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Sweden book WCup quarter-finals



SAINT PETERSBURG: Sweden's forward Marcus Berg (left) vies with Switzerland's defender Manuel Akanji during the Russia 2018 World Cup round of 16 football match between Sweden and Switzerland at the Saint Petersburg Stadium yesterday. — AFP (See Page 28)

Iraq's treasured amber rice crop devastated by drought

DIWANIYAH: Standing on his farm in southern Iraq, Amjad Al-Kazaali gazed sorrowfully over fields where rice has been sown for centuries-but which now lie bare for lack of water. For the first time, this season Kazaali has not planted the treasured amber rice local to Diwaniyah province. Facing an unusually harsh drought, the agriculture ministry last month suspended the cultivation of rice, corn and other cereals, which need large quantities of water.

The decision has slashed the income of amber rice farmers, who usually earn

between 300,000 and 500,000 dinars (\$240 to \$400) a year per dunum (quarter-hectare, 0.6 acres). With a black-and-white checkered keffiyeh scarf wrapped around his head, 46-year-old Kazaali was distraught at the absence of green shoots on his 50 hectares. "Our eyes can't get used to the yellowish color of the earth, it's too hard to look at my fields without my amber (rice)," he said, on his farm in the village of Abu Teben, in the west of Diwaniyah province.

The long-grained variety takes its name from its aroma, which is similar to that of amber resin. More than 70 percent of the amber crop is grown in Diwaniyah and neighboring Najaf province, and in total, the variety makes up over a third of the 100,000 tons of rice grown in Iraq every year. Fondly dubbed "royal rice" by Iraqis, many Shiite pilgrims travelling between the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf stop to stock up on the popular grain. Exports are banned, although some of the rice is smuggled through the Iraqi city of Basra to the Gulf.

Of the thousands of rice producers in Diwaniyah province, just 267 are dedicated to the centuries-long tradition of growing the amber variety. "As my parents and my grandparents have done for hundreds of years, since the Ottoman Empire, I've been used to touching the grains of amber with my feet during planting and taking them in my hands during the harvest," said Kazaali. "It's the water of the Euphrates River which gives it the fresh scent that we can smell for kilometers." But Iraq has seen its water resources dwindle in recent years—a problem soon to be compounded by the inauguration of Turkey's controversial Ilisu dam on the Tigris River.

Planting was due to take place between May 15 and July 1, with the harvest set for late October. Iraq's agriculture ministry had planned for 350,000 hectares of crops this season, including staples such as rice and corn, spokesman Hamid al-Naef said. But after the ministry for water resources warned

AMMAN: Syrian rebel negotiators began a new round of talks with Russian officers yesterday over a peace deal in southern Syria under which they would hand over weapons and allow Russian military police to enter rebel-held towns, a rebel spokesman said. Accompanied by a major Russian aerial bombing campaign, Syrian pro-government forces have marched swiftly into insurgent territory in Deraa province over the past two weeks.

Spokesman Ibrahim Al Jabawi said the rebels had carried to the negotiating table their "response to a list of Russian demands" that include the handing over of weapons and settling the status of rebels in a deal that ends the fighting. "Today they are carrying their response to the terms presented by the Russian officers," Jabawi said. The Russian demands, handed to rebels in a meeting in a town in southern Syria on Saturday, had prompted a walkout by the rebels, who said the terms amounted to a humiliating surrender. The opposition team was then persuaded by Jordan to go back to the negotiating table, diplomatic sources said.

The opposition negotiators have also agreed to expand their team to a 12-strong delegation after agreement among them to include the Quneitra province further west near the Israeli occupied Golan Heights, Jabawi said. Previously they were negotiating for Deraa province to the east. "A new expanded negotiating com-

mittee that represents all the south has been formed to reach an agreement to spare innocent lives and ensure the safety of civilians and fighters," said a statement by the central operations room in the south, representing the key rebel factions in that region.

The rebel camp has however been deeply split over the Russian demands, with some negotiators saying they wanted to continue the fighting and accusing some rebel commanders of cutting separate deals with the Russian military. Rebels and residents say that a string of rebel towns have worked out their own surrender arrangements that have allowed the Russian military police to enter their towns and patrol neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, the United Nations human rights office and refugee agency UNHCR urged Jordan yesterday to open its border to Syrians trying to escape an escalating conflict in the southwest region of Deraa. An estimated 270,000 people have fled air and ground attacks over the past two weeks, the United Nations said yesterday. "We call on the Jordanian government to keep its border open and for other countries in the region to step up and receive the fleeing civilians," UN human rights spokeswoman Liz Throssell told a news briefing. UNHCR spokesman Andre Mahecic said an estimated 40,000 Syrians were massed near the border with Jordan, which already hosts 650,000 registered Syrian refugees. — Agencies



AL MISHKHAB: An Iraqi farmer plants Jasmin rice in the Mishkhab region, central Iraq, some twenty-five kilometers from Najaf. —AFP



PUTRAJAYA: File photo shows Malaysia's former prime minister Najib Razak speaking to the media after being questioned at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) office in Putrajaya. — AFP

Malaysia ex-PM arrested; graft probe widens

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was arrested by anti-corruption investigators yesterday, officials said, the latest dramatic development in a widening graft probe that has engulfed the ex-leader. Najib, 64, will be charged today, a taskforce set up to probe wrongdoing at state fund IMDB said in a statement, adding he was apprehended "at his home".

The arrest is the latest in a series of stunning moves by investigators that suggest the legal noose is tightening around Najib, his family and many of his close political and business allies. Malaysia's official news agency Bernama said the for-

mer premier is expected to face more than 10 counts of committing criminal breach of trust linked to SRC International Sdn Bhd, an energy company that was originally a subsidiary of IMDB.

According to an investigation by the Wall Street Journal, \$10.6 million originating from SRC was transferred to Najib's personal bank accounts, just one small part of hundreds of millions of dollars from IMDB that allegedly ended up in his accounts. Najib had been summoned twice by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over its investigation into a case related to SRC. The newly appointed attorney general Tommy Thomas would lead the prosecution team, according to Bernama. Allegations of massive corruption were a major factor behind the shock election loss in May of Najib's long-ruling coalition to a reformist alliance headed by his former mentor Mahathir Mohamad.

Continued on Page 24

Saudi replaces CEO of NEOM mega city

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has replaced the CEO of its NEOM mega city project less than a year after the unveiling of the \$500 billion venture billed as a regional Silicon Valley. Klaus Kleinfeld, appointed NEOM's first CEO when the project was announced last October, will take over "wider responsibilities" as an advisor to

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, a statement said late Monday. Nadhmi Al-Nasr, a member of NEOM's founding board and a veteran of state oil giant Saudi Aramco, will take over from Kleinfeld from August 1, according to the statement.

NEOM, part of a series of multi-billion-dollar projects as the oil-reliant kingdom seeks to diversify, was announced with much fanfare in October at Riyadh's first Future Investment Initiative that sought to project the insular country as a business destination. The Saudi government has said NEOM will draw investments worth \$500 billion from the kingdom's vast Public Investment Fund, as well as local and international investors.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, has dazzled investors with a host of hi-tech "giga projects", but sceptics question their viability as the kingdom scrambles to diversify its economy in an era of cheaper oil. The kingdom has also announced plans to build a Walt Disney-style "entertainment city" known as Qiddiya and a reef-fringed resort destination in the Red Sea—both worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

Such projects are the brainchild of Prince Mohammed, architect of a sweeping reform program dubbed "Vision 2030". The reforms stem partly from a motivation to boost domestic spending and attract foreign investment as the kingdom has been reeling from an oil price slump since mid-2014. — AFP

UK healthcare worker arrested for 'murdering' eight babies

LONDON: British police yesterday arrested a female healthcare worker suspected of murdering eight babies and attempting to murder six more after an investigation into deaths at a neo-natal hospital unit. The investigation in the northwestern English city of Chester began last year and is focusing on the deaths of 17 babies at the Countess of Chester Hospital between March 2015 and July 2016.

Police are also probing 15 non-fatal collapses of babies at the unit over the same period. "As a result of our ongoing enquiries we have today arrested a healthcare professional in connection with the investigation," Cheshire police said in a statement, calling the arrest "a significant step forward in our enquiries". "She was arrested earlier this morning on suspicion of murder in relation to eight of the babies and attempted murder in relation to six of the babies and is currently in custody," it said. Police said the investigation, dubbed "Operation Hummingbird", was still "very much active and ongoing at this stage".

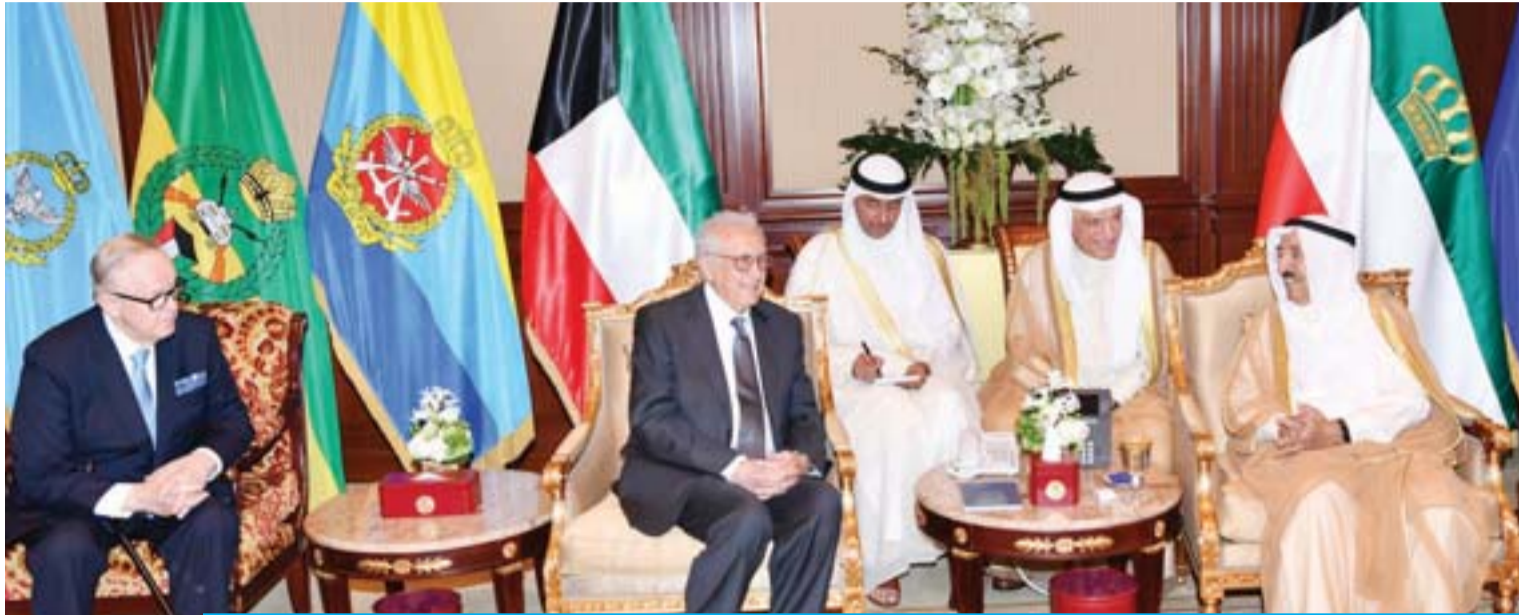
"Parents of all the babies are continuing to be kept fully updated and are being supported throughout the process by specially trained officers," the statement said. The hospital's medical director Ian Harvey said that the facility was supporting the investigation and the unit was "safe to continue in its current form".

Continued on Page 24

Local

Amir receives top state officials, credentials of new Ambassadors

Amir's perspective on regional, int'l issues much valued: Brahimi



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the delegation of the Group of Elders, former Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Lakhdar Brahimi and former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the newly appointed Ambassador of South Korea.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received the newly appointed Ambassadors of South Korea, Liberia, Mali and New Zealand to Kuwait.

The reception was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Director of His Highness the Amir's Office Ahmad Al-Fahad, Counselor at Amiri Diwan Mohammed Abulhasan.

Also present were the Chief of Amiri Protocols Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs Ambassador Dhari Ajran Al-Ajran and Chairman of the Amiri Guard General Major Fahad Al-Zaid. His Highness the Amir also received the delegation of the Group of Elders, including former Algerian Minister of Foreign

Affairs Lakhdar Brahimi and former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari on the occasion of their visit to the country. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah attended the meeting. 'The Elders' delegation also met with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday.

Amir's perspective

His Highness the Amir's perspective on regional and international issues is much valued, Brahimi said after the meeting. "We thank His Highness and the State of Kuwait on the warm hospitality, as well as on overall cooperation shown in order to deal with these issues," Brahimi said. 'The Elders' is an independent group of global leaders working together for peace and human rights. They represent an independent voice, not bound by the interests of any nation, government or institution. "In the forefront of the topics discussed with His Highness was the Palestinian issue, along with the situations in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya," Brahimi pointed out. 'The Elders' delegation met Monday night with Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah.

The London-based NGO was brought together by Nelson Mandela in 2007 and includes a galaxy of public figures, peace activists and human rights advocates, most prominent of whom include Jimmy Carter, Desmond Tutu (stepped down in 2013) and Muhammad Yunus.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Minister of State for National Assembly Adel Musaed Al-Kharafi, and Defense Ministry's Undersecretary Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Sabah.

Amir congratulates Mexican President

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a congratulatory cable to newly-elected Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador yesterday on his new position. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister also sent similar cables to President Obrador. Separately, His Highness the Amir is set to patronize and attend the opening of Kuwait International Airport's new terminal (T4). The ceremony takes place at 10:30 am today. — KUNA



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with former Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Lakhdar Brahimi.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the newly appointed Ambassador of Mali.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the newly appointed Ambassador of New Zealand.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the newly appointed Ambassador of Liberia.

Firms, banks urge disabled to be tapped

KUWAIT: Various Kuwaiti sectors attach much significance to the incorporation of handicapped people not only in the society but in the economic domain as well. As per Article 14 of Law 8/2010, Kuwaiti public, private and oil sectors should set a minimum four percent recruitment quota for Kuwaiti people with special needs. Several Kuwaiti bank and corporate officials showed much interest in the employment of disabled people just out of belief in their capabilities, and in the indispensable creation of the congenial atmosphere for them to join the private sector. To put all the articles of the said law in force, essential vocational training should be organized pursuant to an orderly mechanism of action in order to secure jobs to this segment of the society, they opined in separate statements. Efforts are being exerted to host conferences and meetings with stakeholders in a bid to put the law in question in place, eventually leading to answering the needs of the disabled, they said. The private sector, in particular, ought to offer jobs to this category of people, given that many of them have skills and capabilities that actually need to be drawn upon, they urged.

Vice-Chairman of the Kuwait Holding Projects Company (KIPCO) Faisal Al-Ayyar said: "The company's general policy does not discriminate between segments of Kuwaitis wishing to work: including people of special, minor or moderate disabilities and even others, as long as they are able to create, innovate and work to serve the firm and its shareholders."

KIPCO's social responsibility is a resonant example for its eagerness to allow this category in the economic community, giving them careers at any of its subsidiaries, Al-Ayyar said: "The door is open for every disabled person to work at the company as part of a plan to recruit efficient people, including handicapped persons," said Suleiman Al-Waqayan, an educational firm board member. Many disabled persons across the world have proved that they are really creative and efficient, so Kuwaiti employers need to change their mind and recruit this segment of the society, he added.—KUNA

Solution possible for Mideast crises: Brahimi

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The crisis in the Middle East can be considered as the worst in recent history, but a solution is always possible according to "The Elders" group. Speaking at a roundtable discussion with local media at Sheraton Hotel in Kuwait City yesterday, Lakhdar Brahimi, former Foreign Minister of Algeria, UN diplomat, and member of Nelson Mandela's organization 'The Elders', said that the turbulence in the Middle East now is currently the worst, as more and more people are continuously suffering, starving and dying in wars they have not created.

"Unfortunately, this region is suffering more than any other place in the world. His Highness the Amir of Kuwait is one of many leaders who realizes that, more than anything else, dialogue and understanding is very important because it can resolve many political disputes," he said.

Brahimi was referring to the crises and suffering of people of both Syria and Yemen. "In Syria, the situation is

still vulnerable. Syria is destroyed, yet there is hope. Currently, there are ongoing dialogue between Syrians themselves. Other countries which also have influence in the region such as Russia, Turkey and Iran are also talking. Yet, the situation in Syria is still the worst. We are praying for Syrian people and hope that the dispute there will be resolved soon. Yemen's situation is almost same as well. There is ongoing dialogue, and we all hope for political settlements. The UN has access to many areas, and we really hope that things will get better there because it is really a disaster for Yemeni people. They are suffering a lot from sickness, starvation which are really rampant all over," he added.

Voice for stability

Kuwait has long been a voice for stability and cooperation in this region, Brahimi said, adding that 'The Elders' welcome its continued commitment to a peaceful path, including as a member of the UN Security Council. "We also greatly appreciate Kuwait's generosity to the victims of war in Syria and Iraq through the pledging conferences for humanitarian aid it has hosted and contributed to in such a substantial way," he said.

In the last two days, Brahimi, together with Martti Ahtisaari - the current President of 'The Elders', former President of Finland and Nobel Peace Laureate, have met with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-



KUWAIT: Lakhdar Brahimi, former Foreign Minister of Algeria and member of 'The Elders' (right), speaks a roundtable discussion in Kuwait City yesterday along with fellow group member, former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, as well as Parliament Speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanem and MPs. They also met Abdel Latif Yousef Al-Hamad, the President of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and representatives of civil society groups.

They praised Kuwait's founding role and continued commitment to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and expressed their hope that all GCC members cooperate with His Highness the Amir in his role as a mediator to

resolve their current differences. 'The Elders' also commended His Highness the Amir for Kuwait's efforts to prioritize peaceful and political processes to address all problems of the region, in particular the conflicts in Yemen, Syria and Palestine. "We admire Kuwait's work and determination to foster a peaceful and harmonious environment for its people, its neighbors and the wider region. All member states of the United Nations have a responsibility to follow the honorable principles set out in the UN Charter," Ahtisaari said.

Local

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation interviews candidates to fill oil sector vacancies

Union calls for 'full Kuwaitization' of oil sector

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) formed a special committee to promote a number of oil sector officials to the positions of deputy CEOs and managing directors at KPC and its subsidiaries. In this regard, informed sources said that the committee started interviewing candidates who applied for up to six vacancies, adding that the total number of qualified candidates is around 100, while the number of those matching the conditions range between 25 and 35.

Commenting on this topic, Chairman of Oil and Petrochemicals Industries Workers Federation Mohammed Al-Hajri urged Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheedi, who also serves as KPC Chairman, to make public the vacancies available in all oil companies, and to set short and long term plans to appoint Kuwaiti young candidates while opening recruitment for national labor.

Hajri stressed that the federation would always fight for the rights of the oil sector's workers. Among those rights is the 'Kuwaitization' of oil sector employees, which Hajri argues would help solve the problem of unemployment amongst Kuwaiti youth.

Further, Hajri stressed that major oil companies and the mega projects that are due to be launched should be utilized in creating more job opportunities for Kuwaiti engineers, technicians, security and firefighting staffs. He also called for mandating contractors to create job opportunities for Kuwaiti citizens, instead of depending 'on less-costing unskilled foreigners'. "Our federation will keep working until the entire oil sector is Kuwaitized," he underlined, noting that the federation would form a committee to list vacancies and announce them to the public.

Jurassic gas

In other news, KPC is currently working on developing the production of Jurassic gas at Sabriya oil fields, according to sources who noted that this type of gas can only be used for energy because of its high temperature of 1,500 C degrees. "This makes it impossible to use in petrochemical industries that require gases with temperatures no more than 1,000 degrees," the sources explained.

Furthermore, the sources added that Jurassic gas was being traced in four spots, noting that it would be pumped to Kuwait Integrated Petrochemical Industries



KUWAIT: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's building. — KUNA

Company (KIPIC) factories to be liquidized. Meanwhile, the sources said that Kuwait is unlikely to reactivate the 40-year old Iraqi gas pipeline connecting southern Iraq to Al-Rumailah filed in Roudhatain in order to import Iraqi gas, due to technical problems. "Building a new line will be less costing than reactivating the old line," the sources underlined.

Mubarak Port

The Ministry of Public Works' (MPW) assistant undersecretary for mega projects Hosam Al-Tahous sent a letter yesterday to Kuwait Municipality concerning the land allocated to the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project, requesting more information in order to start the first phase of the project without any delay. He added that MPW had so far received no response.

Water surplus

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) has no future plans to import fresh water from any country to provide water supplies in times of distress, a ministry insider said. "This talk about importing water contradicts with the fact that we already have water surpluses that can be used to provide our GCC neighbors when needed," said the source who spoke on the condition of anonymity. He noted that facing the threat of water shortage is currently being studied within the GCC water linkage strategic plans. He added that Kuwait had officially contacted Saudi Arabia to initially start linkage before connecting with other Gulf Cooperation Council states. Regarding Al-Nuwaseeb water plant, the source stressed that a touristic project still prevents the start of the project, and stressed that MEW is currently studying re-locating the plant.

Please be good to your workers

In my view



By Talal Al-Ghannam

Good morning dear and honorable friends. In this article, I will try to analyze a specific case in Kuwait which always seems to be a controversial social issue. The case I am discussing today is the issue of allowing female domestic workers to go out on their supposed day off, and giving them permission to use their phones, as well as the possible consequences that may arise as a result.

The majority of Kuwaiti and other families here in Kuwait object such thing and totally stand against it, believing that giving domestic workers the right for a day off and to have possession of a mobile phone could lead to serious and grave consequences such as engaging in immoral activities, running away, and many others. Other families argue that their helpers do not want to go out on their day off, saying that: "We keep telling them to go out and enjoy life, but they are scared to go out and meet strangers." On the other hand, some families say that they take their helpers with them everywhere they go, and in that case, they believe that there is no need for the maid to go out alone.

My opinion regarding this matter is that, first of all, it is illegal to breach the contract between the worker and the employer by not giving the employee a day off as listed in the contract. Second, I believe that the argument that a worker can go out, have a relationship and 'get pregnant' is weak, especially that we have many cases in which maids were subjected to rape inside their sponsors' houses and got pregnant that way. Third, no one in the world can prevent a person from using a mobile phone, as it is a personal and significant right. The worker must have her own phone to check on her kids, family, parents, or even to play games during her spare time. Isn't she a human being? Doesn't she have emotions, feelings and the desire to enjoy life? Or is she a machine made only for the sponsor's own satisfaction? The worker has every right to have all stipulations listed in the contract honored, and in case one party fails to do so, a case must be filed and those breaching the contract must be brought to justice. Otherwise, keep those helpless workers in their countries with their loved ones, instead of humiliating them by bringing them here and depriving them from basic necessities of life.

I always say that sponsors must put themselves in their workers' shoes and see if they can tolerate being deprived of going out or having to use a mobile phone. We use our smart phones more than anything else nowadays. So, why do some sponsors want to deprive those helpless workers from using their own phones to check on their kids and parents, who have to live through the distress of being away from a dear loved one who traveled abroad to earn a decent living?

Last but not least, a call to all sponsors: Please treat your workers well. Trust them, give them the chance to enjoy life as you do, draw a smile on their faces, help and assist them with work as did our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing be upon him). If you trust them, then they would trust you back and would not betray you. My last word is that there are lots of great sponsors here in Kuwait, and my article is only about those who do not fear Allah.

Till the next article insha Allah.

Stab-murder suspect sent to prosecution

KUWAIT: Jahra detectives sent a stab-murder suspect to prosecution yesterday after he confessed in detail to the killing of a Kuwaiti man earlier. The suspect, a bedoon (stateless) man who was previously discharged from military service, is expected to be charged with premeditated murder. The suspect also stabbed a companion of the victim who survived after receiving a stab wound in the abdomen. A security source said that the killer, victim and his companion had criminal records, adding that there are previous differences between them. The suspect had turned himself in and handed over the murder weapon to police.

Sexual harassment

An Egyptian woman told Farwaniya police that a citizen urged her to commit immoral acts, and filed a sexual harassment case against him. The woman explained that she works for a real estate company as a salesperson. One day she called a number that was given to her by her supervisors to make a sales pitch for a potential customer, but the man was instead more interested in starting a relationship with her and kept calling her back for several days later. Eventually, the man offered to rent an apartment for her, buy her a brand new car and pay her a monthly payment if she would agree to live with him. Fed up with his antics, the woman gave the man an ultimatum to either start a serious relationship with her and ask her officially for marriage, or she would break up with him. The man refused, explaining that he was already married, and instead kept insisting that she accepts the offer he made earlier. The woman then went to the police station and lodged a case.

Fugitives arrested

Police arrested 20 people, including 11 Kuwaitis and nine expatriates of various nationalities, who are wanted for defaulting on payments totaling KD 287,000. The arrests were made at check points held recently in various areas around Kuwait.

Youth injured

Paramedics rushed a Kuwaiti young man to Mubarak Hospital for treatment of wounds in his hand, which he sustained when he defended himself from his friend who attempted to stab him while under the influence of alcohol.

Salon theft

A Kuwaiti woman told Andalus police that make-up and equipment worth KD 1,700 disappeared from her beauty salon in Regaia. She could not identify any potential perpetrators.

— Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Anbaa

Social media encourages reading: Novelist

AMMAN: Kuwaiti novelist Saud Al-Sanousi said that social media attracts more people into reading books, which is the opposite of what many would think. Sanousi's remarks came in a statement yesterday, on the sidelines of his participation in the Shoman Cultural Forum, organized by Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

Social media is now a place to publish the works of many writers and novelists, attracting more people to read those books, he explained. It also gives people the opportunity to discover different authors as some social media would post quotes from their books, he added. Sanousi had previously won the International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) presented by Booker Prize Foundation in London for his novel 'The Bamboo Stalk', which was translated into different languages. —KUNA

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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A man works on a 'Boom' ship model in Kuwait. Al-Boom played a key role in facilitating trade between Arabian Gulf states, including Kuwait, and other parts of the world, mainly India, China and East Africa during the pre-oil era. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

KIB sponsors distribution of refreshments amongst students



KUWAIT: As part of its commitment to supporting various student-based activities, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) sponsored the distribution of refreshments amongst all students at the College of Petroleum Engineering at Kuwait University (KU). The initiative was organized by the College of Petroleum Engineering in cooperation with the Society for Engineering and Petroleum and aimed at distributing snacks, coffee, and frozen yogurt amongst students taking summer courses.

On this occasion, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "We are always committed to supporting student-based initiatives that aim at nurturing a culture of innovation and creativity, making way for small project ideas and promising, young talents. Our support stems from our firm belief that students are a cornerstone of the community's development, actively building a better future for our nation."

Najia added that this sponsorship came as part of KIB's commitment to rewarding students who aim at completing their university studies as quickly as possible by taking summer courses, despite the tiring, hot weather. He also added that the initiative distributed snacks, coffee and frozen yogurt amongst students, thereby raising morale and supporting them as they work hard to achieve great results.

As a partner in many aspects of their lives under the slogan 'Bank for Life', KIB always strives to participate in a number of activities and initiatives that serve diverse segments of the community. The student segment comprises an important portion of the bank's social responsibility program, as they play an important role in building a better, brighter future for the nation by completing their education and starting their careers across various sectors.

KIPCO Group renews partnership with INJAZ-Kuwait

KUWAIT: KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company - has renewed its partnership agreement with INJAZ-Kuwait - an NGO that aims to drive community service through professional volunteering engagement with youth. As per the agreement, 1,000 students will be trained by KIPCO Group volunteers over the course of two academic years.

Volunteers from across the KIPCO Group will be taking time out of their work schedules to deliver INJAZ programs to middle school, high school and university students in the areas of work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. The programs will commence with the start of the academic year in September 2018, and continue through to June 2020.

Laila Hilal Al-Mutairi, Chief Executive Officer of INJAZ-Kuwait said: "We are proud to work closely with KIPCO, a treasured supporter of INJAZ's mission. KIPCO Group's backing has helped us empower

the youth of Kuwait and has been a testament to the power of partnerships. The number of volunteers who represented KIPCO in the various activities we have conducted, and the time and effort they have put in to mentor students, reaffirms INJAZ's stance in investing in Kuwait's future by educating youth and raising awareness about the importance of building an entrepreneurial culture."

