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# France beat Croatia in thrilling final to win second World Cup

## Amir congratulates France on victory, praises Russia as hosts



MOSCOW: France's players celebrate as they hold the World Cup trophy at the end of the 2018 World Cup final match between France and Croatia at the Luzhniki Stadium yesterday. — AFP ( See Page 28)

MOSCOW: Goals from Paul Pogba and Kylian Mbappe, as well as a controversial VAR-awarded penalty, helped France beat Croatia 4-2 in an incredible World Cup final in Moscow yesterday to lift the trophy for the second time in their history. In a match that had a bit of everything, Mario Mandzukic scored the first ever own goal in a World Cup final to put France in front at the Luzhniki Stadium, only for Ivan Perisic to equalize.

However, Antoine Griezmann's penalty put France back in front after Perisic's handball was penalized with the aid of the video assistant referee, before Pogba and Mbappe both scored in the second half. The first team to score four times in a final since Brazil in 1970, the French could even afford to see Mandzukic pull a goal back following a ridiculous goalkeeping mistake by Hugo Lloris.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable to the President of France Emmanuel Macron, congratulating him on the national football team winning the 2018 FIFA World Cup. His Highness the Amir praised the exceptional performance of the French national team throughout the competition that led to winning on a world-class stage with great sportsmanship, which was presented by all the participating teams.

HH the Amir commended the outstanding effort of Russia in hosting the competition, and the preparations leading to its success, which contributed to the achievement of its noble and desired goals. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

France join Uruguay and Argentina in winning the World Cup for a second time, after their 1998 triumph over Brazil when Didier Deschamps - now the coach - was the captain. The game will be remembered as the highest-scoring World Cup final since England's win

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### News in brief

#### Three killed as worker opens fire

RIYADH: Three people were killed at a Yemen border crossing when a Saudi immigration worker opened fire, killing a colleague and police officer before being shot himself, Saudi authorities said yesterday. The 34-year-old employee of the Wadia crossing shot two of his colleagues at the frontier post on Saturday night, after they accused him of missing shifts, the Najran province administration said via Twitter. One died instantly while another was injured and hospitalized. The gunman went on to kill a police officer before being shot dead as he tried to flee the scene. The Najran authority made no link between the attack and the war in Yemen, where Saudi Arabia is leading a military coalition battling Iran-backed Houthi rebels. — AFP

#### Hugger may face charges

RIYADH: A woman may face charges under a new harassment law in Saudi Arabia after storming a stage to hug a pop star, authorities and local media said yesterday. The woman could face two years in prison and a fine of up to 100,000 Saudi riyals (\$27,000), attorney Abdulkarim Al-Qadi told the Okaz news site. The woman, who has not been identified, was dressed in a full-length abaya and niqab when she jumped on stage to hug Iraqi singer Majid Al-Muhandis, whose love songs are hugely popular in the Gulf. A police statement said the woman had been arrested on Friday night for "criminal acts as per the anti-harassment regulatory act". — AFP

#### UAE sanctions not linked to Iran

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates' decision to punish seven currency exchange houses is unrelated to a crackdown on a network funneling illicit funds to Iran, the UAE central bank said yesterday. "The seven exchange houses had their licenses downgraded because they were found to be in violation of central bank regulations, including anti-money laundering regulations, and then failed to regularize their status during a grace period," a central bank statement to Reuters said. It added that the downgrade, originally announced in June, was not linked to a disclosure by Washington that the United States and the UAE had disrupted a currency exchange network transferring funds to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards. — Reuters

## Russia hands over World Cup hosting duties to Qatar

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday handed over the mantle of World Cup host to the amir of Qatar, whose country will stage the 2022 edition of the tournament. The ceremony marked a handover from the world's largest country by landmass to one of the smallest. Qatar has a population of 2.3 million people and an area slightly smaller than the US state of Connecticut. Qatar's size, as well as its broiling temperatures and its lack of ready stadium infrastructure, have

prompted some to question the decision by FIFA, soccer's world governing body, to make it host. Qatar's rulers say they will rise to the challenge.

Hours before the final between France and Croatia that brought down the curtain on Russia's hosting of this year's tournament, Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani joined Putin and FIFA chief Gianni Infantino at a Kremlin ceremony. "Russia is handing over the relay baton for hosting the FIFA World Cup to Qatar," Putin said. "We are proud of what we did for fans of this wonderful sport. We ourselves, the whole country, got an enormous amount of pleasure from interacting with soccer, with the world of soccer, with the fans who came here from all over the globe."

"I'm sure that our friends from Qatar will be able to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup on the same high level."

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MOSCOW: (From left) Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, FIFA President Gianni Infantino and Russian President Vladimir Putin pose for a photograph during a symbolic transfer of the authority to Qatar to host the World Cup 2022 at the Kremlin yesterday. — AFP

## Abadi calls Amir to allay Kuwait's concerns; FM to brief Assembly

By B Izzak and Agencies

KUWAIT: Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi has assured HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah that security remains intact in Iraq amid nationwide protests over poor state services and a lack of job opportunities. In a phone conversation they had yesterday, the Iraqi prime minister and HH the Amir also discussed issues of mutual concern, with Abadi wishing Kuwait perpetual development and prosperity. Meanwhile, the Amir told the Iraqi premier that Kuwait stands ready to assist its neighbor to overcome the current turmoil, emphasizing that stability in Baghdad is among Kuwait's chief concerns.

Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said yesterday that acting prime minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah will brief MPs tomorrow on the ongoing protests in Iraq. He said a number of lawmakers approached him



BASRA: Iraqi security forces form a human barrier as protesters demonstrate against unemployment and a lack of basic services in this southern Iraqi city yesterday. — AFP

requesting an informal meeting in the Assembly with the government over the events in Iraq amid reports that Iraqi demonstrators in southern cities have come closer to the border with Kuwait.

Ghanem said that the meeting is open to all lawmakers and will be held at the Assembly office. The foreign minister will explain to MPs the developments in Iraq. He said that the meeting will also be attended by the acting defense minister and the state minister for Cabinet affairs to answer questions by lawmakers over the developments on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders and Kuwait's preparations for all possibilities.

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## India mob kills man over child kidnap rumor, Qatari injured

NEW DELHI: Indian police said yesterday they have arrested 32 people after a man was killed by a mob in the country's latest lynching over suspicion of child kidnapping sparked by rumors on WhatsApp. The men were arrested over the murder of Google employee Mohammad Azam who was attacked along with two friends by a 2,000-strong mob in southern Karnataka state's Bidar district late Friday. Azam's friends, including a Qatari national, were critically injured in the assault that came days after the Facebook-owned messaging service published advertisements in Indian newspapers offering tips to curb the spread of fake information on its platform.

More than 20 people have been lynched in India after being accused of child abduction in the last two months.

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Local

# Amir receives invitation from former US president Jimmy Carter

Amir, Crown Prince receive senior officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali-Ghanem.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister, and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a letter from former US President Jimmy Carter, inviting him to visit the Carter Center in Atlanta. In his message, he expressed his thanks for the efforts of His Highness the Amir for his initiative in seeking and calling for all parties to resolve the Gulf crisis, which affected the homogeneity of the GCC countries and hoped that his efforts would succeed in preserving the unity of the GCC.

Separately, His Highness the Amir received at Seif Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir then

received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq



## Defense Minister arrives in London

Ali Al-Ghanem and later received Deputy

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh

Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister, and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, in addition to Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh.

In other news, Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah arrived in the British capital, London, from Germany after undergoing a successful surgery. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh.



KUWAIT: People wait at a new electronic passports center in Mishref.



## New centers to accelerate handing electronic passports

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior announced yesterday that the new electronic passports centers are for handing of the passports while the old service centers are designated for submitting requests for electronic passports. Launching the new centers, which started functioning yesterday, came upon the instructions of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, under the supervision of the Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Essam Al-Naham in order to accelerate the process of issuing the electronic passports to the citizens, Directorate General of the General Department of Public Relations and Security Media said in press release yesterday.

The new centers work on two shifts: from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The new centers allocated for Al-Asimah (capital) Governorate are in Al-Jazaer High School for Girls in Al-Shamiya, and for Hawally Governorate in the International Fair, hall number 8, in Mishref area, while in Al-Farwaneya Governorate in Amer Ibn Rabae School in Ishbiliyah area, and Al-Jahra Governorate in Sa'ed Al-Abdullah in Al-Ghusoon Kindergarten. New Centers in Al-Ahmadi Governorate is in Fahad Al-Ahmad area in Balat Al-Shubada' School, and in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate in Al-Adan area in Al-Mulla Saud Al-Sager School. Meanwhile the old Service Centers are



## New centers work on two shifts

specialized for submitting the electronic passports, are working according to the scheduled timings as indicated on the official website of the Ministry of Interior. The centers are for Al-Asimah Governorate in Al-Shamiya area, Hawally Governorate in West Mishref Center, Al-Farwaneya Governorate in Ishbiliya Center, in Al-Jahra Governorate in Saed Al-Abdullah Center, In Al-Ahmadi Governorate in Fahad Al-Ahmad Center, and in Mubarak Al-Khabeer Governorate in Al-Adan block-7 Center. The Interior Minister

instructed the centers to offer priority in issuing the electronic passports to students studying abroad and patients receiving medical treatment abroad. — KUNA



The new electronic passports.



Local

# Oil production in neutral zone to resume in December

## Eight tons of old weapons found in Amghara warehouse

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Oil production in the neutral zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will resume in December following a four-year suspension, well-informed oil sources said. Notably, Riyadh had suspended oil production in Khafji for environmental reasons. The suspension has cost Kuwait up to \$10 billion in losses, according to the parliament's budgets committee, which suggested that the oil in Khafji 'migrated' to Al-Safaniya oilfield in Saudi Arabia, adding more losses to Kuwait.

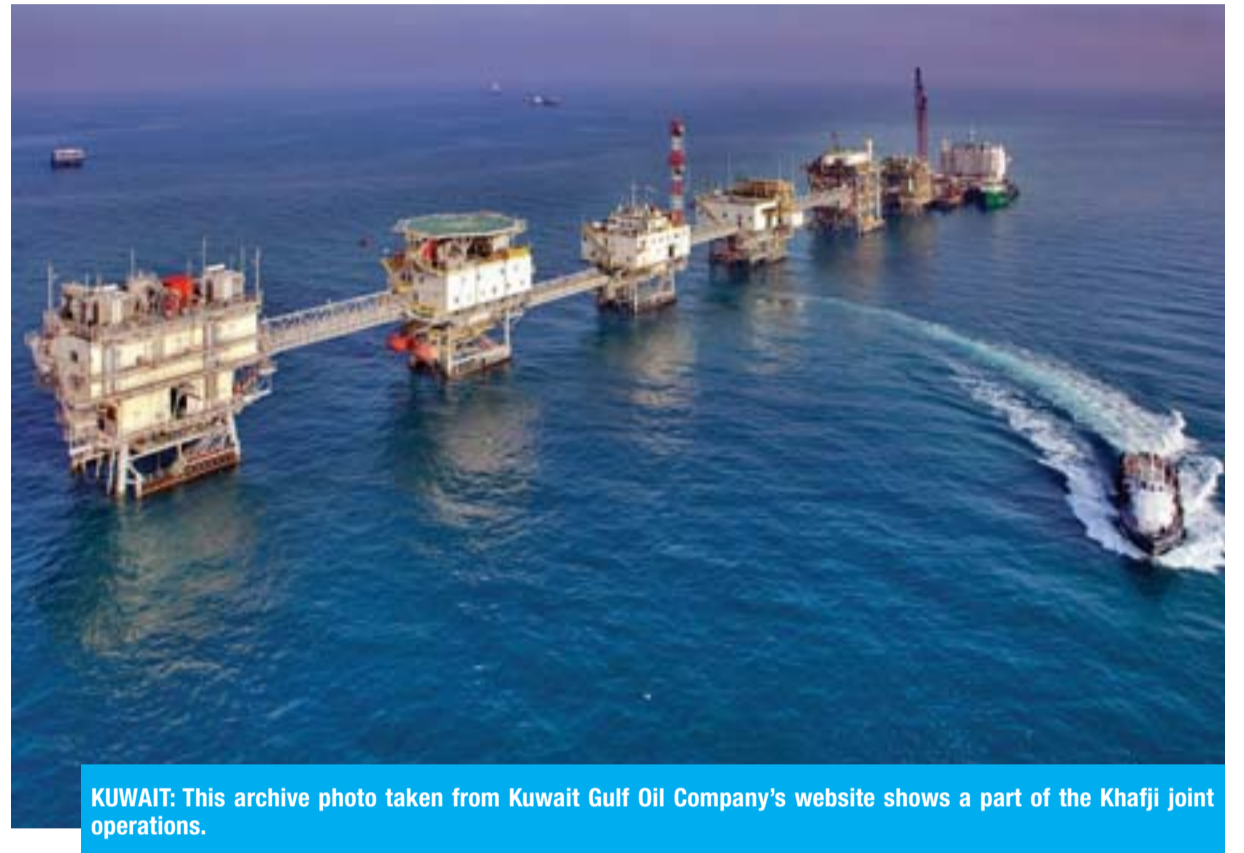
The sources explained that a Kuwaiti-Saudi committee had been meeting to discuss resuming the production and working on resolving both sides' disagreements on how to manage the treaties signed between them. Moreover, the sources said Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheedi and his Saudi counterpart will meet in November to declare resuming oil production in Khafji and Wafra.

### Old weapons

Farwaniya criminal detectives found around eight tons of old weapons in a steel warehouse in Amghara, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a citizen reported seeing the weapons when he purchased some steel from the warehouse and that on searching the place, detectives found some large shells, RPG spare parts and various ammunition left over by the Iraqi invading troops. The sources said that two people running the warehouse were arrested and interrogated. The suspects, Asian nationals, said that they have a contract with the defense ministry to purchase old weaponry. They also showed copies of the contracts they have with the defense ministry. Further investigations are in progress to verify the suspects' allegations.

### Law degrees

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said according to the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) database, the total number of government employees with degrees in law is 7,052 citizens and 1,271 non-Kuwaitis. Saleh added 41 citizens with law degrees had been registered with the CSC employment application system as of Dec 31, 2017 and that they had been nominated to work in government bodies, but refused the jobs offered to them. Saleh said contracts of 2,140 expats had been frozen effective from July 1, 2018 pending terminating them in the new fiscal year. Meanwhile, official sources at the services



**KUWAIT:** This archive photo taken from Kuwait Gulf Oil Company's website shows a part of the Khafji joint operations.

ministry said that the ministry was waiting for CSC's approval to review complaints made by 1,400 employees for not getting excellent performance bonuses, adding that the ministry has already formed special committees to study the complaints. Separately, Minister of Justice and Awqaf and Islamic affairs Fahd Al-Afasi is expected to refer a number of senior officials to retirement pending a process of reshuffling and making new appointments in various ministry sectors. In another concern, and in a bid to avoid losing files in various courts, the ministry plans to Kuwaitize the courtroom doorkeeper job and use an automated system to transfer files amongst various courts.

### Bedoon students

Ministry of Education's (MoE) assistant undersecretary for public education Fatima Al-Kandari said the ministry was currently working on resolving the problem of registering bedoon students after receiving many complaints in this regard. Kandari added that MoE is currently reviewing the total number of students and class density in Jahra and Farwaniya educational zones pending transferring bedoon students from Mubarak Al-Kabeer.

Speaking after a meeting with educational zone directors, Kandari said the meeting also discussed the procedures followed on promotions and the excellent performance bonuses, noting that around 3,000 of the ministry's employees were not included in the final assessment reports system and that their names would be referred to respective educational zones to know the reason, pending completing the needed procedures.



The Jaber Causeway

## Jaber Causeway Subbiya link construction ongoing

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Director of the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport Ahmad Al-Hessan said work on Subbiya link of the Jaber Causeway project is in progress and that the last piece of its structure will be installed by the end of this month. Hessan added precast sections had been used in building the 27-km bridge over Kuwait Bay using 958 pieces, each with a length of 40-60 meters, width of 17 meters and height of 2.5-4 meters, and weighing around 950 tons.

## Kuwait finances charity projects in Egypt

**CAIRO:** Kuwait's Zakat House provided a financial contribution worth the total sum of EGP 4.6 million (about \$358,000) to construct 94 houses for the poor and orphans in the villages of Upper Egypt. The head of the Zakat office, Ismail Al-Kanderi told KUNA that the donation, which was presented yesterday to Dar-Orman Charitable Society, would initially build 32 houses in the village of Sohag.

