached to power lines. The understated photograph, its yellowish desert shades punctuated by red flecks of garbage, is named "Hamed Alnnil's Bench."

Alnnil, one of the thousands of African migrants who were held at the Holot detention centre near Israel's border with Egypt, had ventured out of the open facility's boundaries to create his much-needed personal space. Amir had visited Holot over the years 2014-2016 and befriended some of the facility's residents, who showed him the spaces they had created—most of them hidden away in the desert land surrounding Holot. Those held at the now-shuttered facility were allowed to leave during the day.

'Time to kill'

Amir created a series of photographs of the special spaces, with some of them serving clear functions, such as the gym, an oven for baking bread or a row of stones delineating the outline of a small mosque. Others, such as a line of empty water bottles half-buried in the hard desert ground, give no hint as to their purpose. The 30 photographs show "what happens when people have a lot of time to kill," Amir said. The oven ultimately "tells more about us, about Israel, about the system, about the limitations it imposes—and less about the people who came



Art photographer Ron Amir (left) and curator Noam Gal stand next to a picture from the exhibition on migrants, "Somewhere in the Desert," at the Israel Museum storage room in Jerusalem.

from Africa," he said. His decision to keep the migrants unseen in some ways matched what they were facing. At the time of Amir's work, the Israeli government was seeking a way to make the approximately 42,000 African migrants in the country vanish, with religious and conservative politicians portraying the presence of Muslim and Christian Africans as a threat to Israel's Jewish character. Many of the migrants, predominantly from Eritrea and Sudan, arrived in Israel illegally through Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. They settled in a number of poor neighborhoods in the coastal city of Tel Aviv, the country's economic capital. Others were eventually sent to Holot.

In April, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cancelled an agreement with the UN refugee agency aimed at avoiding forced deportations of thousands of the migrants. Under the deal, some 16,000 migrants were to be transferred to Western countries, with Israel giving residency to an equal number of them. Netanyahu faced heavy pressure to cancel the deal from his right-wing base, who want to see

all the migrants expelled. Their fate now remains in limbo. Accompanying Amir's photographs are six videos from outside Holot which do contain people—migrants chatting, posing for a picture, making coffee or listening to music and waiting. "In Ron's videos, nothing happens," said Noam Gal, the curator for Amir's exhibition in Jerusalem and Paris. "That's just the point—you can see what's happening at Holot only if you take upon yourself to sit and kill time from your day, and understand that what happens to the people there is the same time as yours," he said. The exhibition arrives in Paris as France and other European states also seek ways to deal with an influx of migrants.

To Gal, the Israel Museum's curator of photography, the exhibition is also "an opportunity to draw public attention to the phenomenon (of asylum seekers) from the artistic perspective," he said. Doing so could even "expand the limits of the discourse so that it's not just between decision-makers of the high political and diplomatic echelons, but maybe there's room here for other voices," Gal said. —AFP



Photographer Ron Amir poses next to his pictures from the exhibition on migrants, "Somewhere in the Desert," at the Israel Museum storage room in Jerusalem.



Noam Gal, curator of photography at the Israel Museum talks next to Ron Amir's picture from the exhibition on migrants, "Somewhere in the Desert." — AFP photos



Producers of 'The Bridge at Remagen' picked Davle because of the resemblance of a local bridge to the one at Remagen, as well as the presence of skilled film staff, including stunt performers and prop men. — AFP

Soviet army nearly 'battled' US filmmakers in Prague Spring

Propaganda-fuelled Soviet soldiers were ready to take on American and German armies during the 1968 invasion of former Czechoslovakia—before they realized the "enemies" were filmmakers. "I remember the noise made by a tank unit on August 21, 1968," said Kvetoslava Dufkova, a pensioner from the small town of Davle just south of Prague, who was 14 at the time. "The Soviets then arrived in the centre of Davle and there they came across, to their big surprise, an army they thought was German," she told AFP.

Like many locals, Dufkova had been acting as an extra in "The Bridge at Remagen", a John Guillermin war film starring George Segal and Robert Vaughn that was shot in Davle. "The guys in the tanks were stunned to suddenly see 'a German army' in front of them. They began negotiations, which lasted several hours," Dufkova said of the alarming moment that took place 50 years ago. After some time, the invading troops understood they were facing actors and not the expected imperialist cutthroats.

Last bridge across Rhine

Beginning in March 1968, Davle was transformed into a movie set, with residents mingling with Hollywood stars in American and Nazi military uniforms while tanks and other army vehicles drove by. It was also surrounded by replica buildings imitating those in Remagen, a town in western Germany. "Near our house, there was a pile of dead soldier mannequins that the filmmakers would distribute here and there during filming," said Antonin Dvorak, a 78-year-old pensioner from Davle. The film tells the story of how the US army took hold of the last bridge still standing across the Rhine in March 1945, following the German army's failure to destroy it while waiting for the retreating Nazi troops to cross the river.

United Artists producers took advantage of a political thaw in what was then communist Czechoslovakia to go on location there as the 1968 Prague Spring movement opened the country up to the West. Producers picked Davle because of the

resemblance of a local bridge to the one at Remagen, as well as the presence of skilled film staff, including stunt performers and prop men. "During the shooting of a scene in which the bridge is bombed, a horse fell through the railings into the river," recalled Dufkova. "We all thought the horse would die, but rescuers managed to save the animal. It was a very moving moment." There were 800 extras, including several schoolchildren dressed as Hitler Youth, according to a handwritten village account kept at town hall. "The stage set was so credible that an accidental tourist would have made the sign of a cross here," the chronicle says.

'Soviet arrival was horrible'

But this credibility almost led to a tragedy in the town on the day the Soviet-led armies invaded Czechoslovakia. Soviet troops crushed the Prague Spring movement, killing 50 people nationwide on the first day alone. "The arrival of the Soviet army in Davle was horrible. A helicopter was circling overhead and the soldiers were terribly scared. This could have resulted in a tragedy," said Dvorak. "Someone told them that Davle had been invaded by the US army and that they should liberate us. They had no idea why our people were giving them the finger. They were terribly nervous, the tension was palpable."

The shooting of "The Bridge at Remagen" was immediately interrupted and the whole film crew rushed back towards the West by taxi, leaving behind all the Sherman and Tiger tanks and other material. In the autumn of 1968, the film crew were allowed to come back briefly to take a few necessary shots. The film was completed in West Germany and Italy and hit the screens in the United States in 1969. Meanwhile, the Soviets made savvy use of the movie props, with the film crew quickly replaced by filmmakers from Moscow, who rushed to show Soviet viewers back home images of American and Nazi tanks just 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Prague to justify the invasion. — AFP

TV



00:05 Avengers Grimm
01:40 Rise Of The Legend
04:05 The Northlander
06:00 My Stepdaughter
07:40 I Am Wrath
09:20 Suicide Squad
11:30 The House Sitter
13:05 Boorning II
14:50 Kung Fu Yoga
16:45 Armageddon America
18:15 Gridlocked
20:10 Transporter 2
21:40 Blood Circus
23:10 Independents' Day



00:45 Keeping Up With The Kruger
01:40 Keeping Up With The Kruger
02:35 Keeping Up With The Kruger
03:25 Keeping Up With The Kruger
04:15 Keeping Up With The Kruger
05:02 Lone Star Law
05:49 Lone Star Law
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Keeping Up With The Kruger
08:15 Lone Star Law
09:10 The Bronx Zoo
10:05 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
11:00 Wildest Islands
11:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees
12:50 My Fat Pet
13:45 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
14:40 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
15:35 Expedition Mungo
16:30 Keeping Up With The Kruger
17:25 Lone Star Law
18:20 My Fat Pet
19:15 Monster Island
20:10 Shark Attack File 2
21:05 Wildest Islands
22:00 Expedition Mungo
22:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees
23:50 Monster Island



00:40 Save Me
01:30 The Split
02:30 Benidorm
03:20 EastEnders
03:50 EastEnders
04:20 Father Brown
05:05 New Tricks
06:00 EastEnders
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Doctor Who
07:50 Stella
08:40 Stella
09:30 The Durrells
10:20 The Durrells
11:10 The Durrells
12:00 Doctor Who
12:50 Father Brown
13:40 New Tricks
14:35 The Durrells
15:30 The Durrells
16:20 The Durrells
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Casualty
19:00 New Tricks
20:00 Benidorm
20:50 Unforgotten
21:40 Unforgotten
22:30 Father Brown
23:20 Save Me



00:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
01:55 Nightmare In Suburbia
02:50 Homicide: Hours To Kill
03:45 Homicide: Hours To Kill
04:30 Cold Case Files
05:15 Cold Case Files
06:00 It Takes A Killer
06:30 It Takes A Killer
07:00 It Takes A Killer
07:20 The First 48
08:05 Cold Case Files
08:50 Crimes That Shook Britain
09:35 Crimes That Shook Britain
10:30 Crimes That Shook Australia
11:25 Crimes That Shook Australia
12:20 Homicide: Hours To Kill
13:15 Cold Case Files
14:10 Cold Case Files
15:05 It Takes A Killer
15:35 It Takes A Killer
16:30 Live PD: Police Patrol
17:00 The First 48
18:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
19:00 It Takes A Killer
19:30 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
21:00 I Killed My BFF
22:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
23:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence



00:05 Tosh.O
00:30 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
00:55 The Daily Show - Global Edition
01:20 South Park
01:45 Inside Amy Schumer
02:10 Tosh.O
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:50 South Park
04:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:05 Snack Off
05:30 Snack Off
05:55 Disaster Date
06:20 Ridiculousness
06:50 I Used To Be Fat
07:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
09:20 Ridiculousness
09:45 Impractical Jokers
10:10 Lip Sync Battle
10:35 Lip Sync Battle
11:00 IdiotSitter
11:25 Ridiculousness Arabia
11:50 The It Crowd
12:15 The It Crowd
12:40 Impractical Jokers
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:55 Friends
14:20 Friends
14:45 The It Crowd
15:10 The It Crowd
15:35 IdiotSitter
16:00 House Of Food
16:55 Friends
17:20 Friends
17:45 Coaching Bad
18:35 Impractical Jokers
19:00 The It Crowd
19:25 The It Crowd
19:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
20:12 Friends
20:35 Friends
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition

21:30 This Is Not Happening
22:00 Detroiters
22:25 Detroiters
22:50 Comedy Central Stand Up Presents
23:15 Comedy Central Stand Up Presents
23:40 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party