Eman Al-Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director said: "We are delighted to renew our partnership with INJAZ-Kuwait for another two academic years. Our previous collaboration has allowed our volunteers the opportunity to work directly with students, and give them insight on their future career options. We look forward to further enhance the volunteering culture within our Group companies, as our professionals share their knowledge and expertise with younger people in our community."

KIPCO first partnered with INJAZ-Kuwait in June 2016, to train 1,000 students over the course of two academic years. More than 30 volunteers were recruited from KIPCO, Burgan Bank, Gulf Insurance Group, OSN, United Real Estate, Qurain Petrochemical Industries and KAMCO Investment Company for this initiative.



KUWAIT: Laila Al-Mutairi, Chief Executive Officer of INJAZ-Kuwait (left) and Eman Al-Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director.

25th group graduates from ABK Academy



KUWAIT: ABK's 25th academy graduates pose for a group photo with ABK management.

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) congratulated the 25th group of students who recently graduated from the 'ABK Academy', during a ceremony that was held for the 21 participants who successfully completed the four-week intensive program.

The 25th round of training consisted of two main parts. The first was classroom facilitation and the second was 'on the job' training, whereby trainees had the opportunity to be fully engaged in the work envi-

ronment of various departments within the bank, and the day-to-day operations, giving them more hands-on experience.

ABK Academy has graduated a total of 556 candidates to date; preparing a substantial number of individuals to take on jobs within the bank. This type of involvement and contribution is of tremendous value not only to national youth, who gain tremendous insight into banking as a profession, but also to

the bank who has the chance to train and employ local talent.

The ABK Academy was launched as an educational platform that focuses on training students and individuals seeking a job opportunity in the banking sector. By engaging with these participants, the bank is able to build on existing potential and talent, and better identify the areas in the bank, in which they could put this positive energy to work.

Sales Executive
 Al-Fozan Enterprises General
 Trading & Contracting Co.
 Kuwait

You will be responsible to greet and direct customers, provide accurate information, answer customers' questions about specific products/services, conduct price and feature comparisons to facilitate purchasing, cross-sell products, ensure racks are fully stocked, and manage returns of merchandise.

Apply Now [JB3814232](#)

Legal Counsel
 Alshaya Enterprises
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for negotiating, drafting and finalizing all documentations, letters and agreements, company licenses and leases within company and with third parties, including Distribution Agreements, and Local Office Agreements, and supervising appropriate protection of Group's trademarks, trade manes and so forth.

Apply Now [JB3775320](#)

Graphic Designer
 Line Production
 Kuwait

You will be responsible to conceive ideas and concepts; designs, produces, work with others and coordinate in the creation of materials in print, and other mediums for a variety of projects, work with team members to provide professional recommendations for concept, design, and art direction.

Apply Now [JB3814143](#)

Social Media Coordinator
 Lamande Patisserie
 Kuwait

You will be responsible to assist in the development of innovative and creative media content across social media platforms, collaborate with marketing, creative and operational teams to ensure a cohesive social media identity, dealing with clients orders and meeting their specific needs.

Apply Now [JB3813996](#)

Accounting Clerk
 Minah
 Kuwait

You will be responsible to enter and balance accounts receivable and payable on a daily basis, assist with other accounting projects in the office, track deposits made to bank and handle deposit transfers, assemble financial data for audits, maintain orderly financial filing system, reconcile accounts monthly and prepare reports to present to management.

Apply Now [JB3779939](#)

Senior Business Development Executive - Beyout Investment Group - Kuwait

You will be responsible to direct contractual negotiations, and assists/participates in the negotiations as may be necessary, responsible to close assigned sales target, maintain strong rapport with clients especially after sale include responding to clients complains, and prepare the regular BD reports.

Apply Now [JB3813583](#)

Photographer
 Transworld Business Advisors
 Kuwait

You will be responsible to take photos & videos to promote different business for the consumers which include shooting Food Stuffs and others under management's requests, communicating with the management to understand their needs, preparing for photo shoots, setting up or taking down lighting, backgrounds, props and other equipment.

Apply Now [JB3813566](#)

Fleet Sales Consultant
 Kuwait Automotive Imports Co.
 W.L.L. - Kuwait

You will be responsible to manage and supervise Fleet Sales Strategy to achieve targets, report, Manage, Supervise, fleet Customer and Territory Management, pro-active Lead Management to maintain healthy pipeline for all brands.

Apply Now [JB3809269](#)

Payroll Officer
 Arabian Centres
 KSA

You will be responsible to review and validate all documents defining compensation and entitlements for newly recruited employees and changes for existing employees, update payroll information in the Payroll System as per the approved compensation and entitlements.

Apply Now [JB3814199](#)

Asset Representative KSA
 CHEP
 KSA

You will be responsible for conducting quality back door visits and customer site visits, responsible for client training in equipment control procedures, assist with query resolution, assist with periodical stock counts, visit and call on non-participating distributors and pallet recycler locations to recover CHEP assets that have fallen out of the network.

Apply Now [JB3814152](#)

Unit Head - Financial Analyst
 National Housing Company
 KSA

You will be responsible to analyze, interprets and models financial data, presenting results in a meaningful format with clear recommendations for decision makers, typically completes profitability, product pricing, valuation, budgeting, forecasting, trending, cost/benefit, breakeven and ad hoc analyses.

Apply Now [JB3814144](#)

Stock Controller
 Aflak Electronic Industries
 Company - KSA

You will be responsible for maintaining the supply and demand of inventory, and ensuring that there are adequate stocks available. The stock controller will also ensure stock purchasing, delivery and shipping confirmations, and manage inventory balances.

Apply Now [JB3814022](#)

Leasing Manager
 Property Shop Investment LLC
 UAE

You will be responsible to ensure through continual training and mentoring that the team provides the highest caliber of service to the potential clients, ensure that the composition of the team is optimized and that all members are performing at peak.

Apply Now [JB3814412](#)

Senior Marketing Analyst
 Charterhouse
 UAE

You will be responsible for sourcing data and information both internally and externally, providing thorough analytical interpretation and recommendations to the Marketing team, forecasting possible competitive actions through pricing and market shares.

Apply Now [JB3814395](#)

Sales Representative
 Bitumat Company Limited
 UAE

You will be responsible for listening to customer requirements and presenting appropriately to make a sale, maintaining and developing relationships with existing customers in person and via telephone calls and emails, cold calling to arrange meetings with potential customers to prospect for new business.

Apply Now [JB3814342](#)

Financial Analyst
 TGC Consulting
 UAE

You will be responsible for understanding the technical side of things to assist the Business Manager, effective interpersonal skills with excellent oral and written English communication skills, strong analytical skills, ability to work well with people, ability to convey finance information other staff and managers.

Apply Now [JB3814311](#)

Training Specialist
 Qatar Museums
 Qatar

You will be responsible for identify training needs within QM at Individual, Departmental and Organizational level through Training Needs Analysis survey and interviews with Departments, Museums and Individual employees, sourcing qualified vendors and agreeing on course contents with vendors.

Apply Now [JB3812924](#)

Content Development Specialist
 Weill Cornell Medicine
 Qatar

You will be responsible for working with the library team members to develop various types of content in support of the department's education and research mission, leading the content production of assigned outreach, marketing and website materials.

Apply Now [JB3814108](#)

Senior Sales Executive
 Dallah Holding
 Qatar

You will be responsible for maintaining and improving relationships with assigned existing Clients, conducting market research and acquiring new Clients, as per the given target and directions from the Sales Director, orders; from Request for Quotation to Collection of payment and Client feedback.

Apply Now [JB3813917](#)

Jewellery Boutique Manager
 Zeder Group
 Qatar

You will be responsible to create and implement strategies to achieve sales and profit objectives, oversaw and resolved any and all customer service issue, organize and promote large volume special sales events, oversaw and reconciled accounts payable and receivable, controlled inventory, margin and operating costs.

Apply Now [JB3813354](#)

International

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Merkel last-ditch migrant deal faces EU headwinds

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Agonizing rescue ahead for Thai boys as nation rejoices



AHMEDABAD: Indian members from the Vaadi community participate in a protest in support of Shantadevi Nath, who was killed by a mob that falsely believed she was intent on abducting children in Ahmedabad.—Reuters

Lynchings hit anti-trafficking drives in India

Charities forced to postpone work after attacks

CHENNAI: The public lynchings of at least 10 people in India on false rumors of child kidnap has forced anti-trafficking charities to put their work on hold, fearing they could be targeted. Fake messages about child kidnappings spread on Facebook and WhatsApp have triggered attacks in more than half a dozen Indian states, resulting in the deaths of at least 10 people. On Sunday five people were killed and two beaten up in separate incidents in the western state of Maharashtra.

Five charities said they had been forced to postpone work after the attacks, and there were fears traffickers could exploit the public anger. "The messages are a combination of old video clips, headlines

and messages that are spreading like fire," said Anita Kaniya, India CEO of anti-trafficking charity The Freedom Project. "We have had to put on hold a survey we were doing of children trafficked into beggary in Bangalore since it involves taking pictures, talking to children, and our motives may be questioned."

A 26-year-old man was lynched in May in the southern Indian technology hub of Bangalore on suspicion of being a kidnapper after a warning that 400 child traffickers were arriving spread on WhatsApp. Adrian Phillips, advocate for the non-profit Justice and Care, warned traffickers would exploit the trend. "These actions color genuine anti-trafficking cases

very negatively, such that suspicions will be raised about motives and genuine cases may not be taken seriously everywhere," he said.

In India, a country with over a billion phone subscribers with access to cheap mobile data, false news messages and videos can instantly go viral, creating mass hysteria and stirring up communal tensions. Investigating officials say the rumors have targeted outsiders, from holidaymakers to migrant workers from other states, and there is often no link with actual cases of missing children. "The rumors are striking at a very primal fear of one's child being at risk," said police officer Harsh Poddar, referring to the lynching of two people in Maharashtra on

Sunday. "We want people to be careful about their children but are arresting people for causing public panic." About 40 million people were living as modern slaves last year - either trapped in forced labor or forced marriages - says the United Nations International Labor Organization and rights group Walk Free Foundation. South Asia is one of the fastest-growing regions for human trafficking. Indian government data show reports of trafficking rose by almost 20 percent in 2016 against the previous year. Nearly half of victims were trafficked for the purposes of forced labor, and 33 percent for sexual exploitation such as prostitution and child pornography.—Reuters

Rouhani's tour overshadowed by diplomat's detention

VIENNA: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's visit to Switzerland and Austria was shaken yesterday by allegations one of Tehran's diplomats was involved in a bomb plot against an opposition group in Paris. The diplomat, who is attached to the Iranian embassy in Austria, was detained in Germany on Saturday over a foiled attack on a rally of thousands of Iranian opposition supporters in the French capital.

Details of his arrest emerged as Rouhani began a European tour seeking assurances about the Iranian nuclear deal, which has been thrown in to doubt after the unilateral withdrawal of the US. And yesterday, the Austrian foreign ministry summoned the Iranian envoy to request that Tehran "lift the (diplomat's) immunity".

Ministry spokesman Matthias Forenbacher said the unnamed diplomat would be "deprived of his diplomatic status within 48 hours because of the existence of a European arrest warrant" against him. But Iran's foreign minister dismissed the alleged plot as a "false flag ploy" designed to overshadow Rouhani's tour. "How convenient: Just as we embark on a presidential visit to Europe, an alleged Iranian operation and its 'plotters' arrested," Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted.

Six arrests

After arriving in Switzerland on Monday,



SWITZERLAND: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani looks on as he attends a press conference in Bern.—AFP

the Iranian president held talks with his counterpart Alain Berset yesterday in a meeting Tehran said was of "crucial importance" for cooperation between the Islamic Republic and Europe. Rouhani was on today due in Vienna, where the 2015 nuclear deal was signed, to meet Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and President Alexander Van der Bellen.

Also in Vienna, Zarif will on Friday meet top envoys from the five powers still party to the nuclear deal—Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia for the first time since Washington's withdrawal, Iranian state media said. The withdrawal has paved the way for new US sanctions against Tehran and foreign

companies that trade or invest with it, causing several major businesses, including in Austria, to stop activity in the country.

The diplomat was one of six people arrested in Belgium, France and Germany over the alleged plot against Saturday's rally in a Paris suburb, organized by the National Council of Resistance of Iran. The rally was also attended by leading US figures, including close allies of President Donald Trump. Federal prosecutors in Brussels first revealed the arrests, charging a husband and wife they described as Belgian nationals "of Iranian origin". They said the Iranian diplomat in Vienna was believed to be a contact of the couple.—AFP

Gunmen kill Philippine mayor in second murder

MANILA: Motorcycle-borne gunmen yesterday assassinated a mayor in a town north of the Philippine capital, the second such killing of an official in two days, police said. Ferdinand Bote, 57, became the 12th elected local official murdered since President Rodrigo Duterte unleashed a deadly anti-narcotics campaign after coming to power two years ago, although Bote was not linked to the drug trade. He and his driver were leaving a government office in the capital of Nueva Ecija province when gunmen approached his sport utility vehicle and shot him dead, said Adrian Gabriel, the town's police chief.

"He was repeatedly shot with the use of a short firearm," police said in an initial report, but the driver escaped unhurt. Police retrieved at least 18 empty shells at the scene. The government will spare no effort in getting to the bottom of the latest crime, said Harry Roque, a spokesman for Duterte. "We assure everyone that we will discharge the state obligation for every murder," Roque said in a statement, promising a fair and thorough investi-

gation by police to bring the perpetrators to justice.

On Monday, Antonio Halili, 72, who had gained prominence in 2016 for parading drug suspects in the streets of Tanauan, south of Manila, was hit by a bullet in the chest while attending a weekly flag-raising ceremony. Duterte said the mayor may have had some drug involvement and his "walk of shame" campaign to parade suspects was a ploy to convince police he was not engaged in the illegal drug trade. At Halili's wake, his daughter Angelina told reporters it was unfair to link her father to the drug trade, and said Duterte had been misinformed.

"I can't blame the president," she added. "If that's always what you hear from the same people that you talk to - and they keep telling you the same thing - it gets in your system to the point that you believe it, even though it's a lie." Halili had been stripped of his supervisory powers over police in October 2017, due to a proliferation of illegal drugs in his city, amid allegations by the national police that he may have been involved. Halili had denied the allegations.

Police have killed more than 4,200 people in the anti-narcotics campaign since July 2016, with another 2,500 suspected drug suspects killed by unknown assailants over the same period. Human rights advocates said the victims were executed by the police, who have denied the accusations, saying most of the killings were done in self-defense.—Reuters

International

Palestinians condemn Israel penalty for payments to prisoner families

Israeli Defense Minister hails new law

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories: Palestinian leaders yesterday strongly condemned a new Israeli law that will freeze money transfers to the Palestinian Authority to punish the PA's payments to families of those jailed for attacks. The move threatens the existence of the cash-strapped PA and amounts to "theft", said Saeb Erekat, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Both he and a spokesman for Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas called it a "dangerous decision".

The legislation was approved late Monday and gives the Israeli government powers to withhold an amount of money based on what is paid to the prisoners and their families by the PA. Israel collects around \$127 million a month in customs duties levied on goods destined for Palestinian markets that transit through Israeli ports, and then transfers it to the PA. "This is a very dangerous decision that amounts to the cancellation of the Palestinian Authority and is piracy and theft," Erekat said.

"Israel is stealing the land and money of the Palestinian people, and that is a result of the decisions of (US) President (Donald) Trump, who supports Israel." Abbas spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina said the Palestinian leadership was planning a response to the move, which he said would cross "one of the red lines" if implemented. According to a sponsor of the legislation, the PA pays around \$330 million a year to prisoners and their families, accounting for seven percent of its budget.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman hailed the new law, saying: "Every shekel Mahmud

Abbas will pay for terrorists and assassins will be automatically withdrawn from the Palestinian Authority's budget. "An effective war on terrorism also passes through the pocket-of the terrorists, of their families and of Mahmud Abbas."

Encouraging violence?

US legislation that became law in March also withholds some aid to the Palestinian leadership over the payments to prisoners' families and the families of those killed while carrying out attacks. The law, known as the "Taylor Force Act", is named after a US military veteran and graduate student who was killed in a 2016 attack while he was visiting

Israel. Israel argues that payments to the families of Palestinians jailed for security offences or killed by Israeli forces while carrying out attacks encourage further violence.

Many Palestinians view the prisoners and those killed while carrying out attacks as heroes or "martyrs" in the struggle against Israeli occupation. The payments can be a key source of income for families, who have in many cases lost their main breadwinner. Abbas would face heavy pressure among Palestinians if he would move to cut the payments. Palestinian officials say some 850,000 people have spent time in Israeli prisons in the 50 years since Israel seized the Palestinian territories in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Israel currently detains some 6,500 Palestinians for a range of offences and alleged crimes. The Jewish state has withheld payments to the PA in the past, notably in response to the Palestinians' 2011



RAMALLAH: Palestinians burn portraits of US President Donald Trump during a demonstration in the West Bank city of Ramallah against US policy supporting Israel. —AFP

admission to the UN cultural agency UNESCO as a full member. The PA, which has limited sovereignty in parts of the occupied West Bank, relies heavily on outside financial aid. It is also facing what is seen as blatant bias from Trump's administration and froze relations with the White House after he recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital last year.

But while the prisoner payments have sparked

outrage in Israel and elsewhere, Israeli authorities also benefit from security coordination with the PA and may be reluctant to see financial cuts that significantly affect that. Abbas's secular Fatah movement dominates the West Bank-based PA, while his Islamist rivals Hamas control the Gaza Strip. Hamas and Israel have fought three wars since the Islamists overran Gaza more than a decade ago. —AFP



Payments to families encourage further violence

Erdogan's defeated rival challenges opposition leader

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's defeated rival in Turkey's presidential election said yesterday he had offered to take over the day-to-day running of his opposition party, in an apparent challenge to its incumbent chief. Muharrem Ince of the Republican People's Party (CHP) came second to Erdogan in the June 24 poll but surprised observers by running a hugely energetic campaign and winning over 30 percent of the vote, well above his party's average in recent years.

There have since been growing questions over the future of CHP leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who has been in charge since 2010 but never troubled Erdogan, with Ince supporters suggesting their man would be a better leader. After a closed-door dinner with Kilicdaroglu on Monday, Ince said he had offered to take over the job of party chairman from Kilicdaroglu

and create a new post of honorary leader for him.

"I offered him that if he (Kilicdaroglu) wants, I can call an extraordinary congress and I can be the chairman and he becomes the honorary leader," Ince told journalists in Ankara. "If he says 'No', the organization (CHP) will find a way itself." Ince's comments highlighted strains within the CHP in the runup to the next key poll battle-local elections scheduled for March 2019 where the opposition is hoping to take control of Istanbul and Ankara.

Ince, a charismatic and often noisy parliamentarian, had been picked by Kilicdaroglu as the CHP candidate to challenge Erdogan in the presidential election. But Ince, who took off the CHP badge and promised to be "president of all", won a growing popularity in a short time, drawing mass crowds at giant rallies with charisma and rhetorical skills comparable to Erdogan. After the election, he said he accepted the results which handed outright victory to Erdogan who polled 52.6 percent.

However, a frustrated Kilicdaroglu refused to congratulate the Turkish strongman and brushed off suggestions



ISTANBUL: Pedestrians walk past a poster with an image of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan which translates as 'Thank you Istanbul' on Galata Bridge in Istanbul. —AFP

that he should resign while lashing out at those "clinging to their seats". Ince is preparing for a marathon of nationwide rallies in all of Turkey's 81 provinces in what he termed as "thank you" gatherings to express his gratitude to Turkish

people for their support. But his meetings with the CHP's former chairmen Murat Karayalcin and Altan Oymen in the wake of the elections had already stoked speculation he wanted the top party job. —AFP

63 missing in new Mediterranean shipwreck

TRIPOLI: Sixty-three migrants are missing after the inflatable boat they were on sunk off the coast of Libya, a spokesman for the country's navy told AFP, citing eyewitness accounts from survivors. General Ayoub Kacem said that 41 migrants wearing life jackets were rescued. According to the survivors, there were 104 people on board the vessel, which sank off Garaboulli, east of Tripoli. In addition to the 41 people rescued, a Libyan coastguard boat returned to Tripoli Monday with another 235

migrants, including 54 infants and 29 women, rescued in two other operations in the same area.

The boat's return to shore was delayed 24 hours due to a breakdown, Kacem said. Including the latest shipwreck, some 170 migrants have gone missing in the Mediterranean between Friday and Sunday. On Friday, three babies died off the coast of Libya while 100 people remained missing in another Mediterranean shipwreck. Just 16 were rescued, all young men, while the missing included two babies and three children under the age of 12.

Libya is a key transit point for thousands of African migrants trying to reach European shores. Hundreds of migrants die every year crossing the Mediterranean in dangerous conditions trying to reach Italy, taking advantage of political instability in the north African country to depart from Libyan shores. —AFP



AT SEA: Migrants look at the sea onboard the NGO Proactiva Open Arms boat. —AFP

Death toll from Lagos tanker blast rises to 12

LAGOS: The death toll from a petrol tanker fire and explosion on one of the busiest roads in Nigeria's com-

mercial hub, Lagos, has risen to 12, the authorities say. Nine people were initially said to have died and more than 50 vehicles were burned when a truck carrying 33,000 litres (8,700 US gallons) of petrol suffered brake failure and crashed last Thursday. But the sheer size of the blaze and the fact that it occurred on a gridlocked road at rush hour have spurred fears that the toll could be higher.

Lagos state health commissioner Jide Idris told reporters on Monday the "completely burnt" bodies of 10 people, including a minor, were recovered from the scene. Two others later died of severe burns in the hospital. "The government (will) be conducting DNA forensic studies so that the right bodies can be handed over to the appropriate families for burial," he said. The state government has said it

is looking to prosecute the owner of the tanker and driver over the truck's roadworthiness.

Petrol tanker fires are not uncommon on Nigeria's roads, which are often in disrepair and where vehicles are frequently old and badly maintained. Blocks are often put behind the wheels of ageing, rusting trucks when they are stationary in traffic. —AFP

Record rains turn Pakistani city's roads into rivers; six dead

LAHORE: The heaviest rains in 38 years have turned roads into virtual rivers in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore, stranding motorists and leaving at least six people dead, an official said yesterday. Roof collapses killed at least four people and two others were electro-

cuted in rain-related incidents, said Jam Sajjad Hussain, spokesman for the Rescue 1122 service. "Rescue officials using boats saved several persons in the outskirts of Lahore who were stranded in water," Hussain said.

Motorists said journeys that normally took five minutes were taking up to two hours because of flooded roads. "Whatever road you go on, it is filled with water. We are extremely distressed," motorcyclist Ahmed Shahzad said. Lahore recorded 214 millimeters (8.4 inches) of rain in the 24 hours up to 8 am yesterday, the heaviest in 38 years, Pakistan's chief meteorologist Muhammad Riaz said. He said a monsoon system would bring continued heavy rains for the next 24 to 48 hours. —Reuters



LAHORE: A Pakistani man rides on his horse cart through a flooded square after heavy rains in Lahore. —AFP

UNICEF chief condemns Yemen 'carnage', with 2,200 children killed

GENEVA: The UN slammed yesterday the devastating impact of Yemen's three-year conflict on children, with some 2,200 minors killed, and many more going hungry, forced to fight or dying from preventable diseases. "The relentless conflict in Yemen has pushed a country already on the brink deep into the abyss," warned Henrietta Fore, the executive director of the UN children's agency. Fore, who has just returned from a visit to the war-ravaged country, said in a statement she had seen "what three years of intense war after decades of underdevelopment and chronic global indifference can do to children."

Nearly 10,000 people have died since a Saudi-led military coalition began fighting in Yemen in 2015 to restore the internationally recognized government to power after Iran-linked Huthi rebels took over Sanaa the year before. UNICEF said Tuesday that at least 2,200 children had been killed and 3,400 others injured. "These are only numbers we have been able to verify. The actual figures could be even higher," Fore said, insisting that "there is no justification for this carnage."

But conflict deaths and injuries are only one part of the suffering inflicted on Yemen's children. Fore pointed out to journalists in Geneva that millions of children were out of school and many were being forced to fight with different sides in the conflict. Others were being married off, going hungry and dying from preventable diseases like cholera, she said. Children make up half of the some 22 million people in Yemen who rely on humanitarian aid to survive.

Needs are enormous

Fore warned that fears that the country's health-care and education systems would collapse had basically materialized, with international humanitarian aid the only thing warding off full-blown catastrophe. "The worry about collapse has now passed beyond that," she said, pointing out that many health workers and teachers in the country had now gone without pay for two years. Some 1,500 schools have been damaged in airstrikes and shelling in the past three years, she said. "The needs are enormous," she said. In a bid to avoid full collapse, UNICEF and the World Bank are providing some nine million people with small amounts of cash in a bid to allow them to purchase bare necessities like food and medicine. This is particularly vital in the port city of Hodeida, where an ongoing offensive by the Saudi-led coalition to drive out the Huthi rebels has sent prices skyrocketing.

Fore said 50 tons of UNICEF-provided medical aid had reached Hodeida last Thursday, aimed to benefit some 250,000 women and children. Some 70 percent of imports to Yemen, where eight million people face imminent famine, flow through the port of Hodeida. "In Hodeida, as in the rest of the country, the need for peace has never been more urgent," Fore said. She called for all parties to the conflict and those with influence to rally behind efforts by the UN envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths to negotiate an end to the fighting in Hodeida and to relaunch peace talks for all of Yemen. —AFP

International

Merkel last-ditch migrant deal faces EU headwinds

Kneissl expresses anger over Vienna not being consulted

BERLIN: An 11th-hour deal clinched by German Chancellor Angela Merkel to rescue her fragile government by limiting migrant arrivals immediately ran into European resistance yesterday, with neighboring Austria vowing to "protect" its borders. In high-stakes crisis talks overnight, Merkel put to rest for now a dangerous row with a longtime rival, Interior Minister Horst Seehofer that had threatened the survival of her shaky 100-day-old coalition.

Looking relieved, Merkel—who has been in power since 2005—hailed a "very good compromise" that would "control" new arrivals of migrants and asylum seekers while upholding EU cooperation and values. However, criticism from Vienna and her junior coalition partners, the Social Democrats (SPD), threatened to throw a spanner in the works. If the agreement reached is approved by the German government as a whole, "we will be obliged to take measures to avoid disadvantages for Austria and its people," Vienna's rightwing government warned.

And it would be "ready to take measures to protect our southern borders in particular," it said referring to the frontiers with Italy and Slovenia. Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl expressed anger Vienna "was not consulted", in remarks quoted by Austrian media. The Austrian reaction raised the specter of a domino effect in Europe, with member states taking increasingly restrictive measures to shut out refugees. "If Austria wants to introduce controls at the border, then that is its right," Italy's far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said. "We will do the same thing and we'll come out ahead because there are more people arriving here."

Internment camps

Under the pact both sides hailed as a victory, Merkel and Seehofer agreed to tighten border controls and set up closed

"transit centers" on the Austrian frontier to allow the speedy processing of asylum seekers and the repatriation of those rejected. They would either be sent back to EU countries that previously registered them or, in case arrival countries reject this, be sent back to Austria, pending a now questionable agreement with Vienna.

CSU general secretary Markus Blume called the hardening policy proposal the last building block "in a turn-around on asylum policy" after a mass influx brought over one million migrants and refugees. The number of new arrivals has fallen dramatically over the last several months. The accord covers about one-quarter of them, with 18,000 already-registered people crossing the Germany border between January and May this year.

But doubts were voiced quickly by other parties and groups, accusing Merkel of turning her back on the welcoming stance she showed toward asylum seekers at the height of the influx in 2015. Refugee support group Pro Asyl slammed what it labeled "detention centers in no-man's land" and charged that German power politics were being played out "on the backs of those in need of protection". Annalena Baerbock of the opposition Greens party spoke of "internment camps", accusing the conservatives of "bidding goodbye to our country's moral compass".

She urged Merkel's other coalition ally, the Social Democrats (SPD), to reject the plan. SPD leader Andrea Nahles said the party still had "significant questions" on the deal. The Social Democrats are to hold joint party meeting with the CDU/CSU bloc at 1600 GMT yesterday. One of the SPD's migration experts, Aziz Bozkurt, was withering, charging that the proposed holding centers would be "impractical and fully on track with the AfD"—the far-right party that has been most outspoken against immigrants.