Kuwaiti donor Saleh Al-Ghanem provided EGP 2.1 million (around \$118,300) to the first project. The other donation was provided by the Kuwaiti Al-Najat Charitable Society worth EGP 4.2 million (\$239,000) to build 62 houses in three villages in the Upper Egypt region, Kanderi added.

Head of Dar-Orman Charity Association, Mamdouh Shaaban said the construction process would be in coordination with the Zakat House office. Shaaban thanked Kuwait for its efforts to alleviate the suffering of poor Egyptians and welcomed Kuwaiti donors to visit the sites of the charitable projects. — KUNA



**CAIRO:** Kuwait provides financial aid for charity projects in Egypt. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** World Cup fans in Kuwait gather in a coffee shop to watch the final match between France and Croatia yesterday. Coffee shops mounted screens for visitors to follow World Cup matches since the tournament started on June 14. — KUNA photos

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## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A replica of an old Kuwaiti home displayed at Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait. — Photo by Ahmed Qanan (KUNA)

# Bayt.com announces 37,000+ jobs in second quarter of 2018

## Spike in job announcements in June

MIDDLE EAST: Bayt.com, the Middle East's largest job site, just revealed that over 37,000 jobs were announced on its platform during the second quarter of 2018 bringing the total jobs announced on the site during 2018 so far to nearly 90,000 jobs. This number shows the numerous available opportunities for job seekers in the MENA region. In addition, Bayt.com reports that the availability of jobs seems to be increasing towards the summer season as nearly 15,000 job opportunities were made available on Bayt.com during June 2018 alone.

Earlier this year, the Middle East Job Index reported that nearly two thirds (64 percent) of the region's

employers were planning to hire within the year. Bayt.com explained that the platform sees these hiring intentions being implemented through thousands of online job announcements and tens of thousands of CV searches; through which employers directly find, contact, interview, and hire candidates from the Bayt.com database.

"We are honored to help jobseekers in the MENA region to land their ideal jobs, and to make thousands of job opportunities available in the region through our platform on a daily basis," said Omar Tahboub, General Manager of Bayt.com. "Bayt.com aims to empower



Omar Tahboub

people to build and grow their careers, to facilitate communication and opportunity creation between employers and job seekers, and to always make the relevant tools and information available. With that goal in mind, Bayt.com works closely with tens of thousands of employers and millions of job seekers from diverse background, career levels, and locations."

Bayt.com's database has grown rapidly and now comprises over 33 million members. Companies can access the largest regional pool of talent who are on Bayt.com to find serious career

opportunities. Likewise, registered job seekers can access over 10,000 jobs that are available on the platform on a daily basis.

During the second quarter of 2018, Bayt.com has also made many new features available including the video cover letter feature, which is an additional talent-screening option to employers when posting jobs on the website. Job seekers can record their videos through the Bayt.com's mobile app to add a personal touch to their applications.

In addition, Bayt.com has enabled job seekers tests through the mobile app for ease of use. These tests examine specific skills and rank the expertise level of job seekers once they are finished with the assessment. Moreover, Bayt.com is planning a launch of a new blue collar job bundles and a blue collar CV builder to spread its services to a wider community of jobseekers.

## KUNA, BNA discuss strengthening cooperation

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Board and Director-General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah discussed cooperation with Bahrain News Agency (BNA) Director General Ahmad Al-Mannai yesterday. The talks, held at KUNA headquarters in Shuwaikh administrative area, dealt with all relevant fields that serve the two brotherly countries and contribute to enhancing relations, developing work and performance, as well as exchanging views on regional and global events.

The two sides agreed on the importance of communication and consultation between the officials of the two agencies, increasing the cooperation between them in all fields, exchanging visits, experiences and news, as well as coordinating their positions in international media activities. KUNA expressed its readiness to provide BNA with effective lecturers and media expertise at the Arab level. They also stressed the need to develop the Arab media to keep abreast of the rapid global developments and exchange experiences with various international institutions to reach the desired media goals and objectives.

The discussion focused on the important role played by the Arab News Agencies Federation (FANA) in enhancing cooperation between the Arab news agencies and communication with international media agencies and institutions in addition to its role in training and developing the performance of Arab media.

Sheikh Mubarak accompanied Al-Mannai and his delegation on a tour of the KUNA



Bahrain News Agency (BNA) Director General Ahmad Al-Mannai and his accompanying delegation take a tour around KUNA's department.

building. They were briefed on the work progress in the Liberation Hall and the development processes witnessed by the Agency in recent years and the news services provided by them. During the tour, Deputy Director-General and Chief Editor of KUNA, Saad Al-Ali, gave a detailed explanation on the progress of work in the editorial hall and the information services provided by the Agency.

BNA Director General thanked Sheikh Mubarak for his invitation to visit Kuwait and handed him and the Chief Editor souvenirs. Deputy Director General for Editorial Affairs and Editor-in-Chief Saad Al-Ali, Director of Public and International Relations Issam Al-Ruwaihi, head of the Director-General Office Nayef Al-Otaibi, BNA Chief Editor Ali Al-Thawadi and News Coordinator Ahmed Al-Ansari attended the talks.

Meanwhile, Mannai told KUNA the close relations between Bahrain and Kuwait are a

model of brotherly relations based on a long history of bilateral cooperation at all levels to serve the interests of both countries and people under the leadership of King of Bahrain Hamad bin Khalifa and His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij said in a similar statement he was pleased by the visit of the Director-General of Bahrain News Agency (BNA) to his second country Kuwait and responded to this official invitation and congratulated him on his new position.

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij said that the visit came within the framework of mutual visits between the directors-general of the Arab news agencies and discussing means of enhancing cooperation between the two agencies, which have a strong relationship. He noted that there was almost weekly contact between the two agencies and mutual visits at the level of officials as well as in the field of media training. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Bahrain News Agency (BNA) Director General Ahmad Al-Mannai hands Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah a souvenir. — KUNA



Bahrain News Agency (BNA) Director General Ahmad Al-Mannai and his accompanying delegation are seen during the tour.

Local

# Three killed, two injured as boats collide in Al-Kout

## Fugitive arrested after 13 years at large

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** Three Asian nationals were killed, a Kuwaiti citizen was critically injured and a coastguard sustained an injury after a coastguard boat collided with the citizen's boat while entering Al-Kout docking area. Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Esam Al-Naham visited the injured in hospital and wished them speedy recovery.

### Crackdowns

The general security sector carried out several campaigns in Kuwait's governorates to maintain public order and arrest violators. The campaigns resulted in arresting 13 residency violators, 28 people without IDs, six with suspected drugs, and 181 for traffic violations.

### Attempted murder

A domestic dispute in Waha turned violent, with a fight between a citizen and two bedoons on one side and two citizens on the other. The fight did not stop until a weapon was fired and one of those involved received a stab wound in his head. Al-Rai reported. Police arrested the five and charged them with attempted murder.

### Diplomat convicted

The court of first instance convicted a Kuwaiti diplomat of insulting and attacking police and ordered him to pay a KD 50 fine for each offense. An informed source said that while the agriculture authority was carrying out a campaign against overgrazing in Jahra, they issued a warning against a farm near the highway to prevent camels from crossing the Sixth Ring Road, but the farm owner objected, so they sought police help. The owner then called the diplomat and he arrived at the farm. He also objected to the warning, then attacked and insulted policemen who lodged a complaint against him, and the court ruling came accordingly.

### Fugitive caught

A citizen sentenced to 99 years in jail on drugs charges, who was at large for 13 years as he used his brother's name, and faces charges of kidnapping and

molesting a minor, was arrested following stiff resistance in Doha. Detectives who were handling cases of fugitives located the suspect in Doha, got a warrant and went to arrest him. He said he was using his brother's IDs while moving around.

### KD 10,000 debt

A woman who took her daughter to hand her to her ex-husband was arrested and taken to the civil implementation department. A security source said a dispute took place between a citizen and her bedoon ex-husband, who lodged a complaint accusing her of kidnapping their daughter. The woman told police she does not have custody of the child. Police then told her to bring the child and hand her to her ex-husband. The source said police checked on the background of the woman and found she is wanted on a KD 10,000 debt, so she was detained.

### Harassment

Police arrested two citizens for harassing a woman in Abdullah Al-Salem. Policemen noticed the two approaching a car driven by a woman, so they approached them. The woman said they were harassing her, so they were arrested and will face legal action.



KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Esam Al-Naham visits a coastguardsman who was injured in the accident.



These photos released by the interior ministry show contrabands found with suspects arrested during recent crackdowns around the country.

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# International

MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018



1 Russian leader,  
4 US presidents:  
A history of ties

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In Mali - jihadism, communal conflict make a deadly mix

Page 7



BARQAHA, Syria: A rebel fighter walks near the remains of a Syrian regime drone that was shot down by Israel the day before, in a field near Barqah, a few dozen kilometers from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. — AFP

## Syrian forces widen south west offensive

### Islamic State-affiliated militants occupy a pocket on Jordanian border

AMMAN: Syrian government forces widened their offensive in the country's southwest yesterday to Quneitra province, a region adjoining the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, a war monitor and rebel sources said. Government forces, backed by the Russian military, have captured most of the southwest's Deraa province in the offensive that began in June. Rebels still hold a strip straddling Deraa and Quneitra provinces which adjoins the occupied Golan Heights. Islamic State-affiliated militants also occupy a pocket on the Jordanian border.

At the same time, a few hundred Syrian rebel fighters and their families were preparing to leave Deraa city, the birthplace of revolt against President Bashar al-Assad, to be taken on buses to opposition-held areas in the north under a surrender deal agreed last week. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and rebels said jets, which they believed to be Russian, bombed an opposition-held village in Quneitra province in the first such aerial strike in around a year. The Observatory said the forces had seized the village of Mashara, about 11 km from the Golan frontier, after heavy shelling, and were now trying to capture elevated land south of the village with shelling and air

strikes. Lebanese TV station al-Mayadeen, which is close to Damascus, said the Syrian army were advancing towards that elevated Tel Mashara area. The violence is taking place around 4 km from the line marking the start of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force zone, an area monitored by a UN force since 1974 in the wake of the Arab-Israeli War. A rebel official in Quneitra denied Syrian forces had taken the village and said fighting continued. "Over 28 (air) strikes struck Mashara and intense artillery and missile bombardment," Suhayb al-Ruhail said. Government forces also shelled the rebel-held town of al-Ilaara in neighboring Deraa province, the Observatory said.

#### Rebel transfers

Deraa city was the scene of the first major peaceful protests against Assad's authoritarian rule in March 2011 which spiraled into a war now estimated to have killed half a million people. The fighters are leaving the Deraa Al-Balad neighborhood which had been under rebel control for years. Under the deal rebels would hand over weapons, and fighters

who do not wish to live under state rule would be transferred out. A rebel official, Abu Shaima, said at least 500 fighters were going to get on around 15 buses and that his bus was already on the road north to opposition-held Idlib province. A live broadcast on Facebook from a Syrian state television reporter showed buses on what he said was the outskirts of Deraa city, accompanied by Russian military police and Syrian Arab Red Crescent vehicles.

Abu Bayan, a rebel commander, said most rebels in Deraa have decided to stay put rather than face an uncertain future in the opposition-held north, in the hope Damascus ally Russia keeps to its promises to protect them against any retribution by Syrian authorities. Fighter Abdullah Masalmah, who had chosen to leave and was about to board the bus, said: "I cannot forget the thousands of those who were killed by the regime let alone the orphans, wounded and the detainees. I don't trust the Russians or the regime." Syrian state news agency SANA said yesterday that rebels had been handing over their heavy weapons to the Syrian army, show-

ing images of armored vehicles and heavy artillery it said had been collected.

#### Humanitarian aid

A large humanitarian aid operation to government-held areas of southwest Syria began this week, after the UN today said the government had asked it to begin deliveries. The offensive had displaced hundreds of thousands of people. Sixteen trucks carrying 3,000 food parcels reached the towns of Nassib and Um al-Mayathen in Deraa province near a border crossing with Jordan yesterday, a Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) statement said. Aid was also delivered to four other areas of Deraa earlier in the week, SARC said. Yesterday's convoy was accompanied by a delegation containing the United Nations humanitarian coordinator in Syria Ali Al-Za'atari and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross. "We continue to deliver humanitarian assistance and we will be doubling our efforts on the basis of people's needs. Water, health and education are top needs of the population we are urgently responding to," al-Za'atari said.—Reuters

## South Africa after Mandela high hopes dashed?

JOHANNESBURG: Celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's birth have focused attention on South Africa's progress since the euphoric 1994 elections that marked the end of apartheid. The country's emergence from decades of white-minority rule was greeted with optimism around the world, but over the last 24 years South Africa has struggled to live up to Mandela's vision.

#### Race and inequality

A World Bank report earlier this year declared that South Africa was the most unequal society in the world—a damning indictment of the legacy of apartheid and the failure to tackle its aftermath. "Inequality has increased since the end of apartheid in 1994," the report said. "Race still affects the ability to find a job, as well as the wages received once employed." The report, which revealed three million more South Africans had slipped into poverty between 2011 and 2015, triggering vows of renewed action from President Cyril Ramaphosa. Racism remains a constant theme of life, with racist comments on social media and in everyday life regularly sparking outrage and furious public debate. The spatial segregation of apartheid has also changed little as many black people live in former townships such as Soweto while many white people live in middle-class suburbs. An annual survey found that in 2000, 72 percent of people thought race relations were improving, but only 45 percent felt the same in 2014.

#### Economic pain

Unemployment has cast a long shadow both during and after apartheid. In 1994, the unemployment rate was approximately 20 percent, with hopes high that the country's re-engagement with



PRETORIA: A man holds a new South African banknote at the value of one hundred South African Rand depicting former South African president Nelson Mandela at The South African Reserve Bank (SARB). — AFP

the global economy would lead to growth that would transform the job market. But the statistics tell a grim tale. Unemployment is now at 26.7 percent, close to its post-apartheid record high set in 2017. Many analysts say the real jobless rate is far higher, and that youth unemployment is over 50 percent. The figures point to a whole generation of "born-frees"—South Africans born after 1994—disenchanted, desperate for work and excluded from the mainstream economy. South Africa's GDP growth has been patchy and often slow, increasing from 3.2 percent in 1994 to 5.6 percent in 2006. It crashed to minus 1.5 percent in 2009, before recovering to 1.5 percent this year.

#### Health and AIDS

South Africa has the biggest HIV/AIDS epidemic in the world, with 7.1 million people living with HIV and an adult prevalence rate of 18.9 percent. President Thabo Mbeki's "denialism" caused life expectancy to drop from 62 years in 1994 to 52 years in 2006 as he questioned the link between

HIV and AIDS and resisted a public treatment program. Harvard researchers estimated that 330,000 people died unnecessarily. South Africa changed course in 2008 and now has largest anti-retroviral therapy program in the world, financed largely from its own resources. Life expectancy has returned to about 63 years.

#### Violent crime

South Africa suffers from high levels of violent crime ranging from murder and rape to car-jackings and muggings. Last year 19,000 people were murdered in the country—52 a day. Fear of crime is a constant in many people's lives, and South Africans often believe that the problem has increased since 1994, but the statistics are much disputed. A 2016 study said that in 1994—when the country appeared on the edge of civil war—there were about 74 murders a day, pointing to a sharp fall since then, especially as the population has increased by about 36 percent. However the murder rate has picked up since about 2013.—AFP

## Trump's trip to Europe: Top highlights

LONDON: Here are highlights from US President Donald Trump's trip to Europe, as he prepares to meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Helsinki today:

#### Sticking it to the Germans

Trump started his trip Wednesday by blasting Germany for falling well short of its NATO spending commitments, while preparing to increase its reliance on Russian gas imports. He tore into Berlin for paying billions of dollars to Russia while the United States spends billions on defending Germany. "Germany is a captive of Russia because it is getting so much of its energy from Russia," he said, taking aim at the proposed Nord Stream II gas pipeline. After meeting German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Trump changed his tune and claimed he had very good relations with her. But on Thursday he was tweeting that Germany's stance was "Not acceptable!" And on Friday, he described the pipeline as a "horrible mistake" that would give Russia power over Germany.

#### NATO spending spat

At the NATO summit in Brussels, Trump slammed allies for failing to meet their defense spending commitments,

demanding that they meet their two percent of GDP pledge "immediately" instead of by 2024 as previously agreed. Apart from the United States, only three of the 29 NATO countries hit the two-percent target in 2017: Britain, Greece and Estonia. He then stunned allies by telling them to eventually double the figure to four percent. Trump claimed NATO leaders agreed to a big boost in defense spending. But French President Emmanuel Macron disputed Trump's claims, saying that the joint statement the leaders had signed went no further than what had previously been agreed—reaching two percent by 2024—apart from setting out how some countries plan to get there. "We have left NATO with more money, more unity, more spirit than NATO probably has ever had," he claimed Friday.