01:20 How It's Made
01:45 How It's Made
02:10 How It's Made
02:35 How It's Made
03:00 How It's Made
03:50 Destroyed In Seconds
04:15 Destroyed In Seconds
04:40 Destroyed In Seconds
05:05 Destroyed In Seconds
05:55 Destroyed In Seconds
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Destroyed In Seconds
07:25 Destroyed In Seconds
07:50 My Cat From Hell
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 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie
13:40 The Carbonaro Effect
14:05 The Carbonaro Effect
14:30 How It's Made
14:55 How It's Made
15:20 My Cat From Hell
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 My Cat From Hell
17:50 Tanked
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds
19:05 Destroyed In Seconds
19:30 Wild Mexico
20:20 Tethered
21:10 How It's Made
21:35 How It's Made
22:00 Ultimate Survival
22:50 Wild Mexico
23:40 Tethered
00:45 Diabolical: Deadly Love



01:40 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris
02:35 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris
03:30 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris
04:25 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris
05:20 The Perfect Murder
06:10 Love The Way You Lie
07:00 California Investigator
07:25 Love The Way You Lie
08:15 Evil Online
09:10 Obsession: Dark Desires
10:05 The Perfect Murder
11:00 Who Killed Jane Doe?
11:55 Love The Way You Lie
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:45 Obsession: Dark Desires
14:40 The Perfect Murder
15:35 Married With Secrets
16:30 Betrayed
17:25 Evil Online
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 Obsession: Dark Desires
20:10 The Perfect Murder
21:05 Alaskan Temptress: People Magazine Investigates
22:00 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen
22:55 Diabolical: Deadly Love
23:50 Pandora's Box: Unleashing Evil
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
05:40 Rolling With The Ronks
05:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:00 Stuck In The Middle
06:25 Tangled: The Series
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
07:20 Bizaardvark
07:45 K.C. Undercover
08:10 Bunk'd
08:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
09:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
09:25 Tangled: The Series
09:50 Tangled: The Series
10:15 Bizaardvark
10:40 Bizaardvark
11:05 Liv And Maddie
11:30 Liv And Maddie
11:55 K.C. Undercover
12:20 K.C. Undercover
12:45 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:55 Binny And The Ghost
14:00 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
14:15 Bunk'd
14:40 K.C. Undercover
15:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:35 A.N.T. Farm
15:35 Bizaardvark
16:00 Tangled: The Series
16:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:50 Raven's Home
17:15 Stuck In The Middle
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 K.C. Undercover
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 And Cat Noir
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:50 Lollipop

23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Trulli Tales



00:30 PJ Masks
01:00 PJ Masks
01:25 PJ Masks
01:50 The Hive
02:00 Zou
02:15 Zou
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 The Hive
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Zou
03:55 Zou
04:10 PJ Masks
04:35 The Hive
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster
05:10 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 The Hive
05:45 Zou
06:00 Zou
06:15 PJ Masks
06:30 PJ Masks
07:00 The Lion Guard
07:25 Muppet Babies Show & Tell
07:50 Puppy Dog Pals
07:45 Doc McStuffins
08:00 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
08:15 PJ Masks
08:30 Vampirina
09:00 Sofia The First
09:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:55 Chip And Dale's Nutty Tales
10:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
10:55 Vampirina
13:05 PJ Masks
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 PJ Masks Music Video
14:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
14:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:00 PJ Masks
15:30 PJ Masks
16:00 PJ Masks
16:30 PJ Masks
17:00 Vampirina
17:30 Claude
17:45 Puppy Dog Pals
18:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
18:25 Chip And Dale's Nutty Tales
18:30 PJ Masks
18:45 Vampirina
19:00 Sofia The First
19:30 Doc McStuffins
19:45 The Lion Guard
20:15 Mission Force One
20:30 Vampirina
21:00 Trulli Tales
21:30 Sofia The First
22:00 Doc McStuffins
22:30 Puppy Dog Pals
22:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
23:00 Miles From Tomorrow
23:30 Trulli Tales
00:15 Miffy Garage



01:05 Last Outpost
01:50 Alaska Gold Diggers
02:35 Deadliest Catch
03:20 Misfit Garage
04:05 Flying Wild Alaska
04:50 Deadliest Catch
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 The Liquidator
06:23 Backyard Oil
06:45 How Do They Do It?
07:10 How Do They Do It?
07:35 Flying Wild Alaska
08:20 The Liquidator
08:45 Backyard Oil
09:10 Deadliest Catch
09:55 Last Outpost
10:45 Alaska Gold Diggers
11:30 How Do They Do It?
11:55 How Do They Do It?
12:20 The Liquidator
12:43 Backyard Oil
13:05 Storage Hunters
13:30 How Do They Do It?
13:55 Misfit Garage
14:40 Misfit Garage
15:30 Last Outpost
16:15 Alaska Gold Diggers
17:05 Storage Hunters
17:28 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Flying Wild Alaska
18:40 Deadliest Catch
19:25 Misfit Garage
20:15 Misfit Garage
21:00 Outback Truckers
21:50 Gold Divers
22:40 Diesel Brothers
23:30 Flying Wild Alaska
00:05 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja



Grade Ninja
00:30 Boyster
00:55 Boyster
01:20 Counterfeit Cat
01:45 Counterfeit Cat
02:10 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja
02:35 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja
03:00 Boyster
03:20 Boyster
03:45 Dude That's My Ghost
04:10 Dude That's My Ghost
04:30 Counterfeit Cat
05:00 Guardians Of The Galaxy
05:29 Marvel's Avengers Assemble
06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
06:29 Lab Rats
07:00 DuckTales
07:31 Big City Greens
07:45 Furiki Wheels
08:00 Phineas And Ferb
08:29 Phineas And Ferb
09:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
09:29 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
10:00 Gravity Falls
10:29 Gravity Falls
11:00 Lab Rats
11:29 Lab Rats
12:00 Phineas And Ferb
12:29 Phineas And Ferb
13:00 Big City Greens
13:29 Big City Greens
14:00 Big City Greens
14:29 Big City Greens
15:00 Furiki Wheels
15:29 DuckTales
16:00 Phineas And Ferb
16:15 Milo Murphy's Law
16:30 Phineas And Ferb
16:45 Milo Murphy's Law
17:00 Big City Greens
17:29 Big Hero 6 The Series
18:00 Lab Rats
18:29 Lab Rats
19:00 Disney II
19:29 Mech-X4
20:00 DuckTales
20:29 Big Hero 6 The Series
21:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
21:29 Star Wars Rebels
22:00 Phineas And Ferb
22:15 Furiki Wheels
22:30 Big City Greens

22:45 Marvel Super Heroes Black Panther: Trouble In
22:50 Dude That's My Ghost
23:15 Dude That's My Ghost
23:40 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja
00:50 WAGs Atlanta



01:50 WAGs Atlanta
02:50 Botched
03:40 Botched
04:35 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 WAGs Miami
06:55 WAGs Miami
07:50 WAGs Miami
08:45 WAGs Miami
09:40 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:20 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
14:15 Botched
23:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
23:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
00:00 Chopped



01:00 Iron Chef Gauntlet
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:25 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Bake
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
09:25 Siba's Table
09:55 Cooking For Real
10:25 Cooking For Real
10:55 The Kitchen
11:45 Cooking For Real
12:10 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
15:35 The Kitchen
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Cooking For Real
17:30 Cooking For Real
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Tia Mowry At Home
20:30 Tia Mowry At Home
21:00 The Big Eat - Middle East
21:30 The Big Eat - Middle East
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped
00:10 Couples Come Dine With Me



01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Catchphrase: Celebrity Special
03:25 One Night With My Ex
04:20 Kate: The Making Of A Modern Queen
05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me
06:15 Surprise Surprise
07:10 Catchphrase: Celebrity Special
08:05 One Night With My Ex
09:00 Kate: The Making Of A Modern Queen
09:55 Couples Come Dine With Me
10:55 Surprise Surprise
11:50 Catchphrase: Celebrity Special
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Chopping Block
15:10 Catchphrase
16:00 Bliss
16:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
17:00 Jericho
17:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
18:50 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Catchphrase
21:00 Bliss
21:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
22:00 Jericho
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street
00:00 Heroes Of War



01:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
02:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
02:50 UFO Hunters
03:40 UFO Hunters
04:30 Breaking Mysterious
05:20 Breaking Mysterious
06:10 Heroes Of War
07:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
08:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
09:00 UFO Hunters
10:00 UFO Hunters
11:00 Breaking Mysterious
12:00 Breaking Mysterious
13:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
14:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
15:00 UFO Hunters
16:00 UFO Hunters
17:00 Breaking Mysterious
18:00 Ancient Discoveries
19:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
20:00 UFO Files
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Engineering An Empire
00:20 Ice Road Truckers



01:10 Pawn Stars
01:35 Storage Wars
02:00 Buried: Knights Templar Revealed
02:50 American Pickers Best Of
03:40 Counting Cars
04:05 Car Hunters
04:30 Buried: Knights Templar Revealed
05:20 Ice Road Truckers
06:00 American Pickers Best Of
06:50 Counting Cars
07:15 Car Hunters
07:40 Pawn Stars
08:05 Storage Wars

08:30 Buried: Knights Templar Revealed
09:20 American Pickers Best Of
10:10 Counting Cars
10:35 Car Hunters
11:00 Football Godfathers
11:50 Pawn Stars
12:15 Storage Wars
12:40 Buried: Knights Templar Revealed
13:30 American Pickers Best Of
14:20 Counting Cars
14:45 Car Hunters
15:10 Ice Road Truckers
16:00 Football Godfathers
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Storage Wars
17:40 Buried: Knights Templar Revealed
18:30 American Pickers Best Of
19:20 Counting Cars
19:45 Car Hunters
20:10 Ice Road Truckers
21:00 Ozy And Jack's World Detour
21:50 The Warfighters
22:40 American Pickers Best Of
23:30 Counting Cars
23:55 Car Hunters
00:15 The Food Files



01:10 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
01:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
02:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
02:35 Building Wild
03:30 Health Secrets Behind Korean Cuisine
04:25 David Rocco's Dolce Africa
04:50 Chocolate Covered
05:20 Glamour Puds
05:45 Glamour Puds
06:15 Fish Tank Kings
07:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
07:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
08:05 Building Wild
09:00 Health Secrets Behind Korean Cuisine
09:55 David Rocco's Dolce Africa
10:20 Chocolate Covered
10:50 Dog Whisperer
11:45 Fish Tank Kings
12:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
13:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
13:35 Building Wild
14:30 Chef On The Road
15:25 David Rocco's Dolce Africa
15:50 Chocolate Covered
16:20 Chocolate Covered
16:45 Glamour Puds
17:15 Fish Tank Kings
18:10 What's For Sale With A View
18:35 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
19:05 Building Wild
20:00 Chef On The Road
21:00 David Rocco's Dolce Africa
21:30 Chocolate Covered
22:00 Chocolate Covered
22:25 Glamour Puds
22:55 Fish Tank Kings
23:50 What's For Sale With A View
00:10 Wicked Tuna