BERLIN: German Chancellor and leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) Angela Merkel and German Interior Minister and leader of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) Horst Seehofer sit side by side at the start of a CDU/CSU parliamentary group meeting yesterday in the Parliament compound in Berlin. —AFP

Restrictive measures to shut out refugees



Toxic mood

The deal drew a line under Merkel's worst crisis as she faced down an unprecedented mutiny by Seehofer, head of her party's traditional Bavarian allies the CSU. She expressed hope to CDU-CSU deputies Tuesday that "we can return to a calm way of working in other aspects of politics", news agency DPA reported. But top-circulation Bild daily predicted further turbulence ahead. "It's possible that this solution will work," it said. "But it's

certain that the mood in a coalition has never been as toxic as in this one." Judy Dempsey of think-tank Carnegie Europe said Merkel, Europe's longest-serving leader, and the EU were left weakened by the pact in Berlin at a time of bigger global crises. This "couldn't come at a worse time for a European Union that on the one hand is saddled with several populist/nationalist governments and on the other is having its very existence being questioned by US President Donald Trump," she said.—AFP

Haitians apply for Chile's 'humanitarian visa'

SANTIAGO: Haitians living in Chile began a process on Monday that will facilitate the reunification of family members, thanks to a new humanitarian visa. Haitians can apply for the 12-month visa if they already have family living in Chile. The measure was announced in April as Chile looked to grapple with an influx of migrants, mostly from crisis-hit Venezuela and Haiti. It will issue 10,000 such humanitarian visas a year.

Chile has actually tightened the rules for Haitians, canceling a previous tourist visa-on-arrival and imposing a new system that requires Haitians to apply for a 30-day visa in their capital Port-au-Prince. But for those already with family in the South American country, citizens from the Caribbean nation, which makes up a third of the island of Hispaniola, can now benefit from a measure aimed at reuniting children with their parents.

"The importance of this document is to allow children to not be separated from their families, as well as to give them protection, dignity and well-being," said Chancellor Roberto Ampuero, in quotes carried by El Mercurio newspaper. The measures were announced to find a solution to the wave of undocumented foreigners arriving in Chile over the last four years. —AFP

Woman confronts EPA chief at Washington restaurant

WASHINGTON: A woman confronted EPA chief Scott Pruitt at a Washington restaurant and called on him to resign—the latest time an official from President Donald Trump's administration has come under fire while dining out. Kristin Mink posted a video of the encounter with the Environmental Protection Agency administrator on her Facebook page Monday, writing that he "was 3 tables away as I ate lunch with my child. I had to say something."

"This man is directly and significantly harming my child's and every child's health and future with decisions to roll back environmental regulations for the benefit of big corporations, while he uses taxpayer money to fund a lavish lifestyle," wrote Mink, whose Facebook page identifies her as a high school teacher. In the video—which has been viewed more than 100,000 times—she walks up to a seated Pruitt and tells him: "I just wanted to urge you to resign because of what you're doing to the environment and our country."

"We deserve to have somebody at the EPA who actually does protect our environment, somebody who believes in climate change and takes it seriously for the benefit of all of us, including our children," she said, holding her toddler as she spoke. "I would urge you to resign before your scandals push you out," said Mink said, who at times glanced at a piece of paper as if reading notes.

Pruitt, who has come under fire for allegedly using his position to seek employment for his wife and receiving a discount on a condo rental linked to a lobbying firm, did not respond to Mink during the video, and text at the end said that he "fled the restaurant before I got back to my seat." The EPA chief was not the first Trump administration official to face a public backlash at a restaurant. White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders was asked to leave a restaurant in Virginia, while senior White House aide Stephen Miller was branded a "fascist" by an angry patron during a visit to a downtown Mexican eatery. —AFP

Poland's Supreme Court justice vows to defy retirement order

WARSAW: Poland's Supreme Court chief justice was set for a showdown with the EU country's president yesterday, vowing to defy controversial reforms pushed through by the rightwing government forcing top judges to retire early. The European Union on Monday launched legal action against Poland, the latest salvo in a bitter battle over sweeping judicial changes that critics have decried as unconstitutional.

Chief Justice Malgorzata Gersdorf has branded the move a "purge" and vowed to reject any retirement notice that would cut short her constitutionally guaranteed six-year term. She said she is due to meet President Andrzej Duda on Tuesday before the legislation comes into effect at midnight. "What will I do? I won't accept it. I feel I'm the Supreme Court chief justice until 2020," Gersdorf told commercial broadcaster TVN24.

"Tomorrow there will be a purge of the Supreme Court conducted under the guise of retirement reform," she later told law students. Demonstrations in support of Gersdorf and other defiant judges are due to take place on Tuesday and Wednesday around the court's offices in Warsaw. Twenty-seven of the

top court's 73 judges are affected by the reform pushed through by the rightwing Law and Justice (PiS) government that brings down the retirement age from 70 to 65.

Irreparable damage

The government has refused to back down despite the EU action, insisting the changes are needed to tackle corruption and overhaul a judicial system still haunted by the communist era Supreme Court justices last Thursday endorsed Gersdorf's right to keep her post in line with a constitutional provision mandating a six-year term for the chief justice. They also said that any justice who took up their duties before the day the new reform comes into force "should remain in their post until the age of 70, without meeting any additional conditions".

Under the law, the affected judges can ask Duda to prolong their terms but he can accept or deny their requests without giving a reason. Sixteen judges have done so, according to Polish media reports. The European Commission, the bloc's powerful executive arm, said Monday that the changes would undermine judicial independence in Poland, breaching the country's obligations under EU law. Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas said swift action was needed to "avoid irreparable damage to the independence of the Supreme Court". The Commission also said it took the view "that these measures undermine the principle of judicial independence, including the irremovability of judges".

Africa's economic powerhouse and the continent's leading oil producer—was the next logical step. Nigeria, a country home to over 180 million people, produces nearly two million barrels of crude oil per day and is a key economic partner for France.

Security talks

Macron said en route from Mauritania that "regional security and the fight against Boko Haram" would be high on the agenda in talks with Buhari, calling him a "key player". Nine years of violence in the remote northeast has spread across the wider Lake Chad area. As a result, Macron said "the mobilization of African states is fundamental". Nigeria and its French-speaking neighbors Cameroon, Chad and Niger are involved in a joint military force to combat the jihadists, whose violence has killed at least 20,000 people.

Nigeria is currently gripped by a resurgence of violence between nomadic cattle herders and farmers, which has claimed some 1,000 lives since January this year. Amnesty International last week said some 1,813 people have been killed in all types of violence since the start of 2018 — more than double that in the last 12 months alone. That has put former military ruler Buhari, 75, under pressure as he looks towards securing a second term at elections in February next year.

In Nouakchott, Macron held talks with the leaders of the French-backed five-nation military force fighting Al-Qaeda-linked jihadists in the Sahel. Niger and Chad, where France has a sizeable military presence, are part of the "G5 Sahel" group, which has faced a rise in attacks in recent days.



WARSAW: Picture shows Polish Supreme Court Justice Malgorzata Gersdorf in Warsaw. —AFP

Systemic threats

Poland has a month to respond to the commission's formal announcement, the first stage of a procedure that could end up in the European Court of Justice (EJC), the bloc's top tribunal. Deputy foreign minister Konrad Szymanski said Monday the government would respond "in detail" within 30 days and warned that the ECJ would face a "very difficult task". "Its decision will be very important for the EU because it will define the extent to which EU law can interfere in the autonomy of member states in the way

they organize their judicial systems," Szymanski told AFP. "All member states will follow (this case) with a lot of attention because we will be moving into unknown territory." The row comes after the EU launched hearings last week focused on Poland's alleged violation of judicial independence over reforms to both the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court. European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans has been leading discussions with Warsaw to try to find a solution but has said there has been no progress. —AFP

France's Macron in Nigeria to talk security, boost culture

ABUJA: French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday arrived in Abuja for a meeting with his Nigerian counterpart Muhammadu Buhari, in his latest attempt to forge closer ties with English-speaking Africa. Macron's jet touched down in Abuja from Mauritania, where he attended the final day of the African Union summit dominated by security issues in the restive Sahel region. He was met on the tarmac by Nigeria's foreign minister, Geoffrey Onyeama, before the presidential convoy left for Buhari's Aso Rock residence on the edge of the capital.

The 40-year-old former investment banker, who speaks fluent English, spent six months as an intern at the French embassy in the city in the early 2000s. He told reporters travelling with him: "I like Nigeria a lot. It's an appealing country. I've got a lot of memories... that haven't left me." Since coming to power he has made a point of boosting ties with France's former colonies but also improving trade with anglophone countries.

He visited Ghana last year and Nigeria-



ABUJA: Guinea President Alpha Conde, left, meets with French President Emmanuel Macron during a meeting of G5 Sahel 'College de defense du G5 Sahel' CDS meeting in Nouakchott. —AFP

Homage at the Shrine

Yesterday night, Macron heads to Lagos, where the agenda will be less traditionally diplomatic, with a focus more on the megacity of 20 million people's thriving artistic and cultural scene. He was expected to officially launch the African Cultural Season which takes place in France in 2020, at an event showcasing music, fashion and theatre. The choice of location—the Shrine concert venue of Afrobeat legend Fela Kuti—is a surprise for many Nigerians given its association with the anti-establishment musician.

No elected president is believed to have officially visited the spiritual home of the so-called "Black President", which is more synonymous with marijuana smoke and gyrating dancers than diplomatic niceties. Macron revealed he had been to the Shrine before for a concert by Fela Kuti's son, Femi. "It's an incredible, vibrant place." Workers were seen repairing the potholed approaches to the ramshackle venue in preparation for Macron's arrival, as the Lagos state authorities shut down roads as a security precaution. —AFP

Analysis

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The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

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What do we know about the 'plot' to bomb Iran oppn?

Belgium, France and Germany have detained six people over an alleged plot to bomb a weekend rally by exiled Iranian opposition groups in Paris. What do we know about this highly sensitive, murky case?

Who has been arrested?

Federal prosecutors in Brussels first revealed the arrests on Monday afternoon after charging a husband and wife who were described as Belgian nationals of Iranian origin. Aged 38 and 33 and identified by their first names Amir and Nasimeh, they were said to have been planning a bomb attack on Saturday at a conference organized by the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) in a Paris suburb.

Belgian police found 500 grams of TATP, a highly unstable but powerful explosive, as well as a detonator inside their Mercedes car when they were stopped in a leafy residential area of the Belgian capital on Saturday. Separately, German police swooped on an Iranian diplomat based in Vienna who has been named as Assadollah Assadi by Iranian opposition groups, who also claim he has been an intelligence agent in Austria since 2014. The Austrian government called yesterday for Iranian authorities to lift his diplomatic immunity. French police arrested another three people on Saturday, although two of them were released on Monday, French legal sources said.

What was the alleged target?

Thousands of Iranian opposition supporters from all over Europe, many of them bussed in for the event, gathered Saturday at the Paris Convention Centre just north of the French capital for the NCRI's annual meeting. The NCRI is an umbrella group for exiled opposition organizations, including the former rebel People's Mujahedin, which was once considered a terror group by European and American authorities and is banned in Iran.

The People's Mujahedin was formed in the 1960s to overthrow the Shah of Iran and it continues to organize opposition to the current leaders of the Islamic republic who took power following the 1979 revolution. Special guests at this year's conference included former New York mayor and Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani and US Republican firebrand and former House speaker Newt Gingrich, who both urged regime change in Iran. The NCRI immediately pointed the finger at Tehran, saying the regime was behind the alleged plot.

Has Iran been blamed before?

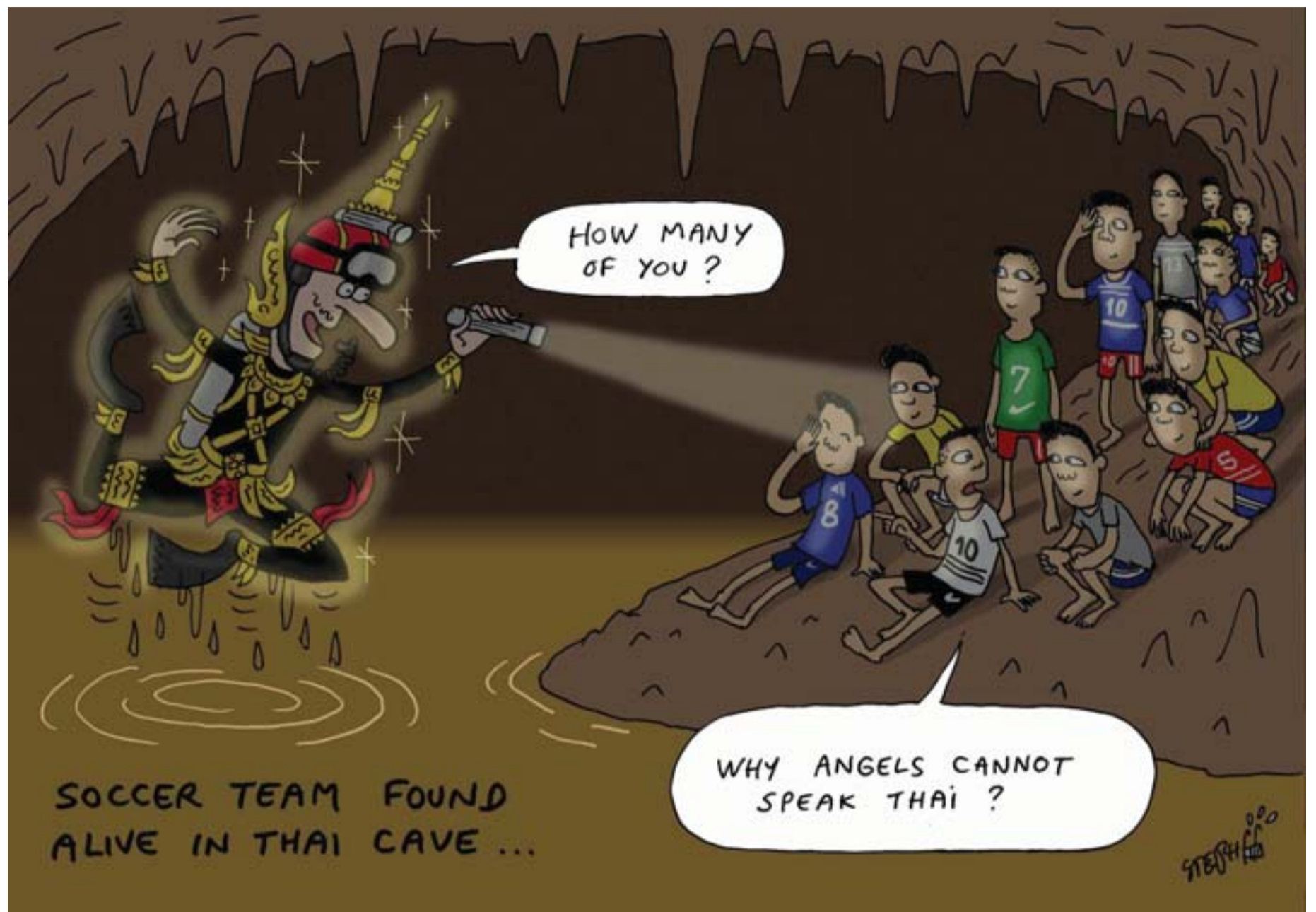
The US considers the country to be world's biggest state sponsor of terrorism because of its links with a host of armed groups, particularly the powerful Hezbollah militia in Lebanon and Hamas in the Palestinian territories, as well as other networks in Iraq and Yemen. Hezbollah has been blamed for a string of attacks on Western targets, particularly American and Jewish ones, and US intelligence services consider that the group acts in step with Iranian intelligence services. Argentinean prosecutors pointed the finger at Iranian officials and Hezbollah over the 1992 bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, in which 29 people were killed. Two years later, an attack on a Jewish community centre in the city left 85 dead. More recently, in 2012, Iranians were identified by Indian authorities as being behind an assassination plot on an Israeli diplomat that saw a hitman attach a magnetic bomb to an embassy car in New Delhi. That incident came shortly after two Iranian men were arrested in Thailand over a suspected plot to attack Israeli diplomats in Bangkok.

Is Tehran behind the plot?

French diplomats and security analysts remain extremely cautious and several of them refused to talk on the record when contacted by AFP because of the extreme sensitivity of the case and the lack of clarity. The timing of the alleged plot is noteworthy it came just as Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was arriving in Europe, hoping to secure continued support for the 2015 nuclear agreement.

The European Union has been a strong backer of the deal, which offers Iran sanctions relief in return for accepting curbs on its nuclear program, despite US President Donald Trump's decision to pull out in May. Evidence that Iran had sought to carry out a bombing on European soil would seriously jeopardize those efforts and make it politically more difficult for leaders such as France's Emmanuel Macron to continue to support the accord. Iran's foreign minister implied that the regime's enemies—notably Israel or the United States—might be behind a "false flag ploy", meaning a deliberate effort to discredit Iran.

"How convenient: Just as we embark on a presidential visit to Europe, an alleged Iranian operation and its 'plotters' arrested," Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted. "Iran unequivocally condemns all violence and terror anywhere, and is ready to work with all concerned to uncover what is a sinister false flag ploy," he said. Investigations in France, Germany and Belgium will perhaps shed light on the real culprits, although the facts may never emerge from the murky world of intelligence operatives and covert operations. — AFP



Thailand cave rescue: What now for the boys?

The rescuers dubbed it "mission impossible" but they defied the odds to locate the 12 boys and their football coach deep in a cave complex. However the hard part may yet be ahead: getting them out safely. Here are a few ways the hungry and weak boys could get out, none easy options.

Could they dive out?

In theory yes; but it is an extremely difficult task. Cave diving is already very risky, especially for young boys in a weakened state who have no diving experience. Tham Luang cave where the boys have been trapped is one of Thailand's longest at 10 kilometers (six miles) and one of the hardest to navigate with its winding and at times narrow corridors.

If they dive, they have no choice but to follow the steps that rescuers took though tiny passageways clogged with mud and silt. That journey takes a healthy—and skilled—Navy SEAL diver about six hours. Officials said they would attempt to train the boys to use crucial diving gear after they are rehabilitated with food, water and medical support. "Cave diving is a very technical skill and it's extremely dangerous, especially for an untrained diver," Anmar Mirza, coordinator of the US National Cave Rescue Commission said. "So they may end up being better off trying to supply them in cave until they can be gotten out by other means."

Could they be dug out?

Explorers have spent days scouring the mountain top for possible alternative openings. They have found a few "promising" leads and have tried to drill deeper. But there is no indication that any of those chimneys connect to the chamber where the boys have been stranded. Again, the boys need to spend time getting stronger in the depths of the cave before they can attempt to climb up a second entry—if one is found—or be lifted out.

What about walking out?

This would be the safest option, but at the moment it is impossible because parts of the route remain flooded. So in theory they could wait, but that means hoping that flood waters subside. Water pumps are working around the clock to drain the floods though it has been an uphill battle for much of the week as heavy rains refused to let up. If the current break in bad weather sticks, this option could

be more promising. But weather forecasters warn downpours may soon return as monsoon season sets in. "If the rain fills up the cave system then that might take months before the water drops again," Belgian diver Ben Reymenants, owner of Blue Label Diving in Thailand who is assisting the search said.

How long could it take?

Hard to say for sure. It depends how long it takes for them to regain strength. Experts say they could remain inside for weeks—or even months—as rescuers work out the safest option for their extraction. The military said yesterday it was preparing enough food for four months but did not speculate they could be in there that long.

Are the boys in the right mindset?

They clearly want to leave. In footage that emerged late Monday one asks to "go outside." One of the diver replies "I know, I understand... no, not today." Even if they are physically fit enough to dive, they will need the mental prowess to stay calm in the murky waters and claustrophobic passageways that stand between them and freedom. Fortunately, they seem in pretty good shape, considering. "They're mentally stable which is actually pretty good," Reymenants said. "Luckily the coach had the sanity of mind to keep them all together, huddled together to conserve their energy, that basically saved them." — AFP



MAEE SAEI, Thailand: A family member shows a picture believed to be four of the 12 missing boys after hearing the news the group was found, near the Tham Luang cave at the Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park. — AFP

US Democrats make abortion the focus of Supreme Court fight

Access to abortion and health care will be at the heart of the looming battle over the appointment of a new Supreme Court justice, with all eyes on a handful of senators with the power to endorse or block President Donald Trump's choice. Democrats are hoping to prevent Trump from tilting the court to the hard right by tapping an ultra-conservative to replace Justice Anthony Kennedy, the tie-breaking vote between the liberals and conservatives on the nine-seat bench who retires at the end of July.

At stake, they argue, is the landmark 1973 Roe v Wade ruling that enshrined women's legal right to abortion at the national level. "President Trump's own words tell us that his nominee to the Court will almost certainly vote to overturn Roe v Wade and eviscerate affordable access to health care for millions of Americans," senior Democrat Senator Chuck Schumer wrote in a New York Times op-ed Monday, laying down the party's strategy for the coming fight.

The moderate Kennedy, 81, for years kept the powerful court from moving decisively into a conservative bias favored by Republicans. His announced retirement has thrown that balance into question. Trump said last week that Kennedy's successor—who like all Supreme Court justices will be appointed for life—would be nominated from among a list of 25 candidates endorsed by the stridently conservative Heritage Foundation and Federalist Society.

The president is set to announce his choice on July 9. He has reportedly interviewed four candidates so far.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said that although Trump opposes abortion, he is not pressing the candidates on their views of specific cases. "He's looking for individuals that have the right intellect, the right temperament and uphold the Constitution," she said. "The president is pro-life, but in terms of the process of selecting a Supreme Court nominee... he won't discuss specific cases with those nominees."

The White House is aiming to have the nominee approved by the Senate in October, ahead of the November midterm elections, in which Democrats hope to seize control of one or both houses of Congress. The Senate is closely divided — 51 Republicans to 49 Democrats. With Republican Senator John McCain battling severe cancer and unlikely to vote, the Democrats could defeat a Trump nominee if they stay united and pull one moderate Republican senator over to their side. One of them, Susan Collins, has already signaled the possibility she could oppose a conservative nominee.

'Established decisions'

Collins said Sunday she had asked Trump to broaden the search. She said she wants a justice who would show a strong respect for precedent—for cases already settled by the court. "I would not support a nominee who demonstrated hostility to Roe v Wade because that would mean to me their judicial philosophy did not include a respect for established decisions, established law," she told CNN. Another Republican, Lisa Murkowski, is also believed to be on the fence.

However, three Democrats facing re-election battles in November in states where opposition to abortion is relatively high—Heidi Heitkamp, Joe Manchin and Joe Donnelly—are being wooed by Trump, and met him in the White House on Thursday. All three voted in support of Trump's previous pick for the court, conservative Neil Gorsuch, who was approved in April 2017. "I stressed the importance of nominating someone to the Supreme Court

who is pragmatic, fair, compassionate, committed to justice and above politics—traits that match Justice Kennedy," Heitkamp said after the meeting.

The Democratic strategy is to give each of the three cover by also making the nomination about protecting health care—the court has the power to weigh in on the extent and coverage of health care insurance. The presumption is that most if not all of the candidates on Trump's list would favor overturning Roe v. Wade, thus ending federally guaranteed abortion rights, if a case arose on the issue. That would please Evangelical Christian voters who comprise an important part of Trump's support base. Yet according to a poll by the health-oriented Kaiser Family Foundation, some two thirds of Americans don't want Roe v. Wade reversed. — AFP



WASHINGTON: Abortion rights activists hold placards outside of the US Supreme Court ahead of an expected ruling on abortion clinic restrictions in Washington, DC. — AFP

Business

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RAMTHA: A vendor works at a shop in the Jordanian town of Ramtha near the border with Syria. —AFP

Jordanians hope Syria gains revive trade

'The markets will be inundated once more'

RAMTHA: At the market in the Jordanian town of Ramtha hope is rising that the Syrian regime's territorial gains just across the border might help bring business back to life. Since war broke out in Syria more than seven years ago, the steady flow of goods coming across the frontier has dried up-coming to a complete halt when it was closed in 2015.

Those years of conflict have dealt a major blow to the economy of Jordan-dependent in large part on trade with its neighbor-and along the border the disruption has had a crippling impact. Now an offensive by Syrian regime forces is seeing President Bashar Al-Assad claw back territory in the southern frontier province of Daraa. And-despite once backing the uprising against his regime-stallholders and market traders in Ramtha say they are banking on the Syrian government to reclaim control and reopen the vital border.

"To begin with we supported the Syrians who wanted freedom," said Nasr Makhadmeh, a shop owner in his fifties. "But we want to see the Syrian army retake all of Daraa province." If the frontier opens and the stream of merchandise starts again then Makhadmeh says he is sure business will begin booming.

"The days of prosperity will return," he said. "The markets will be inundated once more."

Shops, taxis, families

The importance to Jordan of trade with Syria is underlined by the president of Ramtha's chamber of commerce, Abdelsalam Thiabat. "It used to bring hundreds of millions of dollars into the state coffers," he said. "More than 4,000 stalls (in Ramtha) depended on Syrian merchandise. And more than 2,000 families lived off the revenues of the roughly 2,000 taxis or vehicles that carried the goods across the border daily," Thiabat said.

"If the Syrian state retakes control of the border and the crossing points then it will relaunch the economy of Ramtha in particular and Jordan in general."

Overland trade between the two countries was worth more than \$615 million in 2010 but started falling after the conflict broke out and ground to a halt when the border was shut. The goods that used to flow from the north have been replaced by products from China.

Food, clothing, fabrics and household items from thousands of kilometers away fill the shelves of some dozen shops in the historic market building. But nonetheless the Chinese imports are no real substitute to fill the gaps left behind. "The market is dead," lamented 32-year-old baker Asser.

Return of refugees

The Syrian conflict has taken a heavy political and economic toll on Jordan, a resource-poor desert kingdom that is almost entirely landlocked. The regional turbulence sparked by the Arab Spring uprisings and the closure of the border with conflict-hit Iraq-another major trading partner — dealt further blows.

Jordan's economy grew by less than two percent in 2017, compared with more than six percent annually in the five years before the war. King Abdullah II may have once called for Assad to go and supported rebels fighting the regime, but his priority has always been to see the turmoil die down. As the war has torn Syria apart, hundreds of thousands of refugees have sought refuge over the border-adding another

major strain on Amman's coffers.

And as Jordan struggles with an economic crisis, experts say it is clear its authorities now want stability and a functioning economy on its northern flank-even if it is under Assad's rule. "It is 100-percent sure that Jordan prefers the Syrian army to retake control of the border and the crossing points and for them to be reopened," said Oreib Rentawi, director of the Al-Quds Centre for Political Studies in Amman.

The onslaught by Assad's forces in Daraa since June 19 has displaced more than 270,000 people in yet another wave of humanity. Jordan has refused to let the tens of thousands of displaced camped along its border into the country, arguing it cannot cope with any more arrivals. Instead it seems that the authorities are hoping an Assad win will resolve the situation across the frontier-and help solve some of Jordan's problems too. "One of the main causes for the economic crisis in Jordan has been the closure of the border with Syria," said Ahmad Awad, director of Jordanian economic research centre Phenix. Opening the border "will facilitate the return of Syrian refugees". —AFP

In refrigerated ATMs, camel milk business thriving in Kenya

WAJIR: Halima Sheikh Ali is the proud owner of one of the few ATMs in Wajir town in northeast Kenya. But rather than doling out shilling notes, it dispenses something tastier: a fresh pint of camel milk. "For 100 Kenyan shillings (Sh1), you get one litre of the freshest milk in Wajir County," she says, opening a vending machine advertising "fresh, hygienic and affordable camel milk" in order to check the liquid's temperature.

One of the world's biggest camel producers, East Africa also produces much of the world's camel milk, almost all of it consumed domestically. In the northeast Kenyan county of Wajir, demand is booming among local people, who say it is healthier and more nutritious than cow's milk. "Camel milk is everything," said Noor Abdullahi, a project officer for U.S.-based aid agency Mercy Corps. "It is good for diabetes, blood pressure and indigestion."