#### Brexit bust-up

Arriving in Britain on Thursday for his first visit as president, Trump kicked things off with a tabloid newspaper interview in which he said British Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit proposals would probably kill off the chances of a trade deal with the United States. Trump told The Sun that May had ignored his suggestions on how to handle the departure negotiations with the European Union. But the president said Friday suggested that a trade deal was possible. "Whatever you do is OK with us, just make sure we can trade together: that's all that matters. The United States looks forward to finalizing a great bilateral trade agreement," he said.—AFP

## International

# In Mali, jihadism, communal conflict make a deadly mix

## New atrocities come to light each week in central Mali

**SEVARE:** From torched villages to mass graves, new atrocities come to light each week in central Mali's escalating conflicts. The heart of the country is becoming its deadliest region, gripped by a mutually-reinforcing mix of jihadist violence and ethnic disputes that are also sharpened by suspected climate change. On July 1, suspected members of a Dogon hunters' group burned the village of Bombou, near the regional capital of Mopti, killing 16 and causing others to flee, according to Fulani groups. Since the 2015 emergence of a jihadist movement headed by Fulani preacher Amadou Koufa in central Mali, disputes have regularly turned violent between nomadic Fulani herders and Bambara and Dogon farmers.

Hamsala Bocoum, the regional head of Tabital Pulaaku, the main Fulani group in Mali, has lost count of the number of times he has sought to defuse tensions, especially in Koro, the epicenter of the communal violence near the border with Burkina Faso. "Every time it calms down, it flares up again," he said. At a reconciliation meeting he attended between Fulani and Dogon leaders in Koro in March, Malian Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga had said he would "disarm militias, whether they like it or not." "I have to say, I thought this would be the end of the violence," Bocoum told AFP. But since then, abuses linked to all groups and even to the Malian army have multiplied.

In the shaded backyard of his plot, from where the call to prayer can be heard, Toumasse Daniel Sogoba, an evangelical church leader regrets the fast deterioration of inter-ethnic relationships. "I never thought Mali, my country, would end up in such a situation, with massacres, Fulanis against Dogons, Bambaras against Fulanis—an ethnic war,"

the former teacher said. "Each ethnic group has its own militia," Sogoba, who hails from the Minianka ethnic group present at the borders between Mali, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso, said. "Suddenly you see them kill one another, and you wonder why," he added, hinting at outside interference.

### Climate change

Unprecedented drought around the Niger river-suspected to be linked to climate change-has also made the disputes between farmers, herders, fishermen and loggers worse, according to the Tabital Pulaaku leader. A regional conference to discuss the arable land around the river is held every year. The meeting is meant to set suitable times for herds to cross and to come back to their pastures, according to Hamsala Bocoum.

Until recently, "there was no trouble," he said. "Every time cattle came back from grazing, the harvest had already been completed. Then the animals came, fertilized the land and went. But now when animals cross back, farmers have not harvested yet." Already-tense relationships were exacerbated by accusations of the state collaborating with ethnic-based militias in the fight against jihadists-while the latter recruit mainly among Fulanis in central Mali. "You cannot deny what is evident: there are jihadist groups, and these groups are probably majority-Fulani," Bocoum said. But often, "people confuse jihadists and Fulanis."

### Cycle of reprisals

The conflation has unleashed a wave of abuses against Fulanis in the area. "The Fulanis have been driven out of over a dozen villages in the Mopti region in what appears to be a campaign of targeted displacement by the Dogon-

allied militias," said Corinne Dufka, director of rights group Human Rights Watch (HRW) in West Africa. Faced with an army that rarely intervenes or even cracks down on the nomadic group, Fulanis have lost some trust in the state. Jihadists have exploited the dynamic as a recruitment tool, Dufka told AFP while on a trip to Mali. Islamist groups also foment ethnic tensions with "targeted assassinations" of local leaders which provoke "often very bloody" cycles of reprisals, she said. "And in response, the jihadists then use those reprisals as a

recruitment tool," offering people protection from the militias. Before being militarily pushed back from many parts of central Mali in recent weeks, jihadists set up Islamic courts seen by the population as being efficient and fair, the HRW director said. "During the rainy season it's going to be difficult for the military to maintain its presence in flood-prone areas and when the jihadists come back, the population is going to make a comparison between governance under the Malian state and Islamist governance. Which may not be favorable to the state." — AFP



**SEVARE:** Photo taken in Sevare in central Mali, shows debris scattered in front of the head quarter of the anti-terror task force, the G5 Sahel, after an attack of a suicide bomber who tried to penetrate the base. — AFP

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## Back me or risk 'no Brexit at all,' PM warns rebels

**LONDON:** British Prime Minister Theresa May warned her divided party yesterday that there may be "no Brexit at all" if they wrecked her plan to forge a close relationship with the European Union after leaving the world's biggest trading bloc. "My message to the country this weekend is simple: we need to keep our eyes on the prize," May wrote on Facebook. "If we don't, we risk ending up with no Brexit at all." Linking the fate of Brexit to her own survival in such an explicit way indicates just how precarious May's position remains after her government was thrust into crisis and US President Donald Trump publicly criticised her Brexit strategy.

With less than nine months to go before the United Kingdom is due to leave the EU on March 29, 2019, the country, the political elite and business leaders are still deeply divided over whether Brexit should take place and, if so, how. May doesn't yet have a Brexit deal with the EU so the British government has stepped up planning for a so-called "no deal" Brexit that could spook financial markets and dislocate trade flows across Europe and beyond.

May has repeatedly said Brexit will happen and has ruled out a rerun of the 2016 referendum, although French President Emmanuel Macron and billionaire investor George Soros have suggested that Britain could still change its mind. In an attempt to forge a balance between those seeking a smooth Brexit and those who fear staying too close to the EU's orbit would undermine the very nature of Brexit, May sought the approval of senior ministers for her plans on July 6. After hours of talks at her Chequers country resi-

den she appeared to have won over her cabinet, but just two days later David Davis resigned as Brexit secretary, followed by her foreign minister, Boris Johnson, the next day. May called yesterday for the country to back her plan for "friction-free movement of goods", saying it was the only option to avoid undermining the peace in Northern Ireland and preserving the unity of the United Kingdom.

### Johnson's moment?

Davis, writing in the Sunday Times, said it was an "astonishingly dishonest claim" to say there is no worked-out alternative to May's plan. He said her plan would allow EU regulations to harm British manufacturers. "Be in no doubt: under the government's proposal our fingers would still be caught in this mangle and the EU would use it ruthlessly to punish us for leaving and handicap our future competitiveness," Davis said.

Steve Baker, a senior lawmaker who served as a deputy to Davis in the Brexit ministry before resigning with his boss, said May had presided over a "cloak and dagger" plot to undermine Brexit. May's position was further undermined by Trump who said in an interview published in Rupert Murdoch's Sun newspaper on Friday that her proposals would probably kill off any chance of a post-Brexit trade deal with the world's biggest economy.

Though Trump later contradicted his comments by then promising a great US trade deal, the president made clear his admiration for the 54-year-old Johnson, who Trump said would one day make a great British prime minister. Steve Bannon, Trump's former adviser, was even quoted by Britain's Daily Telegraph as saying that it was now time for Johnson to challenge May for her job. "Now is the moment," The Telegraph quoted Bannon, Trump's former strategist and a key player in his 2016 election campaign, as saying. "If Boris Johnson looks at this... There comes an inflection point, the Chequers deal was an inflection point, we will have to see what happens," Bannon said.



**LONDON:** London mayor Sadiq Khan speaks with Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May in the Royal Box in Wimbledon, southwest London yesterday. — AFP

### Brexit test for May

Johnson, the face of the Brexit campaign for many has remained silent in public since he warned in his resignation letter on July 9 that the "Brexit dream" was being suffocated by needless self-doubt. The Telegraph newspaper said Johnson had re-joined the newspaper as a columnist with effect from today. The extent of divisions within May's Conservative Party over Brexit will become clearer over the course of two debates in parliament over coming days.

Pro-Brexit lawmakers are expected to use a debate today on customs legislation to try to force her to harden up her Brexit plan, while a debate on trade on Tuesday will see pro-EU lawmakers push for even closer ties with the bloc. Brexit rebels are unlikely to have enough support in parliament to win a vote, but the debate will show how many in May's party are prepared to vote against her at a time when some are looking to gather the necessary numbers to challenge her leadership. — Reuters

## Gaza ceasefire largely holding

**GAZA:** A ceasefire between Israel and Gaza's dominant Hamas Islamists appeared largely to be holding yesterday, ending the most intensive flare-up in violence around the Palestinian enclave since a 2014 war. In a day of fierce fighting on Saturday, Israel carried out dozens of air strikes in Gaza, killing two teenage boys, and militants fired more than 100 rockets across the border, wounding three people in a southern Israeli town.

The ceasefire, the second between the two sides to be brokered by Egypt this year after a previous day-long flare-up in May, came into force late on Saturday. "Everyone understands that unless the situation is defused, we will very quickly be back to another confrontation," UN envoy Nickolay Mladenov told reporters at his office in Gaza. Israel said that in the initial hours of the ceasefire militants fired two rockets across the border, of which one was intercepted by its Iron Dome system. There were no reports of an Israeli counter-attack in Gaza. Later, two mortar bombs were fired towards Israel, which responded by striking the launch tube, the military said.

Weekly clashes at the Israel-Gaza border have kept tensions at a high for months. More than 130 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces during protests at the frontier held every week since March, including a teenager on Friday, Gaza medics said. There have been no Israeli fatalities. Israel says Hamas has been orchestrating the demonstrations, dubbed The Great March of Return, to provide cover for militants' cross-border attacks. Hamas denies this. "Our policy is clear: We hit with great might anyone who harms us," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his cabinet yesterday. "I hope that they (Hamas) have gotten the message. If not, they will yet."

Also yesterday, Israel's military said it fired on "a Hamas terrorist squad" that was launching a helium balloon bearing flammable material into Israeli fields from northern Gaza. Palestinian medics said one man was wounded. Israel says it has lost at least 7,000 acres of farmland and



**GAZA:** Relatives and mourners bid farewell to the bodies of Palestinian teenagers Amir Al-Namira (left) and Loual Kaheel during their funeral at a mosque in Gaza City yesterday, after they were killed in an Israeli air strike the day before. — AFP

forests to a recent surge in fires started by Gaza militants using incendiary balloons and similarly rigged kites. Hamas said border demonstrations, at which Palestinians have been demanding the right to return to land lost when Israel was created in 1948, would continue and that the onus of restraint was on Israel.

"Let the enemy end its aggression first and then the resistance will stop," Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said in a eulogy for Amir al-Namara, 15, and Loay Kheil, 16, who were killed when a half-constructed high rise they were playing in was hit by an Israeli missile. The Israeli military said the building had been used by Hamas for urban warfare training. Twelve others, passersby and visitors of a nearby public garden, were wounded in the attack, one of dozens of Israeli air strikes on the densely populated

enclave on Saturday which damaged residential and office buildings, shattered car windows and caused panic among residents.

"He wasn't carrying a rocket. He was just an innocent kid," said Amir's grandfather Waleed Al-Namara at the boy's wake. "We want the calm to last, and for them to agree on a solution that will benefit the Palestinian people." The surge in violence comes as Palestinian hopes for an independent state have dwindled and peace talks remain stalled. Gaza, home to 2 million people, most of whom depend on foreign aid, has been under Israeli economic sanctions for 12 years. Separately, a Fatah faction militant and his son were killed in a blast in a building in Gaza yesterday. Police said the man accidentally set off an old Israeli shell he was trying to dismantle. — Reuters

## News in brief

### 7 dead in suicide attack

**KABUL:** A suicide attacker blew himself up in front of a government ministry in Kabul yesterday as workers were leaving their offices, killing at least seven people and wounding more than 15, officials said, in the latest deadly violence in Afghanistan. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosion that police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said happened at the rural rehabilitation and development ministry around 4:30 pm. Civilians and security forces were among the seven dead, Stanikzai said. The death toll was confirmed by an Afghan security source. Ministry spokesman Fraidoun Azhand said the bomber struck at a security gate as employees were exiting the compound during rush hour. But it was not clear if the ministry was the target of the attack. — AFP

### Thousands rally in Morocco

**RABAT:** Thousands of people demonstrated in Morocco's capital Rabat yesterday against the jailing of leaders and activists of a northern protest movement. "The people boycott the justice system!" and "free the detainees!", yelled the protesters, AFP reporters said. The demonstrators also chanted against militarization of the Rif, the northern region rocked by the Al-Hirak Al-Shaabi (Popular Movement) protests in 2016 and 2017. Under the watchful eyes of the police, people marched towards parliament brandishing pictures of the movement's leaders and activists. A Moroccan court on June 26 sentenced 53 Hirak members to prison terms ranging from one year to 20 years. — AFP

### Two tourists charged

**WARSAW:** Two Hungarian tourists have admitted to trying to steal bricks from the ruins of a crematorium at the site of the former Nazi German death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, according to police. The 30-year-old woman and 36-year-old man were caught on Saturday when another pair of foreign tourists saw them stuffing the bricks into a bag and notified security. "The man and woman were charged with theft of a cultural asset. They both admitted to wrongdoing," said regional police press officer Mateusz Drwal. "They explained that they had wanted to bring back a souvenir and didn't realize the consequences of their actions," he told the Polish news agency PAP. — AFP

### Haiti leader resigns

**PORT-AU-PRINCE:** Embattled Haiti Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant resigned on Saturday following deadly violence and looting sparked by a now-abandoned plan to raise fuel prices, triggering a fraught process to form a new government. "I submitted my resignation to the president of the republic," who has "accepted my resignation," Lafontant said in the lower house of Haiti's legislature. Lafontant had faced a potential vote of no confidence had he not resigned something he had previously insisted he would not do. Last week, the government in the impoverished Caribbean country announced plans for major fuel price hikes — 38 percent for gasoline, 47 percent for diesel and 51 percent for kerosene. — AFP

### Ruling party wins Ekiti

**ABUJA:** Nigeria's ruling party won a state governorship election this weekend after unseating the opposition incumbent, officials said, giving President Muhammadu Buhari a boost ahead of national polls next year. Kayode Fayemi of the All Progressive Congress (APC) took almost 45 percent of the vote in southwestern Ekiti state, the electoral commission announced yesterday. Saturday's vote is a test of the ruling party's popularity, after the APC split last week when one faction declared it no longer supported Buhari's government and later announced it was forming an alliance with the opposition. — Reuters

## International

## Highchairs and cuddles - how the parliaments cater for 'MP mums'

## Legislatures worldwide are pushing to become more child-friendly

WELLINGTON: When New Zealand (NZ) Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern returns to parliament after becoming only the second elected leader in the world to have a baby in office, her daughter will be allowed to cuddle with her during debates and swim in the pool. Such access, almost non-existent even a year ago, spotlights a push by many countries to make their parliaments friendlier for children and their parents, as legislatures diversify and rules that can be surprisingly hostile to new parents are eased.

"I think we didn't do a good enough job," said Trevor Mallard, the speaker of New Zealand's parliament, who can be seen from time to time holding infants for members while he oversees heated debate. "For mothers ... I just want to make it clear to them that we are going to be as friendly as possible towards their babies." Such steps aim to help boost diversity in parliament and accommodate a baby boom since last September's election, when two women Labor members with infants took up their seats, while Ardern and the minister for women, Julie Anne Genter, announced their pregnancies early this year.

## Baby chamber

Experts say having a critical mass of female leaders whose children's needs are met is crucial to ensuring more women run for office, since female representation has remained stubbornly well below half in most legislatures globally. Progress is patchy, despite images of members of parliament feeding their babies in Australia and Canada going viral on social media in recent years. Many legislatures, including Britain's House of Commons, do not allow babies in, which offers a challenge for any breastfeeding mothers among the lawmakers, whose day often starts early and ends late, with few breaks.

In November, for instance, Japanese lawmaker Yuka Ogata was ordered to leave a municipal assembly after she brought in her seven-month-old son to highlight the difficulties of juggling a career and children. Political parties around the world are grappling with the fallout of keeping babies out of

legislatures, particularly when a parent's presence is crucial to ensure the desired outcome of a vote. For example, in April, a historic last-minute change to the rules of the US Senate allowed Senator Tammy Duckworth to bring her newborn daughter, Maile, with her to vote against President Donald Trump's nominee to head the NASA space agency.