01:00 America Inside Out With Katie Couric
02:00 Explorer XL
03:00 The Food Files
03:30 The Food Files
04:00 Wicked Tuna
05:00 Greatest Machines
06:00 Break It Down: Super Jets
07:00 Car SOS
08:00 Nazi World War Weird
09:00 Greatest Machines
10:00 Perilous Journeys
11:00 The Food Files
11:30 The Food Files
12:00 Planes That Changed The World
13:00 Megastuctures
14:00 Nazi World War Weird
15:00 Car SOS
16:00 Exploring Malaysia
16:30 Exploring Malaysia
17:00 The Food Files
17:30 The Food Files
18:00 Planes That Changed The World
19:00 Car SOS
20:00 Exploring Malaysia
20:25 Exploring Malaysia
20:50 The Food Files
21:15 The Food Files
21:40 Planes That Changed The World
22:30 Car SOS
23:20 Nazi World War Weird
00:30 Extreme Animal Babies



01:30 Wild Mississippi Compilation
02:30 World's Deadliest
03:30 When Sharks Attack
04:30 Venom Island
05:30 Jaguar Beach Battle
06:30 World's Weirdest Animal
07:30 When Sharks Attack
08:30 Venom Island
09:30 Jaguar Beach Battle
10:30 World's Weirdest Animal
11:30 The Incredible Dr. Pol
12:30 The Invaders
13:30 Strike Force
14:30 Little Killers
15:30 Last Devils
16:30 World's Weirdest
17:30 The Incredible Dr. Pol
18:30 The Invaders
19:30 Little Killers
20:30 Last Devils
21:30 World's Weirdest
22:30 The Incredible Dr. Pol
23:30 The Invaders
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 The Loud House
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
07:24 Breadwinners
07:48 Sanjay And Craig
08:12 Rabbids Invasion
08:36 The Loud House
09:00 Regal Academy
09:24 Winx Club

09:48 Game Shakers
10:12 School Of Rock
10:36 Henry Danger
11:00 The Thundermans
11:24 Star Falls
11:48 Hunter Street
12:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn
12:36 Knight Squad
13:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
13:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
13:48 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
14:12 Bunsen Is A Beast
14:36 The Loud House
15:00 Welcome To The Wayne
15:24 Harvey Beaks
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
17:24 Knight Squad
17:48 Star Falls
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 Harvey Beaks
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Talia In The Kitchen
21:48 Talia In The Kitchen
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Rabbids Invasion
23:00 The Loud House
23:24 Regal Academy
00:16 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
Shimmer And Shine



00:02 Max & Ruby
00:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:45 The Day Henry Met
00:50 The Day Henry Met
00:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:40 Paw Patrol
01:52 Kid-E-Cats
01:57 Kid-E-Cats
02:03 Shimmer And Shine
02:25 Nella The Princess Knight
02:37 Paw Patrol
03:01 Max & Ruby
03:17 Dora The Explorer
03:40 Sunny Day
04:03 Nella The Princess Knight
04:14 Nella The Princess Knight
04:26 Shimmer And Shine
04:49 Wallykazam!
05:11 Frankie & Frank
05:14 Frankie & Frank
05:16 Zack & Quack
05:26 Top Wing
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 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 Paw Patrol
07:56 Paw Patrol
08:19 Shimmer And Shine
08:42 Nella The Princess Knight
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:04 Top Wing
09:16 Paw Patrol
09:40 Rusty Rivets
10:03 Wallykazam!
10:26 Bubble Guppies
10:50 Team Umizoomi
11:13 Shimmer And Shine
11:25 Sunny Day
11:46 Kiva Can Do!
11:58 Max & Ruby
12:20 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:31 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:41 The Day Henry Met
12:46 The Day Henry Met
12:52 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:14 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:36 Paw Patrol
13:48 Kid-E-Cats
13:53 Kid-E-Cats
13:58 Shimmer And Shine
14:20 Nella The Princess Knight
14:32 Paw Patrol
14:55 Max & Ruby
15:18 Dora The Explorer
15:41 Sunny Day
16:03 Nella The Princess Knight
16:15 Nella The Princess Knight
16:26 Shimmer And Shine
16:49 Wallykazam!
17:11 Frankie & Frank
17:14 Frankie & Frank
17:16 Zack & Quack
17:26 Top Wing
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:13 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
19:22 Kiva Can Do!
19:33 Kiva Can Do!
19:43 Paw Patrol
19:56 Paw Patrol
20:19 Shimmer And Shine
20:41 Nella The Princess Knight
20:53 Nella The Princess Knight
21:04 Top Wing
21:16 Paw Patrol
21:39 Rusty Rivets
22:03 Wallykazam!
22:26 Bubble Guppies
22:50 Team Umizoomi
23:12 Kid-E-Cats
23:17 Shimmer And Shine
23:30 Sunny Day
23:51 Kiva Can Do!
00:45 Beauty And The Beast



03:00 Aladdin
04:45 Old Dogs
06:30 Beauty And The Beast
09:00 Toy Story
10:45 Old Dogs
12:30 Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs
14:15 Toy Story 2
16:00 The Parent Trap
18:15 Oz The Great And Powerful
20:30 Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs
22:15 Toy Story 2
01:30 Coyote Ugly



03:30 Deck The Halls
05:15 Galaxy Quest
07:15 Don Verdean
09:00 Deck The Halls
10:45 Galaxy Quest
12:45 Don Verdean
14:45 UHF
16:45 Middle School: The Worst Years Of My Life
18:30 The Discoverers
20:30 Ghost Team One
22:00 The Lookout
01:15 Pacific Pirates



02:45 Free Birds
04:10 Simba The King Lion
06:15 Zodiac: The Race Begins
07:55 Mia And The Migoo
09:30 The Wheelers
10:55 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest
12:35 Free Birds
14:00 Simba The King Lion
16:05 Papelucho & The Martian
17:30 The Wheelers
18:55 Twigson Ties The Knot
20:20 Gamba
22:00 Papelucho & The Martian
23:25 Mia And The Migoo
00:00 The Lennon Report



01:30 The Core
03:45 Coming Through The Rye
05:25 Finding Altamira
07:00 Meet Dave
08:30 The Core
10:45 East Side Sushi
12:40 The Remains Of The Day
15:00 Forrest Gump
17:25 The Firm
20:00 It Runs In The Family
21:55 Alive
00:30 Science Of The Movies



01:20 Science Of The Movies
02:10 Science Of The Movies
03:00 Extreme Engineering
03:48 Extreme Engineering
04:36 Extreme Engineering
05:24 Man Made: Marvels China
06:12 Man Made: Marvels China
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 How The Universe Works
08:14 Man Made: Marvels China
09:02 Science Of The Movies
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 How The Universe Works
11:26 Mythbusters
12:14 Man Made: Marvels China
13:02 Mysteries Of The Missing
13:50 Science Of The Movies
14:38 How Do They Do It?
15:02 Food Factory
15:26 How The Universe Works
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Science Of The Movies
17:50 Mysteries Of The Missing
18:40 How Do They Do It?
19:05 Food Factory
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 Extreme Engineering
21:10 Sci-Fi Science
21:35 Street Science
22:00 Mythbusters
22:50 Mythbusters
23:40 How Do They Do It?
00:50 Dillagi



03:00 Dillagi
04:25 The Front Row
05:00 The Front Row
05:30 Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya
07:30 Blue
09:25 Shaadi No.1
11:55 Raja Babu
14:50 Highway
17:10 Bang Bang!
20:00 Dishoom
22:20 Phool Aur Kaante
02:



A lightning bolt strikes in Culiacan, Sinaloa State, Mexico, early on Saturday. — AFP

As Duterte flags, daughter enters...

Continued from Page 1

That contrasts sharply from his 40-year-old daughter, who has started maneuvering to build alliances and expand her small party in the southern Davao region into a new political juggernaut, as fissures appear in her father's ruling PDP-Laban party. She was instrumental in bringing together political factions to stage a dramatic July 23 ousting of divisive Duterte ally Pantaleon Alvarez as lower house speaker, replacing him with veteran Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, 71, a former president with clout and connections to ensure support for Duterte and his agenda.

The move was helped by a relationship developing between Sara Duterte and Imee Marcos, 62, a provincial governor and key figure in the still influential family of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who ruled the Philippines for two decades before being ousted in a 1986 uprising. The two women posed together for pictures last week, each with one hand doing Duterte's trademark clenched fist, and making a "V" sign synonymous with the rule of Marcos with the other.

Rodrigo Duterte's rise has been a boon for the Marcos family. Imee Marcos frequently attends his official events and in 2016, Duterte granted her longstanding wish for her father to be buried with military honors at a Manila heroes' cemetery. Duterte also said last week that if he steps down, her brother, Ferdinand Marcos Jr, a former senator better known as "Bongbong", would have been a capable replacement for him. Marcos Jr came a close second to Leni Robredo, a rival of Duterte, in the 2016 vice presidential election, but he has challenged the result in the Supreme Court.

Richard Heydarian, an author, columnist and academic who specializes in politics, said the Marcos family wanted to stay relevant nationally and in a political culture where loyalties easily shift. Sara Duterte was now widely seen as a figure worth rallying behind. "People around (Rodrigo) Duterte are looking for a new center of gravity. They see signs of an exhausted president and see there could be

some kind of succession that can protect their interests," he said. "He has a very shallow network of politicians, he's not at his peak. He just has to hold on as long as he can."

Duterte acknowledges that, and on Tuesday said he can't resign because a constitutional succession would mean handing power to opposition leader and vice president Robredo, who was elected separately. He said Robredo isn't up to the job - which she refutes - and he'd prefer a junta takes over. Duterte's relationship with daughter Sara has however often appeared rocky and she has portrayed herself as his reluctant successor as mayor of Davao City.

Like her father, she is feared and respected, and known for being blunt, unpredictable and for openly trading barbs with the president. Despite that, few doubt her loyalty to him. Although she denies being interested, she and other Duterte allies, including his spokesman, his special assistant and his former police chief, are tipped to run for the 24-seat Senate in 2019, as is Imee Marcos. That could be a game-changer for the president, who has built a strong majority in the House of Representatives but needs control of the upper house to deliver on his promises.