But temperatures averaging 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in the dry season, combined with the risk of dirty collection containers, mean the liquid can go sour in a matter of hours, he added, making it much harder to sell. To remedy this, an initiative is equipping about 50 women in Hadado, a village 80km from Wajir, with refrigerators to cool the milk that remote camel herders send them via tuk-tuk taxi, plus a van to transport it daily to Wajir.

There a dozen women milk traders, including Sheikh Ali, sell it through

four ATM-like vending machines, after receiving training on business skills such as accounting. "The (milk) supply and demand are there. We just have to make it easier for the milk to get from one point to another," said Abdullahi. The project, which is part of the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) program, is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and led by Mercy Corps.

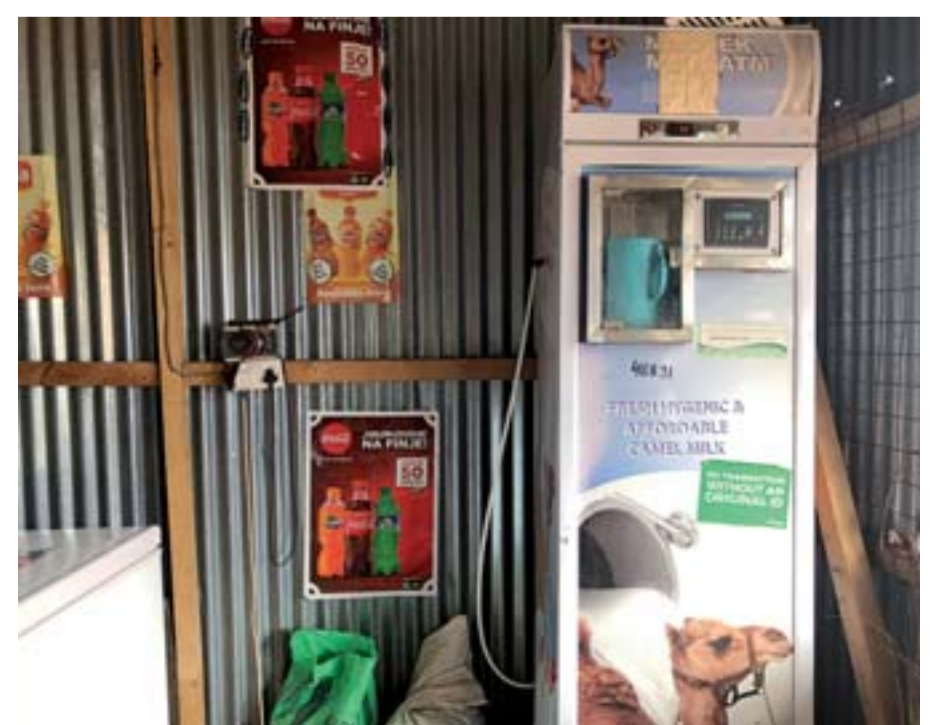
Fresh and lucrative

Asha Abdi, a milk trader in Hadado who operates one of the refrigerators with 11 other women, said she used to have to boil camel's milk - using costly and smoky firewood - to prevent it turning sour. "I spent 100 shillings (Sh1) a day on firewood, and the milk would often go bad by the time it got to Wajir as the (public) transport took over three hours," she said.

Now Abdi and the other women in her group send about 500 liters of fresh milk to Wajir every day - a trip that takes just over an hour by van. They then reinvest the profits in other ventures. "With the milk money I bought 20 goats," said Abdi as she rearranged bags of sugar in her crowded kiosk. "But my dream would be to export the camel milk to the United States," she added. "I hear it's like gold over there."

Drought-safe investment

Amid hundreds of camels roaming stretches of orange dirt outside of Hadado, Gedi Mohammed sits under the shade of a small acacia tree. "The (tuk-tuk) drivers should be here soon to buy my camel milk," he said, sipping the precious liquid from a large wooden bowl. In Kenya's largely pastoralist Wajir County, prolonged drought is pushing growing numbers of the region's nomadic herders to see camels - and their milk - as a drought-safe investment. —Reuters



WAJIR: Photo shows a camel milk ATM in Wajir, northeastern Kenya. —Reuters

Business

KAMCO Markets Report

MSCI's Saudi Arabia nod and Kuwait 2019 boost markets

KUWAIT: MSCI upgraded Saudi Arabia to Emerging Market status in its annual classification review, which drove the TASI higher (+1.9%) in June-18. There were more positives from MSCI's review, as the index compiler placed Kuwait in its 2019 Annual Market Classification Review for a potential upgrade to Emerging Market status. Boursa Kuwait was amongst the best performing markets in the GCC during June-18, as a result. In addition, most of the GCC markets stayed positive, with the aggregate GCC index up more than 1% for the month.

In terms of IH-18 performance, the GCC markets were split with Saudi Arabia topping the chart with a benchmark growth of 15.1%, followed by Kuwait at 7.1% (Thomson Reuters Kuwait Total Return Index), while Dubai (-16.3%) was the main laggard, followed by Oman (-10.3%). In terms of sector performance, large-cap sectors including Banks, Materials and Telecoms recorded low single digit returns during June-18, while Diversified Financials and Consumer sectors underperformed during the month. For IH-18, banks provided a big boost to the overall markets with more than 20% aggregate returns followed by Materials and Telecom sectors, in the large-cap sectors category. On the other hand, the Real Estate sector, particularly in Dubai, remained the biggest drag for the markets followed by Insurance, Consumer and Diversified Financials sectors.

Events on the international front were mostly negative for the markets, including the escalating trade war between US and its trading partners, primarily China. As a result, a number of Asian markets were hovering at multi-month lows. In addition, the sanctions on Iran has split the OECD allies but is expected to be deepened by the end of the year. Although this comes as positive for oil prices, in addition to supply disruptions in Libya, Canada and Venezuela, the impact on international trade and investor sentiments have taken a significant hit affecting international investments.

Boursa Kuwait

The MSCI decision to include Kuwait in its next annual classification review for an upgrade to Emerging Markets status came as a big boost for the market pushing all indices up in the green during June-18 making Boursa Kuwait the second-best performing market in the GCC during the month. The announcement came as a result of a number of reforms announced by the regulatory body in Kuwait over the past few months. Based on the timelines, the earliest Boursa Kuwait would be included in the Emerging Market Index would be by May-2020.

In addition to flow of passive funds, the announcement could also lead to higher allocation of institutional equities in key fundamental large-cap stocks listed on Boursa Kuwait. As a result, large-cap stocks were key beneficiaries with the Premier Market index up 4.6% during the month after posting two consecutive months of decline. The All Share Index recorded a slightly lower return of 3.3% while the Main market index was up 1% during the month. In terms of YTD-18 performance, the Thomson Reuters Kuwait Total Return Index was up 7.1%, making it the second-best performing market in the GCC. The index was up 4.2% during June-18.

The monthly sector performance chart also reflected the positive investor sentiment during the month with almost all the sectors closing in the green. The Telecom index recorded the best monthly performance with a return of 11.2% after shares of Zain went up 16% during the month followed by 2.3% and 0.4% returns for Ooredoo and Viva. Shares of Zain Kuwait was up consistently since the start of the month with only a few trading sessions closing in the red. A news that Zain KSA has refinanced USD 1.5 Bn of loan also provided support to the stock. The Technology index recorded the second-best monthly performance with a gain of 8.3% followed by 3.3% gains for the Banking index and 2.5% for the Industrials index. In the Banking sector, shares of most of the Kuwaiti banks recorded healthy gains during the month with the exception of Gulf Bank (-9.2%) and Warba Bank (-8.9%).

Saudi Arabia (Tadawul)

Saudi Arabia's TASI reported a mildly positive response to the much-anticipated announcement of the MSCI upgrade as much of the news was already factored in the prices. The benchmark has been gaining since the start of the year build-

up to the MSCI upgrade and was up 1.9% during June-18. Consequently, TASI recorded the best IH-18 performance in the GCC with a return of 15.1%. The landmark upgrade would make Saudi Arabia share a part of almost USD 1.9 Trillion in assets benchmarked to the MSCI's Emerging Market Index resulting in additional investments from international fund managers.

According to consensus estimates, the Saudi stock market could see potential inflows of active and passive investments of almost USD 40 Bn. The Kingdom will have a weightage of 2.6% in the MSCI Emerging Market Index with 32 securities and would follow a two-step inclusion process in May-19 and August-19. The upgrade would also pave the way for an IPO of Aramco that has been delayed several times over the past few months. In addition, a number of ETFs tracking the Saudi market are expected to be launched by international fund managers.

The monthly sector performance chart also reflected the positive tone in the market with most of the sectors recording a gain during the month. The Energy index topped the chart with a return of 7.2% followed by the Commercial & Professional Service index and the Media index with monthly returns of 5.9% and 5.3%, respectively. All the four stocks in the Energy index were in the green with SARCO recording a gain of 11.2% followed by 8.6% and 7.2% gains for Petro Rabigh and Bahri, respectively. The Banking index was up 3.1% during the month with most of the banks recording gains during the month. Shares of Samba was up the most by 12.1% followed by 9.9% return for Al Riyad Bank while NCB posted a return of 3.4% for the month.

Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

The ADX index declined by 1.0% for in June-18 and closed at 4560.03 points. Market breadth was skewed towards losers, and sectoral performance included more decliners than gainers. The Energy sector was the worst performing index during June-18, as the index closed lower by 4.7% m-o-m, as all stocks in the sector declined.

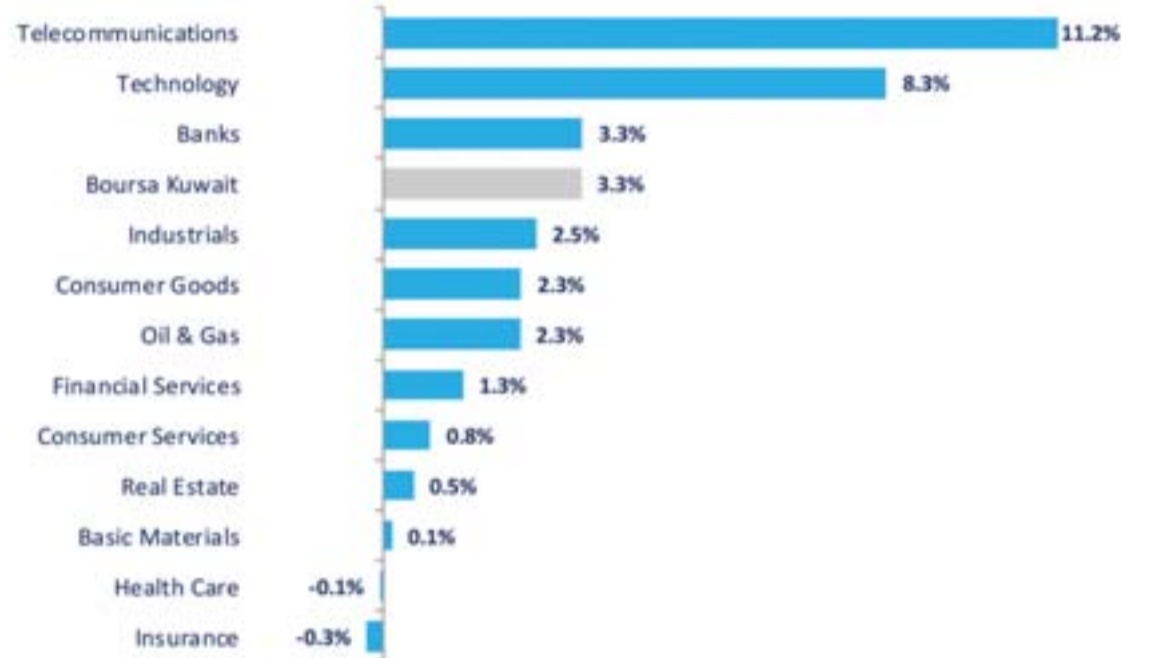
The Real Estate followed with declines of 3.3% m-o-m, as all property stocks saw lower levels as compared to the previous month. Aldar Properties declined by 1.5% m-o-m, while Eshraq Properties was the major decliner as its stock plunged by 17.8% m-o-m. Banks were also down, albeit marginally by 0.8%, as bellwether First Abu Dhabi Bank declined by 1.2% m-o-m. The Insurance and Industrials were the only sectors which saw higher levels in June-18, as they improved by 1.8% and 1.2% m-o-m respectively. Telecoms also declined, albeit marginally as Etisalat declined by 0.3%, and contributed to a similar percentage in the sectoral index.

In ratings action, S&P has affirmed its ratings (AA/A-1+), and stable outlook for Abu Dhabi, owing to the emirate's net asset position that provides a buffer to counteract the impact of oil price swings on economic growth, government revenues and the external account. The agency reportedly forecasts a return to economic growth for the emirate in 2018, thanks to higher oil prices and government spending.

Furthermore, Abu Dhabi unveiled a three-year AED 50 Bn stimulus package to boost the economy, and includes 10 initiatives that aim to stimulate growth and create at least 10,000 jobs for Emiratis in the public and private sectors. Dana Gas announced the consensual restructuring of its USD 700 Mn Sukuk al-Mudarabah. The announced consent was for the restructuring terms from 90.9% of the 9% Ordinary Sukuk certificate holders and 96.4% of the 7% Exchangeable Sukuk certificate holders. Real estate developer Manazel Real Estate announced that Capital Mall has added PAN Emirates Home Furnishings to its portfolio of anchor tenants. Pan Emirates' new store will be spread across 4,350 sqm, representing 7% Gross Leasable Area (GLA) of Capital Mall's retail space on the 1st floor. Capital Mall with a total of 60,000 sqm of GLA, is on track to offer more than 200 retail, service and entertainment brands. Capital Mall leasing is reportedly progressing on target and is expected to soon exceed 70%.

Trading activity during the month witnessed a steep m-o-m decline for the second consecutive month owing to the month of Ramadan as well as the Eid Holidays. Total monthly volume traded on the exchange declined by 47.8% to 1.9 Bn

Boursa Kuwait Monthly Sector Performance



Source: Kuwait Stock Exchange, KAMCO Research



shares as compared to 3.7 bn shares during May-18. Total value traded during the month also declined at a slightly lower pace of 44.7% to reach SAR 46.4 Bn as compared to SAR 83.9 Bn during the previous month. Dar Al Arkan Real Estate once again topped the monthly volumes chart with 436.9 Mn shares traded during the month followed by Alinma Bank and Saudi Kayan recording 283.9 Mn and 132.6 Mn traded shares, respectively. In terms of the value of shares traded, SABIC once again topped the list with SAR 7.0 Bn worth of shares changing hands in June-18 followed by Alinma Bank and Dar Al Arkan Real Estate recording trades worth SAR 6.1 Bn and SAR 4.8 Bn, respectively.

Dubai Financial Market

After declining by 3.3% in May-18, the DFM index continued to decline in the month of June-18, and was the worst performing index in the region. The index declined by 4.8% m-o-m and closed at 2821 points, as most sectoral indices barring Industrials and Telecoms closed lower during June-18. Consumer Staples was the main laggard yet again, similar to trends witnessed multiple times in 2018. The index further plunged by 19.2% m-o-m in June-18, and has almost halved since the start of 2018 (-47.9%). DXB Entertainment single-handedly led to the decline in June-18, as the stock plunged by 19.2% m-o-m. Financial and Investment Services companies also declined by 8.2% m-o-m, as Dubai Investment and DFM stock declined by 7.7% and 10.7%, and led to the sectoral decline. Index constituent GGICO announced the approval of the capital reduction of the company's share

capital from AED 1,791,333,333 to AED 586,746,298, and the designated date of 15 July 2018.

The Real Estate and Telecom indices also declined each by 5.7% m-o-m. DSI and Damac Properties were the major laggards in the sector, as they plunged by 35% and 14.2% respectively. Arabtec announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, EFECO has been awarded the MEP works of the Creek Horizon Plot 19 in Emaar's Dubai Creek Harbor Development by the main contractor AFC, and mentioned that the project value was AED 117 Mn. Moody's reportedly mentioned that the recent capital increase of Dubai Islamic Bank is credit positive for the bank, as it replenishes reserves and enhances its loss-absorption buffers after high growth during 2013-17. It also mentioned that it will also improve the bank's liquidity.

Moody's reportedly expects Dubai Islamic Bank's credit growth to be 10% -15% in 2018, and mentioned that credit growth along with the capital increase will contribute to strong and stable capital buffers over the next 12-18 months. In ratings action, Fitch Ratings has affirmed UAE-based Commercial Bank of Dubai's Long-Term Issuer Default Rating at 'A-' with a Stable Outlook. Fitch Ratings also affirmed Mashreqbank PSC's Long-Term Issuer Default Rating at 'A'. Fitch's view for both banks reportedly factors in the sovereign's strong ability to support the banking system, sovereign wealth funds strength and the on-going revenues mostly from hydrocarbon production, despite lower oil prices, and the moderate size of the UAE banking sector relative to the country's GDP.

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Business

Air Arabia takes delivery of 2 new Airbus A320 aircraft

SHARJAH: Air Arabia, the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier (LCC), announced it has taken two new Airbus A320 aircraft deliveries bringing its total operating fleet to 53 aircraft. The latest Airbus A320 arrived on schedule from the Airbus facility in Toulouse, France, marking the completion of all deliveries this year.

Adel Al Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer, Air Arabia, said: "The delivery of our last two aircraft for 2018 marks a significant step in the development of our fleet expansion strategy especially as we added 12 new routes this year. We are proud to have created one of the industry's most modern fleet through exceptional organic growth which helped us offer customers a wider range of destinations at great value."

The new A320 aircraft have gone straight into service across Air Arabia's over 150 destination network served from the main carrier hubs in the UAE, Morocco and Egypt. The airline added 12 new routes from its hubs in the UAE, Morocco and Egypt in the first half of 2018. The

A320 family is the world's best-selling and most modern single-aisle aircraft family. All Air Arabia aircraft cabin interiors are fitted with a world-class comfort seats offering one of the highest seat pitch of any economy cabin across the globe and therefore, offering passengers extra leg room to sit back and relax during their flight.

The next delivery will be Air Arabia's first A321neo LR to join the fleet early next year. Adding the A321 to the fleet will enable the low-cost carrier to extend its fleet reach and therefore enter new markets as well as better serve existing high-density routes.

Air Arabia (PJSC), listed on the Dubai Financial Market, is the Middle East and North Africa's leading low-cost carrier (LCC). Air Arabia commenced operations in October 2003 and currently operates a fleet of 53 new Airbus A320 aircraft, serving over 150 routes from four hubs in the UAE (SHJ & RKT), Morocco and Egypt. Air Arabia is an award-winning airline that focuses on offering comfort, reliability and value-for-money air travel.



AI camera in HUAWEI P20 Pro captures the best night photos

KUWAIT: When you are on one of your midnight fast food runs with your friends, you better not forget your house keys, nor your HUAWEI P20 Pro. A camera which works like a literal pupil, shifting with different exposures, the HUAWEI P20 Pro's lens adapt to every landscape, in attempts to capture the most idyllic of shots. We tested out the HUAWEI P20 Pro's camera at night, and it's safe to say that the sought-after smartphone is a clear winner in our eyes.

The issue of tackling night time shots has plagued the minds of smartphone manufacturers for long, and it has been the root cause of pixelated, greyish night-time imagery. But worries be gone! The HUAWEI P20 Pro eliminates all the challenges about night time photography and crystalizes all the elements which makes night shots beautiful. When you try to decipher what tricks the phone might hold, you will find the revolutionary AI powered camera that can effortlessly make you a professional photographer.

The smartphone intelligently recognizes different scenes and objects, switching from various modes with AI integration, and once it is identified, Huawei P20 Pro does the trick for you. Whether you are shooting a blue sky, a beach, a dog or a person, the smartphone adjusts for the best lighting effects. The no hassle approach denotes to quality photographs without stress of adjusting different ratios on manual mode, enabling users to click away impeccable photographs instantaneously.

Using three different cameras, the HUAWEI P20 Pro produces sharp shots which are also true to real life, natural colours. The incredible photography that the smartphone produces allows it to be in

a league of its own. We could clearly understand that this camera not only pioneers in quality photography, that it has also solved age old troubles of low light and night time photography. We could see microscopic details through the lens of the camera, shadows, details from buildings and even the night sky seemed more vibrant and natural, almost mimicking professional photography.

Another striking feature of the HUAWEI P20 Pro is how it uses Huawei AIS (AI Image Stabilization) technology that allows you to capture steady, clear and detailed video footage of scenes like a moving vehicle, ensuring you never miss capturing a moment or taking incredible long exposure images without a tripod.

As we shot using the night mode for a majority of the time, we could notice the details that other smartphones struggle to capture, the crispness of shadows, the framing of windows and the sharp glow of neon lights. The 40MP sensor on the HUAWEI P20 Pro brought all these details to life in our photographs to give some of the most vibrant, clear and detailed shots taken in settings with low light at night.

It is the AI master functionality that helps the HUAWEI P20 Pro automatically draw a grid giving you the best angle and proportions to capture that right moment at the best shot. Imagine a night shoot on a busy road, passing cars flicker with their lights on and off, the HUAWEI P20 Pro will be able to gain an overall understanding of the frame to produce the right image. The HUAWEI P20 Pro, is truly a pro when it comes to night time photography, making us want to go out on a night tour around the city to capture vibrant, detailed and incredibly beautiful images.



Homoola launches road freight load-matching in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: Homoola yesterday announced the formal launch of its digital load-matching service in Saudi Arabia, where it will bring new efficiency to road freight by using technology to pair shippers and trucking companies. Homoola's load-matching technology addresses the pain points felt by both shippers and carriers. It gives shippers access to capacity at times of peak demand and allows them to optimize the efficiency of their shipments at other times. Homoola prevents carriers from driving empty miles or sitting idle waiting for cargo. Agility is a key investor in Homoola.

Ziyad Al Homaid, Homoola co-founder and CEO said, "Homoola's goal is to build a platform matching multiple carriers and drivers, based on cost, quality of service and terms of payment." Homoola has been operating in Saudi Arabia since January. Its platform gives trucking companies, including smaller carriers, access to a larger pool of customers and allows them to make more efficient use of their fleets. Shippers can select from among multiple trucking options that meet their standards for quality and consistency.

The development of Homoola is consistent with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 economic objectives. Among the goals outlined as part of Vision 2030, the Saudi government seeks to diversify the economy, grow the private sector, create new jobs, improve its competitiveness, become a logistics leader, increase non-

oil exports, and draw foreign investment.

"Homoola allows logistics and trade to be conducted more efficiently and effectively - in keeping with the Kingdom's 2030 vision," Al Homaid said. Asim Al Rajhi, Homoola co-founder and COO, said: "The surge of transactions delivered to customers over the past few months reflects the market's demand for Homoola. Our customers are telling us that they like the real-time and accurate updates on pricing, and also the ability to track their goods at all times."

Agility Ventures, the corporate venture arm of global logistics giant Agility, is a key investor in Homoola and has worked closely with the Homoola team on the platform's development and operational launch. Agility Ventures partners with promising startups that are championing technologies that can help build faster, more secure and more sustainable supply chains. Agility Ventures has invested in digital start-ups that bring new efficiency to e-commerce fulfillment and last-mile delivery for businesses and consumers.

Henadi Al-Saleh, Chairperson of Agility and Head of Agility Ventures, said: "Customer expectations and demands are constantly changing, as are their operating models. Homoola will offer a real-time view of fleets, as well as insights into market supply and demand in the region. Agility will continue to innovate in partnership with startups like Homoola."

Euro, Aussie gain as China signals a steady FX hand

LONDON: The euro and the Australian dollar led broad gains in currencies yesterday after the Chinese central bank moved to calm nervous foreign exchange markets following a fall in the renminbi below a key psychological level. In a statement on the People Bank of China's website, Governor Yi Gang said the central bank was closely watching fluctuations in the foreign exchange market and would seek to keep the yuan at a stable and reasonable level.

Protracted weakness in the Chinese currency raises the prospects of capital outflows and a slowdown in the world's second-biggest economy, creating a new source of concern for currency markets grappling with rising threats to global trade. The central bank's comments snapped a 10-day losing streak in the value of the renminbi which has seen it lose nearly 4 percent against a trade-weighted basket and nearly 4.5 percent against the dollar over that period.

The weakness sent shock waves through global markets on concerns Beijing may be engineering another devaluation of its currency in a growing trade dispute with the United States. "Though today's moves by Beijing has restored some calm in markets, the broader picture still remains worrisome and unless we see a marked weakening in U.S. data, the broader trend of yuan weakness seems in place," said Georgette Boele, a senior currency strategist at ABN Amro Bank in Netherlands. The yuan fell to 6.7204 per dollar, its weakest since Aug 7, 2017, before recovering to trade at 6.6466 per dollar. The Australian dollar extended gains and rose 0.74 percent on the day at 0.7384 per dollar, while the euro rose 0.4 percent to an intraday high of \$1.1673 before trimming some gains.

US DATA

The dollar weakened against a basket of rival currencies after notching up three consecutive months of gains as investors wait for minutes of the U.S. Federal Reserve's June meeting and jobs data that should confirm whether policymakers will raise interest rates twice this year.

The Fed will release minutes of its June meeting on Thursday, and investors will parse the data and the statements to gauge whether it is still on track to raise interest rates twice more this year. Monthly payrolls data follow on Friday. The euro was supported after Germany's coalition settled a row over migration that had threatened to topple Chancellor Angela Merkel's government. The single currency was 0.1 percent higher at \$1.1650.

Despite the trade tensions overwhelming the markets, analysts remain bullish on the dollar in the near term, citing that an escalation in trade protectionism in non-US countries where economic growth is spluttering. "Normalisation of market volatility broadly supports the dollar against its major rivals except the yen, reinforcing the pattern we expect under a scenario of increased trade protectionism," Bank of America Merrill Lynch strategists. They expect euro-dollar to fall to \$1.14 by end-2018.

Valuations also remain supportive, with the dollar's trade-weighted basket still below long-term averages. Elsewhere, the Swedish crown extended gains against the dollar and the euro after the central bank reiterated that it would raise repo rates towards the end of the year. The crown rose 1.5 percent against the dollar and 1.2 percent against the euro at 8.85 crowns per dollar and 10.31 crowns per euro respectively. — Reuters

Al Sayer names winners of second raffle draw

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Co (MNSS) Group Spare Parts Division, a subsidiary of AL SAYER Holding, held the second electronic raffle draw to select the winners of Toyota Genuine Parts special promotion on Sunday 24 June 2018 at the Ministry premises. Names of the winners of iPhone x 64 GB from the second raffle are as follows:

Names of Winners

First Prize	MeshalRabeh Matar
Second Prize	Modhy Khaled Talb Al Ajmi
Third Prize	Naser Al Othaiby
Fourth Prize	Majed Hameed AlAjraj

The special promotion from Toyota Genuine Spare Parts commenced on 16 April will continue till 15 July 2018 to feature the final draw on 24 July including the Grand Prize Draw for an all-new 2018 Toyota Camry. For every KD 5 spent on Toyota Genuine Parts at any ALSAYER Parts outlet or Service facility, customers will be eligible to participate in the upcoming two raffles on 4 iPhone X mobiles per draw, plus a chance for all customers to win the Grand Prize.

Mohamed Naser Al Sayer continues to guarantee highest level of customer satisfaction through quality assured genuine products at fair competitive prices. Al-Sayer Toyota Genuine Spare Parts operates 17 exclusive outlets across Kuwait to offer an enhanced customer experience through better accessibility and convenience. All the winners can collect their prizes from Group Marketing Department located at Toyota New Cars Delivery Center in Ardiyab presenting the official letter from Ministry.



CBK launches online ID updating service

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) launched the Civil ID updating service online to ease contact with the clients to process all requirements that enable them to get the bank's services. Director General of Personal Banking Services Hameed Salman said "we seek the best technical methods, and employ modern technology to provide flexible services for our clients at all time". He said the service allows the client to send his new Civil ID and follow the process with easy steps, so the bank can update its information, adding that this spares bank clients from having to go the branch to update their data.



Hameed Salman

Health

The tow-an-iceberg plan floated to ease Cape Town drought

CAPE TOWN: It is a plan as crazy as the situation is desperate-towing an iceberg from Antarctica to Cape Town to supply fresh water to a city in the grip of drought.

Earlier this year, Cape Town came within weeks of shutting off all its taps and forcing residents to queue for water rations at public standpipes. The cut-off was narrowly averted as people scrambled to reduce their water usage and Autumn rains saved the day. But the threat is expected to return to the coastal South African city again next year and beyond.