"US legislative institutions - built by and for men - are still catching up to the reality that legislators today are also primary caregivers," said Kelly Dittmar, an assistant professor at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University in New Jersey. In New Zealand, men are also allowed to bring their infants into the debating chamber. Some parliaments are considering alternatives along the lines of Sweden's Riksdag, which offers formal parental leave, including for men, while Britain's House of Commons is debating arrangements for proxy voting to assist new parents.

## Highchairs and playgrounds

In New Zealand, representatives can use a child-care centre and rooms with changing tables and toys, and the speaker has also opened the pool to children, besides adding highchairs in parliament's cafe and ordering a playground built on its lawn. New Zealand's Parliament already allowed mothers to bring babies into the debating chamber to feed them, but the Speaker expanded that rule to allow young children to be present at any time to bond with their parents.

Ardern, who found out she was pregnant unexpectedly just days before becoming prime minister in October, gave birth to her first child, Neve Te Aroha, on June 21. She was the first pregnant elected leader to do so since Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto in 1990. Ardern has already got a few tips from first-time MP Willow Jean Prime, who arrived in New Zealand's parliament in September with her seven-week-old daughter, Heeni. "In that time I think we definitely tested every element of this place and whether it was as child- and family-friendly as it could be," Prime told Reuters in her office, equipped with a sleeping basket and a stash of swimming diapers. —Reuters



## NZ parliament opens debating chamber, pool to babies

## News in brief

## Sexual abuse of boys

TEHRAN: A supervisor at a Tehran boys' high school has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and 80 lashes for sexual abuse of minors, Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency said yesterday. Reports of assaults against several dozen pupils at a private school in the west of the capital sparked outrage in the Iranian press when they emerged in late May. The scandal even prompted the intervention of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who demanded the judiciary take the necessary measures to punish the culprit. On Saturday a court found the school supervisor guilty of "sexual assault against minors", "incitement to debauchery" and "undermining decency", ISNA said. But the court dismissed accusations of rape after submitting the minors to medical tests, it added. —AFP

## British minister quits

LONDON: A British government minister said yesterday he had resigned and was "deeply ashamed" after being exposed sending an avalanche of lewd social media messages to a couple of barmaids. Small business minister Andrew Griffiths, formerly Prime Minister Theresa May's chief of staff, said he had stepped down Friday, as the Sunday Mirror newspaper published details of his chats with the two women. Barmaid Imogen Trehame, 28, told how the married Conservative lawmaker, 47, whose first child was born in April, bombarded her with more than 2,000 messages in three weeks. Trehame told the tabloid: "I wanted him to be a nice guy, but by the end I felt dirty, I felt like I was being used for this wealthy man's gratification." —AFP

## Turkey marks anniversary

ANKARA: Turkey yesterday commemorated the second anniversary of a bloody coup attempt which was followed by a series of purges in the public sector and changes to boost President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's powers. Two hundred and forty eight people were killed and over 2,000 were wounded after a rogue military faction tried to overthrow Erdogan on July 15, 2016. The attempted coup was blamed by Ankara on US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen, a former ally turned foe of Erdogan. Gulen denies the claims. In a series of events, Erdogan took part in a religious ceremony in an Ankara mosque before he hosted a lunch with martyrs' families and those wounded at the presidential palace, July 15 is now a national holiday and Erdogan promised during the lunch that "we will not let it be forgotten and we will not forget it." —AFP

## 15 killed in Myanmar

YANGON: At least 15 people have been killed and dozens injured in a landslide at an old jade mine in northern Myanmar, state media reported yesterday, as rains complicate the search for more victims. The accident is the latest to strike the multibillion dollar industry centered in Kachin state, the source of most of the world's jade. The poorly regulated and murky business is fuelled by demand across the border in China where the near-translucent green gem is prized. But the vast mines and deposits attract impoverished workers who are offered little in the way of protection as they risk life and limb to dig out profits from the soil. —AFP

## Sticking points for Trump and Putin at summit

MOSCOW: The US and Russian presidents may swap compliments at their first summit in Helsinki yesterday, but they are deeply divided on issues including Syria, Ukraine and alleged Russian election-meddling. Washington has imposed a series of sanctions against Russia over recent years, some of which Trump himself reluctantly signed off on after taking office in 2017. Here is a summary of the sticking points between the two powers:

## Russian 'meddling'

Since the start of Trump's presidency, relations have been tainted by allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 US elections and suspicions that the billionaire's campaign team colluded with the Kremlin. Russia has denied any interference. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has insisted that Trump at his meeting with Putin "will make clear that meddling in our elections is completely unacceptable."

## 1 Russian leader, 4 US presidents: A history of ties

MOSCOW: During more than 18 years in power in Russia, President Vladimir Putin has encountered four US presidents but not built lasting good relations with any. Here is a summary of relations between Putin and US leaders, ahead of his Helsinki summit today with President Donald Trump:

## Clinton and Kosovo

Putin became prime minister in 1999 as warm ties between president Boris Yeltsin and US leader Bill Clinton chilled over the Kosovo conflict. Russia was outraged by NATO-led airstrikes against its Serbian allies in response to a massacre in Kosovo. Putin took office as premier months afterwards.

## Bush sees Putin's 'soul'

Relations thawed from 2001 under President George

W. Bush and Putin, now Russian president. Putin offered Russia's support in fighting terrorism after the September 11, 2001 attacks. In June 2001, Bush told a news conference alongside Putin: "I looked the man in the eye. I found him to be very straightforward and trustworthy... I was able to get a sense of his soul." The countries fell out again over US plans for a missile shield in eastern Europe, the US invasion of Iraq and Washington's backing for the pro-Western "Orange revolution" in Ukraine.

## Obama 'reset'

US president Barack Obama vowed to "reset" relations with Russia, after Putin as prime minister and then president again from 2012. Initial advances included the signing of a nuclear disarmament treaty in 2010. But that detente did not last either. The countries exchanged sanctions in 2012 over the death of a Russian anti-corruption lawyer. Russia also fell out with Western powers over the downfall of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi. The West backed an uprising against the pro-Russian leadership in Ukraine. Moscow and the West also backed opposite sides in the Syrian civil war.

## Czech churches cry foul over tax plan

PRAGUE: Czech churches are up in arms against Communist Party plans to tax billions in compensation being paid by the state in return for assets, mostly land, seized by the Communists during their Cold War rule. Under a 2012 law and deals with the state, 17 religious denominations - Christian and Jewish - are entitled to recover assets worth up to 75 billion koruna (2.9 billion euros, \$3.4 billion) seized by the atheist Communist regime after World War II.

These include the UNESCO-listed Baroque church of Zelena Hora and Kromeriz castle, a former bishops' residence in the east. Works of art and almost 40,000 hectares (nearly 100,000 acres) of land dotted with vineyards and forests must also be returned. Additionally, churches are due to receive financial compensation worth 59 billion koruna over 30 years for seized assets that cannot be returned in kind.

Arguing these sums are "excessive", the Communist Party wants to slap a 19-percent tax on the compensation from 2019. Their bill is likely to pass given the leverage the Communists have with the

new minority government of billionaire populist Prime Minister Andrej Babis, who relied on their backing to win a confidence vote on Thursday. "It boggles the imagination," priest Stanislav Pribyl, secretary general of the Czech Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference, told AFP. "How can you impose a tax on this (compensation)? We are the creditor and the state is the debtor here!" he added.

## 'Ruined lives'

With more than a million believers, the Catholic church is the single largest denomination and is slated to receive up to 80 percent of the compensation package. Believers however are a minority in the Czech Republic, an EU and NATO member state of 10.6 million people, where 8.6 million people identified as non-believers or left the religion column empty in the 2011 census.

Imposed by the Soviet Union, the Communist Party ruled Czechoslovakia from 1948 until the Velvet Revolution toppled the regime in 1989, four years before the country split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Under communism, the Catholic church and others suffered severe persecution, including the confiscation of property and the imprisonment, torture and killing of priests. "The Communists have never cut themselves off from their past, they caused economic damage, ruined lives and people's health," said Pribyl.

## War in Ukraine

Along with its Western allies, the US accuses Moscow of providing military support to pro-Russian separatists fighting government forces in eastern Ukraine. Russia denies this. Washington long resisted providing lethal weapons to Ukraine, fearing this could exacerbate the conflict, but in March the US approved a deal to sell anti-tank missiles to Kiev, angering Russia. Trump has made evasive comments on whether Washington might recognize Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

## Syria quagmire

Air strikes on Syria by the US and its allies in April 2017 and April 2018 in response to alleged chemical attacks by President Bashar Al-Assad's forces have infuriated Russia. In February, Moscow said a number of Russian civilians were killed by US-led coalition bombing. These were reportedly mercenaries fighting alongside pro-regime forces.

## Disarmament feuds

The US and Russia have accused each other of breaking international agreements over disarmament. In March, Putin boasted Russia has developed new "invincible" weapons including hypersonic missiles and unmanned submarines. The Pentagon in February called for a revamp of the US nuclear arsenal and development of new low-yield atomic weapons. Moscow condemned the

new US nuclear policy as "bellicose" and "anti-Russian."

## Tensions over NATO

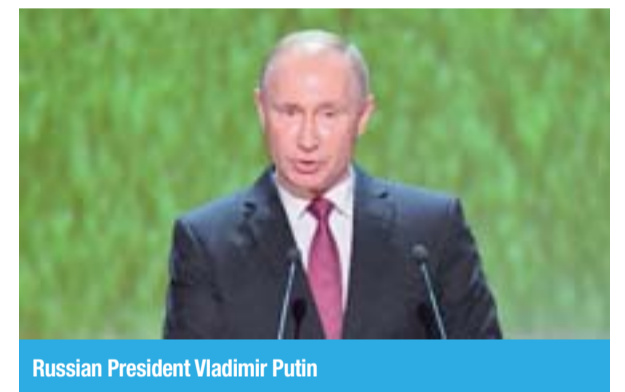
Moscow views NATO's moves to beef up its eastern defenses as aggressive steps aimed at encircling Russia. Russia is also concerned at NATO plans launched in 2010 for a European missile shield that is due to be completed in 2020 with installations in Romania and Poland. Trump has lashed out at other NATO allies, urging them to spend more on defense.

## Iran nuclear deal

Trump's unilateral decision to pull out of the Iranian nuclear deal signed in 2015 after lengthy negotiations and to reimpose sanctions on Iran left both Russia and the West flabbergasted. Russia, which has close ties both with Syria and Iran, has said European countries must "jointly defend their legal interests" in the deal.

## North Korea

Russia reacted positively to a June 12 meeting between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. They signed a joint declaration but did not achieve any concrete breakthroughs on Pyongyang's nuclear activities. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov afterwards told state news agency RIA Novosti: "We very much hope that he (Trump) starts the process of de-escalating tensions." —AFP



Russian President Vladimir Putin

## Trump tightrope

Donald Trump vowed to mend US relations with Moscow during his presidential election campaign. Since becoming president in 2017, he has been beset by allegations of Russian meddling in the US election and collusion between the Kremlin and his campaign team. The two countries have expelled each others' diplomats and exchanged fresh sanctions. Trump's promise to restore ties with Moscow will be put to the test at today's summit in Helsinki. —AFP

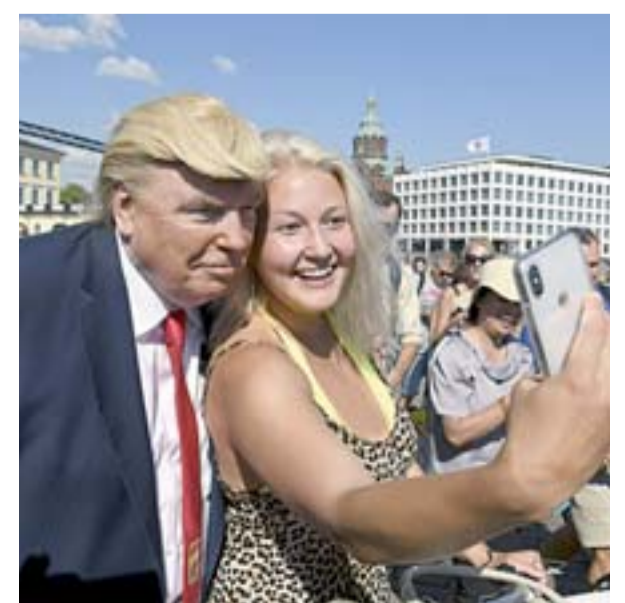


PRAGUE: Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis delivers his speech in the Czech Parliament in Prague, Czech Republic. —AFP

"If these people now want to slap a tax on the compensation, which is a partial remedy for all that injustice, it's a scandal," he added. But Communist lawmaker Vladimir Konicek, the mastermind behind the tax bill, argues that churches stand to receive double compensation in some cases. Konicek points to churches filing lawsuits over buildings and land which he insists are already covered by the state's cash compensation package. "What is scandalous is the amount. In the end, they may get the payment and, if the court says yes, the assets too. So they'll get it twice," he said.

## 'Irrelevant'

With several hardline Stalinists in its ranks, the staunchly pro-Russian and anti-NATO Communist Party has gained a role in government, albeit an unofficial one, for the first time since the collapse of communism by backing the Babis minority coalition. Both Babis's populist ANO movement and its left-wing Social Democrats coalition partners have no problem with the tax. "We agree with this in the long run," said Babis, a farm, chemicals and media tycoon and a pre-1989 Communist, who is facing an EU subsidy probe. —AFP



HELSINKI: US' President Donald Trump impersonator poses for pictures in front of the presidential palace yesterday, ahead of the arrival of US President for a summit with his Russian counterpart in the Finnish capital Helsinki. —AFP



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You will be responsible to build and manage, in close collaboration with external marketing groups, product specialist, and each sales representative promotional activity that directs awareness to our target customers, manage marketing campaigns and other plans that drive leads, build awareness, or educate our markets about the services offered.

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## Analysis

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## Zimbabwe set to frustrate eager investors

A European investor's phone rings in a Harare restaurant and it's good news: An \$80 million construction deal has been agreed with the Zimbabwean government. All that's needed now is a central bank guarantee letter. It never arrives. President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who took power when Robert Mugabe was removed in a de facto coup last November, has been trying to woo investors ahead of an election on July 30, a contest in which he is the narrow favorite.

Mnangagwa, a 75-year-old former ally of Mugabe, says he has already secured \$15 billion of foreign investment, including from foreign multinationals, although these are mostly non-binding commitments, according to analysts from local financial advisory firms who reviewed the agreements. In May, General Electric said it would look at healthcare, power and transport in Zimbabwe, while Coca Cola said it planned to make the country an export hub for juice and other products, and a source of raw materials.

Most big companies however are waiting until after the election to make their move although already the atmosphere has changed since the fall of Mugabe, whose nearly four decades in power brought a promising economy to its knees. Harare taxi drivers say they are hearing more foreign languages in their cabs, businessmen gather around laptops at restaurants, and the often sleepy international airport is buzzing with newcomers.

But, so far, most are leaving frustrated and empty-handed. "It's like the Wild West," the European businessman said, paying his bill in crisp US dollars to the delight of a waiter more used to the dreaded quasi-currency 'bond notes' introduced in Nov 2016. After three days rushing between government ministries to get the deal done, the signed contract in his briefcase is useless since it lacks a guarantee from the central bank that he can access the dollars he needs to import equipment. "Right, I better go deliver the bad news," he said, rising to catch a taxi to the airport. Reuters spoke to more than 20 investors, ranging from multinationals to entrepreneurs, who are interested in entering Zimbabwe for the first time or in expanding their businesses there since Mnangagwa was sworn in. All expressed optimism about new opportunities in sectors from mining to telecoms, and financial services to construction, after a decade when China was the only big outside investor.

## Turn the needle

"When these political changes happened, immediately there was positiveness returning to the economy," said Adriaan de Lange, managing director at Omnia, a chemicals firm operating in Zimbabwe. "The potential exists for Zimbabwe to really turn the needle." But investors also raised concerns about the election and infighting over facilitating investment between factions linked to Mnangagwa and Vice President Constantino Chiwenga, the army general who led the coup against Mugabe.

The biggest obstacle is the chronic cash shortages that prevent businesses from importing the goods they need or repatriating the profits they hope to make, while portfolio investors can't get their money out of the stock market. After raging hyperinflation, Zimbabwe abandoned its own currency in 2009 in favour of the U.S. dollar, but a widening trade deficit and lack of foreign investment have led to currency shortages.