Among a raft of plans, he wants to redraft the constitution and deliver his centerpiece economic policy, a \$180 billion infrastructure spree designed to modernize the country, spur spending, create jobs and lure investment. "Now is the chance to further consolidate power by controlling both houses of congress and the local government units so all of us can we move forward in cadence," said a member of a nine-party alliance formed by Sara Duterte last week. He requested anonymity, saying only Sara Duterte could speak about the alliance. "The goal is, fill the Senate with people who can help ... We don't want people who will only obstruct his plans."

Opposition lawmaker Antonio Tinio said Rodrigo Duterte was essentially a local politician thrust into the presidency and needed national level allies. "Hence, his alliance with the Marcoses and Gloria Arroyo," he said. Tinio is sceptical about Duterte's talk of retirement and is among many opponents who suspect he'll try to continue beyond his permitted single six-year term - an idea Duterte this week said was idiotic. Plan B, Tinio said, was his daughter succeeding him. "If efforts to extend the term of President Duterte through charter change fail, it's very likely that the Dutertes' Davao formula for dynastic succession will prevail," he said. — Reuters

sermons." Tunisian interpreter Abdulmumen Al-Saket is happy to help, fielding frequent requests for his phone number. "We try to help as much as we can, even with reading the maps," he said. "Some ask for our personal phone numbers, to call us later if they need help," he added. Pilgrims come to Makkah from across the world, including India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. Many speak only Urdu, Saadi said.

Many of the signs directing pilgrims are translated into English, Urdu and in some cases, French. The Grand Mosque provides a range of translation and interpreting services to pilgrims. Specialist departments deal with sermons and rulings, and a hotline is available in dozens of languages to answer religious questions. But for practical matters, Saadi's 80-strong team is indispensable. The department has been in place for four years, he said, and is being continuously expanded to deal with rising demand.

"Most (pilgrims) don't speak Arabic and are afraid to ask in the event of an accident," Sanaullah Ghuri, an Indian translator, told AFP in Arabic. A deadly stampede in 2015 left more than 2,000 pilgrims dead in Mina, where the symbolic stoning of the devil ritual takes place during hajj. Many pilgrims were unable to understand security forces' instructions, delivered in Arabic.

The hajj presents Saudi authorities with vast logistical challenges. Islam is currently the world's fastest-growing religion, according to the Pew Research Center, which says the number of Muslims in the world is expected to rise from 1.8 billion in 2015 to three billion in 2060. Providing services for two million pilgrims is no small feat, and authorities are pushing a "smart hajj" initiative this year to meet the rising demand.

That includes apps providing information on emergency medical services and geographic guides to Makkah and Madinah. One app will also translate hajj sermons into five languages. But the Indian translator, Ghuri, said the presence of real-life interpreters made the experience of hajj easier for pilgrims. "When they see someone speaking their language, they feel more comfortable seeking help," he said. — Agencies

More bodies found in Kerala...

Continued from Page 1

Thousands of army, navy and air force personnel have fanned out across Kerala. The army said yesterday that 250 people had been evacuated from Pathanamthitta district, many of them sick after days in the pounding monsoon rain. Food, medicine and water has been dropped from helicopters to isolated areas. A train from Pune in Maharashtra state headed south on Saturday for Kerala laden with more than one million litres of drinking water.

Roads and 134 bridges have been damaged, cutting off remote areas in the hilly districts of Kerala which are worst affected. Rising torrents of murky brown water swallowed the only remaining road into the town of Mannar, where an estimated 10,000 residents are trapped. The Times of India newspaper reported. The state's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan vowed yesterday "to save even the last person stranded".

Fishermen have sailed inland from Kerala's coast to join the search, as volunteers erected soup kitchens

and appeals went out worldwide for donations. At St Peter's Square in the Vatican yesterday, worshippers held aloft signs reading "Pray for Kerala", a state with a large Christian population. "Our solidarity and the concrete support of the international community should not lack for our brothers," said Pope Francis on Sunday.

Many panic-stricken flood victims have resorted to appeals on social media, saying they cannot get through to rescue services. In Mala, desperate villagers had to improvise as the floodwaters rose, using kitchen pots as rafts to reach their stricken neighbors. "They used these huge cooking pots to rescue around 100 people in the first wave of flash floods, as no one was prepared (for a rescue)," one local rescuer told AFP. There have been moments of cheer amid the tragedy. In the hilly district of Idukki, rescuers told the Press Trust of India of working through the night to save a newborn boy and his mother from the rising waters.

But dam levels remain dangerously high, swollen by monsoon deluges, and more rain is forecast. The Indian Meteorological Department has warned of rain until August 23 across Kerala, including heavy downpours in the districts of Kozhikode, Kannur and Idukki. Idukki has received more than 321 cm of rain since June and is now virtually cut off from the rest of the state. — AFP

80 Indian nurses in limbo without...

Continued from Page 1

In a few months, many of them got appointment papers. Others waited for a few more months, some a year, but these 80 nurses were left without being appointed. In the nurses' accommodation, they are fed daily and have no complaints about this, but they need jobs. "Many of those interviewed with us are already working in the ministry. We, the unfortunate 80, are patiently waiting. We are stuck without jobs for the past 2.5 years now," Akhila lamented.

The nurses allege that the problem stems from corruption in the recruitment process, according to a Kuwait Times source. The source claimed that the jobs of these 80 nurses were taken by another batch of nurses recruited through Dubai. In April 2015, the Indian government banned the recruitment of nurses through private agencies in a bid to stop massive fee requirements and corruption. Working with the Kuwait government, it established six approved agencies that could recruit nurses for Kuwait. But at the same time, some private agencies rerouted recruitment through Dubai. That recruitment process however was not recognized by the Indian and Kuwait governments, but those nurses still bagged jobs in Kuwait.

"We were hired legally in India but because of the hiring in Dubai (which was conducted without the knowledge of the Indian government), some of us who were recruited legally were affected. The corruption issue was exposed, so the government of India and Kuwait immediately blocked the recruitment of the nurses," the source said. "When that scandal broke out, we were the last few remaining nurses waiting for the final appointment papers. We hope that the government helps us in this time of need," Akhila appealed.

Another complicating factor that has added to the wait is the new certification rules from the Civil Service Commission. Previously, nurses recruited from abroad could start work while their qualifications went through the certification and licensing process. But in March this year, the CSC changed the rules. New hires must submit transcripts of overall grades of educational qualifications, attest work experience certificates from the foreign affairs ministry in Kuwait and verify certificates from India's higher education authorities. Nurses recruited from abroad cannot work in Kuwait for the ministry until all procedures and paperwork are completed. Akhila said the new rules have placed an additional burden on them. "To have degrees verified is a very tedious process because it takes time - at least two or three years - because it will pass through several major authorities:

Kuwait's health, education and foreign ministries. In India we have to submit the papers to the Kuwaiti Embassy, and from there it goes to our respective universities. After that it will be back to the same process to authenticate these certificates," she explained.

"We are here for the last 2.5 years without work and now because of this new regulation, we are going to start the procedure all over again. We are not earning any money. We were hired in 2015, but are deprived from working and our families," she added. The nurses have appealed to Kuwaiti and Indian authorities for help, but so far little has been done. "We filed complaints at the Indian Embassy on November 12, 2017 (labor complaint no. 3407), then to the Kuwait Nursing Association. They said they are looking for a rightful solution of our case. But time flies - we are now waiting for 2.5 years; this is injustice," Akhila said.

A partial reprieve seemed near when more than half of the nurses learned in January that they had been approved for work visas from the health ministry. "Unfortunately, it was blocked by the Civil Service Commission pending some more documentation, which they said is necessary. The CSC wants us to provide documents that are not supposed to apply to us because we were hired in 2015," Akhila said.

Joby Joseph, another complainant, said most of them are working mothers and need to provide for their families. Many paid recruiters to get a job in Kuwait or will pay out of their first few months' salaries, an illegal practice that continues despite the Indian government's efforts to reroute nurses' recruitment through official government agencies.

"We have families to feed back in India, but we are stuck here for years. We have stayed because we need the job," Joby said. "This is why we don't say anything. We want this ordeal to end soon. We are exhausted and in an extreme situation, struggling and in deep frustration. If someone is ill, we cannot go to hospitals because we do not have civil IDs." Despite arriving legally in the country with visas issued by the ministry, many of the nurses are now "illegal" as they have not received work permits and have not had their visit visas renewed.

The nurses are asking to be appointed as soon as possible and compensated for the years they've been stuck without employment in Kuwait. "I am the eldest in my family of four. I told my fiancé to wait for me because I wanted to resolve the financial problems of my parents first. If they are okay, then we can get married. That plan is on hold for more than 2.5 years now," said one of the nurses who didn't want to give her name for fear of more trouble. "I cannot even provide for myself. I don't have even one dinar in my pocket. I am really very disappointed to the extent that I cry almost daily and pray that God ends this predicament," she sobbed.

Amir conveys Eid greetings as...

Continued from Page 1

The shrine is the point towards which Muslims around the world pray. "I feel so fortunate to be here," said Nazia Nour, 36, who came to Saudi Arabia from Auckland. Pushing her father on a wheelchair, she added: "I can't believe he (God) chose me."

Today, pilgrims will climb Mount Arafat for the climax of the hajj, praying and reading the Holy Quran. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) delivered his final sermon from the rocky hill to Muslims who had accompanied him on his final hajj. After sunset, pilgrims head to Muzdalifah, halfway between Arafat and Mina, where they stay at least until midnight. They gather pebbles to perform the symbolic stoning of the devil on the eve of the Eid Al-Adha feast.

Interpretation services

Lost in translation? Not in Makkah, thanks to a dedicated squad of interpreters gearing up to help pilgrims speaking dozens of languages at the hajj. Most of the world's Muslims do not speak Arabic - Indonesia is home to the largest Muslim community by population, while tens of millions of the faithful are native speakers of Urdu. In all, 80 percent of pilgrims are non-Arabic speakers, according to Mazen Al-Saadi of the official hajj translation bureau.

His team provides 24/7 interpretation services in English, French, Farsi, Malay, Hausa, Turkish, Chinese and Urdu - the most widely spoken language among hajj pilgrims. For Samir Varatchia, who made the trip to Makkah from France's Indian Ocean island of Reunion, the men in grey vests - the uniform of the official hajj translation team - are a welcome sight. "I really don't know much Arabic," Varatchia told AFP. "The French translation will help us understand things, including the

Sports

Cahill shuts down Astros, Oakland Athletics move into first-place tie

Andujar, Stanton power Yankees past Jays, 11-6

OAKLAND: Right-hander Trevor Cahill gave up only an infield single over seven innings Saturday afternoon, and the Oakland Athletics completed a 10-game climb into first place in the American League West with a 7-1 victory over the Houston Astros in Oakland, Calif. With the win, the A's are now tied for first in the division with the defending champions, who had held a solo lead in the division since June 14. Khris Davis doubled twice and drove in two runs as the A's knocked out Houston left-hander Dallas Keuchel (9-10) in the sixth inning en route to their second straight win against the Astros in the three-game series. The A's, who trailed the Astros by 10 games on July 10, moved into at least a tie for first place in the AL West in any month after April for the first time since Aug. 25, 2014. Cahill (5-2) faced 22 batters and got 21 outs.