"The idea sounds crazy," admits maverick salvage expert Nick Sloane, the brains behind the tow-an-iceberg scheme. "But if you look at the fine details, it is not so crazy." Sloane suggests wrapping the iceberg in a textile insulation skirt to stop it melting and using a supertanker and two tugboats to drag it 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) towards Cape Town using prevailing ocean currents. The iceberg, carefully selected by drones and radiography scans, would be about one kilometer in length, 500 meters across and up to 250 meters deep, with a flat, tabletop surface. Melted water could be gathered each day using collection

channels and a milling machine to create ice slurry-producing 150 million liters of usable water every day for a year.

'Purest freshwater on earth'

Sloane's idea might be dismissed as mere fantasy. But the 56-year-old South African has a reputation for taking on the impossible after he re-floated the giant Costa Concordia cruise ship that capsized in 2012 off the Tuscan island of Giglio, killing 32 people-one of the world's largest and most complex maritime salvage operations.

"Icebergs are made of the purest freshwater on earth," the founder of Sloane Marine Ltd said earnestly. "Thousands break off every year. Mother Nature has been teasing mankind with this for a long time, saying 'this is here'." He estimates it would cost \$100 million (\$6 million euros) to haul an iceberg on a journey that could take up to three months, and another \$50-60 million to harvest the water for one year as it melts. "In Russia, they have pushed (icebergs) away from oil installations but small ones, they are about half-a-million tons. (Here) we are talking about 100 million tons," said Sloane.

'Weighing up options'

To tackle the drought, Cape Town has enacted measures ranging from building seawater desalination plants to issuing strict instructions to only flush toilets when necessary. But whether Cape Town authorities will be persuaded to embrace the iceberg project is unclear.

"At this stage it appears to us that in fact the groundwater or desalination options are cheaper or at least equal cost price," said Cape Town's deputy mayor, Ian Neilson. There are also questions on how the water from the iceberg will be channeled into the city's distribution system. Another problem is that there is no guarantee that by the time the iceberg is hauled to Cape Town, it will still be able to produce the promised volumes of water. Sloane's plan is to tow the giant iceberg some 150 km further north to South Africa's St. Helena Bay, where the cold Benguela Current keeps water at around zero degrees Celsius.

'The project is crazy'

Once there, the iceberg could be anchored in an old submarine channel, suggests Sloane. As the

iceberg melts, water will be collected each day, pumped into tankers and driven to Cape Town. "It won't sort out Cape Town's crisis, (but) it will be about 20 to 30 percent of their annual needs," said Sloane. "The project is crazy-no question," said Olav Orheim, a Norwegian glaciologist with four decades of experience who is working on a similar project for Saudi Arabia.

Never has such a large iceberg been towed-indeed, the towing of ice to supply drinking water would be a first-and it is unknown if it would withstand ocean currents or simply fracture in transit. But, said Orheim, it was no longer unrealistic "because we know so much more now than when we started this kind of research 40 years ago". "It is a high risk project, but also (one) which may have a very high reward at the end," said Orheim.

For Wolfgang Foerg, the chief executive of Swiss company Water Vision which has teamed up with Sloane, the project has huge potential in the face of ever more frequent drought. As for Sloane, he is ready for the green light. "If they tell us to go now, we can have it here by Easter (2019)," he said. —AFP

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Lifestyle | What's On



Explore Al-Seef Hotel by Jumeirah and take a step back in time into enchanting Arabia

Jumeirah to open new hotel in September on the banks of Dubai Creek

Al-Seef Hotel by Jumeirah opens this September, offering guests the opportunity to create their own tales of Arabian nights. Tucked away amidst the rooftops and courtyards of a souk located on the banks of Dubai Creek, the 200 room hotel is spread across 22 traditionally designed Arabian Bayt (homes), adorned with the wind towers famous throughout the region. With views down into the alleyways of the souk and out across the busy waterways of the Creek, Al-Seef Hotel by Jumeirah is inspired by the culture, heritage and stories of old-world Arabia; and brings to life the warm traditions of Emirati hospitality.

The hotel is located in the second phase of Al-Seef, a new district of restaurants, cafes, shops and plazas, situated on a two-kilometre promenade on the south bank of Dubai Creek. Al-Seef is the newest destination by Meraas, the masterminds being some of Dubai's most popular tourist destinations including The Beach and City Walk.

At the opposite end of the promenade to the two recently opened hotels in Jumeirah's Zabeel House collection, Al-Seef Hotel by Jumeirah offers a distinctly different guest experience; one which places a strong emphasis on the city's proud history. The area is still a bustling site of trade, with souks and aged dhows full of merchandise bound for India and Africa. A short stroll away are the museums, galleries and cafes of the popular Al Fahidi historical neighborhood; the architecture of which was the inspiration for the creation of Madinat Jumeirah, Jumeirah's 'resort of Arabia' adjacent to Burj Al-Arab.

'Like Staying In Someone's Home'

The 22 homes are located in small clusters of 2 to 3 buildings joined by a bridge that provides a walkway above the souk and sharing a common courtyard, encouraging socialising with other guests within the hotel. The design of the twin and king-bed guest rooms draw deeply on the UAE's culture, with authentically aged materials that mimic rustic facades; and interiors that reflect an age of pearl diving, trading and crafts.

Look out for:

- Middle Eastern woven fabrics, wooden beams, lamps, rustic ceilings with fans.
- Rough plastered walls inspired by traditional building techniques.
- Large windows with traditional wooden panels with views down onto the winding outdoor corridors of the ground floor souk and the waters of the creek.
- Antique light switches and replica old fashioned radios and carpets.
- Color schemes inspired by the rich blue water, the



soothing beige of the desert sands, and soft green tones of the country's flora, interspersed with colorful flashes of reds, turquoises and yellows.

- Characteristic Barjeel (the iconic wind towers which were once used to ventilate homes before air conditioning).
- Hand-made and organic amenities comprising fragrances and natural ingredients from the UAE such as exfoliating soap made from sand from each of the UAE's seven emirates.

Alessandro Cabella said: "Huge attention has been given to the design of the rooms and courtyards to ensure our guests are immersed in the spirit of the past and, for the time they stay with us, feel worlds away from the pace of modern life. By having the 200 rooms spread over 22 separated buildings, areas of personal peace are created,

so it will feel like staying in someone's home. Hidden amongst the rooftops of the souk, once our guests step inside the hotel, an immediate sense of calm will prevail.

"With Al-Seef Hotel by Jumeirah, we will create an unforgettable experience - combining the warmth of Arabian hospitality with a backdrop of local heritage and architecture. The property pays homage to the age-old days of the region, offering a relaxing choice for inquisitive, quality-conscious travellers who appreciate authenticity; and enjoy the experiences that uniquely designed spaces offer as an insight to local history."

The hotel will take bookings from the end of July and welcome guests from September 1, 2018 with an opening offer of 250 dirhams per room per night plus relevant taxes and municipality charges. It will be Jumeirah's 12th hotel to open in Dubai and the 23rd in its global portfolio.



Discover yesterday and today

Alessandro Cabella, whose role as Area General Manager at Jumeirah Group includes Al-Seef Hotel by Jumeirah said: "In days gone by, traders travelled across the deserts and seas of Arabia, bringing artefacts, delicacies and spices to the small collection of homes that stood on the shores of Dubai Creek. The villagers opened their doors, inviting travellers into their homes to share meals and stories of their journeys and to trade their goods. The village grew with houses of traders, the shops and alleyways of the souk; and was alive with the sights and sounds of merchants, fishermen and pearl divers - and so Dubai's story began. Today, these homes have been replicated at Al-Seef Hotel by Jumeirah, offering our guests the opportunity to glimpse into the past and create new stories of their own journeys."

Popular New York Burger joint 'Black Tap' opens

Kuwait residents can now enjoy the New York burger joint Black Tap's amazing craft burgers, CrazyShakes milkshakes and special line-up of creative mocktails, following the official launch of its first store in Kuwait.

Led by Tamdeen Group Chairman Mohammad Jassim Al Marzouq and Sunset Hospitality Group CEO Antonio Gonzalez, the Al Kout Mall dining outlet was opened in the presence of the US Embassy Kuwait's Charge d'Affaires Patricia L. Fietz to eager awaiting VIP guests. Following a special countdown to 'switch' on the lights at the first Black Tap restaurant in the country, guests were treated to their first experience of the brand's award-winning burgers and Instagram-famous CrazyShakes.

Kuwait is now Black Tap's third restaurant in the GCC, with Sunset Hospitality Group introducing the American burger brand to Dubai diners at Jumeirah Al Naseem in February 2017, and expanding in the emirate with a second outlet opening at Rixos Premium JBR this year. Having teamed up with Tamdeen Group, Sunset Hospitality Group aims to shake up the food and beverage offerings in Kuwait with its latest offering.



Oncost Cash and Carry announces winners of Hawalli Mega Draw promotion

Oncost Cash and Carry, the first 'warehouse club' brand in Kuwait that popularized the concept of allowing club members to enjoy wholesale prices in a retail environment, announced on June 25, the lucky winners of its recent Hawalli 'Mega Draw' promotion. The special promotion, which ran exclusively at the Oncost Cash and Carry's branch in Hawalli, entitled shoppers a coupon for every KD5 spent in the store.

The names of the five winners of the Mega-Draw promotion are: Abdulhameed Mohammad Abdullah Mohammad, who received the grand prize of a brand new KIA Rio 2018 car. The second-prize winner was Evelyn B. Ramos, who walked away with the new iPhone

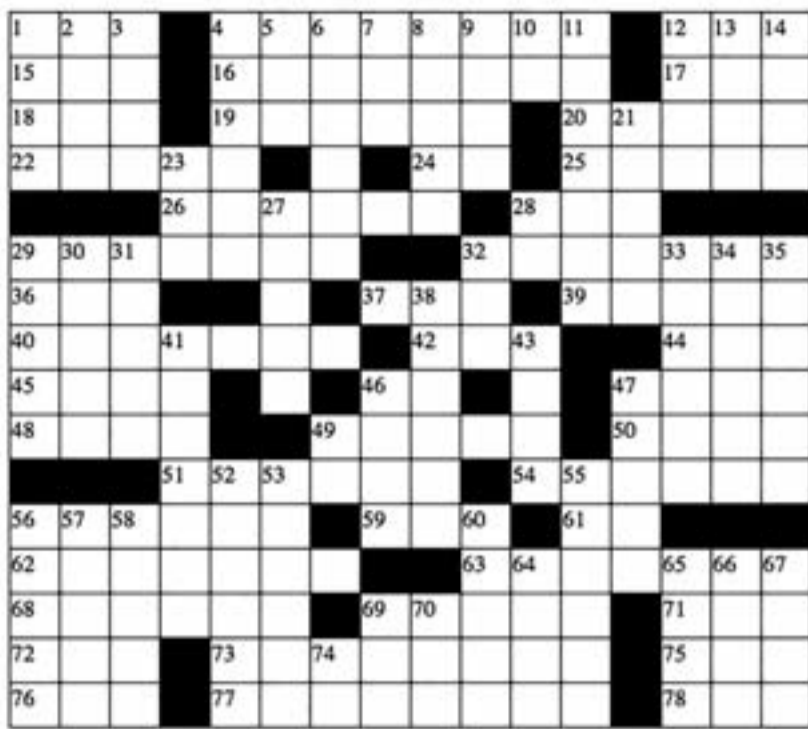
X. Meanwhile, the third, fourth and fifth prize winners were Ali Wehbi, Ahmad Mohamad Saeed Khanafer and Khaled Odeh. They were presented with gift vouchers worth KD100, KD75 and KD50 respectively.

The 45-day long promotion was an overwhelming success, with thousands of shoppers rushing daily into the Oncost Cash and Carry outlet in Hawalli to access the huge range of value products and to participate in the 'Mega-Draw' promotion. The wholesale concept offered by Oncost Cash and Carry allows its customers to take advantage of purchasing high quality products at wholesale prices in a modern retail-store environment.

Oncost Cash and Carry, which has been revolutionizing retail shopping in Kuwait since its inception in 2011, is well-known for its flexibility and amenability when it comes to accommodating the needs of the market. The brand prioritizes convenience and high-level service while striving to provide shoppers with significantly discounted prices. Adapting to the latest trends and challenges of today's retail market environment, Oncost Cash and Carry has been in the forefront of offering shoppers a unique set of diverse offerings and promotions.

Stars

CROSSWORD 1950



ACROSS

1. Annual grass of Europe and North Africa.
4. (biology) Relating to or produced by or containing bacilli.
12. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
15. 100 pyas equal 1 kyal.
16. A substitution of part of speech or gender or number or tense etc. (e.g., editorial 'we' for 'I').
17. Psychoactive substance present in marijuana.
18. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
19. (Jewish cookery) A loaf of white bread containing eggs and leavened with yeast.
20. Russian founder of the Bolsheviks and leader of the Russian Revolution and first head of the USSR (1870-1924).
22. Soreness and warmth caused by friction.
24. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet.
25. Affect with wonder.
26. A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
29. Of or relating to the law or jurisprudence.
36. Used of a single unit or thing.
37. A strong emotion.
39. The German state.
40. Lacking in strength or firmness or resilience.
42. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
44. A federation of North American industrial unions that merged with the American Federation of Labor in 1955.
45. An elaborate party (often outdoors).
48. The sixth month of the civil year.
50. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
51. A card game for 2 players.
54. Towards the shore from the water.
56. Of or relating to abasia (inability to walk).
59. An associate degree in applied science.
61. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
62. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
63. (botany) Of or relating to or functioning as a cambium.
68. Involving two dimensions.
71. A master's degree in fine arts.
72. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
73. Any of numerous extinct terrestrial reptiles of the Mesozoic era.
75. A human limb.
76. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
77. Lack of strength or vigor esp from illness.
78. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand.

DOWN

1. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
2. An Indian nursemaid who looks after children.
3. A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).
4. Cut the head of.
5. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
6. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
7. Not in good physical or mental health.
8. Wild or domesticated South American cud-chewing animal related to camels but smaller and lacking a hump.
9. A Loloish language.
10. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
11. Any agent that produces relaxation.
12. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
13. English illustrator of several of Dickens' novels (1815-1882).
14. An inflammatory disease involving the sebaceous glands of the skin.
21. A person who acts as host at formal occasions (makes an introductory speech and introduces other speakers).
23. The law enforcement agency in the Justice Department.
27. The 11 southern states that seceded from the United States in 1861.
28. Not out.
30. Lacking leadership.
31. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
32. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
33. A linear unit of the size of type slightly larger than an em.
34. Pertaining to one of the small sacs (as in a compound gland).
35. The cardinal number that is the sum of four and one.
38. Evergreen trees or shrubs of mountains of Australia and Tasmania.
41. A white wax extracted from ozokerite.
43. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
46. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
47. Formerly a term of respect for important white Europeans in colonial India.
49. A form of address for a man.
52. Stout-bodied insect with large membranous wings.
53. Very small free-living arachnid that is parasitic on animals or plants.
55. A winged often one-seed indehiscent fruit as of the ash or elm or maple.
57. Be in contradiction with.
58. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
60. Leave immediately.
64. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
65. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
66. A rounded thickly curled hairdo.
67. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
69. A Spanish title of respect for a gentleman or nobleman.
70. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
74. A Mid-Atlantic state.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You seem to be desiring a change in your world. You desire to not only change your views on life but change the way you live it. The unique and different ways of people start to appeal to you. This is in a way a wake-up call for you realizing your way is not necessarily always the right way nor the only way. You find this a great day of mental clarity as you face it with an open mind your own thoughts become very clear and you find yourself extremely productive and eager to be surrounded with your peers. This is a wonderful time for you to make any decisions you have been putting off. Aries, enjoy this day and all it brings your way.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself focusing on that which intrigues you. Seems you find broadening your horizons as a priority. You are seeking answers. You have a yearning to broaden the horizons and want to gain as much knowledge as possible. Taurus, you want to be in touch with the universe on a grander scale. You are full of curiosity. Travel and furthering your education may be two avenues that would assist you in accomplishing these goals. This may be a day you find yourself overly emotional and should resist the urge to participate in conflict with others.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may be satisfied with your emotional well-being at this time and shifting your focus to your physical wellbeing. Today is a great day to join the gym, start the diet, or plan that new workout routine. Your focus on your physical goals is now more important to you than ever. Your mood should find you quick witted with a racing mind. Today is a great day for reorganizing and restructuring your life. Emotionally and physically you could be headed to great new levels in your life. Gemini, even though you may feel a great desire to be out and about this evening, sit this one out and stay home and spend some time on you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find yourself feeling a bit left out. For a short period, you may find yourself feeling a sense of isolation. Your standards are high, and you may not approve of all that goes on within your social circle and may find that rather than face that disapproval your friends may recently be excluding you. This feeling won't last long, however; you may want to surround yourself with a group you fit in with. You may find that tension is high at this time and could easily find yourself surrounded by conflict. Isolation may be a positive thing in your world for now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Today may find you a bit unsatisfied with your surroundings. It may be someone or the physical place you are in that is just not sitting right with you. You may feel as if someone or something is holding you back or may just feel frustrated by your life in general. The situation you find yourself in leads you to do some soul searching and reevaluate some of what you believe. You may find you have a difficult time trying to convince someone close to you why you believe you are doing the right thing. Communication is difficult on this one and you may find you are unable to explain yourself. You may find yourself frustrated as you run into problems at home and in the workplace when dealing with this subject. You may find today is just not the day to make decisions and it would be best to let things rest for now.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have the ability to find beauty in everything and everyone surrounding you. In a way you may find this as a weakness because this can cause you to over indulge. This may include material things or involve your investing too much of yourself into others. Resist that urge at this time. You may find a child or someone younger who is close to you as a disappointment and find yourself at odds with them. This is temporary, and you should resist the urge to make permanent decisions that affect your living situation or theirs at this time. You may feel as if your level of authority is being challenged today and find it difficult to react. Virgo, see this as a positive and know that now is just not the time.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may be facing a very emotional issue in your life today. It may seem your desire to be respected by others is very strong. You may find yourself even demanding this from others today. You may find yourself becoming very organized and structured. A strong will takes hold. You may discover you may not only have a knack for organizing things, but you have one for organizing people as well. This makes you a great leader and this quality could be acknowledged in the workplace today. Libra, your ability to work with haste and little emotion makes you a natural in a position of leadership or management.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are on top of the game when it comes to mental clarity and your creativity is flowing freely. You may find that today someone seems to disrupt you the wrong way. You are quick witted and as sharp as a tack. It seems as though you may have a breakthrough in the idea department. Your mind is in top form and it may seem as if the ideas are coming to you out of nowhere. Today will become a very productive day for you as you are able to turn your ideas into reality. It seems the ways of thinking, inventions, and all that you set your mind to come is easy today. Scorpio, enjoy this productive day and all you are able to create.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Today may find you a bit unsatisfied with your surroundings. It may be someone or the physical place you are in that is just not sitting right with you. You may feel as if someone or something is holding you back or may just feel frustrated by your life in general. This may be a great time for an evening out and about. Change your surroundings. Clear your head but choose your company wisely to avoid any conflict as this is a time you need to have fun. You have to find a comfortable balance between work life, family, and social life. Sagittarius, remember it is good for you to get out and enjoy yourself from time to time.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You seem to always be there for others when they are in need. This is a time in your life where you seem to be craving appreciation for who you are and what you do for others. You may feel as if you are a better friend to others than they seem to be to you. Remember what you give of yourself is from your heart and never give expecting something in return or you may find yourself feeling let down. The time could be near that someone special truly shows you what you mean to them and makes you fully aware of how appreciated you really are. Good deeds to not go unnoticed for long. Not everyone is capable of expressing their feelings like you are.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are always practical and your ability to make practical decisions concerning the best interest of the group is one of the reasons many of your peers admire you. This is a great time for any public speaking event you are asked to play a part in. You have a great sense of what the public wants. You may find this is a time for you begin to get serious about your health and well-being. This is a great time to join the gym, start your exercise program, or even start meal planning. This is a time you want to not feel great about yourself physically. But you also want to feel good about the decisions you make.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

It seems as if the stars are shining upon you. Everything seems to reveal your best qualities and you yourself are a shining star. You may encounter a very sensitive psychological matter today. There is a lot riding on this matter and how you handle it. Both your personal growth and your career are both riding on how you handle this matter. Walk softly and handle this with care and compassion. You are very analytical, and you should be able to use this to your advantage when dealing with this matter. Stay focused and persistent and you should come out on top.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Songs From the Year 2002

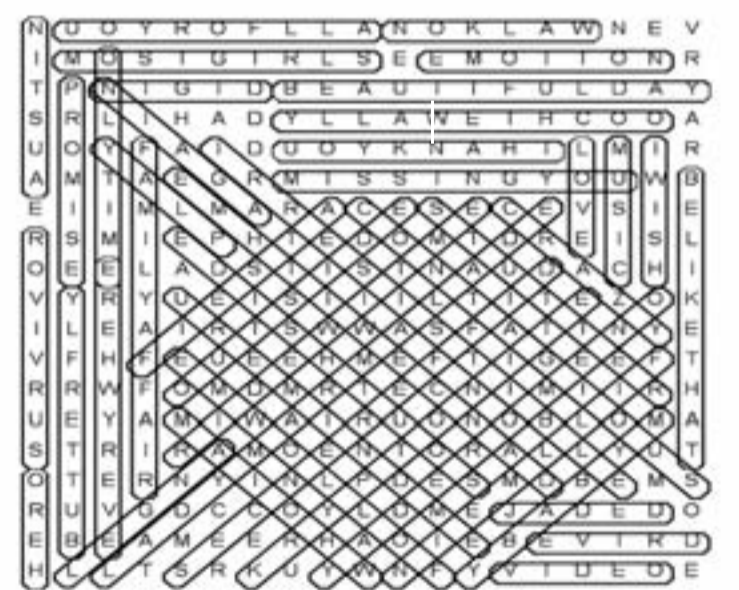
Find and circle all of the songs from 2002 that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 21 letters spell an additional song title from 2002.



- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| ADDICTIVE | ESCAPE | HEAVEN | NOTHIN' |
| AERIALS | EVERYDAY | HELLA GOOD | OH BOY |
| ALL MY LIFE | FOOLISH | HERE I AM | RAINY DAYZ |
| BABY | FOR YOU | HERO | SPIN |
| BLURRY | FULL MOON | HEY MA | STILL FLY |
| BY THE WAY | GIRL TALK | IN MY PLACE | THE MIDDLE |
| COMPLICATED | GIRLFRIEND | LOSE YOURSELF | TOXICITY |
| DAYS GO BY | HALFCRAZY | MOTIVATION | UH HUH |
| DILEMMA | HANDS CLEAN | MY LIST | WITHOUT ME |
| DISEASE | HAPPY | MY SACRIFICE | WORK IT |

Yesterday's Solution

Songs From the Year 2001



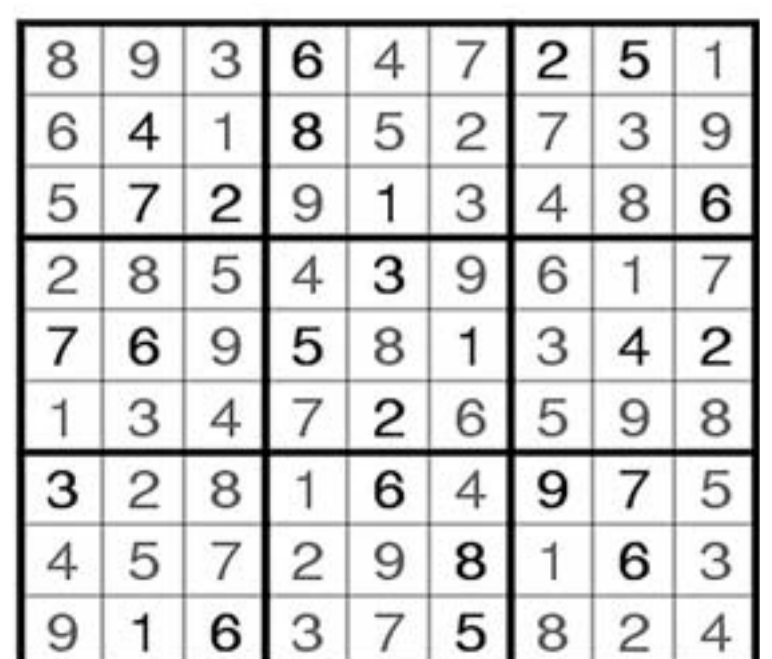
- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| AGAIN | DRIVE | KRYPTONITE | PLAY |
| ALL FOR YOU | EMOTION | LADY MARMALADE | PROMISE |
| ANGEL | EVERYWHERE | LOVE | RIDE WIT ME |
| AUSTIN | FAMILY AFFAIR | MISSING YOU | SOUTH SIDE |
| BE LIKE THAT | FIESTA | MOST GIRLS | STUTTER |
| BEAUTIFUL DAY | FILL ME IN | MUSIC | SURVIVOR |
| BUTTERFLY | FOLLOW ME | MY BABY | THANK YOU |
| CONTAGIOUS | HERO | ONE MORE DAY | U REMIND ME |
| CRAZY | I WISH | ONLY TIME | VIDEO |
| DANCE WITH ME | IRRESISTIBLE | OOCHIE WALLY | WALK ON |
| DIFFERENCES | JADED | OUTSIDE | WHO I AM |
| DIG IN | | | |

The hidden song title is: NEVER HAD A DREAM COME TRUE

Daily SuDoku

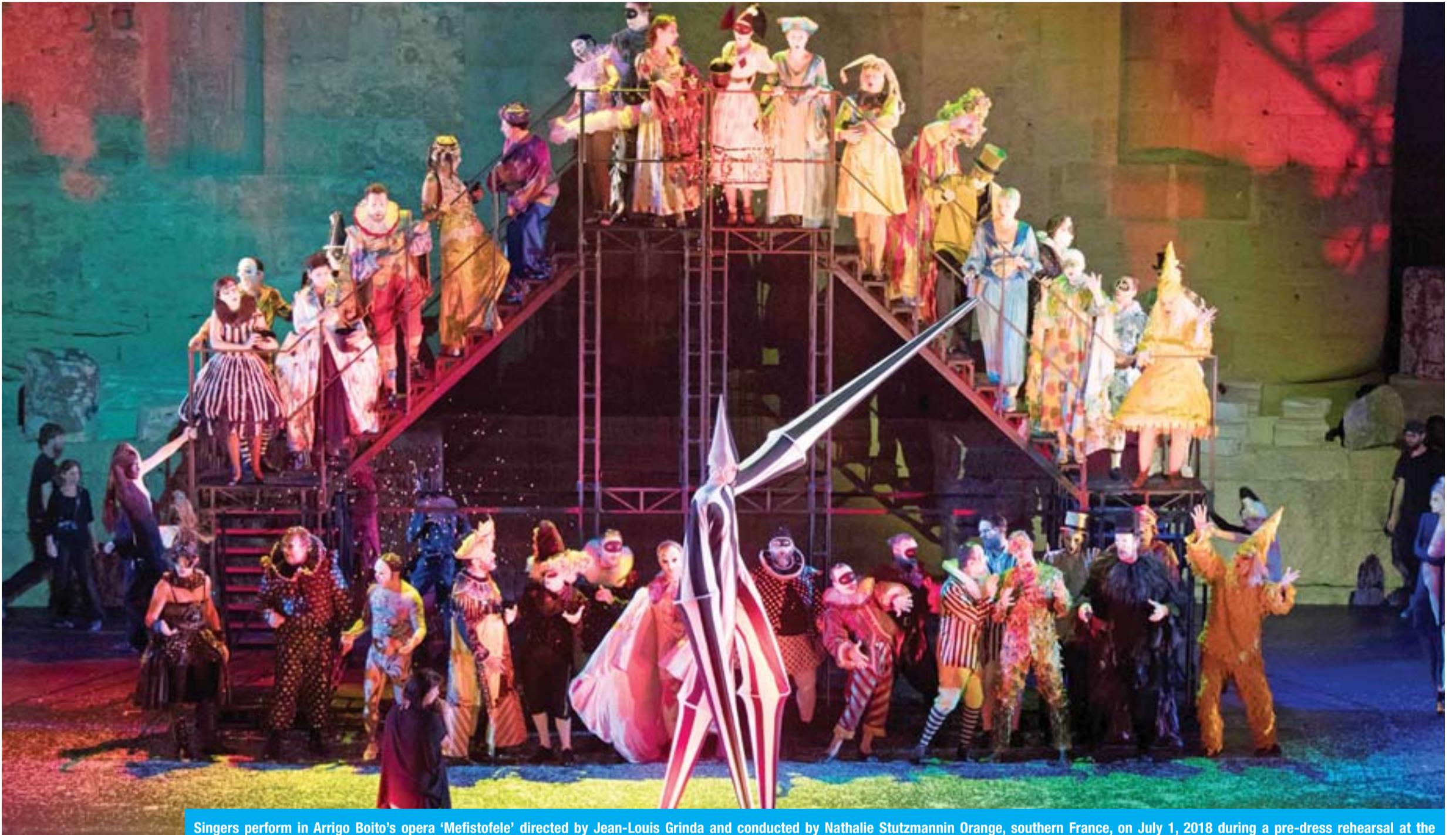


Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2018



Singers perform in Arrigo Boito's opera 'Mefistofele' directed by Jean-Louis Grinda and conducted by Nathalie Stutzmannin Orange, southern France, on July 1, 2018 during a pre-dress rehearsal at the Choregies d'Orange festival dedicated to opera, lyrical art and symphonic concert. — AFP



Indian cartoonist Jayant Rane works on a sketch of a new Amul advertisement for World Environment Day during an interview with AFP in Mumbai.