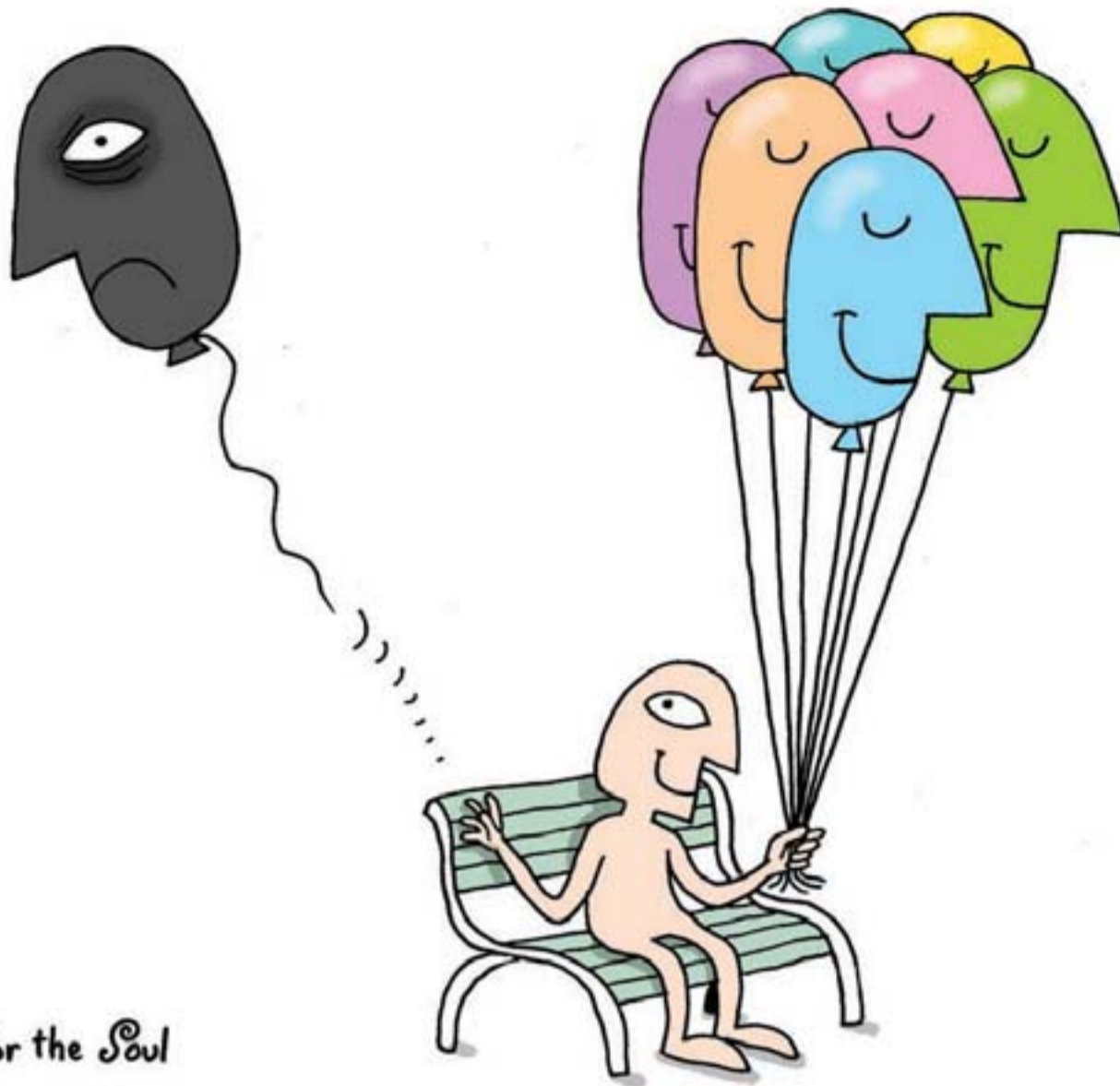
For ordinary Zimbabweans this means winter nights sleeping outside banks in the hope of withdrawing the few dollars that are left, sometimes \$20 in coins, often nothing. The crunch wasn't solved by the introduction of the "bond notes" which officially trade at parity with the US dollar but have already depreciated to 1.60 to the dollar. Banking sources say the central bank has a backlog of \$600 million in unpaid imports but less than \$200 million cash, and the situation is getting worse. The reserve bank declined to comment for this story.

## Cash crisis

Hundreds of firms are waiting for the central bank to release their money, banking sources said. London-listed Fastjet, the low-cost Africa airline backed by easyJet's Stelios Haji-Ioannou, said it may go bust if it doesn't recoup some of the \$7 million it is owed by the Zimbabwean central bank. "It's all at risk because of cashflow," Chief Commercial Officer Sylvain Bosc told Reuters. "The demand is there, the opportunities are there. We actually want to expand in Zimbabwe."

Mnangagwa's team acknowledges the challenges. "For 37 years we have been living under one man. It doesn't change just like that but we are getting there," said presidential advisor Chris Mutsvangwa. "For investors it is a question of risk and reward." The only way to convince foreign lenders and investors to provide the funds needed to end the currency crisis is if a financing program can be agreed with the International Monetary Fund, and that will come with painful terms.

A source at the IMF said in order to get funding Zimbabwe will need to overhaul its public sector, including a crackdown on rampant corruption and mass layoffs, which has led to demonstrations in the past. A deal to compensate white farmers who were evicted from their land also needs to be reached, the IMF source said. If the ruling ZANU-PF wins the election, Mnangagwa has said he will strike a deal with the IMF and introduce a new Zimbabwean currency within 3-5 years. But the leader known as "The Crocodile" hasn't shown any signs of prudence yet, handing civil servants a 17.5 percent pay rise in May and passing a 2018 budget with a bigger deficit. — Reuters



Cartoon for the Soul

## The case for Britain's Brexit chaos

By John Lloyd

Compromise is the loveliest word in democratic politics and beyond - in lasting relationships, labor disputes, international relations. British Prime Minister Theresa May has never needed the deployment of this lovely and necessary word than now. Earlier this month, she managed to convince her cabinet - composed of both pro- and anti-Brexit ministers - to accept a compromise between a complete break with the European Union on the one side, and a more gentle exit on the other.

The agreement she managed to thrash out is a fraught document, keeping as many of the advantages as she thinks the EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier will accept, and emphasizing the freedoms it will give a Brexit-ed Britain. It is also replete with unanswered questions and with proposals that will demand large upheavals in the movement both of people and commodities.

It will harmonize the handling of all goods, aimed at avoiding friction on the Irish border; the European Court and UK courts will jointly interpret agreements, though the EU will continue to define the Union's rules; the UK will charge its own tariffs on EU goods, but collect tariffs on goods destined for the Union on its behalf, in what is called "a combined customs territory." Free movement of people will cease, but a mobility agreement will be signed, allowing people to move in order to study, to visit as tourists and to work.

It is now in play, and to be accepted, it needs compromises on the right and left - from which points competing forces are volleying and thundering. The right is now strengthened by the resignation, after the agreement, of Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, Brexit Secretary David Davis and Brexit department minister Steve Baker, all released from collective responsibility. They will make, with some force, the charge that this is not what the British people voted for in the 2016 referendum.

Johnson put it most colorfully, when he compared the proposal to polishing a piece of excrement. Less cloacally, the basic complaint is that it retains too much Union. Jacob Rees-Mogg, a back bencher who has made himself the Savonarola of the Brexiteers, has said that "it now appears that Brexit means remaining subject to EU laws" - and plans radical amendments.

## In Helsinki, high stakes and history for Trump, Putin

By Kenneth Roth

When Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin meet in Helsinki July 16, will they betray the most famous summit associated with the Finnish capital - the 1975 meeting among the Western and Soviet-bloc leaders that gave us the Helsinki Accords? That question is not likely to preoccupy either leader, but their approach to the summit could be as significant as the Helsinki Accords were in shaping Europe's future.

The Helsinki Final Act - the formal name of the accords - was an agreement signed by 35 nations, including the nations of Europe, the Soviet Union, Canada and the United States. Their most notable provisions effectively affirmed the 1945 Yalta conference among Franklin Roosevelt, Josef Stalin and Winston Churchill that accepted the post-World War Two division of Europe, with the Soviet Union dominant in Eastern Europe. Because of that affirmation, the Kremlin was widely seen to have gotten the better of the Helsinki deal, and published the entire text in Pravda, the official Communist Party newspaper.

However, the Helsinki Accords also committed the signatories to respect "human rights and fundamental freedoms" - a major step for the Soviet bloc. A sec-

On the left, the opposition Labour Party indicates it is unlikely to support the plan: the Shadow Brexit secretary Sir Keir Starmer said that it was "unworkable" and "a bureaucratic nightmare". This may mean, if the Tory rebels are numerous enough - around 60 - and few if any Labour members vote to support, that the prime minister may not get the plan through the cabinet. And even if she does, the EU's Barnier may reject it, and demand further compromises which May cannot give. One of the UK's leading pollsters, Peter Kellner, warned

“ Let chaos reign, for it means that democracy reigns too ”

that "there remains a huge gulf - indeed, a range of huge gulfs - between the government's new position and the European Union's." Barnier, for his part, told a Council on Foreign Relations meeting in New York this week that partnership in a single market "cannot amount to membership."

This is seen, universally, as a huge, debilitating mess. Picking up on these media themes, US President Donald Trump gleefully waded into the maelstrom during his visit to the UK this week, taking the undiplomatic step of telling the Sun newspaper that the prime minister's plan would "probably kill" any trade deal between the United States and the UK; that former Foreign Secretary Johnson would "make a great prime minister;" and he had told May how to do the Brexit deal, but "she didn't listen to me."

Then a new day brought a new performance, with Trump deriding his own interview as fake news, saying that the US-UK relationship is "at the highest level of special," and that he thought that "this incredible woman right here is doing a fantastic job, a great job." The British government has the choice of believing one of these, disbelieving both or simply ignoring them.

tion of the accords confirming "the right of the individual to know and act upon his rights" spawned a series of Helsinki monitoring groups in Moscow, Warsaw and Prague. Their members were all promptly imprisoned: Helsinki Watch, the precursor to Human Rights Watch, was formed in an effort to defend these embattled activists. But this recognition that sovereign nations had a duty to respect the rights of their people gradually gave rise to a movement that contributed to the demise of the Soviet Union and its Eastern Bloc, the very empire that the Helsinki Accords ostensibly recognized.

During negotiations of the Helsinki Accords, the importance of including human rights was advanced by many Western governments including the United States. The political records of the current occupants of the White House and the Kremlin suggest they are unlikely to place similar emphasis on those rights at the Helsinki summit.

Putin, not unlike his Soviet predecessors, is once again interested in dividing Europe, though in a different way. He favors a Europe paralyzed by the rise of xenophobic populist leaders, a Europe with less moral authority to comment on his own autocratic methods of retaining power. And he seeks a distracted Europe that will not challenge - let alone sanction - him for sponsoring rights abuses in Eastern Ukraine, underwriting mass atrocities in Syria, or obstructing investigation of the use of chemical weapons.

Sadly, Trump seems to share Putin's interest in a divided Europe, as the U.S. president openly cheers far-right challengers to leaders like German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who stands up to Russia's transgressions, while threatening to undermine transatlantic institutions such as NATO and the G-7. Indeed, Trump seems to admire - if not envy - auto-

But the commentariat, and much of political opinion, have got what they have long lamented was absent - a democratic debate about an issue of cardinal importance. It's chaos but, as a Remain voter, I see it as chaos with merits.

First, it has revealed that the Brexiteers are fighting on a principle - of returning powers to the national parliament. This is in line - if more forcefully expressed - with a general movement in the EU itself. Witness the positions of the Central European states and now the Italian government. See the speech in Berlin earlier this year by Mark Rutte, the Dutch prime minister, speaking it seems for many of the smaller states and explicitly contradicting French President Emmanuel Macron's project for greater integration - ("I do not believe that we've been marching inevitably towards a federal system all along," Rutte said. "Nor should that be our goal in the twenty-first century.")

The UK's decision to exit has pushed Rutte's view much further. It would have been better if the EU had recognized that the UK was in tune with a general view, and instituted a general debate within the Union on competencies and powers. Something which, had it been available to David Cameron, the former prime minister who called the Brexit referendum, could have kept the EU intact.

Second, it has revealed that if the Brexiteers have a principle - national sovereignty - then the Remainers need one too, and not just a (well-founded) fear of economic turbulence and a vague aspiration for togetherness, un-anchored to any precise proposals of what the EU should become. If there is a case to be made that the referendum result should be reversed, and the UK remain in, then it must be clear what being "in" means. Is it to accept continuing integration and transfer of powers from the national to the EU level? Or a much looser grouping, where nations retain sovereignty but cooperate closely?

So let chaos reign, for in this case, it means that democracy reigns, too. And in the end, a compromise must - and will - be found. For we are talking about democracies, with strong civil societies; and that means they have enough strength, embedded in the people, not to descend into real chaos.

NOTE: John Lloyd co-founded the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford, where he is senior research fellow. — Reuters

crats like Putin for their ability to override democratic checks and balances on their authority such as an independent judiciary, a critical press, and a vigorous civil society.

The risk is thus considerable that the Helsinki summit could effectively bury the lofty principles behind the Helsinki Accords. To Trump, the accord that Gerald Ford and Leonid Brezhnev signed in Helsinki might seem one of those "bad deals" not worth respecting. As during his summit with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un, Trump may calculate that he can use his meeting with Putin to reduce tensions, declare victory, and head on to the next Tweet-induced media frenzy before most people realize that the feel-good declaration was a giveaway, that it did nothing to address Russia's disturbing conduct.

The only real hope for this Helsinki summit is that Trump also probably fears the perception that Putin can play him, that far from being a master dealmaker, the U.S. president who governs from the gut and doesn't sweat the details will be seen as having been snookered. Because whatever spin Trump places on his mano-a-mano with Putin, he will be perceived as having been taken to the cleaners if Putin emerges from the summit with an effective green light to continue suppressing dissent at home and backing atrocities in Ukraine and Syria.

Trump may not bother with history, but the history of the Helsinki Accords is our best antidote to a sell-out in Helsinki today. Trump may have little patience for the values and principles of human rights and democracy that that agreement affirmed, but we have a responsibility to remind him what's at stake before he and Putin embrace their shredding.

NOTE: Kenneth Roth is executive director of Human Rights Watch — Reuters

## Business

MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018

**12** Dollar rallies on escalating trade tensions and solid inflation data**13** AUB wins prestigious 'Best Retail Bank in Kuwait' award in 2018**14** EQUATE recognized for developing top Middle East treasury solution

FARNBOROUGH: This file picture of the 2014 Farnborough International Airshow shows airliners and the engines that power them on a display at Farnborough airshow.

# Planemakers plot new course amid trade jitters

## Boeing set to talk up mid-market plane, Airbus the A321XLR

**FARNBOROUGH:** Aerospace firms are setting out wares from luxury jets to lethal drones at back-to-back British air shows this week, hoping trade tensions will not deter airlines from buying jetliners even as geopolitical uncertainty allows them to sell more weapons. The quintessentially English atmosphere of the Royal International Air Tattoo, where straw-hatted VIPs watch fighters thunder over picturesque Cotswolds villages, gives way today to the Farnborough Airshow, where the hard-nosed business deals in the \$800 billion aerospace and defense sector will be done.

Trade tensions between the United States and both China and Europe, disputes over the consequences of Britain's exit from the European Union and an increase in global protectionist rhetoric have barely dented a prolonged industry boom. "The overall environment will reflect industry health, despite the dark clouds of Brexit and other global trade setbacks in the background," said analyst Richard Aboulafla of Teal Group.

"In short, we'll see more of what we've seen for years: aviation remaining a strangely protected and happy corner of a turbulent world." Boeing is expected to confirm demand for air transport is rising after Airbus lifted forecasts last week, citing strong economic growth in emerging markets and the need to replace older planes in Western markets. The bullish outlook was underscored ahead of the show by forecasters Flightglobal Ascend. The two giants will add to record orders for benchmark nar-

rowbody jets, whose waiting lists underpin their near-record share prices, while seeking a recovery in sales of bigger jets. After a lull, Boeing will be looking for a boost to its largest twinjet, the future 777X. Sources said recently it is in talks for an eye-catching deal with Saudi Arabia.

Airbus will hope to end uncertainty over AirAsia's support for its A330neo jet after a showdown on prices. That could also involve a deal for smaller planes, though doubts have been expressed over financial commitments to Airbus. Farnborough is the first such event since Airbus and Boeing shook up the industry by agreeing to absorb key commercial programmes of smaller rivals Canada's Bombardier and Brazil's Embraer as they prepare for future competition from China. The result should be a fierce contest for sales in the 100-150-seat sector even before Boeing closes its Embraer deal. A new airline, Moxy, is expected to confirm a large order for the rebranded Airbus A220, the former Bombardier CSeries.