CARDINALS 7, BREWERS 2

Miles Mikolas pitched six effective innings and won his fifth straight decision as St. Louis beat visiting Milwaukee. The latest solid showing by Mikolas helped the Cardinals win for the 14th time in 17 games. St. Louis also improved to 21-10 since interim manager Mike Shildt replaced Mike Matheny on July 15 and inched ahead of Milwaukee for the second National League wild-card spot. Mikolas (13-3) improved to 5-0 in his last nine starts since a 5-1 loss to Atlanta on June 29 by allowing one run on five hits. He struck out seven without a walk and threw 62 of 91 pitches for strikes.

MARINERS 5, DODGERS 4 (10 INNINGS)

A bases-loaded balk by Dylan Floro with one out in the bottom of the 10th inning brought home the winning run as Seattle defeated visiting Los Angeles. Mitch Haniger led off the 10th with a single off Dodgers left-hander Caleb Ferguson (3-2). Cameron Maybin grounded into a fielder's choice, just beating the throw to first to avoid a double play. Robinson Cano reached on an infield single, sending Maybin to second. The Dodgers brought on the right-handed Floro to face Nelson Cruz, who walked to load the bases. With Kyle Seager, who homered earlier in the game, at the plate and an 0-1 count, Floro came set and then stepped awkwardly off the mound, with first base umpire Andy Fletcher calling the game-ending balk.

ROCKIES 5, BRAVES 3 (10 INNINGS)

DJ LeMahieu hit a long home run to straightaway center field to highlight a two-run rally in the 10th inning and give Colorado another late victory at Atlanta. In addition to LeMahieu's 10th homer, the Rockies added another 10th-inning run on a single by Nolan Arenado and defeated the Braves for the third straight night. Wade Davis earned his 34th save by working a perfect 10th inning. Atlanta led 3-0 going into the ninth, when the Rockies tied the score against closer A.J. Minter. After retiring the first two batters, Minter allowed a double to Trevor Story and a

single to David Dahl. Ian Desmond doubled to left to drive home two runs. Gerardo Parra tied the score by lobbing a single to left field.

PADRES 7, DIAMONDBACKS 6

Pinch hitter Christian Villanueva singled home Travis Jankowski from second with two out in the bottom of the ninth to give host San Diego a walk-off victory over Arizona, snapping a five-game losing streak. The loss reduced Arizona's lead over Colorado in the National League West to a half-game. Paul Goldschmidt tied the game at 6-6 in the top of the seventh with his fourth hit, a single that drove home A.J. Pollock for his fourth RBI.

RED SOX 5, RAYS 2

Boston scored four runs in the first inning and added J.D. Martinez's major-league-leading 38th home run later in defeating visiting Tampa Bay. David Price (13-6) went seven innings in winning his fourth consecutive decision. He hasn't taken a loss since July 1. Price gave up two runs on five hits with two walks. He fanned eight as the Red Sox won for the 13th time in their last 15 games. Boston also maintained its 10 1/2-game lead over the New York Yankees in the American League East by going 52 games over .500 in running its record to 88-36.

YANKEES 11, BLUE JAYS 6

Rookie Miguel Andujar homered, drove in three runs and fell a triple shy of the cycle as New York powered past Toronto in a matinee at Yankee Stadium. Andujar became the fifth Yankee to reach 20 homers with one out in the fifth when he drove an 0-1 changeup from Sean Reid-Foley (0-2) into the left field seats to make it 8-0. Giancarlo Stanton homered again when he connected on Reid-Foley's 2-0 fastball, sending it into the Toronto bullpen beyond the left-center-field fence with two outs in the fourth. It was Stanton's 32nd homer and seventh in his last 12 games.

ORIOLES 4, INDIANS 2

Jonathan Villar and Cedric Mullins each homered, and Alex Cobb went the distance as Baltimore defeated host Cleveland. Villar's three-run shot and the solo homer from Mullins—his first in the major leagues—gave Baltimore all of its offense and proved enough for Cobb, who turned in one of his best efforts this season as the Orioles ended the Indians' six-game winning streak. Cobb (4-15) gave up two runs on five hits with three strikeouts and a walk. He needed just 100 pitches (69 strikes) for the complete game, his first since 2013 when pitching with the Tampa Bay Rays.

PIRATES 3, CUBS 1

Joe Musgrove pitched seven strong innings for Pittsburgh in a win over visiting Chicago. Adam Frazier was 2-for-4 with an RBI double, and Corey Dickerson was 3-for-3 with a walk and a double for



OAKLAND: Stephen Piscotty #25 of the Oakland Athletics slides into third base safe against the Houston Astros in the bottom of the six inning at Oakland Alameda Coliseum on Saturday in Oakland, California.— AFP

the Pirates, who ended a five-game losing streak. Ben Zobrist homered for the Cubs, who had their three-game winning streak halted.

MARLINS 7, NATIONALS 5 (10 INNINGS)

Isaac Galloway hit a two-out, two-run single in the top of the 10th inning, and JT Riddle drove in four runs to lead Miami to victory at Washington. Drew Steckenrider (4-2), who blew a save chance in the ninth, picked up the win. Brett Graves pitched a scoreless 10th to pick up his first career save as a pro. The Marlins snapped a six-game overall losing streak and a 12-game road losing skid. Riddle gave Miami a 5-4 lead with a solo homer in the top of the ninth, and Adam Eaton matched him with a solo shot in the bottom of the frame, setting up Galloway's heroics.

METS 3, PHILLIES 1

Jacob deGrom continued to make his case for the National League Cy Young Award, shrugging off a 41-minute rain delay and tossing his third career complete game to lead New York past host Philadelphia. The Mets have won six of 10. The Phillies, who remain atop the NL wild-card race by a half-game, have lost

six of 10. DeGrom (8-7) allowed an unearned run—due to an error questionably charged to him—on seven hits and no walks while striking out nine. It was the third straight win for deGrom, who lowered his major-league-leading ERA from 1.81 to 1.71 while reaching 200 strikeouts for the second straight season.

ANGELS 11, RANGERS 7

Albert Pujols had a solo home run and four RBIs. Shohei Ohtani hit a pinch hit three-run homer, Taylor Ward added his first career major league home run and Los Angeles won in a slugfest at Texas. Pujols ended a 6-6 tie with an RBI single, Ohtani followed with his 13th homer of the season and Ward had a solo shot to complete a five-run top of the seventh against reliever Eddie Butler (2-3). Rain delayed the start of the game by 2 hours, 26 minutes.

TIGERS 7, TWINS 5

Mikie Mahtook homered and drove in four runs, and Ryan Carpenter collected his first career victory as Detroit held off host Minnesota. Mahtook's second homer of the season, a three-run shot in the fifth, gave Detroit a lead it wouldn't relinquish.

Ronny Rodriguez contributed a two-run double, and Jim Adduci added two hits and a run scored. Carpenter (1-1), a rookie left-hander, gave up three solo homers but lasted 5 1/3 innings. Shane Greene got the last four outs for his 26th save.

ROYALS 3, WHITE SOX 1

Alex Gordon homered, and Jorge Bonifacio drove in the go-ahead run as Kansas City held on at Chicago. Nicky Delmonico homered for Chicago's only run. The loss snapped a three-game winning streak for the White Sox. Royals starter Brad Keller (6-5) limited the White Sox to one run on seven hits in five innings. He walked none and struck out five to collect his second win in as many starts. Reds 7, Giants 1 Jose Peraza and Dilson Herrera homered off Madison Bumgarner, and Matt Harvey took a shutout into the seventh inning as host Cincinnati downed San Francisco for a second straight night. Harvey (6-7) retired the first 10 batters he faced and took a no-hitter into the sixth before Joe Panik beat out an infield single with two outs. Bumgarner (4-5) went six innings and gave up six runs (five earned) and eight hits. He walked two and struck out six. — Reuters

Kuwait to partake with 10 shooters in three events

KUWAIT: President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations said Kuwait will participate with 10 shooters in three events. He said he is proud of Kuwait athletes' participation in these games under Kuwait flag. He appreciated the support and care the sport of shooting receives from HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Crown Prince.

Eng Al-Otaibi said the small number of participating shooters is due to the short notice, because the games are held under the umbrella of IOC, which lifted the suspension on Kuwait sports three days ago. He added that Kuwait Shooting Federation used to participate under Kuwait flag based on a decision by the court of Arbitration for sport that was issued in April 2017. He said Kuwait shooters plan to compete hard and have Kuwait flag hoisted in this arena, though there was no time to prepare.

Al-Otaibi, on behalf of the board of directors of KSSC thanked Kuwait government represented by Information Minister, State Minister Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri and Director General of Public Authority for Sports Dr Humoud Fulaiteh, and all those who contributed to lifting the suspension on Kuwait sports.—KUNA



Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi

Bring on Wilder: Tyson Fury ready for title bout

LONDON: Tyson Fury insists he will be motivated by pride rather than prize money when the controversial British fighter faces Deontay Wilder. Fury will travel to Las Vegas in November to meet WBC heavyweight

champion Wilder in what will be the third fight of his comeback.

The 30-year-old eased to victory against Francesco Pianeta at Belfast's Windsor Park on Saturday, setting the stage for the biggest pay-day of his career in the United States. But Fury says he is fighting for glory rather than the boost to his bank balance.

"I'm not going into this for a pay cheque. I wouldn't lose for £100 million; you can't pay any amount of money for me to go to Vegas to get sparked out," he said. "If I didn't believe I could win I'd pack up and retire."

"I don't box to be second best or to make the numbers up, I box to be the best I can be. "If I ain't good

Snedeker leads at rain-hit Wyndham Championship

WASHINGTON: Brandt Snedeker, who launched his Wyndham Championship campaign with a scintillating first-round 59, maintained a three-shot lead when play was halted in the weather-hit third round on Saturday.

Snedeker, who became just the ninth player to post a sub-60 round on the US PGA Tour on Thursday, stayed atop the leaderboard with a second round 67. He got going early on Saturday, rolling in a 60-foot birdie putt at the second hole at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, North Carolina, and adding a 10-foot birdie at the fifth.

He was two-under for the round, and 16-under for the tournament through seven holes

when thunderstorms halted play. Tour officials were all set to send players back out when more storms moved through, prompting them to call a halt.