Photo shows Indian creative head of Amul advertising campaigns Rahul daCunha.



An Indian worker adjusting an Amul dairy products billboard on the side of a building in Mumbai.

That's butter! The Indian ads punning for half a century

Cartoons featuring everything from a pink and round-faced Donald Trump to cricket and Bollywood have been delighting Indians for half a century with pun-filled takes on the world's biggest news stories. The adverts for Amul dairy products, which often star the brand's mascot—a blue-haired girl in a polka dot dress—have been humorously reflecting social, political and cultural life as India has evolved through the decades. “Singapower Treaty? Amul-Leaders love it!” read one after Trump’s historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore, showing a young, rosy-cheeked Trump handing a slice of bread lathered in butter to an equally impish-looking Kim.

“We cover a variety of topics. But essentially it is always an issue that India is talking about,” says Rahul daCunha, the creative head of the campaign, at his Mumbai office. The colorful ads, which play on English and Hindi words, have been running for 52 years on billboards, newspapers and now most regularly on social media, striking a chord with educated, mainly urban Indians. Almost every topic is cheekily covered: from political controversies to corruption scandals, sporting triumphs and failures, movie blockbusters and the lives of celebrities.

Deaths are dealt with more solemnly, in black and white. “To have a campaign that has become part of the social consciousness is phenomenal,” says marketing expert Deepali Naair. “They evoke emotions. Sometimes they put a smile on my face, sometimes they make me frown,” she adds. The ads are the work of a three-man team working for Mumbai-based ad agency daCunha Communications. Along with daCunha himself, there’s cartoonist Jayant Rane and copywriter Manish Jhaveri.

Recipe for success

More than 4,000 ads have been produced since daCunha’s father, Sylvester daCunha, started the campaign in 1966. Rahul took over in the

early 1990s. Initially one ad was done a month but in the age of Twitter they average four or five a week. Many of them feature the “Amul girl”, as she is affectionately known in India. Her innocent expressions, round eyes, red-spotted white dress and slightly roly-poly physique disarm anyone who may take offence at what she is saying. “When she says something she’s always smiling about it. There’s no malice and it’s light-hearted,” says daCunha, 55.

The Amul girl was created when it was common for companies to come up with a mascot to help illiterate Indians easily recognize their products. She appears on the packets of some of Amul’s biggest-selling items including butter and milk, and is India’s most recognizable mascot along with the Air India Maharajah. The first ad, in March 1966, featured her riding a horse while holding a piece of bread.

Horse racing at the time was becoming popular in Bombay—as Mumbai was then known—and the ad read “THOROUGH BREAD” alongside brand slogan “Utterly Butterly Amul”. “In the first year the campaign was more about food but my father quickly realized there was only so much you could say about butter,” explains daCunha.

So Sylvester got permission from Amul to vary the topics. Amul also agreed that they didn’t need to approve the ads before release, granting creative freedom that is rare in the advertising world. The “topicals”, as daCunha Communications calls them, started referring to news stories, including sporting events and Hollywood and Hindi-language films, and did not shy away from controversy.

Cooking up a storm

In 1976, one made light of the Indian government’s forced sterilization procedures during emergency rule. Two years ago another celebrated surgical strikes against Pakistani militants. In March, to mark Emmanuel Macron’s visit to India, the Amul girl was shown taking a selfie with the French president and his wife. “Growing

Frenchship! Amul - France loafs it!” it screamed. The campaign hasn’t always pleased everyone. In 2015, British Airways complained after Amul joked about an incident in which the airline misplaced Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar’s luggage. “British Errways?” quipped the caption.



The creators tend to avoid national calamities or hugely distressing incidents. However, a poignant illustration this year was well received for capturing the sense of hopelessness as India reeled in shock from two high-profile child rapes. It showed the Amul girl sitting down, her head buried in her hands, weeping. DaCunha believes politicians have never expressed their displeasure “because we have made fun of everybody”. But he admitted the team held back sometimes as ultimately they represent a brand. With India’s history of communal riots and a Hindu nationalist movement emboldened by the election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi four years ago, there is one subject the team dares not touch—religion. “It’s an area where nothing you say will end up being funny. And we want you to chuckle,” says daCunha. — AFP

In this picture Indian cartoonist Jayant Rane holds a final sketch of a new Amul advertisement for World Environment Day during an interview with AFP in Mumbai. — AFP photos

Annie Lennox made honorary chancellor at Scottish university

Singer-songwriter Annie Lennox has been made chancellor of Scotland’s Glasgow Caledonian University, becoming the first woman to occupy the ceremonial post. Lennox, who had critical and popular success during the 1980s as the voice of British duo The Eurythmics, said Monday she was “humbled and awed” by

her appointment. She was installed during a special ceremony at the Glasgow campus, where she vowed to use the chancellorship to further the university’s mission. The 63-year-old Lennox says that while she never earned a degree, she could be considered “an honorary graduate from the school of life.” She said she comes from a

“long line of hardworking Scots” and grew up in an era when “young women from working-class backgrounds gaining university degrees were as rare as kangaroos in the Antarctic.” — AP



Musician Annie Lennox poses for the media before she was installed as the new Chancellor of the Glasgow Caledonian University, in Glasgow, Scotland, Monday. — AP



DIOR CELEBRATES THE ATELIER, DRAWS CELEBS TO PARIS COUTURE



Guests including Katie Holmes and Kate Bosworth were taken deep inside the inner workings of Christian Dior for the French brand's nostalgic couture display that celebrated the artistry of the atelier. Hundreds of retro busts and mannequins in unfinished-looking white gowns flanked the runway walls - from floor to ceiling - inside Paris' Rodin Museum as designs showcased the pared-down finesse of age-old couture. Here are some highlights of the fall-winter collections shown Monday.

Dior goes back to basics

There was an old-school vibe in the perfumed air of Dior: 1950s' berets, veils and costume jewelry filed by in its Paris show. Thick fabrics reminiscent of post-World War II styles were used evocatively in a midnight blue cape coat and a three-piece ensemble with a fringed spiral-sleeve bolero. The sheer restraint of the palette of powdery shades against nudes also harked back to a time, before the proliferation of bright colors in the 1960s, where designers still preferred subtle hues.

This season, the program notes said "(designer) Maria Grazia Chiuri goes back to the fundamentals." It made for a beautifully executed couture collection of 71 looks - but one that seemed to lack energy and avoided any huge creative leaps. Still, there was plenty of beauty. A raspberry double-face silk scuba bustier dress was sewn from just a single piece of fabric. Chiuri developed silhouettes based on the batwing sleeve from the Bar Jacket - the centerpiece of Dior's iconic 1947 "New Look" that revolutionized post-War fashion.

Avenue Montaigne boutique gets wrapped

Dior has had its iconic Avenue Montaigne store completely wrapped in colorful feminism-themed tarpaulin to celebrate 50 years since the May 1968 protests in France. The protests, which triggered seismic shifts in the women's rights movement, were referenced in eye-catching images on the 20-meter (66-foot) high artwork, which had passers-by reaching for their cameras.

Slogans on it such as "Women Empowerment" and "It's No, No and No," were also the words branded on an original Miss Dior scarf. The spectacle ties in with the house's fall-winter ready-to-wear show by their unapologetically-feminist designer, Chiuri, the first woman to occupy that post.

Van Herpen's imagination

Dutch wunderkind Iris Van Herpen merged the organic and the electronic to demonstrate why she's considered among the most artistic couture designers working in Paris today. A gown made of zigzag strips that resembled radio waves undulated down a model with a stylish bounce. It enveloped her body like a butterfly cocoon against the futuristic show decor of fibrous, triangular metal bars.

Elsewhere, a blood or rose red fabric skirt looked like a half-dissected heart and was hung from the neck by metallic threads. It was one of the 17-piece show's most beautiful looks. Beyond the edgy theme, this season the 34-year-old Van Herpen showed she has a real hand for

delicate couture work. The zigzag motif was handled subtly on a gray creation with knife pleating that looked like a human had mated with a jellyfish. Its dramatic head-piece was blown, as if by a wave, across the face.

Dior collaborates with v&a

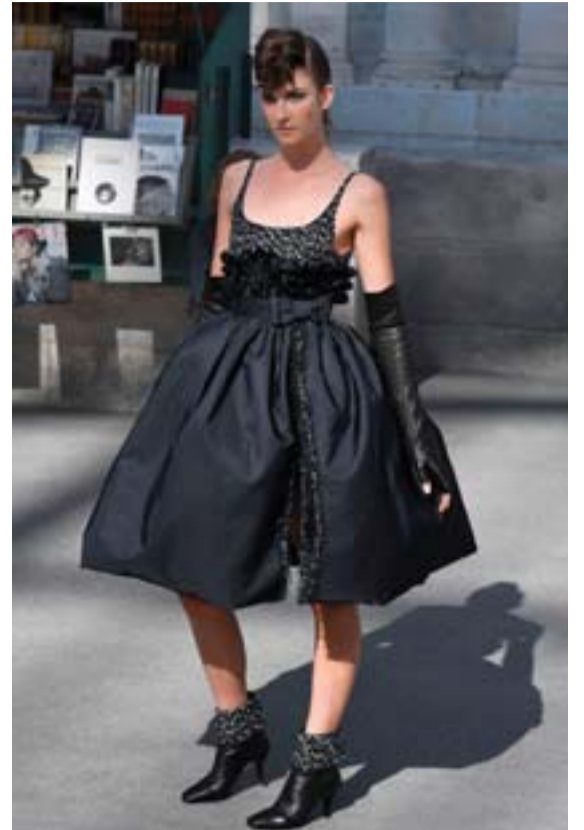
At a sparkling cocktail at the British Embassy in Paris, Dior announced that it will stage its biggest exhibit in the UK in its history at London's Victoria & Albert Museum. The show, entitled "Dior: Designers of Dreams," will open in February 2019 and will explore the flower-loving French couturier's fascination with Britain and especially the country's famous gardens. It will also feature his love of suits from Saville Row.



Models present creations by Christian Dior at the end of the 2018-2019 Fall/Winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos

A highlight will be the Dior dress worn by Princess Margaret - the late sister of the current British queen - for her 21st birthday celebration. Spanning 1947 to the present day, it will be the biggest fashion exhibit at the museum since 2015's immensely popular "Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty." — AP





Lagerfeld REACHES FOR IMMORTALITY WITH CHANEL PARIS SHOW



Legendary designer and bibliophile Karl Lagerfeld made a pitch for immortality yesterday by setting his Chanel Paris haute couture show in front of the Academie Francaise. The venerable institution, whose members are known as "the immortals", was the centrepiece of a spectacular set featuring the banks of the Seine that Lagerfeld had built inside the Grand Palais in the French capital. Everything from the bouquinistes booksellers—dressed in Chanel of course with their vintage Vogue magazines and tomes on Chanel, to the Paris pavements and embankments was recreated in staggeringly realistic detail. All it lacked to pass for the real thing was the tourist tat and a few beggars.

At 84, the Kaiser is now too old to be admitted into any of the academies housed below the gilded dome of Institut de France which act as the guardians of French culture. Lagerfeld is in fact nearly a decade over the age limit to be a sage, yet the German-born designer shows no signs of slowing. He still designs for Chanel in Paris and Fendi in Rome—even though of late he has been a little dodderly on his feet. There was, however, almost a spring in his step on Tuesday as he took the bow for a classily restrained autumn winter haute couture collection marked by slit dresses and sleeves.

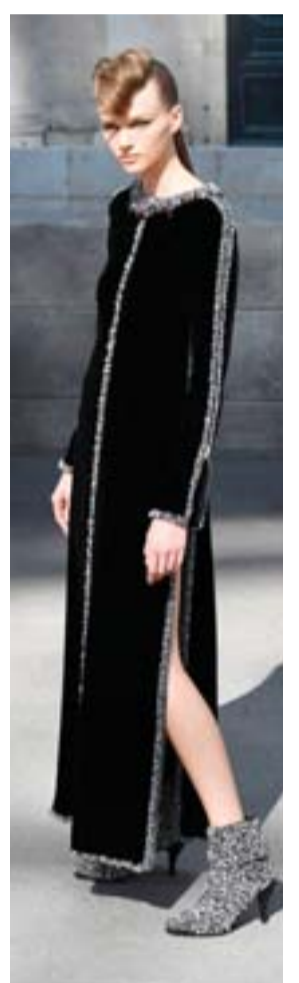
Victorian chic
"Karl is as fresh as a bridegroom," Conde Nast maven Karina Dobrovorskaya cooed on Instagram over her picture of him with his "bride", the traditional finale of couture shows. Lagerfeld's godsons Hudson and Jameson Kroenig—the sons of his favorite male model, the square-jawed American Brad Kroenig—were also at his side after playing the part of riverside booksellers in the show with their father. Like the Dior show the previous day, Lagerfeld went for a refined sobriety of sharply-cut black and grey slit dresses, worn over short thigh-riding miniskirts. Many were lit up by flashes of crystals, feathers and glittery-edged embroidery, which pointed up the zipped slit arms.

While much of the collection had a revved-up retro late 1940s feel with models' hair styled in cockerel quiffs and some wearing fascinator hats, there were also Belle Epoque Victorian flourishes in satin and tulle dresses with glittery tweed capes and long fingerless gloves. Haute couture shows—which only take place in Paris—are the creme de la creme of fashion. Thousands of hours of work sometimes goes into the handmade dresses that can only be afforded by the richest women on the planet.

The label is accorded by the French industry ministry to acknowledge traditional craftsmanship in hand-sewn, custom-made garments using strict criteria. Only 14 fashion houses currently boast the recognition, including Chanel, Christian Dior, Giambattista Valli, Givenchy, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Maison Margiela, Schiaparelli, Alexis Mabille and Stephane Rolland. —AFP



Models present creations by Chanel at the end of the 2018-2019 Fall/Winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos



German fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld (right), flanked by his godson Hudson Kroenig (second right) acknowledges the audience at the end of the Chanel 2018-2019 Fall/Winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris yesterday.

Lifestyle | Music & Movies

Post-apocalypse now: The end of the world at the movies

From the Bible to Nostradamus, the Mayan calendar and the Millennium Bug, fatalists, fantasists and the fervently religious have long been fascinated by the end of the world. Movie directors love nothing more than feeding our deepest fears concerning overpopulation, pestilence and nuclear armageddon-and the cinema-going public laps it up. The glut of dystopian fiction coming to theaters and video-on-demand over the coming months includes Peter Jackson's "Mortal Engines," Kim Jee-woon's "Inrang" and Myroslav Slaboshpytskyi's "Luxembourg." Shawn Robbins, the chief analyst at Boxoffice.com, sees the genre as the "definition of escapism," an art form that assuages the primal desire to get back to basics.

"These types of films are often viewed as pessimistic glimpses into the future, which is certainly one valid interpretation, but they can also be self-reflective in a positive way," he told AFP. "It's easy to see post-apocalyptic and dystopian film settings as part of our inevitable doom, but we can also take them as lessons and parables because, at the heart of any good story, the human condition is explored and challenged."

'Rat race'

Zombies, big rocks from outer space and our own weapons of mass destruction are often the cause of the fictional apocalypse, but not always. This year's breakout hit "A Quiet Place" unleashed carnivorous aliens, while in "I Am Legend," "The Andromeda Strain," "12 Monkeys" and the "Planet of the Apes" movies, the bad guy was a virus. Geophysical disasters do for the human race in

"Soylent Green," "Waterworld," and "Wall-E," while technology is the enemy in "Logan's Run" and the various "Terminator" and "Matrix" movies. George Miller's 1979-2015 "Mad Max" films have inspired an army of so-called "cosplayers" who meet up at festivals to live out their fantasies as road warriors seeing in the collapse of civilization.

Every summer, more than 2,000 desk jockeys leave their day jobs across America to decamp to the Wasteland Weekend festival in the heat of the southern Californian desert. "It's a chance to get away from the regular rat race life and have fun," 52-year-old Joseph Hileman, a security supervisor from Concord, near San Francisco, told AFP on his seventh visit in 2016. Filmmaker Mike P. Nelson's own pulpy take on the apocalypse, a slick but bloody 95-minute shocker called "The Domestics," came out in select US theaters and on video-on-demand over the weekend.

'Macabre fascination'

"There's a slight bit of macabre fascination with the idea that we could all be done for at any time, whether people want to admit it or not," he said in an interview. "There's a strange almost-fantasy in most people's minds that this is something that could happen. And I think some of these movies give us that glimpse and allow us to be fearful for a moment but safe." Starring Kate Bosworth ("Blue Crush"), and Tyler Hoechlin ("Fifty Shades Freed"), "The Domestics" is set in America's Midwest, transformed into a lawless wasteland after a government-induced chemical atrocity. Bosworth and Tyler-an estranged couple who were preparing for their divorce before the world went dark-must



In this file photo Kate Bosworth arrives for the 2018 Met Gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. — AFP photos



(From Left) In this file photo John Krasinski, Noah Jupe, Millicent Simmonds and Emily Blunt attend the premiere for 'A Quiet Place' at AMC Lincoln Square Theater in New York City.

learn to survive in a harrowing, gang-ravaged landscape.

Nelson said he was going for the near-future, down-to-earth look of the original "Mad Max" rather than the more stylized landscapes of recent dystopian sci-fi. "It created this world that wasn't too far gone and people still drove on the right side of the road, ate at restaurants. There was still

kind of a police force," he said. "But it was the people that had turned bad. That was what fascinated me, and I was like, 'I want to do something that's similar to that.' I wanted to tell a story about how the people of this world go sour after something terrible happens." — AFP



In this file photo Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein appears at Manhattan criminal court in New York. — AFP

Weinstein indicted for sex crimes against third woman

Harvey Weinstein was fighting rape and sexual assault charges against a total of three women yesterday, as New York prosecutors build a high-stakes legal battle targeting the disgraced Hollywood mogul. The 66-year-old's career imploded in October in a blaze of accusations of sexual misconduct and abuse from dozens of women that triggered a major reckoning about harassment in the workplace and the global #MeToo movement. Currently out on \$1 million bail, the father of five had last month already pleaded not guilty to allegedly raping one woman at a Manhattan hotel in 2013 and forcing another to perform oral sex on him in 2004. Prosecutors announced that a New York grand jury had returned an additional count of criminal sexual act in the first degree and two counts of predatory sexual assault against Weinstein for allegedly forcing a third woman into oral sex on July 10, 2006.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance said the fallen powerbroker whose films earned dozens of Oscars, could be jailed for a maximum of life or a minimum of 10 years if convicted of the latest charges. "This indictment is the result of the extraordinary courage exhibited by the survivors," Vance said, urging other women who may have experienced "predatory abuse" at the hands of Weinstein to also come forward. Weinstein is to be arraigned July 9 on the latest charges. His lawyer Ben Braffman said his client would enter another not guilty plea.

Predator

"Mr Weinstein maintains that all of these allegations are false and he expects to be fully vindicated. Furthermore, to charge Mr Weinstein as a predator when the interactions were each consensual is simply not justified," Braffman said. Weinstein has steadfastly denied all accusations of nonconsensual sex. The new charges bring to six the number of counts against him. None of the three women have been named, but according to Braffman, the 2013 rape complaint comes from a woman who had a 10-year affair with Weinstein.

Former actress Lucia Evans, who told The New Yorker that Weinstein forced her to perform oral sex, is thought to be the woman involved in the 2004 case. Overall, nearly 100 women have come forward publicly to say they were harassed or sexually abused by Weinstein over a period of more than two decades. Salma Hayek, Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie are among more than two dozen actresses who say they were sexually harassed by the producer. Several, including Asia Argento and Rose McGowan, say they were raped.

The #MeToo movement has seen people around the world come forward with cases of sexual mistreatment, leading to the downfall of powerful men across industries, including Oscar winner Kevin Spacey. Weinstein has been ordered to wear a GPS monitoring device, and his travel is restricted to the states of New York and Connecticut. In addition, he is facing a slew of civil lawsuits and his former studio has filed for bankruptcy. — AFP

Joe Jackson buried in same LA-area cemetery as son Michael

Jackson family patriarch Joseph Jackson has been buried in the same Southern California cemetery as his late son Michael. A source close to the family who is not authorized to speak publicly said Joe Jackson was laid to rest Monday in a private ceremony at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale. Jackson died Wednesday in Las Vegas at age 89 and is survived by wife Katherine, eight children and dozens of grandchildren.

Eldest son Jackie Jackson posted a photo of himself on Instagram Monday afternoon in a black suit and sunglasses while dressing one of his young twin sons in a similar suit. Michael Jackson was entombed in 2009 in the mausoleum at the opulent cemetery that is also the final resting place of Elizabeth Taylor and Walt Disney. — AP



File photo shows music producer Joseph Jackson, father of pop star Michael Jackson, appears at a news conference in Lindlar near Cologne, western Germany. — AP

Review



This image released by Marvel Studios shows a scene from 'Ant-Man and The Wasp.' — AP

'Ant-Man and The Wasp' punches above its weight

Not since Animal against the advice of Dr Bunsen Honeydew and Beaker ingested Insta-Growth pills has a movie had as much fun with scale as "Ant-Man and The Wasp." Among the greatest threats to the shape-shifting heroes of the Marvel sequel are windshield wipers, salt shakers and seagulls. This is surely the first movie to weaponize that most fearsome of terrors: a giant Hello Kitty Pez dispenser. In one of the film's finest moments, a loud, careening chase culminates in a dramatic fall into the ocean sounded not with an explosive splash but with a tiny ripple and a "Plink!"

In both scale and ambition, "Ant-Man and The Wasp" is an altogether more modest affair, and it's so much the better for it. Most Marvel movies strenuously insist on how much they matter - how much a carefully stitched together comic-book apparatus hangs in the balance - with only an occasional aside to acknowledge their inherent silliness. But slapstick is in the DNA of "Ant-Man and The Wasp." For some Marvel devotees, "Ant-Man and The Wasp" will be a clever enough diversion in between the more main-event releases. But it's pretty much exactly what I'd want in a superhero movie: a funny cast, zippy action scenes and not an infinity stone in sight.

The Marvel product has, it should be noted, grown more dynamic and varied in recent years. But if you're not going to reach the mythic heights of "Black Panther," the light-hearted antics of "Ant-Man and The Wasp" are your next-best bet. As different as they are, the two films have one crucial thing in common: No outer space. Just as "Black Panther" styled itself after a spy thriller, "Ant-Man" takes from the heist movie. The first installment in 2015 was a somewhat muddled franchise debut, thanks to a late director shuffle. Peyton Reed, who took over production on the first one, is back here, and he has carved out a real identity for Paul Rudd's

character, among the most self-contained in Marvel's "cinematic universe."

And more than its predecessor, "Ant-Man and The Wasp" has adopted the goofball charm of its leading man. Coming a few years after "Ant-Man," Rudd's Scott Lang is now under house arrest for his involvement in the Berlin showdown of "Captain America: Civil War." When his 10-year-old daughter Cassie (Abby Ryder Fortson) isn't around, he passes the time playing drums and learning magic tricks. With just days to go before Randall Park's S.H.I.E.L.D. agent is to remove Lang's monitoring device, he's summoned by the brains behind their last adventure: Dr Hank Pym (a sometimes in-the-way Michael Douglas) and Pym's daughter Hope van Dyne (Evangeline Lilly), whose winged Ant-Man-like suit has earned her the Wasp moniker.

Molecular structure

Pym believes his wife, Janet (Michelle Pfeiffer) has for the last 30 years been locked away in the "quantum realm," a mind- and matter-bending subatomic limbo that, it turns out, has predictably done curiously little damage to the indestructible Pfeiffer. A Technicolor blur of floating blobs, the quantum realm looks like a lava lamp's dream of heaven.

To send someone into the realm on a rescue mission, Pym and Van Dyne have built a sophisticated laboratory many stories high that, with a click of a remote, they can shrink down to carry-on size. Their plans bring them into contact with a black-market dealer (Walton Goggins) and an old academic colleague of Pym's (Laurence Fishburne). It also attracts the interest of the film's villain, Ghost (Hannah John-Kamen), whose tragic backstory has left her burning (figuratively) and blurry (literally) with anger for being robbed of a bodily existence. — AP

A wild, provocative vision in 'Sorry to Bother You'

Writer and director Boots Riley's cracking first film "Sorry to Bother You" may just be the craziest movie of the year. Fierce, provocative and bold, it's a challenging social statement about race and capitalism wrapped in a colorful, magical realist coating that will leave your head spinning. It is not perfect - far from it - and really goes off the rails at the end, but its ideas and impact are undeniable.

The brilliant Lakeith Stanfield stars as Cassius Green, a young man living with his artist-activist girlfriend Detroit (Tessa Thompson) in his uncle's garage in Oakland, California. He's behind on his rent and desperately needs a job. In an interview at a telemarketing agency, RegalView, he touts his accomplishments from jobs past and has even brought an employee of the month placard from one of his gigs, like a kid at show and tell.

But while this image might tug at some heartstrings, it's not as simple as it looks. The man behind the desk knows Cassius, or Cash as many of his friends call him, is lying. He's fabricated his resume and gotten his friend to pose as a former supervisor. But the recruiter is impressed with his initiative and hires him on the spot. Besides, he says, telemarketing doesn't require any skills. The RegalView offices are in a dreary, soul-crushing basement, packed to the brim with row upon row of cubicle-bound workers making unsolicited phone calls trying to sell encyclopedias to unappreciative customers. The film illustrates this invasive process in a wildly funny way, showing Cash and his entire cubicle drop into the living room or kitchen of whomever he is calling.

Work is not going well for Cash, until a friendly co-worker, Langston (Danny Glover), leans over and suggests he use his "white voice" (not a "Will Smith white voice," he clarifies). So Cash begins speaking in a higher pitched, nasally voice that is unmistakable as the unique vocal stylings of David Cross and, well, it works. Really, really well. Suddenly Cash is making sales, catching the attention of his bosses and on track to get a big promotion to "Power Caller" that would get him out of the basement.



This image released by Annapurna Pictures shows Tessa Thompson, left, and Lakeith Stanfield in a scene from the film, 'Sorry To Bother You.' — AP

Viral videos

Stanfield, who is always memorable no matter how big the role, from "Short Term 12" to "Get Out," delivers a powerful performance as Cassius in his oppression, his empowerment and eventual enlightenment. Both he and Thompson effortlessly maintain their characters' integrity even as the narrative gets exponentially crazier as the film goes on. And it only gets crazier. Cash's ascent does not come without some moral compromise and in accepting the fancy new position, he not only becomes a scab while his former co-workers strike, but he's also decided to turn a blind eye to the fact that he's now essentially hawking slave labor for a company called WorryFree, run by an arrogant bro-CEO played by Armie Hammer.

WorryFree preys on the poor, promising a life without bills or commutes in exchange for a lifetime labor contract working for the company and living on the factory grounds. Sunny advertisements, which play on the breaks of a TV game show called "I Got The (Expletive) Kicked Out of Me," show prison-like conditions, with crowded bunk beds and slop for food, but the actors are all happy and healthy and promise that the food is great. It might not be subtle, but it sure is memorable.