### Industrial poker

The event is also expected to provide new evidence of strong demand for freight planes as e-commerce drives up

shippers' profits despite global trade tensions. Analyst predictions for total commercial orders and commitments vary from last year's 900 to about half that. While high fuel prices make efficient new planes attractive, they hurt the bottom line of buyers, delaying some decisions. "We are not blind: there are things that need to remain on watch," the head of major engine-maker CFM said on Saturday.

Farnborough will also be an opportunity for aerospace firms to plot next moves on civil and defense for decades to come. The July 16-22 show is not only about order headlines but also about sending signals to investors, keeping competitors guessing and keeping potential buyers interested. Boeing will want to maintain interest in a potential new mid-market plane, while giving itself until next year to decide whether to launch the new 220-270-seat jet. While it is further ahead in pre-development than at the same stage on earlier programs, it must convince airlines it can be ready in 2025, the deadline for many fleet overhauls. Airbus may talk up its possible new A321XLR, designed to address a shortfall in transatlantic performance of its longest-range single-aisle jet and targeted at US majors. The aircraft, with an improved take-off weight

of 100 tons and 4,500 nautical miles range, has already had an unannounced commercial launch in a bid to head off Boeing's proposed new jet from 2021, industry sources said. US sources doubt it will do everything Airbus claims.

Both planemakers are likely to deepen a push into high-margin services, announcing maintenance and operational deals in competition with airlines and parts providers. It's part of a tug of war for profits between planemakers and their partners.

Suppliers will be trying to gauge how far the jetmakers are prepared to go in buying up parts of their supply chain. And many in Europe will be discussing how to prepare for a possible 'hard Brexit' or a disorderly UK exit from the European Union. Sensitive UK choices over international partnerships are also expected to loom large in the defense side of the show.

The UK government will set out a combat air strategy with potential repercussions for defence suppliers around the world. It could ignite efforts to develop a successor to the four-nation Eurofighter but is expected to leave open whether Britain would seek to enter a project already underway between France and Germany, or risk a repeat of costly procurement splits.

For now, Sweden is shaping up as the most likely partner and South Korea, Japan and Turkey or Gulf arms-buying countries like Saudi Arabia could be drawn in, arms analyst Francis Tusa said. "It is a game of industrial poker," he said. — Reuters

## Arab investment body sees pickup in growth momentum in 2018

**BEIRUT:** The Arab Investment and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (AIECGC) has noticed a sharp recovery since the start of 2018 on several main economic indicators. It noticed that the recovery of oil prices from their record lows, the drop in downward pressure at the global level, and a stability of basic commodity prices are promising despite the continuing economic, financial, social and geopolitical challenges and the continuation of the refugees crises in the area.

Director General of AIECGC Fahd Rashid Al-Ibrahim, in his speech during the 26th Arab Economic Forum held by the Economy and Business Group in cooperation with the corporation and other entities, under the patronage of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri with a large number of officials in attendance, said the corporation through its annual reports and the general indicator for investment attractiveness

issued by it for 2018 revealed several challenges facing the business environment and investment atmosphere in the region.

Ibrahim attributed the clear drop in the flow of direct foreign investment in the region and its share of total international flows as well as its share of the total direct foreign investment projects in the world to these challenges, including a drop at the technological level, lack of skills, rise in inflation, rate of government budget deficits, some closed markets or difficulty to enter them and the low quality of human capital and logistical performance.

Ibrahim called on the states in the region to intensify programs of economic diversification, continue efforts of financial control, boost private sector activities, reform the labor market, improve business environment, boost human capital, improve quality of education, strengthen competitiveness and increase investment attrac-

tiveness of the region. Ibrahim expected, based on regional and international reports, the regions' economies to see relative improvement in the average growth rate due to several positive factors, most importantly expectations of oil sector recovery. He said the corporation - out of its keenness on being at par with the developments in the investment environment and business performance in the region - was able to penetrate the markets of investment guarantees and export credits, insure letters of credit, and reinsurance so that the total accumulated value of its operations since it started until June 2018 reached nearly \$17 billion.

Ibrahim said the corporation, coinciding with the growth of its business, followed the best practices to manage risks in order to guarantee the continuation of its work and fix its credit rating for the 11th consecutive year at "AA" with a stable future view by the Standard and Poor's index.

Ibrahim said the corporation is keen on continuing support of all Arab countries in order to attract more capital flow and encourage exports to the world through its varied insurance services.



BEIRUT: 26th Arab Economic Forum being held in Beirut



Business

# AUB wins prestigious 'Best Retail Bank in Kuwait' award in 2018

## Global Banking and Finance Review Magazine

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced that it has won the coveted 'Best Retail Bank in Kuwait' award in 2018 by Global Banking and Finance Review Magazine. The award reflects the Bank's overall achievements across the retail banking landscape and its exceptional performance that are in accordance to the judging committee's criteria. The Bank was recognized for its continued leadership position in providing innovative retail banking offerings through consistently developing its banking solutions to add more value to customers' overall experience. This is by offering flexibility, competence and demonstrating a strong commitment to enhance the customer experience through the provision of value-added banking services. Moreover, the Bank continues to invest in groundbreaking technologies as well as operating an integrated network of branches across Kuwait that are able to provide high-quality banking services.

Ranjan Sen, AUB's General Manager - Retail Banking said, "As the oldest bank in Kuwait, AUB has always worked to provide world class banking solutions

for our valued customers in Kuwait. We are proud of this independent rating that has been given to us by a top tier financial publication which sheds light on the exceptional quality of our retail banking offering."

Sen also added, "The award affirms our unique approach and keen commitment to provide innovative retail banking offerings that are of an international standard to our customers. We are very pleased with this prestigious award, which is considered a clear recognition of our efforts towards enhancing and developing the Bank's overall retail banking offering, especially after intensifying our efforts this year in making our customers' experiences exceptional."

Sen commended the Retail Banking Group team at AUB, who exert all possible efforts in their commitment to the Bank and its customers, and which led to the award.

Moreover, Huda Al-Madani, AUB's Deputy General Manager for Alternative Electronic Delivery Channels said, "We are proud to receive this important accolade which reflects the Bank's success in maintaining its

leadership position in developing innovative banking solutions that aim at empowering customers to complete their banking transactions easily and safely. We depend on our continuously updating and enhancing our digital platforms to drive our innovative banking initiatives."

Al-Madani also noted, "AUB will continue to maintain its strong levels of trust and customer satisfaction levels by investing heavily in technology, innovative products, facilitating and enhancing customer experiences and helping them complete their transactions in a secure and effective manner anytime and anywhere."

AUB's Head of Branches, Amer Najem said, "I would



Huda Al-Madani



Ranjan Sen



Amer Najem

like to thank our employees across the branch network, who are the main drivers of success in providing retail banking offerings to our wide customer base, for their dedication to their work and their keenness to provide a high level of customer satisfaction."

KAMCO Oil Market Monthly Report

## Trade concerns haunt oil market

**KUWAIT:** International trade concerns once again came to the fore after reports that the US could impose 10 percent tariffs on additional Chinese goods worth \$200 billion with an expected reciprocal reaction from China. The news affected markets across the globe, including Europe and Asia, however, expectations of a better earnings season and higher corporate profits in the US offset some of the negative mood in the market. Oil prices also receded, as a result, as an international trade dispute between two of the largest economies could depress oil demand.

The trend in oil prices reversed after remaining elevated over the last few weeks on the news that the US could soften its stand on Iran sanctions and allow some countries to be exempt from sanctions to import crude from the OPEC-member. In addition, Libya's oil production, which was suffering from a force majeure at several ports that halved the country's output, was reportedly back online. The aforementioned factors resulted in the biggest single-day drop in Brent crude in 2 years on 11-July-18.

Production by OPEC remained almost flat at 10.3 mb/d during June-18 after increase in oil production by Saudi Arabia was almost completely offset by a decline in production in Libya, Angola and Venezuela. The increase in the Kingdom's oil production came after it was decided in last month's OPEC meeting to modestly increase oil supplies from OPEC and non-OPEC producers by around 1 mb/d.

Meanwhile, the IEA, in its monthly update, highlighted a slowdown in oil demand in Q2-18, after a strong start during Q1-18, due to rising prices. According to the report, growth is expected to decline to 1.3 mb/d during 2H-18 after 1.5 mb/d during 1H-18. Growth during 1H-19 is expected to decline to 1.2 mb/d y-o-y due to high base effect and later increase to 1.6 mb/d during 2H-18. In terms of US oil production, the US EIA kept production expectation for the current year unchanged at 10.79 mb/d with production reaching 11.29 mb/d in the last quarter. However, the agency raised 2019 production forecast by 40 tb/d to an average of 11.8 mb/d with average production expected to breach the 12 mb/d mark during Q4-19 making it the top oil producer in the world. On the demand front, the agency lowered 2018 expected demand by 60 tb/d but increased 2019 demand outlook by 10 tb/d.

Oil prices

Crude prices witnessed extreme volatility during Jun-18 led by several key events during the month. The market kept a close eye on OPEC discussions aimed at raising output against a backdrop of US imposed sanctions on Iran. While at the same time the US-China trade war was being played threatening a global economic

recovery that was often touted to revive oil demand. However, despite the decision to raise output, oil prices surged in consecutive sessions led by supply disruptions reported in key oil producing centers namely Libya as well as Iran sanctions. Average prices of Brent and OPEC crude declined for the first time in four months. Brent spot crude closed at a monthly peak of \$77.44/b and averaged at \$74.4/b for the month, a decline of 3.5 percent as compared to the previous month average. OPEC crude also declined but at a slightly lower pace of 1.2 percent to average at \$73.22/b while Kuwait crude almost maintained the previous month average of \$72.38/b.

Meanwhile, in its short term energy outlook, the US EIA said that gasoline demand in the US is set to decline for the first time in six years in 2018 by almost 10 tb/d compared to 2017 with overall consumption forecast at 9.31 mb/d during the year. For 2019, gasoline demand in the US is expected to increase marginally to 9.36 mb/d, a decline of 0.02 mb/d from the previous expectation. In addition, according to EIA's latest weekly report, US crude oil inventory declined by 12.6 million barrels during the week ended 6-July-18, the largest draw in almost two years, sending crude inventory to its lowest since February-15. The drop came after three consecutive weeks of gains led by pressure on US allies to conform to Iran sanctions. The decline also came as a result of a decline in flows from Canada due to an outage at its Syncrude facility. The EIA report came a week after API reported a drop of 6.8 million barrels in US crude oil inventories. In terms of rig count, US continued to add oil rigs with an increase of five rigs to report 863 rigs for the week ended 6-July-18.

Canada also added 10 rigs during the week to reach a total of 182 rigs.

World oil demand

World oil demand growth estimates for 2018 was kept unchanged from previous month at 1.65 mb/d to average at 98.85 mb/d, although there were revisions within the regions. These internal adjustments in demand figures included upward revision in demand from OECD region by around 0.1 mb/d in Q1-18 led by better-than-expected data from OECD Americas, especially from the US for light and middle distillate products supported by healthy petrochemical sector and positive developments in industrial activities.

In its latest monthly report, OPEC also published its initial projections for 2019. According to the report, world oil demand in 2019 is expected to grow by 1.45 mb/d as compared to 1.65 mb/d expected in 2018 and breach the 100 mb/d mark to reach 100.3 mb/d in 2019 led by steady growth in global economies. OECD oil demand is expected to grow by 0.27 mb/d led by higher demand from OECD Americas owing to higher demand for NGL and middle distillates. Demand in Europe is expected to see growth, although at a lower pace, while the OECD Asia Pacific countries are expected to see a decline in oil demand owing to the planned substitution

programs. For the non-OECD countries, demand growth is expected to remain better than their OECD counterparts at around 1.18 mb/d, although the y-o-y growth in demand would be less than the 1.25 mb/d expected in 2018. Higher demand in 2019 is expected to come from Latin America and the Middle East regions that would be offset by a slight decline in oil demand growth in China.

World oil supply

Non-OPEC supply growth projections for 2018 was once again revised upward by 0.18 mb/d to a growth of 2.0 mb/d and is expected to average at 59.54 mb/d. The upward revision primarily reflected higher supply from the US, in addition to an expected increase in supply from Russia during 2H-18. Supply from OECD was revised downward by 71 tb/d and is now expected to grow by 1.88 mb/d to average at 27.57 mb. Supply from OECD Americas was revised upward by 95 tb/d with higher supplies from the US and Canada partially offset by a decline in supply from Mexico. For OECD Europe, supply forecast for 2018 was lowered by 0.02 mb/d, as compared to the previous forecast due to extended outages during maintenance during May-18 and June-18. Non-OPEC oil supply in 2019 is expected to grow at broadly the same pace as in 2018 at around 2.1 mb/d. OPEC NGL production is expected to grow by 0.11 mb/d in 2019, a marginal decline from 0.12 expected in 2018.

OPEC oil production & spare capacity

OPEC production during June-18 remained almost flat after it reported a marginal increase of 30 tb/d to reach 31.83 mb/d, according to Bloomberg while according to OPEC secondary sources, the m-o-m increase was 173.4 tb/d. During June-18, Republic of Congo was added as the 15th member of the OPEC group with a production level of 331 tb/d, according to data from OPEC secondary sources, thereby increasing OPEC production to 32.2 mb/d for June-18, resulting in a m-o-m increase of 40 tb/d. During the month, Saudi Arabia increased production by 330 tb/d after the OPEC meeting in which it was decided to raise OPEC and non-OPEC output by 1 mb/d, which is 1 percent of total global oil production, to offset the decline in production from Iran due to sanctions. The increase in production would come by way of lowering the compliance level as per the production cut agreement to 100 percent. Moreover, this increase would also include an increase of 200 tb/d from Russia, according to a statement from Russia's Energy Minister. Saudi Arabia produced at a rate of 10.3 mb/d during June-18, the highest production in 18 months. However, this increase was almost fully offset by a steep decline of 0.3 mb/d in production from Libya that produced at the lowest pace since April-17. That said, according to recent reports, production in Libya is set to be restored after the NOC said that it would lift the force majeure on a number of major export terminals and resume shipments from the country. According to the estimates, around 0.7 mb/d of oil could be back in production.

## Grand offer by Nissan Al-Babtain on Nissan Patrol

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait, brings its customers an irresistible offer this summer. Ensuring every Nissan fan receives the opportunity to experience their very own 'Hero of all Terrain', customers are guaranteed an amount of up to KD 2,000 on top of the highest trade in value for their used vehicle.

The Nissan Patrol legacy continues today as the recognized King of the Off-Road and has evolved into one of the world's toughest off-road vehicles that can deliver 8 passengers through city streets, desert roads and sand dunes alike.

Available in different models, the Nissan Patrol V6 incorporates dynamic safety mechanisms for a peaceful driving experience to the high-performance while the V8 is equipped with a strong 400 HP engine and comes with superior levels of styling and advanced technological upgrades. Also part of the Nissan Patrol family, comes the Nissan Titanium, with multiple features for added comfort and luxury, backed by a strong 400 HP engine, 20 inch tires and a multi system entertainment DVD screen.

Driven to enhance customer satisfaction on every level, Nissan Al Babtain comes with the ultimate seasonal deal with the highest trade value that a customer can get. Owning a brand new, popular Nissan Patrol is within easier reach now as it enables customers to save on time and effort of selling their old cars. Nissan Al-Babtain invites customers to visit its showrooms located in Al Rai and Ahmadi to seize this exclusive opportunity and enjoy the Hero of All Terrains.

Kuwait Times

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## Business

# EQUATE recognized for developing top Middle East treasury solution

## Adam Smith Awards 2018

**KUWAIT:** Integrated financial systems have earned EQUATE Petrochemicals Company, a global producer of petrochemicals, the award for "Best in Class Treasury Solution in the Middle East" at the Adam Smith Awards 2018 organized by Treasury yesterday.

Through the efforts of EQUATE's treasury, the world's second largest producer of ethylene glycol went from managing its treasury using basic tools to developing and devising its own state-of-the-art treasury solution with scalable and integration capabilities.

EQUATE's CFO Dawood Al-Abduljalil, said: "Our treasury transformation, progress and development is per global best practices as an independent capable organization. This treasury transformation will strengthen the EQUATE Group's financial performance

as a holistic petrochemical enterprise with presence in various parts of the world. We look forward to continue our growth and advancement in all relevant fields as part of the Group's continuous achievements."