Snedeker was preparing himself for a long day today. "The physical side, we're used to," Snedeker said. "Just, you mentally get fatigued and fried and make some mistakes. The key for tomorrow—make sure I don't do that."

American Brian Gay was Snedeker's closest pursuer. He was 13-under for the tournament through 12 holes with four birdies and an eagle at the par-five fifth, where he drained a 10-footer. Taiwan's C.T. Pan got as low as 13-under with birdies at the fourth and fifth holes, but he gave a shot back at the seventh and was tied at 12-under with Trey Mullinax, Keith Mitchell and D.A. Points when play was halted.

In all, 30 players failed to complete the third round. They were to return Sunday morning, with the fourth round to follow. Michael Thompson was the leader in the clubhouse after a third-round 63 put him on 11-under 199. — AFP



GREENSBORO: Brandt Snedeker watches his shot from the second tee during the third round of the Wyndham Championship at Sedgefield Country Club on Saturday in Greensboro, North Carolina. — AFP

Sports



China’s Sun Yang completes ‘golden slam’ at Asian Games swimming

‘I’ve waited eight years for this title’

JAKARTA: Chinese giant Sun Yang swept to Asian Games 200m freestyle gold yesterday to add to his Olympic and world titles-then had his national anthem played twice after a flag-pole malfunction.

The triple Olympic champion produced a blistering last two laps to clock one minute, 45.43 seconds and successfully launch his quest to win five gold medals in Jakarta. Victory was twice as sweet for Sun, who was stunned by Japan’s Kosuke Hagino at the last Asian Games in 2014 and also took silver behind Korean rival Park Tae-hwan in 2010.

From the moment Sun strode out sporting a bright yellow tracksuit and huge red headphones to roars from flag-waving Chinese fans, there was only ever likely to be one winner. The 26-year-old favourite absolutely smashed the final, finishing more than a second clear of Japan’s Katsuhiko Matsumoto, celebrating by screaming out loud and punching the air as he soaked up the applause of his adoring fans.

“I’ve waited eight years for this title,” said an emotional Sun, easily China’s biggest sporting personality. “It also gives me a golden grand slam of Olympic, world and Asian titles. It’s a perfect result, a dream. It’s unbelievable.” Bizarrely his moment of glory was soured somewhat when the flags fell off the pole during China’s national anthem, prompting Sun to growl at officials and demand a do-over.

But flustered Games officials did away with the faulty pole altogether and simply held the flags. Earlier, Sun showed a softer side to his gnarly public image by lavishing compliments on rival Hagino. The controversial Chinese sparked a diplomatic row at the 2014 Asian Games when he

branded the Japanese national anthem “ugly”.

CHARM OFFENSIVE

But Sun has launched a charm offensive from day one in Jakarta. “I think Hagino is a good guy,” he told reporters. “He is an inspiration to me. We should be working together to raise the level of Asian swimming.”

China’s Wang Jianjiahe won the women’s 1,500m freestyle title after beating countrywoman Li Bingjie in a battle of 16-year-old schoolgirls, the national champion touching in 15:53.68, just over a tenth quicker than her close friend.

Liu Yaxin won the women’s 200m backstroke in 2:07.65, before world champ Xu Jiayu celebrated his 23rd birthday by capturing gold in the men’s 100m backstroke (52.34) to make it four out of four on the night for China.

“I burst into tears when the Chinese fans sang ‘happy birthday’ to me,” blushed Xu after dashing Japanese Ryosuke Irie’s hopes of an Asian Games treble. “It was a nice birthday gift but I wanted the cherry on top-a world record. It was still great to win.”

Japan stopped the rot as Satomi Suzuki won the women’s 100m breaststroke in a Games record 1:06.40, before Daiya Seto retained his 200m butterfly title in a time of 1:54.53. “I got a bit frantic in the last 25 metres but I got the job done,” said Suzuki. “It gives me a lot more confidence going into next year’s world championships and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.”

Japan ambushed China in the women’s 4x100m freestyle, setting a new Games best of 3:36.52 after a stirring anchor leg from Chihiro Igarashi to finish the night with three gold medals. — AFP



JAKARTA: (L-R) Silver medallist Japan’s Katsuhiko Matsumoto, gold medallist China’s Sun Yang and bronze medallist China’s Ji Xinjie celebrate during the victory ceremony of the men’s 200m freestyle swimming event during the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta yesterday.— AFP

North Korea’s Ant Man to star as Asian Games weightlifting takes off

JAKARTA: North Korea are looking to get the Asian Games weightlifting competition off to a glorious golden start today led by their very own Ant Man-Om Yun Chol. The 56kg class clean and jerk world record holder stands just 4ft 11in (1.51 metres) tall but possesses almost superhuman strength-he is one of only six men in the history of weightlifting to raise more than three times his own bodyweight.

His clean and jerk of 170kg to win Asian Games gold in Incheon four years ago broke his own world record in that discipline and a year later he upped it to 171kg as he won a third consecutive World Championships.

He first burst on to the scene with gold at London 2012, becoming a fan favourite with his exuberant celebrations, and Om seemed unbeatable until Rio 2016. There he was crestfallen after losing his Olympic crown to China’s Long Qingquan who smashed the combined (snatch plus clean and jerk) world record with 307kg.

But Long, like all his county’s lifters, is currently serving a year-long International Weightlifting Federation ban after China failed multiple doping tests on reanalysed samples from the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, leaving the path clear for Om to retain his Asiad crown.

Weightlifting is North Korea’s strongest Olympic sport and they will look to top the event’s medals table in Jakarta after their four golds left them second, behind China’s seven, in Incheon 2014. The reclusive communist state takes pride in excelling in sports of strength.

‘BREAK A ROCK WITH AN EGG’

Flamboyant on the weightlifting stage, away from the limelight Om gives little away about his private life or secretive training methods, preferring to heap praise on his country’s leaders as an inspiration each time he strikes gold.

“The reason for my improvement and how I won the gold medal is down to the warm love of the Great Leader Kim Jong Il and the Great Comrade Kim Jong Un,” he said after his London triumph. He was even more effusive after his Asian Games success in Incheon and finally revealed a surprising key to his success. “Armed with strong spirit and ideology as our comrade Kim Jong Un taught us, you can break a rock with an egg and set a world record. “That’s my secret.” But after being beaten in Rio, Om felt he had to apologise to the North Korea leader for coming home with only a silver medal.

“He will be my inspiration forever and I’m sorry,” Om said. “I hope to come back at the next opportunity and compete again and repay my gratitude with gold.” The pint-sized North Korean skipped last year’s world championships after his Rio disappointment and his form is shrouded in mystery going into the Asian Games. But he is still aged only 26 and should be at the peak of his powers having recharged his batteries since Rio.

And with arch-rivals China out of the way, his biggest challenge could come from Vietnam’s 2017 world champion Thach Kim Tuan, who took silver behind Om four years ago.

But Thach’s combined best 296kg is seven kilograms behind the North Korean’s personal best total of 303kg. If Om is anywhere near his best he should again be top of the podium and raising the roof at the Jakarta International Expo venue with his jumping, joyous celebrations. — AFP

Punia wins wrestling gold for India, Kumar bows out

JAKARTA: Commonwealth champion Bajrang Punia gave India its first Asian Games gold in 65kg wrestling yesterday after veteran Sushil Kumar suffered a shock first-round exit in Jakarta. Punia, who won a silver at the 2014 edition in Incheon, battled past Japan’s Daichi Takatani 11-8 in a hard-fought final bout.

Punia attacked from the word go to lead by 6-0 in the first minute of play, before the Japanese wrestler closed the gap through a series of counter attacks. But the Indian, who lost to Takatani in the quarterfinals of the Asian Championships in March, prevailed to give his country the first gold of the 18th edition of the Asiad.

“I have taken revenge of my Asian Championship loss and I dedicate my gold to late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (who passed away on August 16),” an emotional Punia told reporters. “There was no pressure on me to perform (after other Indians had lost their bouts). I am not the one who takes pressure, rather believe in concentrating on my performance,” he added.



JAKARTA: This picture taken on August 17, 2018 shows Indonesian skateboarder Aliqqa Noverry, 9, demonstrating her skills at a public park ahead of the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta. The youngest competitor at this year’s event in Jakarta, the pint-sized adrenaline junkie Noverry loves nothing better than to rip into jumps at breakneck speed. — AFP

Indonesia’s teeny skateboard hope too cool for school

JAKARTA: Indonesia’s nine-year-old skateboarder Aliqqa Noverry is set to melt hearts at the Asian Games-but give her ice cream and she could be a medal threat, says her mum. The youngest competitor at this year’s event in Jakarta, the pint-sized adrenaline junkie loves nothing better than to rip into jumps at breakneck speed, her pigtails billowing behind her.

“I like all the tricks and going so fast-that’s the fun part,” Aliqqa told AFP. “My family support me but they’re also very surprised knowing that I’m the youngest athlete here,” added the trailblazing teeny-bopper, who stands just 1.30 metres (4ft, 2in) tall and has only been skating for two years. “Being the youngest makes me a little nervous but also more motivated. But my friends think it’s a bit unfair that I get to skip school.” Clearly nine is the new 16 — especially in the hipster sport of skateboarding, which is making its Asian Games debut and will appear at the Olympics for the first time at Tokyo in 2020.

Coolly fist-bumping the bigger boarders at her local skate park on the outskirts of Jakarta, Aliqqa stops shred-

Punia won all his bouts on technical superiority but was tested in the final with a determined Takatani holding him till the last with a challenge. “My next aim is the World Championships (in September). I have improved on my technique and game along the way and will try my best for India in the coming years.”

Earlier Kumar, a two-time Olympic medallist and a medal favourite in the 74kg category, lost to Adam Batirov of Bahrain 3-5 despite vocal support from Indian fans. Kumar’s chance of making the repechage round also went up in smoke after Batirov lost his quarter-final to Japan’s Yui Fujinami. If Batirov had made the final, Kumar would have had a chance to win bronze through repechage.

The 35-year-old was exempted from the Indian trials for the Asian Games, given his past results including winning his third Commonwealth gold in Australia’s Gold Coast in April. “I was also not expecting this result. I had prepared, but wins and losses are all part and parcel of sport,” Kumar told reporters, saying he does not take criticism to heart.

“There is no loss of stamina at this age. And no pressure as well. I come far from all that. I enjoy sports and will continue to do that,” he added. It was Uzbekistan’s Bekzod Abdurakhmonov who ruled the 74kg category after pinning down Daniyar Kaisanov of Kazakhstan 3-2 to clinch gold. Meanwhile Mongolia’s Bekhbayar Erdenebat thrashed Kum Song Kang of North Korea 8-2 to claim the 57kg gold. — AFP

ding to observe the call to prayer from the local mosque. “I think I would like to skate in Tokyo,” nodded Aliqqa, who could potentially come up against host country Japan’s skateboarding Tinkerbell, Sky Brown, at the 2020 Olympics. “I want to get as much experience as possible from lots of different Games.”