If you're thinking that this all sounds like a lot, it is. And "Sorry to Bother You" has a lot more to say about exploitative capitalist systems, white privilege, black bodies, protest art and even viral videos. While it doesn't always work, Riley has clearly held nothing back and after 25+ years of using his voice and unique point of view in the world of hip-hop, this is as audacious an entry into the world of feature filmmaking as one could possibly make. Hopefully it won't be his last. "Sorry to Bother You," an Annapurna Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "pervasive language, some strong sexual content, graphic nudity, and drug use." Running time: 105 minutes. Three stars out of four. — AP

TV



01:35 Hunting The Phantom
03:25 Captain America: The Winter Soldier
06:00 American Ninja
07:50 Acts Of Vengeance
09:35 Captain America: Civil War
12:15 Kung Fu Yoga
14:15 American Ninja II: The Confrontation
16:00 Allegiant
18:10 Patriot Games
20:10 One Good Cop
22:00 The Assignment
23:40 Under Siege



00:45 Animal Cries
01:40 Monsters Inside Me
02:35 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
03:25 Pit Bulls & Parolees
04:15 Animal Cries
05:02 Mutant Planet
05:49 Pit Bulls & Parolees
06:36 Orangutan Island
07:00 Orangutan Island
07:25 The Animals' Guide To Survival
08:15 Untamed & Uncut
09:10 Pit Bulls & Parolees
10:05 Animal Cries
11:00 Mutant Planet
11:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees
12:50 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
13:45 Dr. Jeff Rocky Mountain Vet
14:40 Animal Cries
15:35 Monsters Inside Me
16:30 The Animals' Guide To Survival
17:25 Untamed & Uncut
18:20 The Jeff Corwin Experience
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Treehouse Masters
21:05 Mutant Planet
22:00 Monsters Inside Me
22:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees
23:50 Tanked



00:25 The Good Karma Hospital
01:20 Death In Paradise
02:20 Father Brown
03:10 The Level
04:00 The Musketeers
05:00 Call The Midwife
06:00 Holly City
07:00 The Musketeers
07:55 The Moonstone
08:45 Holly City
09:40 Holly City
10:40 Death In Paradise
11:35 Father Brown
12:30 The Moonstone
13:20 Call The Midwife
14:15 Holly City
15:15 Holly City
16:15 The Moonstone
17:05 Call The Midwife
18:00 EastEnders
18:30 EastEnders
19:00 Death In Paradise
20:00 The Good Karma Hospital
20:50 Mum
21:20 Mum
21:50 Liar
22:45 Father Brown
23:35 EastEnders



00:00 Deadly Secrets: The Lost Children Of Dozier
01:55 Deadly Wives
02:50 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
03:45 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
04:30 Homicide: Hours To Kill
05:15 Cold Case Files
06:00 The First 48
07:00 It Takes A Killer
07:20 The First 48
08:05 Homicide Hunter
08:50 I Killed My BFF
09:35 Deadly Wives
10:30 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
11:25 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
12:20 Homicide: Hours To Kill
13:15 Cold Case Files
14:10 Homicide Hunter
15:05 It Takes A Killer
15:35 It Takes A Killer
16:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
17:00 The First 48
18:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
19:00 The Menendez Murders: Erik Tells All
20:00 Cold Case Files
21:00 I Didn't Do It
22:00 Monster In My Family
23:00 I Killed My BFF



00:05 Inside Amy Schumer
00:30 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
00:55 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:20 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail
01:45 Tosh.0
02:10 Inside Amy Schumer
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:50 Tosh.0
04:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:05 I Used To Be Fat
05:55 Disaster Date
06:20 Ridiculousness
06:50 House Of Food
07:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Impractical Jokers
09:20 Ridiculousness
09:45 Friendszone
10:10 Punk'd (Bet)
10:35 Punk'd (Bet)
11:00 IdiotSitter
11:25 Impractical Jokers
11:50 The It Crowd
12:15 The It Crowd
12:40 Friendszone
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 Punk'd (Bet)
16:30 Punk'd (Bet)
16:55 Friends
17:20 Friends
17:45 House Of Food
18:35 Friendszone
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 With Trevor Noah
21:30 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party
22:00 Teachers
22:25 Comedy Central Stand Up Presents
22:50 Comedy Central Stand Up Presents
23:15 Broad City
23:40 Broad City



00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:20 How It's Made
01:45 How It's Made
02:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
03:00 Tanked
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
05:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Kids Do The Craziest Things
07:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things
07:50 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Tanked
10:20 Ultimate Survival
11:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
11:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
12:00 How It's Made
12:25 How It's Made
12:50 Made By Destruction
13:15 Made By Destruction
13:40 Strange Evidence
14:30 How It's Made
14:55 How It's Made
15:20 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 My Cat From Hell
17:50 Tanked
18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:30 Made By Destruction
19:55 Made By Destruction
20:20 Strange Evidence
21:10 How It's Made
21:35 How It's Made
22:00 Ultimate Survival
22:50 Made By Destruction
23:15 Made By Destruction
23:40 Strange Evidence



00:45 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
01:40 Bad Blood
02:35 Pandora's Box: Unleashing Evil
03:30 Evil Online
04:25 Swamp Murders
05:20 I Almost Got Away With It
06:10 Murder By Numbers
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
07:25 Betrayed
08:15 Swamp Murders
09:10 Murder By Numbers
10:05 American Monster
11:00 American Monster
11:55 Betrayed
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:45 Murder By Numbers
14:40 American Monster
15:35 Evil Online
16:30 Betrayed
17:25 Swamp Murders
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 Six Degrees Of Murder
20:10 Murder Calls
21:05 Disappeared
22:00 Natalie Wood: An American Murder Mystery
22:55 Blood Relatives
23:50 Murder Calls



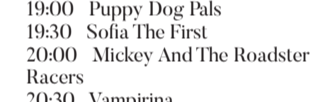
00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
00:50 Evermore Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks S1
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Liv And Maddie
07:15 Liv And Maddie
07:40 K.C. Undercover
08:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
08:30 Raven's Home
08:55 Elena Of Avalor
09:20 Punk'd
09:45 Tangled: The Series
10:10 Gotta Kick It Up
11:50 K.C. Undercover
12:15 K.C. Undercover
12:40 Bizaardvark
13:05 Bizaardvark
13:30 Stuck In The Middle
13:55 Stuck In The Middle
14:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
14:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
15:10 Raven's Home
15:35 Raven's Home
16:00 Tangled: The Series
16:25 Tangled: The Series
16:50 Liv And Maddie
17:15 Liv And Maddie
17:40 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
18:05 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
18:30 K.C. Undercover
18:55 K.C. Undercover
19:20 Descendants Wicked World
19:25 Elena Of Avalor
19:50 Elena Of Avalor

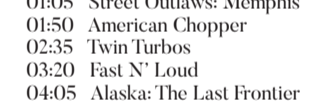
20:15 Bunk'd
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21:10 Stuck In The Middle
21:35 Stuck In The Middle
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:50 Lolorock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



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 Trulli Tales
07:25 PJ Masks Shorts
07:30 Puppy Dog Pals
07:45 Doc McStuffins
08:00 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
08:15 PJ Masks
08:30 Vampirina
09:00 Doc McStuffins
09:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:55 Bunglealievable
10:00 Vampirina
10:25 Vampirina
10:50 Vampirina
11:20 Vampirina
11:45 Vampirina
12:15 Vampirina
12:40 Vampirina
13:10 Vampirina
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 Mission Force One
14:30 Mission Force One
15:00 Mission Force One
15:30 Mission Force One
16:00 PJ Masks Shorts
16:05 First Responders To The Rescue
16:50 PJ Masks Shorts
17:00 Vampirina
17:30 PJ Masks
17:55 Bunglealievable
18:00 The Lion Guard
18:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
19:00 Puppy Dog Pals
19:30 Sofia The First
20:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
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 Fast N' Loud
01:05 Street Outlaws: Memphis
01:50 American Chopper
02:35 Twin Turbos
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Alaska: The Last Frontier
04:50 Kindig Customs
05:35 Storage Hunters UK
06:00 Backyard Oil
06:23 Chaos Caught On Camera
06:45 Storage Hunters UK
07:10 How Do They Do It?
07:35 Alaska: The Last Frontier
08:20 Backyard Oil
08:45 Chaos Caught On Camera
09:10 Kindig Customs
09:55 Street Outlaws: Memphis
10:45 American Chopper
11:30 Twin Turbos
12:20 Backyard Oil
12:43 Chaos Caught On Camera
13:05 Storage Hunters UK
13:30 How Do They Do It?
13:55 Fast N' Loud
14:40 Fast N' Loud
15:30 Street Outlaws: Memphis
16:15 American Chopper
17:05 Twin Turbos
17:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
18:40 Kindig Customs
19:25 Fast N' Loud
20:15 Fast N' Loud
21:00 Dangerman
21:50 Heavy Rescue
22:40 Land Rush
23:30 Alaska: The Last Frontier



00:15 Fast N' Loud
01:05 Street Outlaws: Memphis
01:50 American Chopper
02:35 Twin Turbos
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Alaska: The Last Frontier
04:50 Kindig Customs
05:35 Storage Hunters UK
06:00 Backyard Oil
06:23 Chaos Caught On Camera
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08:45 Chaos Caught On Camera
09:10 Kindig Customs
09:55 Street Outlaws: Memphis
10:45 American Chopper
11:30 Twin Turbos
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12:43 Chaos Caught On Camera
13:05 Storage Hunters UK
13:30 How Do They Do It?
13:55 Fast N' Loud
14:40 Fast N' Loud
15:30 Street Outlaws: Memphis
16:15 American Chopper
17:05 Twin Turbos
17:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
18:40 Kindig Customs
19:25 Fast N' Loud
20:15 Fast N' Loud
21:00 Dangerman
21:50 Heavy Rescue
22:40 Land Rush
23:30 Alaska: The Last Frontier



06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
06:25 Lab Rats
06:50 Phineas And Ferb
07:05 DuckTales
07:32 Big City Greens
07:45 Furiki Wheels
08:00 Phineas And Ferb
08:25 Phineas And Ferb
08:50 Lab Rats
09:15 Lab Rats
09:40 Milo Murphy's Law
10:05 Milo Murphy's Law
10:30 Gravity Falls
10:55 Gravity Falls
11:20 Lab Rats
11:45 Lab Rats
12:10 Phineas And Ferb
12:35 Phineas And Ferb
13:00 Lab Rats Elite Force
13:25 Lab Rats Elite Force
13:50 Lab Rats Elite Force
14:15 Lab Rats Elite Force
14:40 Lab Rats Elite Force
15:05 Supa Strikas
15:32 Supa Strikas
16:00 DuckTales
16:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:32 Big Hero 6 The Series
17:00 Big City Greens
17:25 Marvel Super Heroes Black Panther: Trouble In
17:32 Furiki Wheels
18:00 Lab Rats
18:25 Lab Rats
18:50 Phineas And Ferb
19:00 Disney11
19:25 Best Sports Ever

19:30 Mech-X4
19:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
20:00 DuckTales
20:25 Two More Eggs
20:32 Big Hero 6 The Series
20:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
21:25 Star Wars Rebels
21:50 Phineas And Ferb
22:05 Furiki Wheels
22:20 Big City Greens
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
KSA



00:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
00:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
01:50 E! News
02:50 Botched
03:40 Botched
04:35 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Botched
06:55 E! News Middle East
07:10 Botched
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:00 E! News Middle East
12:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
13:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
14:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
15:00 E! News Middle East
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
09:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 E! News
20:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
21:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
22:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
23:00 E! News Middle East
23:15 Botched



00:00 Cities Of The Underworld
01:00 Million Dollar Genius
02:00 In Search Of Aliens
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 In Search Of Aliens
04:30 Clash Of Warriors
05:20 Cities Of The Underworld
06:10 How 2 Win
07:00 Million Dollar Genius
08:00 In Search Of Aliens
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 In Search Of Aliens
11:00 Clash Of Warriors
12:00 Cities Of The Underworld
13:00 Million Dollar Genius
14:00 In Search Of Aliens
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 In Search Of Aliens
17:00 Clash Of Warriors
18:00 Cities Of The Underworld
19:00 Million Dollar Genius
20:00 In Search Of Aliens
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 United Stuff Of America
23:00 Clash Of Warriors



00:20 Alone
01:10 101 People Who Made The 20th Century
02:00 Forged In Fire
02:50 Who Killed Tupac?
03:40 Hunting Hitler
04:30 Forged In Fire
05:20 Alone
06:00 Football Godfathers
06:50 Hunting Hitler
07:40 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
08:30 Forged In Fire
09:20 Football Godfathers
10:10 Hunting Hitler
11:00 Ozy And Jack's World Detour
11:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
12:40 Forged In Fire
13:30 Football Godfathers
14:20 Hunting Hitler
15:10 Alone
16:00 Ozy And Jack's World Detour
16:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
17:40 Forged In Fire
18:30 Football Godfathers
19:20 Hunting Hitler
20:10 Alone
21:00 Detroit Steel
21:50 Road Hawks
22:40 Who Killed Tupac?
23:30 Hunting Hitler: Inside The Investigation



00:15 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
00:45 John Torode's Asia
01:10 Raw Travel
01:40 Sara's Australia Unveiled
02:05 Sara's Australia Unveiled
02:35 Fish Tank Kings
03:30 Around The World In 80 Dishes
04:25 Miguel's Feasts
04:50 What's For Sale With A View
05:20 David Rocco's Dolce Africa
05:45 David Rocco's Dolce Africa
06:15 Sinful Sweets
06:40 Sinful Sweets
07:10 Sara's Australia Unveiled
07:35 Sara's Australia Unveiled
08:05 Fish Tank Kings
09:00 Around The World In 80 Dishes
09:55 Miguel's Feasts
10:20 What's For Sale With A View
10:50 David Rocco's Dolce Africa
11:15 David Rocco's Dolce Africa
11:45 Sinful Sweets
12:10 Sinful Sweets
12:40 This Is Brazil
13:35 Fish Tank Kings
14:30 My Dubai
14:55 Fish Of The Day

15:25 A Is For Apple
15:50 What's For Sale With A View
16:20 David Rocco's Dolce Africa
16:45 David Rocco's Dolce Africa
17:15 Patisserie With Michel Roux Jr
18:10 Glamour Puds
18:35 The Game Chef
19:05 Fish Tank Kings
20:00 My Dubai
20:30 Fish Of The Day
21:00 A Is For Apple
21:30 What's For Sale With A View
22:00 David Rocco's Dolce Africa
22:25 David Rocco's Dolce Africa
22:55 Patisserie With Michel Roux Jr
23:50 Glamour Puds



00:10 Taiwan: Island Of Fish
01:00 Wicked Tuna
02:00 Air Crash Investigation
03:00 Dictators Rulebook
04:00 Taiwan: Island Of Fish
05:00 World's Toughest Fixes
06:00 Mine Kings
07:00 Cesar To The Rescue
08:00 Eat: The Story Of Food
09:00 World's Toughest Fixes
10:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
10:30 Do Or Die
11:00 Vinnie Jones: Russia's Toughest
11:55 The Putin Interviews
13:00 Mine Kings
14:00 Eat: The Story Of Food
15:00 Dog Whisperer
16:00 Cesar To The Rescue Compilations
17:00 Vinnie Jones: Russia's Toughest
17:55 The Putin Interviews
19:00 Inside Cocaine Wars
20:00 Cesar To The Rescue Compilations
20:50 Vinnie Jones: Russia's Toughest
21:40 Mine Kings
22:30 Inside Cocaine Wars
23:20 Eat: The Story Of Food



00:30 Dolphin Dynasty
01:30 World's Deadliest Killer Three
02:30 Dr Oakley: Yukon Vet
03:30 Shark Men
04:30 Lion Warrior
05:30 Monster Fish
06:30 Ultimate Animal Countdown
07:30 Monster Fish
08:30 Snakes In The City
09:30 Zoo Confidential
10:30 Animal Fight Club
11:30 Animal Fight Club
12:30 Ultimate Animal Countdown
13:30 Sharktraz
14:30 World's Deadliest Killer Three
15:30 Snakes In The City
16:30 Jaguars vs Crocs
17:30 Australia's Deadly Monsters
18:30 Monster Fish
19:30 World's Deadliest Killer Three
20:30 Snakes In The City
21:30 Jaguars vs Crocs
22:30 Australia's Deadly Monsters
23:30 Monster Fish

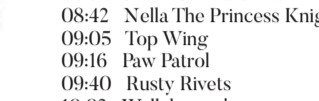


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 Rabbids Invasion
04:12 Rabbids Invasion
04:36 Breadwinners
05:24 The Loud House
05:48 Harvey Beaks
06:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Breadwinners
07:24 Welcome To The Wayne
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 Massive Monster Mayhem
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 Loud House
14:12 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
14:36 Toon Marty
14:48 Toon Marty
15:00 Welcome To The Wayne
15:24 Bunsen Is A Beast
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 Hunter Street
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 Talia In The Kitchen
20:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
21:00 Harvey Beaks
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Bunsen Is A Beast
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Rabbids Invasion
23:00 The Loud House
23:24 Regal Academy
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

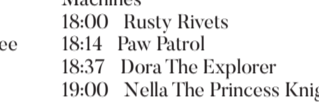


00:00 Max & Ruby
00:23 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:33 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:43 The Day Henry Met
00:48 The Day Henry Met
00:54 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:16 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:39 Paw Patrol
01:50 Kid-E-Cats
01:55 Kid-E-Cats
02:00 Shimmer And Shine
02:23 Nella The Princess Knight
02:34 Paw Patrol
02:58 Max & Ruby

03:21 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Sunny Day
04:07 Nella The Princess Knight
04:30 Shimmer And Shine
04:41 Shimmer And Shine
04:52 Wallykazam!
05:16 Zack & Quack
05:26 Top Wing
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:12 Paw Patrol
06:35 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Nella The Princess Knight
07:21 Kiva Can Do!
07:32 Kiva Can Do!
07:43 Paw Patrol
07:56 Paw Patrol
08:20 Shimmer And Shine
08:31 Shimmer And Shine
08:42 Nella The Princess Knight
09:05 Top Wing
09:16 Paw Patrol
09:40 Rusty Rivets
10:03 Wallykazam!
10:26 Bubble Guppies
10:50 Team Umizoomi
11:12 Kid-E-Cats
11:17 Shimmer And Shine
11:30 Sunny Day
11:51 Kiva Can Do!
12:02 Max & Ruby
12:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:46 The Day Henry Met
12:50 The Day Henry Met
12:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Paw Patrol
13:53 Kid-E-Cats
13:57 Kid-E-Cats
14:03 Shimmer And Shine
14:25 Nella The Princess Knight
14:36 Paw Patrol
15:00 Max & Ruby
15:22 Dora The Explorer
15:45 Sunny Day
16:07 Nella The Princess Knight
16:30 Shimmer And Shine
16:41 Shimmer And Shine
16:52 Wallykazam!
17:16 Zack & Quack
17:26 Top Wing
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:14 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
19:21 Kiva Can Do!
19:32 Kiva Can Do!
19:42 Paw Patrol
19:55 Paw Patrol
20:18 Shimmer And Shine
20:29 Shimmer And Shine
20:40 Nella The Princess Knight
21:02 Top Wing
21:14 Paw Patrol
21:37 Rusty Rivets
22:01 Wallykazam!
22:24 Bubble Guppies
22:47 Team Umizoomi
23:10 Kid-E-Cats
23:15 Shimmer And Shine
23:27 Sunny Day
23:49 Kiva Can Do!



00:45 A New Love Ishtory
03:00 A New Love Ishtory
03:10 Little Krishna - The Darling Of Vrindavan
05:00 Koffee With Karan
06:05 Dhoom DadaKakka
08:40 Siskilay
10:50 Ishq Vishk
12:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:46 The Day Henry Met
12:50 The Day Henry Met
12:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Paw Patrol
13:53 Kid-E-Cats
13:57 Kid-E-Cats
14:03 Shimmer And Shine
14:25 Nella The Princess Knight
14:36 Paw Patrol
15:00 Max & Ruby
15:22 Dora The Explorer
15:45 Sunny Day
16:07 Nella The Princess Knight
16:30 Shimmer And Shine
16:41 Shimmer And Shine
16:52 Wallykazam!
17:16 Zack & Quack
17:26 Top Wing
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:14 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
19:21 Kiva Can Do!
19:32 Kiva Can Do!
19:42 Paw Patrol
19:55 Paw Patrol
20:18 Shimmer And Shine
20:29 Shimmer And Shine
20:40 Nella The Princess Knight
21:02 Top Wing
21:14 Paw Patrol
21:37 Rusty Rivets
22:01 Wallykazam!
22:24 Bubble Guppies
22:47 Team Umizoomi
23:10 Kid-E-Cats
23:15 Shimmer And Shine
23:27 Sunny Day
23:49 Kiva Can Do!



00:00 Monkey Kingdom
01:30 Foxcatcher
03:40 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
05:55 Without A Paddle
07:30 Gimme Shelter
09:15 The Jane Austen Book Club
11:00 London
12:30 Clown
14:10 Foxcatcher
16:25 Monkey Kingdom
17:50 Tomorrowland
20:00 Ant-Man
22:15 The Wedding Planner
Machines



00:00 House Of DVF
01:00 House Of DVF
02:00 Cedar Cove
03:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year
04:00 Project Accessory
05:00 Mistresses
06:00 House Of DVF
07:00 House Of DVF
08:00 Cedar Cove
09:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year
10:00 Project Accessory
11:00 Mistresses
12:00 House Of DVF
13:00 House Of DVF
14:00 Cedar Cove
15:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year
16:00 Project Accessory
17:00 Mistresses
18:00 Along For The Bride
18:30 Along For The Bride
19:00 Along For The Bride
19:30 Along For The Bride
20:00 Cedar Cove
21:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year
22:00 Project Accessory
23:00 Mistresses



00:35 Felix All Around The World
02:05 Moomin And Midsummer Madness
03:30 Simba The King Lion
05:35 The Apple & The Worm
07:00 The Elf Who Stole Christmas
08:25 The Wheelers
09:50 Catcher: Cat City 2
11:30 The Emperor's Secret
13:05 Moomin And Midsummer Madness
14:30 Simba The King Lion
16:35 Felix The Toy Rabbit And The Time Machine
18:05 Catcher: Cat City 2
19:45 The Secret Of Kells
21:15 Nur And The Dragon's Temple
22:35 Felix The Toy Rabbit And The Time Machine



00:05 Allie
01:55 Yosemite
03:25 Christine
05:35 Big Momma's House
07:20 Spotlight
07:50 Dead Poets Society
10:00 Xine Lives
11:30 Batman Unlimited: Mechs vs. Mutants
12:45 Jem And The Holograms
14:45 The Cable Guy
16:30 Daddy's Home
18:15 Sully
20:00 The American President
22:00 Born On The Fourth Of July

13:50 Uncovering Aliens
14:38 How Do They Do It?
15:02 Food Factory USA
15:26 You Have Been Warned
16:14 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:02 Uncovering Aliens
17:50 Sci-Trek
18:40



SAINT PETERSBURG: Sweden's forward Marcus Berg (left) vies with Switzerland's midfielder Valon Behrami during the Russia 2018 World Cup round of 16 football match between Sweden and Switzerland yesterday. Sweden won 1-0. — AFP (See Page 28)

Atrocities in Congo war: Cannibalism, dismemberment

GENEVA: Rebels and government troops in Congo have committed atrocities including mass rape, cannibalism and the dismemberment of civilians, according to testimony published yesterday by a team of UN human rights experts who said the world must pay heed. The team investigating a conflict in the Kasai region of Democratic Republic of Congo told the UN Human Rights Council last week that they suspected all sides were guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Their detailed 126-page report catalogued gruesome attacks committed in the conflict, which erupted in late 2016, involving the Kamuina Nsapu and Bana Mura militias and Congo's armed forces, the FARDC. The testimony included boys being forced to rape their mothers, little girls being told witchcraft would allow them to catch bullets, and women forced to choose gang-rape or death. "What happened in the Kasai simply beggars description," Congo's Human Rights Minister Marie-Ange Mushobekwa told the Council.

"One victim told us that in May 2017 she saw a group of Kamuina Nsapu militia, some of whom sported female genitals as medals," the report said. "Some

witnesses recalled seeing people cutting up, cooking and eating human flesh, including penises cut from men who were still alive and from corpses, especially FARDC, and drinking human blood." Lead investigator Bacre Waly Ndiaye told the Council that in one incident, at least 186 men and boys from a single village were beheaded by Kamuina Nsapu, many of whose members were children forced to fight, unarmed or wielding sticks, and were convinced that magic had made them invulnerable.

Many such child soldiers were killed when FARDC soldiers machine-gunned them indiscriminately, he said. "The bodies were often buried in mass graves... or were sometimes piled in trucks by soldiers to be buried elsewhere." There were initially thought to be about 86 mass graves, but after investigating on the ground the team suspected there may be hundreds, he said. A Congolese government spokesman told Reuters that such information should be passed to magistrates in Congo. "We were not aware of this and it is very curious. But it is clearly a politically motivated press campaign that has nothing to do with justice," he said.

Mushobekwa said the government had given the expert team its whole-hearted cooperation and wanted the truth to come out, but she said some of the findings were "rather doubtful" because the investigation had been done quickly. "One thing is absolutely certain. Each element of law enforcement and security forces that is responsible for these crimes will answer for their actions and will be severely punished," she said. — Reuters

Local media reports said some of the accounts belonged to Najib's political party, the once-powerful United Malays National Organisation (UMNO). Until their shock defeat in May, Najib's party and its coalition allies had run Malaysia for six decades.

A security source told AFP that agents from the MACC arrested Najib at his home, a sprawling mansion in a well-heeled suburb of Kuala Lumpur. "They came in three to four unmarked cars," the source, a senior security official familiar with the arrest, said. A spokeswoman for MACC told AFP the former leader was brought to the commission's headquarters in the administrative capital Putrajaya outside Kuala Lumpur.

Najib would stay there overnight and be brought to court Wednesday, she added. The US Justice Department, which is seeking to recover items allegedly bought with stolen IMDB cash in America, estimates that \$4.5 billion in total was looted from IMDB. Veteran legislator Lim Kit Siang, whose party is a member of the current ruling coalition, said Najib's arrest had been expected. "Najib has to answer the allegations. It is long delayed as the scandal has turned Malaysia into a global kleptocracy country," he said. Hamidi, Najib's former deputy, said: "I respect the rule of law... Let the rule of law take place." — AFP

low or white corn, cotton, sesame, sunflower," Naef said.

In Diwanayah, the agriculture ministry's provincial director, Safaa al-Janabi, said the changes represent a total loss of 50 billion dinars (\$42 million, 36 million euros). Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has said the government will compensate farmers, particularly rice producers. But Kazaali feared that promise would not be kept. "We could be forced to leave agriculture and the region," he said. "Some farmers have tried to carry on regardless and plant their rice anyway, but the ministry for water resources has removed their pumps, which has destroyed their crop." — AFP

Apache woman, in odd twist, has key to US border wall

SAN BENITO: She does not identify as Mexican or American. Eloisa Tamez is Lipan Apache and her ancestors owned this land a century before the war that imposed the boundary between Mexico and Texas. Now a hulking border wall crosses her backyard, something she says feels like a "violation." That part of her property, in the border town of El Calaboz in southeast Texas, is a vacant area split down the middle by the rusty iron fence, which stands 18 feet high.

Since it was impossible to build the wall in the middle of the Rio Grande River, which marks the natural border with Mexico, US federal authorities built it a couple miles north of the riverbank. That meant some of the lands through which the wall already passes—and will continue to be built, if President Donald Trump gets his way—are owned by native tribes and private farmers.

This is what happened almost 10 years ago to Tamez, a nursing professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and a tribal rights activist. "It makes me very sad to see what happened to my property, which was valued by my parents not for the money, but for what the land produced for us, because my father was a farmer," the 83-year-old told AFP.

Referring to the land, she said: "They violate it. It's very sad to see that happening and I'm glad that my parents didn't live to see it." When federal authorities installed their fence, they divided her land not exactly in half. Then

they gave her a key to open the gate that allows her to access the other side of her ancestral land, three acres (1.2 hectares) of desert dotted with cactus and mesquite. That is all that is left of the 12 acres that once belonged to their Lipan Apache ancestors since the 18th century, thanks to a land grant from the Spanish crown.