During a ceremony in London, the award was received by EQUATE's Treasury Specialist, Nayef Al-Smaili. The solution enables the Group to centrally manage all global bank accounts, trade with banks, submit payments, in addition to empowering it with more governance and control. Furthermore, this strategic solution integrates the treasuries of the EQUATE Group, including MEGlobal's subsidiaries. EQUATE developed the solution in partnership with a number of banks and other financial organizations, including SWIFT, FIS, 360T, Serrala, Accenture, Zanders, Citi Bank, and Deutsche Bank.



Nayef Al-Smaili (center) receiving the award



EQUATE CFO Dawood Al-Abduljalil

## ACIC launches Ahli international multi asset holding fund

**KUWAIT:** In line with its 'simpler banking' strategy to offer easy banking to clients, Ahli Capital Investment Company (ACIC), the investment arm of Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK), has again partnered with BlackRock Investment Management, who are currently the world's largest asset manager (\$6.3 trillion as of 31 March 2018) providing the underlying building blocks, to launch the Ahli International Multi Asset Holding Fund. This new fund provides diversified international investments over multiple asset classes and is licensed and regulated by the Capital Market Authority of Kuwait. The Fund's currency is in Kuwaiti Dinars and the minimum subscription is KD 500.

Muhsen M Al-Harbi, Chief Executive Officer of Ahli Capital Investment Company said "We are extremely excited about this fund, as we believe it can provide long - term capital appreciation while diversifying risk globally with international investments spread across different asset classes. This is also an excellent way to save money, with higher returns than most savings accounts and with the added benefit of being able to subscribe and redeem on a monthly basis."

The underlying investments of this fund are continually monitored, reviewed and rebalanced to ensure the best risk adjusted returns. The fund provides investors exposure to multiple asset classes as well as multiple geographical regions and industry sectors.



Muhsen Al-Harbi

## Manushi Chhillar opens Malabar Gold & Diamonds showroom in Udupi

**UDUPI, India:** Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the largest jewelry retailers globally with over 220 retail outlets has inaugurated its relocated and bigger showroom at Udupi, Karnataka, India to accommodate the growing customer footfall. The relocated showroom, which is conveniently located at Geethanjali Shopper city, Geethanjali Road, Udupi was inaugurated by Miss World Manushi Chhillar on 07th July, 2018 in the presence of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, India Operations - Managing Director, Asher O. Regional Head, Iflu Rahman and other Heads of various departments along with the Management team members of the Group.

The conveniently relocated new showroom is the Biggest Jewelry Showroom in Udupi and has a wider collection of gold, diamond, platinum and silver jewelry in bridal wear, party wear and casual wear designs along with branded watches. Apart from displaying jewelry specific to the culture and celebrations of Karnataka, the big and spacious showroom with plush ambience will enhance the shopping experience of loyal clientele, who have made the existing store their favorite shopping destination. Also there is ample parking space available.



## Thomas Cheriyaathu wins KD 4,000 in Burgan Bank's value account draw

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank yesterday announced Thomas Cheriyaathu as the winner of the Value Account KD 4000 draw. The winner expressed his excitement of winning the cash prize of KD 4,000.

Dedicated to offer the best in-class services, Burgan Bank's Value Account presents customers with exceptional features which were specifically designed to suit the needs of expatriates living in Kuwait. Account holders will be able to enjoy matchless benefits that include receiving a free credit card for one year, application for a loan, in addition to a chance to enter the quarterly draw to win KD 4000 as well as other discounts from selected merchant stores.

## Turkish Airlines continues its growth trend without slowing down

**KUWAIT:** Turkish Airlines, that announced the results of June 2018 passenger and cargo traffic, achieved the highest rate of Load Factor (LF) in the first six months of its history with a brilliant performance of 80.4 percent. The double-digit growth that the flag carrier recorded in the number of international non-transit passengers, marks an increasing interest in Turkey.

### According to the June 2018 traffic results;

During the period of June 2018 passengers carried increased by 10.6 percent, to 6.3 million passengers from 5.7 million passengers for the same period of 2017. Increase in number of passengers carried in domestic and international lines are 14.5 percent and 7.8 percent, respectively.

- Total L/F increased by 2.6 point to 79 percent, while international L/F increased by 2.7 point.
- RPK increased by 8.2 percent to 12.4 billion during the period of June 2018 from 11.5 billion for the same period of 2017. Increase in RPK in domestic and international lines are 14.6 percent and 7.2 percent, respectively.
- International-to-international transfer passengers increased by 0.7 percent.
- International Non-transit passengers increased by 16.9 percent compared to the period of June 2017.
- Cargo/Mail carried during the period of June 2018 increased by 18.6 percent to 115,989 tons from 97,828 tons in 2017.
- During the period of June 2018, the regional traffic



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Burgan Bank will continue presenting exclusive services and draws with an aim of exceeding customers' expectations while offering them chances to win valuable cash prizes all year round.

Opening a Value account is simple, interested Individuals with salaries starting from KD 150 and above are eligible to open a Value Account.

results are as follows:

- Increase in RPK in Europe, Africa, Domestic Lines and Middle East are 15.1 percent, 14.3 percent, 13.8 percent and 11.4 percent.
- Increase in L/F in Africa, N. America, Far East and Europe are 7 pt., 4.6 pt., 4.2 pt. and 3.1 pt.
- Increase in passengers carried in Africa, Europe, Domestic Lines and Middle East are 15.7 percent, 15 percent, 13.8 percent and 10.2 percent respectively.

### According to the January-June 2018 Traffic Results;

● During the period of January- June 2018 passengers carried increased by 17.8 percent, to 35.6 million passengers from 30.3 million passengers for the same period of 2017. Increase in number of passengers carried in domestic and international lines are 20.3 percent and 15.8 percent, respectively.

- International-to-international transfer passengers increased by 11 percent, compared to the same period of 2017.
- International Non-transit passengers increased by 22.3 percent compared to the period of January - June 2017.
- L/F increased by 4.3 point to 80.4 percent.
- ASK increased by 9.2 percent to 88.1 billion during the period of January- June 2018 from 80.6 billion for the same period of 2017. ASK in domestic lines increased by 16.6 percent, while ASK in international lines increased by 8.2 percent.
- RPK increased by 15.5 percent to 70.8 billion during the period of January- June 2018 from 61.3 billion for the same period of 2017. Increase in RPK in domestic and international lines are 19.6 percent and 14.8 percent, respectively.
- Number of landings (passenger aircraft) of 216,780 for the period of January- June 2017 increased by 10.3 percent to 239,053 in 2018.
- Cargo/Mail carried during the period of January-June 2018 increased by 27.7 percent to 661,234 tons from 517,884 tons in 2017.

## Al-Tijari announces winner of Al-Najma weekly draw

Be more than a Millionaire!

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Al-Najma Account ...  
The biggest cash prize in the World



**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winner of the weekly draw as follows: Weekly draw prize KD 5,000- Muhammad Tahir Phool Phool Khan

The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Latifa Al-Jeean. Al-Najma Account was recently revamped by adding several benefits to the prize program through which now the account provides its customers the chance to win the biggest annual cash prize offered by a bank in Kuwait and over the globe as much as 1 million and half Kuwaiti dinar(1,500,000) so that customers' dreams can easily turn to reality.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 and monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy. Now CBK existing customers can open Al-Najma Account through Al-Tijari Online and enter all draws without visiting the Bank's branch. However, CBK non-customers can submit an account opening application via the Bank's website where the Bank's Sales Unit will call them to arrange a visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities.

## Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.



### The lucky winners are:

Wali Abdulwahab Dolati Ghadhban  
Bharath Swaminathan Subramanian  
Hasan Mahmoud Darwesh  
Abdulhamid Ibrahim Al-Ansari  
Humoud Mansour Saad Alolaimi

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

## Technology

# Latin America's largest solar park is turning a Mexican desert green

## The biggest solar project in the world outside China and India

**VIESCA:** Driving through the endless dunes and cacti of the Chihuahuan desert in northern Mexico, a shimmering blue field suddenly appears on the horizon—not a mirage, but the largest solar park in Latin America. This silent stretch of sand in the state of Coahuila is the spot the Italian energy giant Enel picked to build the Villanueva power plant: 2.3 million solar panels that sprawl across a sun-soaked area the size of 2,200 football fields.

When the plant reaches full capacity later this year, it will supply enough electricity to power 1.3 million homes. It is the biggest solar project in the world outside China and India. The panels are designed to turn in tandem with the sun, like a field of metallic sunflowers. They are part of Mexico's push to generate 35 percent of its electricity from clean sources by 2024. Mexico won plaudits from environmentalists in 2015 when it became the first emerging country to announce its emissions reduction targets for the United Nations climate accord, ambitiously vowing to halve them by 2050.

A key part of that push is a sweeping energy reform undertaken in 2013. One of outgoing President Enrique Pena Nieto's signature initiatives, it was initially criticized by president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who will take office on December 1. But the anti-establishment leftist has warmed to the overhaul, and analysts now say it is likely here to stay. The reform made global headlines for reopening Mexico's oil sector to foreign companies after 76 years of state monopoly. A lesser-known-but perhaps ultimately more important—aspect was to allow private companies to generate and supply electricity. Under the new law, Mexico is now holding clean-energy auctions in which private companies bid to produce and sell electricity on an open market. "We're very happy with the busi-

ness environment and opportunities that exist in Mexico," said Enel's global director for renewable energy, Antonio Cammisecra. "Since the reform, we see better market conditions and potential for a company like ours."

### Cutting costs

Projects like this are also benefitting from a sharp drop in prices for solar technology in recent years. "Photovoltaic solar energy is the fastest-growing energy in the world. And that is driving technology innovators," said Arturo Garcia, an energy specialist at the international consulting firm Deloitte. The energy reform and price plunge are together reshaping the solar market in Mexico.

"Before the reform, it was an environmental issue," said Victor Ramirez, executive director of the National Solar Energy Association. "Today, it's not just about the environment, it's about economics. If solar sources are cheaper, investment is going to gravitate there." The new opportunities are attracting international interest.

Besides the \$650-million Villanueva project, Enel has another solar park and is building two wind farms. Last May it pledged an additional \$97 million in investment to expand its projects in Mexico. Spain's Iberdrola is building two solar parks, Dutch firm Alton is building another, and British-backed Atlas Renewable Energy recently acquired yet another. "Mexico has world-class solar resources," said Camilo Serrano, Atlas's general manager for Mexico. "The potential is absolutely proven, and investors' appetite is obvious in the auctions."

### Electric interest

The auctions have so far raised an estimated \$8.6 billion in investment. Mexican Energy Minister Pedro Joaquín



File picture taken on April 20, 2018 showing an aerial view of the Villanueva photovoltaic (PV) power plant operated by Italian company Enel Green Power in the desert near Villanueva, a town located in the municipality of Viesca, Coahuila State, Mexico. — AFP

Coldwell recently said they would lead to the construction of 40 solar parks and 25 wind projects. Mexico, which had nine solar parks in 2015, aims to have 68 by 2021, he added. Three auctions have been held so far. The production price offered by electricity suppliers has dropped

from \$50 per megawatt-hour to \$20. Thanks to the program, Mexico is now on the top 10 list of countries with the most clean energy investment, according to the government—which predicts the price plunge will continue at the next auction, slated for November. — AFP

## Dell EMC offers mid-size businesses powerful Data Protection at lowest cost



Michel Nader

**KUWAIT:** Dell EMC announced its newest Integrated Data Protection Appliance (IDPA), the Dell EMC IDPA DP4400, providing simple and powerful converged data protection to help mid-size organizations transform IT while combating data sprawl and complexity.

Comprehensive data protection has been a challenge for mid-size organizations. Enterprise-class products come with higher cost and complexity, while lower cost products that have traditionally targeted these organizations sacrifice performance, efficiency and application support. Dell EMC built the IDPA DP4400 from the ground up as a simple, yet powerful, solution for mid-size organizations—featuring enterprise-class capabilities for backup, deduplication, replication and recovery. IDPA DP4400 also offers built-in cloud readiness features with disaster recovery and long-term data retention to the cloud.

"For years, mid-size organizations haven't quite had a comprehensive data protection solution that was sized and priced right for them," said Beth Phalen, President, Data Protection, Dell EMC. "With the IDPA DP4400 there are no compromises. We're delivering a converged data protection solution that's as simple to use as it is powerful—with support for the largest application ecosystem and expansion to the cloud. The IDPA DP4400 offers the right level of modern features and capabilities for mid-size data centers at the lowest cost to protect."

"For mid-size organizations, scaling can get expensive as they try to meet the needs of their ever growing data."

said Michel Nader, Regional Director, Data Protection Solutions, Middle East, Turkey and Africa (META Region), at Dell EMC. "With the new Dell EMC IDPA DP4400 we have integrated the best of breed components to offer better time to value and cloud-tiering for long term retention, enabling mid-size organizations to greatly simplify and automatically adapt to the changing needs and requirements of their business, while keeping performance high and costs down."

### Simple and powerful, at the lowest cost to protect

The IDPA DP4400 blends simplicity and performance for mid-size organizations and remote office-branch office (ROBO) environments. The solution is designed to provide organizations the lowest cost to protect and is guaranteed under the Dell EMC Future-Proof Loyalty program.

The IDPA DP4400 is a converged data protection appliance in a dense 2U platform powered by Dell EMC PowerEdge 14th generation servers. Key features include:

- Customer-installable and easy-to-use HTML5 user interface: Makes IDPA DP4400 ideal for deployment and management in mid-sized organizations and ROBO locations.
- Grows in place with no downtime: A single 24TB appliance can grow in place to 96TB with a license key and no additional hardware to purchase.
- Protect more data with 55:1 average deduplication: IDPA DP4400 can protect approximately 5PB of usable data capacity. And, with native Cloud Tier for long-term retention, the total protected usable capacity increases to 14.4 PB.
- Supports largest application ecosystem: Includes support for modern applications such as MySQL and MongoDB, both physical and virtual, and support for mul-

iple hypervisors (VMware vSphere and Microsoft Hyper-V).

- Delivers powerful performance with NVMe flash: Shortens backup windows by up to 2x; backs up only deduplicated data requiring up to 98% less bandwidth; and supports 7x more backup streams while delivering instant access and restore of virtual machines to help meet stringent SLAs and RPOs.

- Cloud-ready solution: IDPA DP4400 comes with 5TB licenses each for Cloud Disaster Recovery and Cloud Tier as well as a Dell EMC RecoverPoint for Virtual Machines starter pack that provides five VMs and a one-year subscription.

The IDPA DP4400 simplifies data protection management via a modern HTML 5 user interface that automates daily tasks including management, monitoring and reporting. In addition, integration with VMware native tools, SQL Server Management Studio and Oracle RMAN enables application administrators to leverage protection features within familiar user interfaces.

With an average 55:1 deduplication rate, the IDPA DP4400 also offers efficient and cost-effective native Cloud Disaster Recovery (to Amazon AWS) with end-to-end orchestration-failover in three clicks, and failback in twoclicks—all without the need for additional hardware. The IDPA DP4400 is optimized for VMware environments, with leading integration that enables vAdmins to perform most common backup and recovery tasks directly from the native vSphere UI.

Protecting up to 5x more VMs in a single 2U appliance and with automation across the entire VMware data protection stack (VM deployment, deployment of proxies and movement of data to protection storage), the IDPA DP4400 makes it easy and cost-effective to scale up to protect more VMs. It also provides faster VMware backups and recoveries, and more efficient networking and capacity with its leading deduplication and bandwidth utilization. The IDPA DP4400 offers customers excellent value and TCO—costing up to 80% less to protect. With up to 2x faster backup windows, up to 20% more capacity in a 2U appliance, and an average rate of 55:1 deduplication—it offers the lowest cost to protect among competing products in its class.

## Study: Like people, mice double down on investments

**WASHINGTON:** Economists know that when people invest time or money in something, it's hard for them to pull out—even when their project is doomed. Well, it turns out mice and rats seem to have the same foible, according to a study published Thursday in the US journal Science. Economists say this involves what they call the "sunk cost" fallacy. Say you buy tickets to a show. There is no point in going, just for the sake of going, if you decide you no longer like what it is about, say, or you are tired. Regardless of whether you go or not, you will not get your money back.

And for countries, just because lots of money has been spent on a program there is no point to keep pumping in more if it's no longer in the national interest. For a long time researchers have studied whether animals are like people in this regard—ferociously attached to objects just because of their past efforts with them.

Scientists at three neuroscience and psychology labs at the University of Minnesota carried out a coordinated experiment on mice, rats and humans. Guess what happened? "Mice, rats and humans all behaved quite similarly," David Redish, a neuroscience professor at the university and co-author of the study said.