Proud mother Nin Hardi admits to being scared witless as she sits and watches her daughter skating with boys almost twice her size. “Of course I worry,” she said. “That’s why I never leave her alone and always go with her to practice.” Hardi also reveals little Aliqqa’s secret weapon in her quest for gold-ice cream. “If she gets ice cream, she’s all pumped up,” said mum, who took care to hire a coach who would teach her daughter the correct techniques to help reduce injuries.

As she prepares to make Asian Games history, Aliqqa admits that the bumps and scrapes are the worst part of her favourite hobby. “I don’t like the injuries,” she said, screwing up her nose. “I twisted my ankle badly once and I couldn’t walk for five days. I can get a bit traumatised by a trick if it injures me.” Aliqqa’s coach backed his young prodigy to do well at the Asian Games, which kicks off this weekend. “At times she can be a bit moody,” admitted Yudi Toengkagie. “But if she’s in a good mood she’s full of beans and never gives up, despite being so little.”

Aliqqa, though, just wants to have fun. “My hopes are that I want to enjoy myself,” she said, sporting a red Indonesia sweatshirt. “I want to get more experience, learn lots of tricks from skaters from other countries and have fun competing in international competitions.” — AFP



Bajrang Punia

Rosmaniar wins Indonesia’s first gold medal

JAKARTA: Defia Rosmaniar produced Indonesia’s first gold medal in their home Asian Games and instantly became toast of the social media in her country yesterday. The 23-year-old taekwondo athlete scored 8.690 to pip Iran’s Marjan Salahshouri (8.470) to the gold in women’s individual poomsae event, triggering wild celebration at the Plenary Hall of the Jakarta Convention Centre.

Her head covered in a hijab and the national flag draped around her shoulders, an ecstatic Rosmaniar ran around the arena before being escorted to the VIP gallery where Indonesia President Joko Widodo congratulated her.

Rosmaniar’s victory earned Indonesia their first ever taekwondo gold in the Asian Games, which they are hosting for the second time. She was also a popular topic on Twitter with local celebrities congratulating her while fans ran hashtags like #terimakasihdefia which means ‘Thank You Defia’.

Leading the praise was Widodo, whose own motorbike stunt in Saturday night’s opening ceremony has created a similar buzz on social media. “Defia, the people of Indonesia are proud of you!” Widodo tweeted.

Rosmaniar’s victory is a boost for Indonesia who have set themselves a target of 16 gold medals at the Games. Beaten semi-finalists Jihye Yun of South Korea and Malaysian Yap Khim Wen won a bronze each. South Korea, who have dominated the event at the Asian Games since its 1986 inclusion, have won two golds, one silver and one bronze in individual and team poomsae events so far. — Reuters

Sports

Watford sink Burnley to maintain a flying start with 3-1 victory

Andre Gray returns to haunt Burnley

BURNLEY: Watford made it two wins out of two and ended their run of poor away form in impressive fashion as early second half strikes from captain Troy Deeney and Will Hughes gave them a 3-1 win at Burnley in the Premier League yesterday.

Watford, who have won their opening two games of the season for the first time in the Premier League era, had been winless in their last 12 away games and had not even scored on the road since January.

It took the visitors just three minutes to end that streak as former Burnley forward Andre Gray opened the scoring with a superbly taken volley from a fine Deeney cross from the right flank. Three minutes later, though, Burnley got back on level terms when James Tarkowski rose well at the back post to head in a Johann Berg Gudmundsson corner.

It was end-to-end, entertaining football for the rest of the first half although there was only one real effort on goal when Deeney tested Burnley keeper Joe Hart with a low, long-range effort five minutes before the interval. Burnley, who have now gone seven league games without a win, were swept aside by two goals in the opening six minutes of the second half. The influential Deeney drove home in the 48th

minute after being found in the box by a clever pass from Abdoulaye Doucoure then a terrible giveaway by Burnley defender Matt Lowton to Will Hughes resulted in the Watford midfielder firing past Joe Hart with a brilliant left-foot strike.

“It is important the amount of goals, but the quality as well. Today, the strikers Troy Deeney and Andre Gray scored which is very important for them and the team,” said Watford’s Spanish manager Javi Gracia. “Will Hughes scored an outstanding goal, I am happy for all of them.

“All the players are working a lot. Troy, for example, has a brilliant attitude every training session. We will try to keep that in the next games.” Burnley manager Sean Dyche accepted his side had handed the game to Watford after the interval. “We gave the game to the opposition, they still had to capitalise on it, but we basically gave it to them in the first five minutes of the second half, after a very good first half,” said Dyche.

“I warned them at halftime, so I am frustrated about that, I warned them that they are going to try to come out of the blocks like they did in the first half and we have to respond to that.” — Reuters



BURNLEY: Watford celebrate after Will Hughes sealed the points with their third goal at Turf Moor.

Hazard ‘won’t leave’ Chelsea this month

LONDON: Eden Hazard reassured Chelsea fans he won’t leave the club this month, despite continued interest from European champions Real Madrid. The transfer window for Premier League clubs has already closed, but remains open in a host of other European leagues until August 31.

Hazard’s Belgian team-mate Thibaut Courtois forced a move from Chelsea to Madrid earlier this month by refusing to return for pre-season training after helping his country finish third at the World Cup.

After starring himself in Russia, Hazard seemed to suggest his time at Stamford Bridge was coming to an end, saying his “preferred destination” was well-known. Hazard’s contract runs until 2020 with Chelsea hopeful

he will renew to end speculation over his future.

But after coming off the bench to inspire a 3-2 win over Arsenal on Saturday, Hazard remained coy over whether he will remain at Chelsea beyond this season. “Leaving this year? I will not leave,” he told French radio station RMC.

“Many things have been said. A lot of it nonsense. For now, I’m happy. I still have two years of contract and we will see what happens. “We can sell but we cannot sign players. It would be a bit odd for them to let me go and not recruit a player after.”

After his World Cup exertions, Hazard has been left on the bench for both of Chelsea’s opening Premier League victories under Maurizio Sarri. But he was given a hero’s welcome when he was introduced on the hour mark at Stamford Bridge on Saturday and set up the winner in a thrilling five-goal encounter for Marcos Alonso as Chelsea went top of the embryonic Premier League table. “We could still see today that fans like me pretty well,” he added. “I feel good here. We’ll see what happens in a year or two years.” — AFP

Live		Matches on TV
		(Local Timings)
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Crystal Palace v Liverpool		22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2		
SPANISH LEAGUE		
Valencia v Atletico de Madrid		21:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3		
Athletic de Bilbao v Leganes		23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3		
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE		
Atalanta v Frosinone Calcio		21:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4		

German FA boss admits Ozil needed more support over ‘racist attacks’

BERLIN: The under-fire president of the German Football Association (DFB), admitted yesterday that he should have given Mesut Ozil more support when the midfielder was the target of “racist attacks”.

“I should have positioned myself more clearly given the racist attacks from some corners and should have put myself in front of Mesut Ozil,” Reinhard Grindel told German daily Bild yesterday. “Such attacks are unacceptable. I should have found clear words.”

Arsenal midfielder Ozil, 29, announced his shock retirement from international duty last month in the wake of Germany’s World Cup debacle. He complained of facing “racism and disrespect”, due to his Turkish roots, and specifically took aim at Grindel in a three-page statement. After Ozil and Ilkay Gundogan, who also has Turkish family, met Turkey’s president Recep Tayyip Erdogan in May, questions were raised about the pair’s loyalty to Germany. Gundogan and Ozil, who were both born in Germany, were booed in a pre-World Cup defeat to Austria.

“In the eyes of Grindel and his supporters, I am German when we win, but I am an immigrant when we lose,” Ozil wrote damningly, sparking fierce debate about integration in Germany. But while Gundogan made a statement to insist the Erdogan meeting had no political motivation, Ozil kept silent for two months before walking away from Germany duty.

In his parting statement, he accused Grindel of failing to back him in the row over the Erdogan meeting and felt blamed for Germany’s woeful World Cup display, finishing bottom of their group. There have been calls for Grindel, 56, who has been head of the DFB since 2016, to resign. Grindel admits he should have handled things differently, but rejected Ozil’s claims that he was made a scapegoat for the World Cup debacle.

“I am sorry he feels let down by the DFB,” Grindel said. “But it is important to emphasis that after the World Cup, I never commented on his performances. “For me it was always clear that we win together and lose together.

“To blame a single player for going out would be absurd. “After the photos with president Erdogan, Ilkay Gundogan made a clear statement. “I would have liked that also from Ozil, because I know from conversations with fans that they also had questions about it.

“However, this must not be misunderstood as a criticism of his playing performance.” Grindel said the door is not closed for Ozil to play for Germany again under head coach Joachim Loew, who has always supported the attacking midfielder.

“The board (of the DFB) and the national coach would need to discuss that together,” said Grindel. “But so far there has not been a discussion between Joachim Loew and Mesut Ozil, which I know would be very important to the national coach.”

Loew has promised sweeping changes to the squad he will announce on August 29 to face World Cup winners France in Munich on September 6. Grindel wants to bring the Germany team closer to the public with cheaper tickets for home internationals and open training sessions.

Germany’s World Cup slogan - ‘Best Never Rest’ - was criticised by fans and Grindel admits the marketing around the team hit the wrong note. “I also think the concept around the term ‘die Mannschaft’ (the team) is perceived as very artificial. We should put that to the test,” Grindel added. — AFP

India 124-2, lead England by 292 on second day

NOTTINGHAM: India were 124 for two in their second innings, a lead of 292 runs, at stumps on the second day of the third Test against England at Trent Bridge yesterday. Cheteshwar Pujara was 33 not out and Virat Kohli, the India captain, eight not out.