In 2009, after losing a US federal lawsuit, Tamez was forced to accept compensation of \$56,000, which she donated to nursing scholarships on behalf of her parents. Other farmers, whose lands were entirely to the south of the wall, also received access codes to their properties. But most of the cases were settled with appropriations from the federal government for values that averaged \$12,600, according to an investigation by National Public Radio. Such land appropriations could multiply if Trump succeeds in walling most or all of the border, a third of which already has fencing.

More than half of the 310,531 illegal migrants detained by US Customs and Border Patrol in the fiscal year that ended on September 30 were captured in Texas, official figures show. That is why the family separation of migrants that attracted international attention in the last two months had its epicenter in this state, particularly in the Rio Grande Valley region where Tamez lives. It is home to the largest detention center for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers (nicknamed "Ursula," with more than a thousand detainees) and the "Casa Padre" shelter for minors, a former Walmart box store with a capacity to hold about 1,400 children.

Since May, more than 2,300 children were separated from their parents or guardians when they were detained while crossing the border, illegally or seeking asylum, under President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" policy. While Trump ordered on June 20 to end family separations, 2,000 children remain alone in "processing centers" and shelters. — AFP

Malaysia ex-PM arrested; graft...

Continued from Page 1

Najib and his cronies were accused of plundering billions of dollars from the IMDB sovereign wealth fund to buy everything from US real estate to artworks. Najib and the fund deny any wrongdoing. Since the election loss Najib has been banned from leaving the country and has found himself at the centre of a widening graft probe. Shortly after his ouster, a vast trove of valuables was seized in raids on properties linked Najib and his family, including cash, jewelry and luxury handbags, worth up to \$273 million.

He and his luxury-loving wife Rosmah Mansor were questioned by investigators, as were his stepson Riza Aziz, whose firm produced the hit 2013 movie "The Wolf of Wall Street", and his former deputy Zahid Hamidi. A special government task force investigating the IMDB corruption scandal said it froze 408 bank accounts containing a total 1.1 billion ringgit (\$272 million) last week.

Iraq's treasured amber rice crop...

Continued from Page 1

it would not be possible to irrigate these key crops, the forecast was slashed to 150,000 hectares, mainly set aside for less water-intensive vegetables and palms. "The ministry has therefore asked farmers not to cultivate rice, yel-



SAN BENITO: Eloisa Tamez, an activist and opponent of the US-Mexico border fence, stands in her backyard in San Benito, Texas. The section of border fence behind her backyard was built on land formerly owned by her family. — AFP

UK healthcare worker arrested...

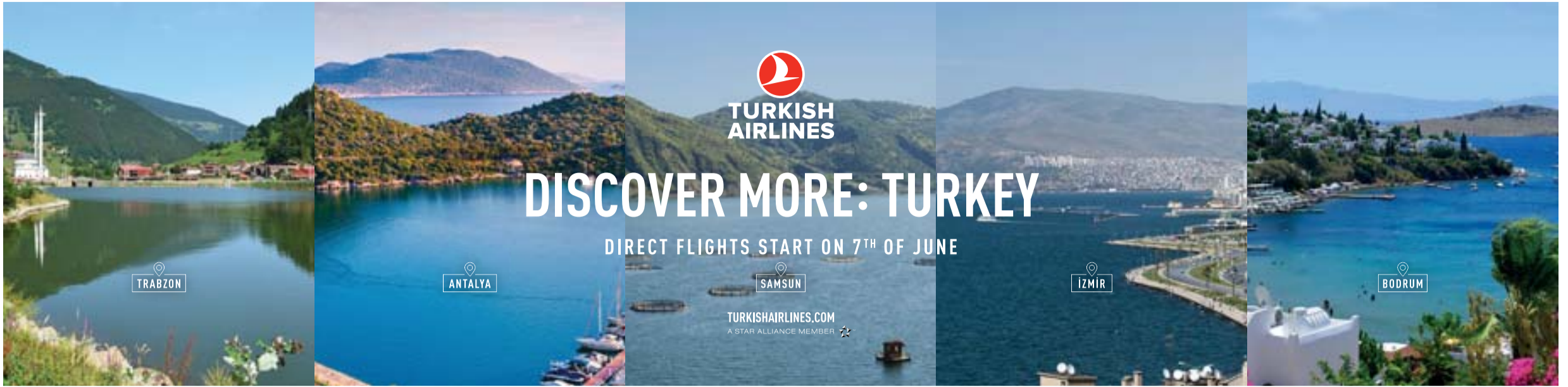
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"Asking the police to look into this was not something we did lightly, but we need to do everything we can to understand what has happened here and get the answers

we and the families so desperately want," he said.

The hospital contacted the police after a clinical review found no "definitive explanation" for an unexpected increase in the number of baby deaths and collapses at the unit. A review by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health found "no single cause" to explain the increase and highlighted "inadequate" staffing levels. The hospital stopped providing care for babies born earlier than 32 weeks in July 2016. The hospital looks after about 400 babies in its neonatal unit every year. — AFP

Sports



Japan fall short to exit World Cup in most agonizing manner

Honda calls time on international career

ROSTOV-ON-DON: Keisuke Honda said Japan could be proud despite exiting the World Cup in the most agonizing manner. Their players slumped to the turf after Nacer Chadli slammed the ball into the net at the end of a 94th-minute counter-attack, the last move of the game in Rostov-on-Don allowing Belgium to clinch a stunning 3-2 victory and a place in the quarter-finals.

Keisuke Honda announced his retirement from international football following Japan's elimination from the World Cup at the hands of Belgium on Monday night.

The 32-year-old came off the bench late in the last-16 clash with Roberto Martinez's side, but was unable to prevent his side from slipping to an agonising 3-2 loss. "Today we showed how we can proceed as Japanese football," the former AC Milan midfielder told reporters after the match.

"I might have finished my career for the national team, but I'm happy because we have many young players following us, and I think that they will make new history for Japanese football."

Among the pre-tournament favourites in Russia, Eden Hazard and the Belgians march on to a last-eight meeting with Brazil after scoring one of the latest winning goals in a World Cup game.

But a crushed Japan head home having been two goals ahead midway through the second half on a steamy night on the banks of the Don River.

"As you see, we were not afraid to play against Belgium and we showed that for 90 minutes but unfortunately we couldn't win the game," said Honda.

The 32-year-old had come off the bench late on and forced a fine save from Thibaut Courtois from a free-kick in stoppage time just before Japan conceded the deciding goal.

"Belgium deserved to win the game, but I am proud of the team because the starting members played real-

ly aggressively," he said. "I think all Japanese people also are proud of us, so I am satisfied about the team."

While Honda was dignified in defeat, Japan are entitled to feel they deserved better after a superbly disciplined performance.

Maya Yoshida marshalled their back line and Eiji Kawashima—a goalkeeper who has been relegated in both Scotland and France in the past three seasons—made several vital interceptions.

There was plenty of technical quality on display as well, with the two goals scored early in the second half by Genki Haraguchi and the excellent Takashi Inui both worthy of the biggest stage.

Winger Haraguchi, who plays in Germany, somehow beat the giant frame of Courtois to find the far corner and put Japan ahead just after the break.

Then Inui—operating on the other flank and who has just signed for Spanish side Betis—showed what he can do with a magnificent strike from outside the area after being teed up by Shinji Kagawa.

Japan looked to be heading for the quarter-finals of the World Cup for the first time in their history. But a side who scraped through the group phase only by virtue of receiving fewer yellow cards than Senegal were finally undone in the last quarter of the game.

The Samurai Blue contained Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku for more than an hour, yet it was the substitutes sent on by Belgium coach Roberto Martinez who made the difference.

Jan Vertonghen, undone by Gaku Shibasaki's through ball for Japan's opener, was fortunate to see his header loop over Kawashima and in under the crossbar to pull one back in the 69th minute.

Five minutes later, however, it was Marouane Fellaini, the classic Plan B, on for Dries Mertens, who headed in the leveller from Hazard's stellar assist.

Belgium's captain had stirred, and his side had the momentum. At 2-2, it was a repeat of the last World



ROSTOV-ON-DON: Japan's midfielder Keisuke Honda (top) vies with Belgium's defender Vincent Kompany in front of Belgium's goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois during the Russia 2018 World Cup round of 16 football match between Belgium and Japan at the Rostov Arena in Rostov-On-Don on Monday.—AFP

Cup meeting of these teams, at the 2002 tournament in Japan. Akira Nishino's side could have settled for taking the tie into extra time but instead they were punished for taking a chance on a last corner kick, and Chadli, another substitute, finished off the move.

Honda, though, insisted Japan could not have approached the game any other way. "I don't think we can defend against Belgium. Our strength is to keep

the ball. If we didn't try to do that and play aggressively, I don't think we would have scored and they could have scored four or five," said Honda.

Nishino—only appointed in April after the controversial sacking of veteran coach Vahid Halilhodzic—deserves credit for taking Japan so close against one of the finest sets of players around. That will be little consolation just now, however.—Agencies

Maradona offers to coach Argentina for free after World Cup debacle

BUENOS AIRES: Diego Maradona wants to return to the position of Argentina coach and is willing to work for free, as Jorge Sampaoli faces pressure to resign following their World Cup travails. Speaking on his "Hand of God" television show, the 57-year-old Maradona, who coached Argentina for two years from 2008-10, said it was painful to see the current state of the national team.

"I would return to leading the national team and I would do it for free, I wouldn't ask for anything in return," Maradona said on his programme, which runs on Venezuelan channel Telesur. Sampaoli is resisting intense pressure to resign following Argentina's 4-3 defeat to France on Saturday during a World Cup campaign that was fraught with tension and disputes.

The coach is believed to have lost the support of his players with some claims attributing team selection and tactics to captain and star Lionel Messi. Sampaoli, though, has another four years to run on his contract, meaning the Argentine Football Association (AFA) would have to pay a reported \$15 million (12.9 million euros) to sack him.

"Hopefully God will give me the strength to return to



KAZAN: File photo shows Argentinian football legend Diego Maradona (L) watches the Russia 2018 World Cup round of 16 football match between France and Argentina at the Kazan Arena in Kazan on June 30.—AFP

the bench," said Maradona, whose own World Cup coaching campaign in 2010 ended in an ignominious 4-0 thumping by Germany in the quarter-finals in South Africa.

"I'm 57, watching my country, which was beaten by a team that isn't one of the best in the world—it really hurts to see everything that we've built destroyed so easily," Maradona was a genius as a player, leading

could finally succeed in their seemingly Sisyphean task of reaching the "fifth game." But then came the familiar collapse, this time in their final group game against Sweden when they were outmuscled by less sophisticated opponents and lost 3-0, followed by the inevitable end.

Four of Mexico's second-round eliminations have come against clearly superior teams: twice against Argentina (2006 and 2010), once against Germany (1998) and now Brazil. But twice Mexico were the favourites, against Bulgaria in 1994 when they lost on penalties, and against the United States in 2002 when they collectively froze and lost 2-0. The other was an even match against the Netherlands four years ago, when they led 1-0 until the last five minutes, only to capitulate and lose 2-1. One of Mexico's many problems is that the pressure on the coach is immense, especially for a foreigner, and Osorio—the ninth man to occupy the post in 10 years—has been in a running battle with the media during his three years in charge.

Another finger could be pointed at the Mexican league, the strongest in Latin America, which paradoxically is detrimental to the national side. This is partly because the

number of foreign players makes it more difficult for Mexicans to break into the teams and also because, when Mexican players are successful, they often prefer to stay at home rather than move to more competitive leagues abroad. Mexico's squad in Russia had eight home-based players, another three in Major League Soccer and only six based in the top five European leagues. Indeed, Osorio pointed to Mexico's lack of players at top European clubs as a key factor in their defeat to Brazil.

"The fact that we could play on equal terms against a team like Brazil speaks very well of our attitude, but we lacked efficiency and that extra quality they have in the last third of the field," said Osorio, noting that all Brazil's players are based with top clubs.

"You have to remember where Gabriel Jesus plays (Manchester City), where Willian and Philippe Coutinho play (Chelsea and Barcelona, respectively). "Mexican football needs to export more players and they need to compete each weekend with the best, they need to train each week with the best, and then the team will take that jump in quality." —Reuters

Elimination sends Mexico back to the drawing board

MOSCOW: Mexico have had six different coaches at the last seven World Cups ranging from the impassioned, ranting Mexican Miguel Herrera to irascible Argentine Ricardo La Volpe and the cerebral Colombian Juan Carlos Osorio, their current boss.

But the result is always the same. For the seventh World Cup in a row, the soccer-mad country of more than 100 million people has seen its team knocked out in the second round, this time with Monday's 2-0 defeat to Brazil.

As always, there were tantalising moments, notably in the 1-0 win over Germany, when Mexico suggested they

Mahrez set for Man City move

LONDON: Riyad Mahrez is set to secure a move to English champions Manchester City from Leicester for a reported fee of £60million (\$79million) seven months after the Foxes turned down an offer from City, according to British media reports yesterday.

The 27-year-old Algerian international—whose performances in Leicester's astonishing title win in 2016 earned him the players player of the year award — is according to Sky Sports News due to undergo a medical at City later this week.

Mahrez—who signed from French side Le Havre for just £400,000 in 2014 — sat out two matches following Leicester's demanding £80million for him after declining a £50million offer plus young winger Patrick Roberts, who is valued at £15million, from City during the January transfer window.

However, both Press Association Sport and Sky Sports report that with Leicester having signed highly-rated James Maddison from second tier Norwich City for £24million and with a month to go to the falling of the transfer window curtain they are now willing to sell him.

Leicester have allowed him extra time off since Mahrez—who has made 179 appearances for Leicester, scoring 48 times—went off on international duty for his country in June. Mahrez along with striker Jamie Vardy and French midfielder N'Golo Kante became unlikely household names during the title winning season as Italian manager Claudio Ranieri engineered one of the greatest sporting surprises of all time.

Mahrez scored 17 goals in that campaign, and then having signed a four year contract played a major role in the club reaching the Champions League quarter finals in 2016/17 as he contributed four goals.

Serie A side AS Roma subsequently came after him last summer but were left frustrated as several offers with the highest reportedly £32million fell well short of Leicester's expectations. Manchester City have also been linked with Napoli midfielder Jorginho with the Italy international reportedly left out of their pre-season training camp squad.—AFP



SNIPPETS



Determined Uruguay ready to spoil French World Cup party

France's strongest points are attackers, Griezmann and Mbappe

NIZHNIY NOVGOROD: Streetwise and tough yet with a razor-sharp edge, Uruguay have moved serenely into the World Cup quarter-finals, side-stepping the chaos that has swamped former winners Argentina, Germany and Spain.

Uruguay have shown in Russia they are extremely difficult to beat yet sometimes underwhelming-factors you could have predicted from them before the World Cup. A low-key start and an 89th-minute winner that gave them a forgettable 1-0 win over an Egypt side missing Mohamed Salah has now given way to real hope they can win their third World Cup.

With a defence built around the central pairing of Jose Gimenez and the vastly experienced 32-year-old Diego Godin-they also play together at Atletico Madrid-Uruguay have won all four games in Russia, conceding a solitary goal.

They are also the only side to have beaten Russia, overwhelming them 3-0 in the group stage in what appeared to be a reality check for the host nation before they went on to stun Spain in the last 16. Uruguay extinguished Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal on a thrilling night in Sochi to reach the quarter-finals, with Edinson Cavani scoring two brilliant goals. Next up the grizzled, experienced World Cup campaigners take on a young France-including the exciting Kylian Mbappe and Atletico's Antoine Griezmann-in Nizhny Novgorod on Friday, bidding for a place in the semi-finals. It is a tough assignment for France and any hope that their stars will enjoy the same space they found in their 4-3 win against a disorganised Argentina have already been extinguished.

"France's strongest points are the attackers, Griezmann and Mbappe," Uruguay's veteran coach Oscar Tabarez said in his understated yet determined way after the Portugal victory. "If you let France have space it will be very difficult." "El Maestro" Tabarez has been in charge of Uruguay for 12 years and has not only forged a strong team who rarely fail to deliver on the big stage, but also a side with an immense work ethic and huge experience. At this World Cup, goalkeeper Fernando Muslera and star striker Luis Suarez both collected their 100th caps.

The main doubt for France is Cavani, who has a calf muscle injury that forced him off against Portugal. He did not train on Tuesday. Cavani has



NIZHNIY NOVGOROD: Uruguay's players attend a training session at the Sport Centre Borsky in Nizhny Novgorod yesterday, during the Russia 2018 World Cup football tournament. France will face Uruguay on July 6 in Nizhny Novgorod for their quarter final match of the Russia 2018 World Cup football tournament. — AFP

played 105 times for his country. If he has not recovered in time, he could be replaced by Cristhian Stuani, who has played 42 times for Uruguay, just 16 fewer than Griezmann has appeared for France. And they are marshalled by Godin, currently 121 caps and counting. "We always think about not letting our opponent play, that's one of the things that bothers them," midfielder Diego Laxalt told AFP. "We try to make sure that strikers don't feel comfortable, it's a good option."

But in this topsy-turvy World Cup, one thing for Uruguay has notably changed. Surprisingly, the team that have received the fewest yellow cards in Russia-just one-are Uruguay, known in the past to resort to the dark arts to win.

At the last World Cup, Luis Suarez was involved in a notorious biting scandal and as back

in 1986 Uruguay were labelled "liars and cheaters" by Alex Ferguson after a bad-tempered match against Scotland. This time, only Rodrigo Bentancur has been booked.

It is a remarkable transformation. They have five fewer yellow cards than France and it is the Europeans who have to reshuffle because of a suspension to Blaise Matuidi. "In reality, I think Uruguay has been a strong, aggressive opponent, but without any bad intention towards the opponent," said Suarez on Tuesday, adding that they should be proud of their disciplinary record in Russia. Uruguay also have a reputation as World Cup party poopers-including Ghana in 2010 — and history is on their side. The two nations have met three times in the World Cup and Uruguay have not lost once. — AFP

Loew to stay on as Germany coach despite WCup flop

BERLIN: Germany coach Joachim Loew will stay in his post to lead a national team overhaul after the current world champions crashed out in the group stage at the World Cup in Russia, the German Football Federation (DFB) said yesterday.

Loew's contract runs until 2022, having been extended for two years in May. But his side's shock exit in Russia after defeats to Mexico and South Korea and a solitary win over Sweden had sparked speculation about whether he would keep his job. "We are all firmly convinced that with Jogi Loew, we have a national coach who will analyse (the situation) very precisely, take the right steps and lead our team back on the road to success," DFB president Reinhard Grindel said in a statement. Grindel said Loew would present his analysis of what went wrong

before the team's next international on Sept. 6 against France for the newly created Nations League. The 58-year-old has been in charge for 12 years, having taken over after the 2006 World Cup. In 2014 he led Germany to their fourth World Cup title.

He had previously been an assistant to his predecessor Juergen Klinsmann from 2004-2006. Loew, who prior to Russia had led his country to at least the semi-finals in all major tournaments, said he was "very grateful for the confidence that the DFB continues to place in me."

"My disappointment is equally big, but I want to start the reconstruction with all my strength. I will now analyse everything with the team, we will have talks and (I) will draw my conclusions prior to the season start in September."

Germany's first-round World Cup exit was its earliest in 80 years. The international careers of several of its 2014 champions, including Mesut Ozil, Sami Khedira and Jerome Boateng, remains in doubt. Loew has been in charge for 165 matches, winning 108, more than any other Germany coach. Until a few years ago his team were an indomitable attacking force, and their 7-1 demolition of Brazil in the 2014 World Cup semi-final



Joachim Loew

was considered a remarkable achievement.

But they managed just two goals in their three group matches in Russia to exit the tournament in shame, leaving German fans, used to much greater success, bitterly disappointed. — Reuters

Upsets and tears, Asia makes an impact but little progress at WCup

KAZAN: South Korea hammered the Germans, and Japan very nearly did the same to Belgium, but Asia's representatives are once again heading home before the business end of the World Cup gets going. The Samurai Blue looked like providing the biggest shock yet of a tournament riddled with upsets when they led the richly talented Belgians 2-0 with half an hour to play on Monday, only to lose 3-2 in the last minute of stoppage time.

Understandably, the Japanese were shattered by the end to their dream of reaching the last eight for the first time and becoming Asia's first World Cup quarter-finalists since the continent hosted

the tournament in 2002. "This is football. It is a bitter pill to swallow, but a result that we have to accept," Shinji Kagawa said.

"I wanted to create a new chapter in history, but we have realized what a big wall in world soccer we have to climb." It is a wall that Asian teams have managed to scale only twice: when South Korea reached the semi-finals on home soil in 2002, and their cousins in the North got to the last eight at the 1966 World Cup in England.

A contingent of five Asian countries competed in Russia for the first time, and at least there were four victories to celebrate - a stark contrast with the 2014 finals when the continent went winless.

Japan's victory over 10-man Colombia in their opening fixture was the first competitive win for the continent over a South American side, while South Korea's defeat of the defending champions in their final group match was simply extraordinary. Iran also opened with a smash-and-grab raid of a win over Morocco but they were always up against it in a group that also featured Spain and Portugal, while Saudi Arabia beat Egypt in a final fixture that was the deadest of dead rubbers.

Only Australia, part of the Asian confederation

since 2006, were unable to register a victory, once again illustrating that organisation and fighting spirit will not get you far at the World Cup if you cannot find the net.

The South Korean players were in tears when they realised that their 2-0 win over Germany in Kazan would not send them through to the last 16, but defeats in their first two matches had left them with only the slimmest of chances.

Japan likewise might have felt unlucky yesterday morning, but they only made it to the second round because they had fewer yellow cards in the group stage than Senegal. Asia will host the World Cup for the second time in Qatar in 2022, when automatic qualification for the hosts means the continent could be represented by six teams.

China will still need a serious upturn in fortunes if it is to join the many Chinese sponsors in Qatar, and it may even have to wait until the floodgates open for the mooted 48-team World Cup in 2026 for a place on football's biggest stage.

At the very least, though, the performances of Japan and South Korea might stop Asia being the first point of call for those who want to argue that the World Cup is already too big. — Reuters

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England edge Colombia in shootout

Book quarter-final clash against Sweden at World Cup



MOSCOW: Colombia's goalkeeper David Ospina punches the ball away during the Russia 2018 World Cup round of 16 football match between Colombia and England at the Spartak Stadium in Moscow yesterday. — AFP

MOSCOW: England edged Colombia 4-3 on penalties to halt a run of five successive shootout defeats at major tournaments and book a quarter-final clash against Sweden at the World Cup. Harry Kane fired England ahead with his tournament-leading sixth goal just before the hour in Moscow, converting a penalty after he was hauled down by Carlos Sanchez at a corner. Gareth Southgate's team looked to be heading into the last eight in regulation time until Yerry Mina equalised with a 93rd-minute header as the giant Colombian defender scored for the third game in a row. Neither team could find an advantage in extra-time and so a bad-tempered match went to a nailbiting penalty shootout.

David Ospina dived superbly to his left to repel Jordan Henderson's third penalty for England, but Manuel Uribe hit the crossbar before Jordan Pickford saved from Carlos Bacca.

Eric Dier drilled home the decisive spot-kick as

England won for just the second time in eight penalty shootouts and reached the quarter-finals for the first time since 2006.

Colombia were dealt a huge blow before kick-off as James Rodriguez failed to shake off a calf injury, the Bayern Munich midfielder not even fit enough for a place on the bench. The 26-year-old was the Golden Boot winner with six goals in Brazil four years ago, when Colombia reached the quarter-finals for the first time. Kane, Raheem Sterling and Dele Alli were among nine players recalled for England after Gareth Southgate rested the majority of his first-choice side for their final group game against Belgium.

Kane scored a combined five goals in the wins over Tunisia and Panama, and the Tottenham striker went close when his looping header back across goal landed on the roof of the net. Sterling then did well to spin past the imposing Davinson Sanchez although his left-footed

strike was charged down, while Kieran Trippier curled wide from a free-kick.

Wilmar Barrios was booked for leaning his head into the chest of Jordan Henderson as the game grew into an increasingly fiery affair. Pickford made his first save from a fizzing long-range effort from Juan Fernando Quintero, while Jesse Lingard sliced over after Colombia half-cleared a cross.

A member of the Colombia coaching staff appeared to deliberately barge Sterling as the Manchester City player headed towards the half-time at the interval, escaping with just a telling-off. Kane made the breakthrough on 57 minutes after he was wrestled to the ground at a corner by Carlos Sanchez, the same player who was shown the first red card of the tournament in a 2-1 loss to Japan.

The England captain faced a lengthy wait as several Colombia players protested to the referee but he kept

his nerve to beat north London rival Ospina, lifting his penalty just over the Arsenal goalkeeper's outstretched leg. Alli nearly added a second when his diving header at the far post flashed over the bar, with Lingard appealing for another spot-kick after he was caught by Davinson Sanchez. Juan Cuadrado blazed over with 10 minutes to play, and it appeared Colombia's hopes were up when Pickford made a terrific save to turn behind Manuel Uribe's spectacular long-range strike.

But Mina rose powerfully to meet the resulting corner, with Trippier only able to help the ball in via the underside of the crossbar in the third minute of added-on time. Substitute Danny Rose almost struck an extra-time winner when his angled shot whistled beyond the far post, and Eric Dier headed over unmarked at a corner before England's luck deserted them again in all too familiar fashion. Then, unlike so many times before, luck finally smiled on them in the shootout. — AFP

Scrappy Swedes edge Swiss to reach q-finals

ST PETERSBURG: A deflected shot from Emil Forsberg gave Sweden a 1-0 victory over Switzerland in a scrappy round of 16 match yesterday, sending the Swedes through to the World Cup quarter-finals for the first time in 24 years. A meeting with either Colombia or England awaits Janne Andersson's side in the next round, but judging by the fare they served up in St Petersburg, neither of their potential opponents will lose sleep over the prospect of facing the limited Swedish attack.

Both teams were wasteful in possession and guilty of the sort of poor finishing and unimaginative midfield play that had boos and whistles ringing around the St Petersburg stadium from as early as the 25th minute.

Switzerland came into the match as the side with arguably the greater wealth of attacking talent, but their four shots on target over the 90 minutes told its own story. Sweden had one attempt fewer on target, with the only difference being that one effort took a heavy deflection and wrong-footed Swiss goalkeeper Yann Sommer to send the Swedes into the next round. "It's the biggest goal of my career, one of the biggest moments in my career too. To experience this, to fire Sweden into a quarter-finals together with this group, it feels fantastic," said Forsberg.

The Swedes were happy to pack midfield as they have done for the entire tournament and shepherd the Swiss down the wings, surrendering possession while looking to pinch a goal on the counter.

Marcus Berg forced a fine save from Sommer in the 27th minute and Albin Ekdal squandered an excellent chance when he volleyed over the bar from 12 metres after getting on the end of a cross from Mikael Lustig.

At the other end, Blerim Dzemaili wasted Switzerland's best chance when he fired over from 12 metres, while Xherdan Shaqiri had an

awful day, sending long balls from the wing sailing over the heads of his team mates with alarming regularity.

The teams went into the interval goalless and the second half started in a similarly stultifying manner, with the game looking like it was inching inevitably towards extra time and potentially a penalty shootout.

Even the goal had a fair bit of fortune about it. Forsberg's 66th-minute shot was directed straight at Sommer until Manuel Akanji stuck out a foot and deflected it past his stranded keeper. "Forsberg has developed in terms of the holistic approach to his game," Andersson said of his goalscorer. "Even if he doesn't succeed in every part of his game, he does very well." That was a fair assessment of Forsberg's contribution before and after his goal, with the RB Leipzig midfielder unable to bring any sort of influence to bear for large parts of the match. Andersson, however, is not unduly troubled by his team's lack of creativity. "We know that we're a good team, we've earned our successes. We know how we've got this far," the coach added. "What other teams and countries think about that, you'll have to ask them." — Reuters



SAINT PETERSBURG: Sweden's forward Marcus Berg (L) pulls the shorts of Switzerland's defender Johan Djourou during the Russia 2018 World Cup round of 16 football match between Sweden and Switzerland at the Saint Petersburg Stadium in Saint Petersburg yesterday. — AFP