Earlier, England were dismissed for 161 in reply to India’s first innings 329. India all-rounder Hardik Pandya took five for 28 in six overs, his maiden five-wicket haul in Tests, while debutant wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant held five catches. England lead this five-match series 2-0. —AFP



NOTTINGHAM: India’s Cheteshwar Pujara (R) tries to play a shot as England’s Jonny Bairstow keeps wicket during play on the second day of the third Test cricket match between England and India at Trent Bridge in Nottingham, central England yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD		
Scoreboard at the close of the second day of the third Test between England and India at Trent Bridge yesterday:		
India 1st Innings (overnight: 307-6)		
S. Dhawan c Buttler b Woakes	35	B. Stokes c Rahul b Shami 10
KL Rahul lbw b Woakes	23	J. Buttler c sub (Thakur) b Bumrah 39
C. Pujara c Rashid b Woakes	14	C. Woakes c Pant b Pandya 8
V. Kohli c Stokes b Rashid	97	A. Rashid c Pant b Pandya 5
A. Rahane c Cook b Broad	81	S. Broad lbw b Pandya 0
H. Pandya c Buttler b Anderson	18	J. Anderson not out 1
R. Pant b Broad	24	Extras (b4, lb1, nb2, w1) 8
R. Ashwin b Broad	14	Total (all out, 38.2 overs, 204 mins) 161
I. Sharma not out	1	Fall of wickets: 1-54 (Cook), 2-54 (Jennings), 3-75 (Pope), 4-86 (Root), 5-108 (Stokes), 6-110 (Bairstow), 7-118 (Woakes), 8-128 (Rashid), 9-128 (Broad), 10-161 (Buttler)
M. Shami c Broad b Anderson	3	Bowling: Shami 10-2-56-1; Bumrah 12.2-2-37-2 (2nb); Ashwin 1-0-3-0; Sharma 9-2-32-2; Pandya 6-1-28-5 (1w)
J. Bumrah b Anderson	0	
Extras (b12, lb6, w1)	19	
Total (all out, 94.5 overs, 432 mins)	329	
Fall of wickets: 1-60 (Dhawan), 2-65 (Rahul), 3-82 (Pujara), 4-241 (Rahane), 5-279 (Kohli), 6-307 (Pandya), 7-323 (Pant), 8-326 (Ashwin), 9-329 (Shami), 10-329 (Bumrah)		
Bowling: Anderson 25.5-8-64-3; Broad 25-8-72-3; Stokes 15-1-54-0 (1w); Woakes 20-2-75-3; Rashid 9-0-46-1		
England 1st Innings		
A. Cook c Pant b Sharma	29	India 2nd Innings
K. Jennings c Pant b Bumrah	20	S. Dhawan st Bairstow b Rashid 44
J. Root c Rahul b Pandya	16	KL Rahul b Stokes 36
O. Pope c Pant b Sharma	10	C. Pujara not out 33
J. Bairstow c Rahul b Pandya	15	V. Kohli not out 8
		Extras (lb3) 3
		Total (2 wkts, 31 overs, 136 mins) 124
		Fall of wickets: 1-60 (Rahul), 2-111 (Dhawan)
		Bowling: Anderson 7-2-24-0; Broad 4-0-25-0; Woakes 8-1-19-0; Stokes 7-1-30-1; Rashid 5-0-23-1.
		Match position: India lead by 292 runs with eight second-innings wickets standing.

Messi, Coutinho get Barcelona off to winning start

MADRID: Two goals from Lionel Messi either side of a Philippe Coutinho strike allowed Barcelona to start their defence of the Spanish title with a 3-0 win over Alaves at the Camp Nou on Saturday night.

Wearing the captain’s armband following the departure of Andres Iniesta to Japan, Messi stepped up to send a cheeky second-half free-kick under the jumping wall and into the net for the opener, and Barca’s 6,000th La Liga goal.

Coutinho, who had come off the bench, lashed in the second goal before Messi added gloss to the scoreline in stoppage time, with the clock having ticked past midnight in Catalonia. While they took their time to get going, it was an ideal opening result for Ernesto Valverde’s side, who are hoping to once again see off the challenges of Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid in the battle for the title.

While Cristiano Ronaldo has left Real for Juventus, Messi remains as the figure head at Barcelona and he won his 33rd trophy with the club in the Spanish Super Cup victory over Sevilla last weekend.

The 31-year-old will be aiming to put behind him the desperate disappointment that was Argentina’s World Cup campaign, and he was unlucky not to get a hat-trick here.

Messi saw a free-kick crash back off the bar late in the first half after going over the wall, so when he was handed another chance from a similar position in the 64th minute, he changed tack.

This time, 22 yards out, he surprised the jumping Alaves defenders by giving underneath and giving Fernando Pacheco in goal no chance. He then sent another curling effort off the post soon after. Coutinho started the match on the bench alongside summer signings Arthur, Malcom, Clement Lenglet and Arturo Vidal. However, he was sent on at the start of the second half and his goal seven minutes from the end effectively killed the game.—AFP

25 Cahill shuts down Astros, Oakland Athletics move into first-place tie



26 Indonesia's teeny skateboard hope too cool for school



27 India 124-2, lead England by 292 on second day



Majestic City hit Huddersfield for six

Aguero bags treble, continues pyrotechnics on the field



MANCHESTER: Huddersfield Town's Swiss-born Dutch defender Terence Kongolo (R) tackles Manchester City's Portuguese midfielder Bernardo Silva (L) during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Huddersfield Town at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP

MANCHESTER: Sergio Aguero hit a hat-trick as Manchester City's record-breaking forward inspired a 6-1 demolition of Huddersfield yesterday. Pep Guardiola's champions opened their home campaign with a pre-match display of ticker tape and exploding fireworks and Aguero continued the pyrotechnics on the field.

Aguero, who turned 30 in the close-season, has now scored 14 times in his last eight Premier League games at City's Etihad Stadium. The Argentina star-City's all-time leading scorer-joins former Liverpool forward Robbie Fowler on nine Premier League hat-tricks.

Only ex-Newcastle and Blackburn star Alan Shearer has scored more in the competition's history with 11. City's rampant display underlined why they are such strong favourites to retain their title. Such is City's strength in depth, Guardiola was able to leave Kyle Walker, Riyad Mahrez and Raheem Sterling on the bench.

And even though City learned this week that playmaker Kevin De Bruyne will be out for up to three months with a knee injury, the fact Guardiola was able to name substitutes which cost his club £230 million (\$293 million) in transfer fees, was a sobering thought for their rivals. After relentless City pressure, which featured Guardiola's team having 80 percent possession, the champions finally took the lead on 25 minutes, the start of a three-goal blitz inside 10 minutes.

Ederson, Guardiola's ball-playing goalkeeper, struck a magnificent pass over 60 yards, isolating Aguero against defender Christopher Schindler. The Argentine skillfully held off his marker, twisting and turning before lobbing the ball over keeper Ben Hamer, who had advanced to the edge of his area, from the edge of the area.

Six minutes later, Benjamin Mendy attacked down the left, exchanging passes with Gabriel Jesus, who enjoyed a

fortunate ricochet off a defender before drilling the ball home. And the rout continued when Hamer fumbled a routine Mendy cross and Aguero pounced, tapping in from six yards. David Silva had set the tone with a majestic opening half-hour, torturing the Huddersfield defence and allowing the City supporters to forget about the absence of De Bruyne. But, incredibly, Huddersfield scored from their first attack of the game, three minutes before the interval.

Philip Billing's long throw-in was helped on by Steve Mounie and Jon Gorenc Stankovic responded quickly, forcing the ball in from six yards. If that gave Guardiola something to ponder at the interval, it required just three minutes of the second half for Silva to restore City's three-goal cushion.

The former Spain international, who this week announced his retirement from his national team, curled a magnificent 25-yard left-foot free-kick into the top right-

hand corner of the Huddersfield goal. Silva, who became the third City player after Joe Hart and Richard Dunne to appear in 250 Premier League games for the club, made way for Mahrez after 64 minutes but there was no let-up for the visitors.

Aguero might have claimed his hat-trick earlier, with a 56th minute shot that struck the Huddersfield post, while Hamer also turned around his shot around a post after 70 minutes. Five minutes later, Aguero had his third-and his 31st league game in which he has scored multiple goals.

The striker met yet another dangerous left-wing cross from Mendy, twisting acrobatically to shoot across his body and into the goal from six yards. That allowed Guardiola to take off Aguero, replacing him with Leroy Sane who helped wrap up the scoring after 84 minutes with a run and shot which took a fortunate rebound off Terence Kongolo on its way into the net. — AFP

Brighton pile misery on Mourinho's woeful Man Utd

BRIGHTON: Jose Mourinho's fears over failing to sign a new centre-back were realised as a shambolic defensive display saw his Manchester United side lose 3-2 at Brighton yesterday. For the first time in nearly two years, Mourinho's men conceded more than twice with all three Brighton goals arriving before half-time through Glenn Murray, Shane Duffy and a Pascal Gross penalty.

Romelu Lukaku briefly brought United back into the game at 2-1. But there was little reaction after the break until Paul Pogba's penalty deep into stoppage time as United fell three points behind defending champions

Manchester City, Chelsea and Tottenham just two games into the new campaign.

Mourinho warned of a "difficult" season when he wasn't backed in the transfer market before the deadline for Premier League clubs closed before the opening weekend of the season. Strengthening the heart of his defence was Mourinho's priority and it showed as Victor Lindelof and Eric Bailly endured a torrid afternoon on England's south coast. In a tempestuous pre-season, Mourinho also clashed with Anthony Martial when the Frenchman failed to return to the club's pre-season tour of the United States after the birth of his second child.

But Martial was recalled to the starting line-up in the absence of the injured Alexis Sanchez and had the first chance when he dashed inside two Brighton defenders before seeing his shot blocked by Duffy.

The story could have been very different for the visitors had Lukaku not wasted a huge chance to open the scoring when he pulled his shot wide of the near post 10 minutes in.

Instead, Brighton went in front when veteran striker Murray caught Lindelof ball watching to flick home Solly March's cross with a

classy finish. Two minutes later, the hosts led 2-0 as Duffy was given the space to control and fire past a helpless David de Gea after United failed to clear a corner.

Despite suggesting he is unhappy at Old Trafford after scoring in last weekend's 2-1 win over Leicester, Paul Pogba was again handed the captain's armband by Mourinho. However, there was little sign of Pogba leading United out of the mire as he and summer signing Fred, who cost a reported \$52.5 million (\$7.9 million euros, \$66.3 million) struggled to control the game in midfield.

Brighton's failure to defend set-pieces cost them in a 2-0 defeat to Watford last weekend and threatened to undo their good work again when Lukaku was left unmarked just five yards out to nod home Luke Shaw's deflected cross and give United a lifeline.

That reprieve lasted just 10 minutes, however, before more rash defending by Bailly allowed Brighton to restore their two-goal lead. Dale Stephens beat Fred to a loose ball in midfield and released Gross before the German was brought down by a lunge inside the area by the Ivorian.—AFP



BRIGHTON: Manchester United's French midfielder Paul Pogba scores from a late penalty kick for their second goal during the English Premier League football match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Manchester United at the American Express Community Stadium in Brighton, southern England yesterday. —AFP