### Waiting for a reward

The rodents were trained to feed in a labyrinth with four "restaurants," one in each corner. During each trial, they arrived in a so-called "offer zone" where a tone informed them of the wait time to get something to eat—in this case flavored pellets. If the animals accept the offer, they move on to a waiting area, where an audible countdown tells them how much longer they have to wait—from one to 30 seconds. Before all this they were trained to understand these sound signals.

For the humans a similar experiment was set up, only with videos instead of food as the lure. They could view kittens, landscapes, ballroom dancing or bike accidents. The waiting time before they get to see the video is represented by a download bar. In each case, the human participants could simply say no to waiting and move on to the next room or video.

The experiments showed that rodents, like people, tended to exhaust the waiting period once the wait has begun. "The more that they stuck it out already, the more likely they are to finish," said Redish. It's just like people waiting in line, he said. "Once you get in line, you tend to stay in line. And the longer you've been in line, the more likely you are to finish staying in line," Redish added. But the wait is not cost-free because the overall duration of the experiment is restricted.

So the longer a rodent waits for its favorite pellet—say, banana or chocolate flavored—in a given room, the less total food it can munch on during the test. Redish makes this comparison: "I'll wait the 30 seconds for this caviar, even though truthfully, if it was five seconds it would totally be worth it. "But standing 30 seconds for the caviar, I really ought to skip it, because I might get a five-sec potato down the line."

The study had its limitations: it involved only 65 humans (university students), 32 mice and 32 rats. What is more, the tasks they faced were not identical. But it paves the way for more experiments. The challenge moving forward "is going to be to know that one is truly capturing the same phenomenon across species," Shelly Flagel, an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Michigan who was not involved in the study, told The New York Times. — AFP

## South Africa unveils a super radio telescope



CARNARVON: Space images are shown to members of the media and delegates during the official unveiling ceremony of a 64-dish radio telescope system. — AFP

**CARNARVON:** South Africa on Friday unveiled a super radio telescope, a first phase of what will be the world's largest telescope in a project to try to unravel the secrets of the universe. The 64-dish MeerKAT telescope in the remote and arid Karoo region of South Africa will be integrated into a multi-nation Square Kilometer Array (SKA). When fully operational, the SKA telescope will be 50 times more powerful than any other telescope in the world.

"The telescope will be the largest of its own kind in the world—with image resolution quality exceeding the Hubble Space Telescope by a factor of 50 times," said David Mabuza, the deputy president of South Africa. "This day represents some of Africa's milestones... in our quest to catch up with the rest of the world and make our own contributions to civilization," he said at a ceremony attended by scientists and dignitaries.

Expected to be fully up and running by 2030, the SKA will comprise a forest of 3,000 dishes spread over an area of a square kilometre (0.4 square miles) across remote terrain in several African countries and Australia to allow astronomers to peer deeper into space with unparalleled detail. A panorama captured by the MeerKAT telescope on Friday

showed "the clearest view yet" of the black hole at the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy, according to the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory.

The SKA will explore exploding stars, black holes and traces of the universe's origins some 14 billion years ago. South Africa, which hosts the bulk of the SKA project, has invested 3.2 billion rands (\$240-million) so far into the telescope. The telescope is being built by an international consortium, including Australia,

Britain, Canada, China, India, Italy, New Zealand, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Other African countries involved are Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia.

Last month, scientists linked a powerful optical telescope, MeerLITCH, built 200 kilometers south of Carnarvon, with the MeerKAT to allow for simultaneous optic and radio study of cosmic events as they occur. — AFP

## Twitter suspends accounts linked to Russians indicted by Mueller

**WASHINGTON:** Social networking site Twitter Inc on Saturday suspended two accounts linked to 12 Russian spies indicted by Special Counsel Robert Mueller for interfering in the 2016 US presidential election. On Friday, a federal grand jury charged the 12 Russian intelligence officers with hacking Democratic computer networks in 2016 in the most detailed U.S. accusation yet that Moscow meddled in the election to help Republican Donald Trump.

Twitter said on Saturday it had suspended the accounts @DCLeaks\_ and @Guccifer\_2 that were named in the indictment, which alleges a wide-ranging conspiracy involving sophisticated hacking and staged release of documents. The indictment alleges that from around June 2016 the conspirators released tens of thousands of stolen emails and documents "using fictitious online personas, including 'DCLeaks' and 'Guccifer 2.0.'"

In a statement on Saturday, a Twitter spokesman said: "The accounts have been suspended for being connected to a network of accounts previously suspended for operating in violation of our rules." Twitter in recent months has purged suspicious user accounts in a bid to prevent the dissemination of fake news and "encourage healthy conversation," the company said this month.

Friday's indictment was the first by Mueller that directly charges the Russian government with meddling in the election. The Kremlin denies it interfered. Speaking at a cybersecurity conference in Philadelphia on Saturday, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said the indictments proved that the United States "will not tolerate interference with our democratic processes and that there will be consequences for foreign meddling." — Reuters

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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Surgery Department  
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**DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED**  
Consultant of General Surgery  
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**Academic Certificates - Training**

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- ◆ (IFSO) member .
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**Scope of clinical Practice.**

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What's On

# 90 ways to enjoy summer at your favorite Jumeirah Hotels

**DUBAI:** We know that a summer without memories won't do, so we have created a list of 90 different ways you, your friends or your family can have fun over the summer months at Jumeirah hotels. From the beach, to the city, to the creek - or even a drive or plane journey away, we've got you covered.

With six different categories to dip into, you can enjoy a whole host of day or night time activities, as well as staycations or long-term stays within the family, dining, shopping, exploring, recharge and indulge categories - all available for you to scroll through on [www.jumeirah.com/90ways](http://www.jumeirah.com/90ways)

We know that a summer without memories won't do, so we have created 90 different ways to have fun this summer at Jumeirah hotels. From beaches, city stays, exploring the historical Creek to London's exclusive shops - we've got summer covered. Enjoy foodie fun, exploring, indulging or simply recharging - you can scroll through the whole list on [www.jumeirah.com/90ways](http://www.jumeirah.com/90ways)

## STAYCATIONS

### Jumeirah city hotels

Jumeirah Emirates Towers and Jumeirah Creekside Hotel are offering a UAE Residents' rate from AED 315+++. The perfect destinations to explore the Museum of the future site, Downtown Dubai, Burj Khalifa, Bur Dubai and Deira.

### Al Seef hotels

Zabeel House Al Seef and Zabeel House MINI hotels are perfect for those looking for heritage and

culture. Venture into the new area surrounding the Creek and the friendly team will lend you a bike to explore the eclectic neighborhood. Rates start from AED396+++ and AED280+++ respectively, including breakfast.

### Madinat Jumeirah

Jumeirah Al Qasr and the beautiful summerhouses of Jumeirah Dar Al Masyaf offer a more palatial stay. Enjoy the resort's huge swimming pool and be pampered by the in-villa butler. Starting from AED935+++ per night, enjoy breakfast, dinner in over 40 restaurants and bars, and free and unlimited access to Wild Wadi Waterpark.

## FOOD

- Foodies can tackle the huge variety of different meat cuts with a masterclass hosted by the Master Butcher at The Rib Room, Jumeirah Emirates Towers complete with a three course lunch for just AED 325 per person.

- Experience dining re-imagined with a five-course menu to be enjoyed from the heights of Jumeirah Emirates Towers' famed glass elevators with panoramic views.

- Learn to cook the perfect Spanish paella at Al Hambra, Jumeirah Al Qasr for just AED 180 per person.

- Kid seat for free at any of the Madinat Jumeirah all day-dining outlets of Hanaaya, Arboretum or The Palmery.

- Improve mixology skills at Gold on 27 at Burj Al

Arab at The Summer Cocktail Academy, an hour long masterclass from just AED 399 person, the ideal place to create signature drinks inspired by the legacy of Dubai.

## DAY AND NIGHT TIME FUN

- Surprise a loved one by creating a personalized fragrance for AED 40 at Souk Madinat Jumeirah, or host a party at Sinbad Kids Club at Jumeirah Zabeel Saray for just 100 AED per child - the perfect pampering day for your little ones, with fun games, puzzles and splashes in the pool. While they enjoy that, the adults can enjoy beach and pool access, and the choice of either lunch or dinner at Lalezar followed by the legendary Turkish Hammam in Jumeirah Zabeel Saray.

- If you're looking for something special, Burj Al Arab Jumeirah invites you to breeze through a hot summer day from a cooled pool cabana at The Terrace, sipping on unlimited signature mocktails, followed by a refreshing cold seafood platter from Scape Restaurant and Lounge from just AED1,125 for two. Or enjoy a romantic Moonlight Swim complete with your own pool adorned with rose petals and massage from AED 7,321 per couple.

- If its adventure you're after, Wild Wadi Waterpark's Ladies Night will run every first and last Thursday of the month for just AED 199 per adults, with up to 2 kids complimentary and Talise Fitness is also offering Group Classes from just AED 100 per person. We promise you'll never want to leave Dubai



again in the summer!

## TRAVEL

Travelling around Europe during the summer months? If so, we've got you covered there too!

- Enjoy a British Sunday roast at The Rib Room or a shopaholics' experience when you stay at the Jumeirah Carlton Tower in London, make your skin glow with a honey based treatments at Jumeirah Frankfurt or taste the true meaning of the good life with complimentary daily lunch or dinner when you stay at the serene Jumeirah Port Soller Hotel & Spa in Mallorca. If that's not all, you can ice skate, snorkel and dive and jetski at Jumeirah Vittavelli in the Maldives also!

## KFH participates in Faculty of Associated Medical Sciences graduation



Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has participated in the graduation ceremony of the students of the Faculty of Associated Medical Sciences which covered 100 students. The ceremony was attended by the faculty dean Dr Adel Al-Asfour and several faculty officials, teaching members and VIPs. This participations comes as a continuation of KFH initiatives and contributions in the field of social responsibility and youth support. This graduation ceremony is the 6th graduation ceremony fostered by KFH within two months, thus reiterating KFH position as the leading supporter of youth and education.

KFH received high appreciation and gratitude from the faculty, graduates, families and the audience who have expressed their appreciation to KFH for its vital role in driving the economy and community. KFH has proved its leading position as the main supporter of youth and education locally, regionally and globally and proved its distinguished role in bearing social responsibility. KFH aims to focus more on youth and education by introducing several initiatives and projects which were launched to support youth and sponsor their activities.

## Meysan, IHC's IPO and admission to the premier market

Meysan Partners acted as sole legal advisor to Integrated Holding Company (IHC) and Watani Investment Company (NBK Capital) on IHC's KWD 130 million IPO and admission for trading on Boursa Kuwait premier market. IHC, the largest crane operator in the Middle East focused on the oil, gas and energy sectors and NBK Capital have successfully closed the private placement of around 76 million shares of IHC at a price of 730 fils

per share and raised more than 130 million dinars. The number of investors in the private placement exceeded 1,000, making the company eligible to list on Boursa Kuwait's premier market. The IPO and listing were completed under the CMA listing rules and the new Boursa Kuwait Rule Book issued earlier this year in April 2018. Meysan Partners team advising on the transaction, led by partner Tarek Yehya, included associates Mazen Zain



Tarek Yehya

## UPAC organizes two blood donation drives



**KUWAIT:** For the fourth consecutive year, and in continuation of the "Donate Blood to Save Lives" campaign, United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), a leading commercial real estate and facilities management company, organized blood donation drives in partnership with Kuwait Central Blood Bank.

The two blood donation drives were held on 30 June and 5 July at Discovery Mall and at UPAC's office respectively. 23 UPAC employees as well as Discovery Mall visitors donated blood in support of Kuwait Central Blood Bank's campaign. A total of 21 liters of blood were donated which will be used to augment

emergency blood requirements at government hospitals in Kuwait.

Donating blood contributes to helping those in need of immediate transfusions following an accident, as well as restoring the health of patients recovering from illnesses. UPAC's blood donation drive showcases the company's commitment towards the local community where it makes an impact on lives of the community where it operates. Discovery Mall is one of UPAC's managed properties that offers a host of educational, cultural, and entertainment activities that are geared towards children and the youth segment in Kuwait.

## KFH organizes training course on RIPPLE money transfer system

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has organized a training course for its employees on RIPPLE Money Transfer System which KFH has joined recently. The course comprised, for the first time, a group of employees selected from KFH Group Banks in Bahrain and Turkey in cooperation with Ripple International Group.

KFH Group CIO Mr Srood Sherif said that this course is allocated to train KFH Group employees on the means of providing technical support to operational procedures in order to commence the implementation of Ripple Money Transfer System, ensure proper implementation of the network capabilities and achieve a proper fast and safe service. He indicated that KFH has joined Ripple Net to facilitate the payment process for customers through widely spread Ripple Net, enhance KFH strategy to adopt digital technology services and provide the best possible expertise for customers to make highly accurate and swift money transfers abroad.

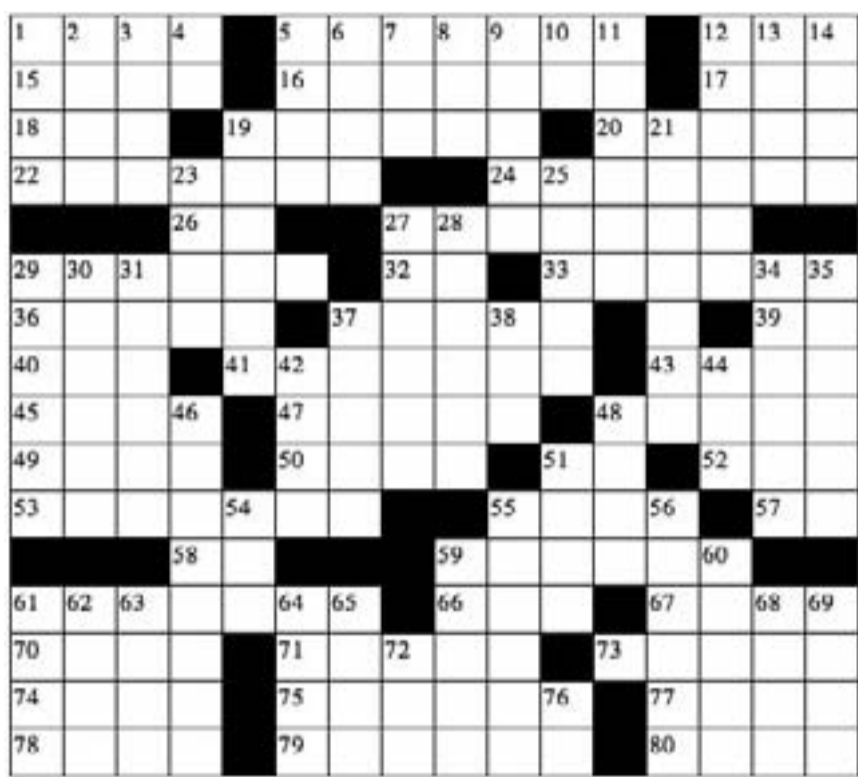
Sherif added that this training course comprises for the first time employees from different KFH Group Banks in Turkey and Bahrain as part of KFH efforts to provide a comprehensive training to cope with any future decisions related to any projected dependence on the net and its operation in any of the group banks abroad. Participation in the net shall add momentum to the training process.

He reiterated KFH keenness to use and develop the best highly advanced technology systems to serve customers at different levels and fields of business. This process shall place KFH in advance ranks along with highly reputed global banks. Several advantages and services shall be entered to achieve more speed and accuracy in performance. He indicated that the employees in KFH IT sector enjoy high IT skills and succeeded in implementing the system in the best possible manner in cooperation with all partners. Course shall continue for 3 days and shall include employees from KFH Group and Ripple International Group.



Stars

CROSSWORD 1960



ACROSS

1. A program under which employees regularly accumulate shares and may ultimately assume control of the company.
5. Abnormal position of a part or organ (especially at the time of birth).
12. The address of a web page on the world wide web.
15. A hormone produced by the anterior pituitary gland that stimulates the adrenal cortex.
16. Trained in a skill by repetitious practice.
17. The basic unit of money in Romania.
18. An adherent of any branch of Taoism.
20. A linguistic element added to a word to produce an inflected or derived form v.1.
22. United States feminist (born in 1934).
24. A narcotic antagonist (trade name Nalline) that counteracts the effects of narcotics (especially the effects of poisoning by morphine).
26. Being one more than one hundred.
29. A tyrannical power to be propitiated by human subservience or sacrifice.
32. An associate degree in nursing.
33. Cause to suffer.
36. A colorless gas (O3) soluble in alkalis and cold water.
39. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
40. A decree that prohibits something.
41. An alchemist of German legend who sold his soul to Mephistopheles in exchange for knowledge.
43. A prearranged fight with deadly weapons by two people (accompanied by seconds) in order to settle a quarrel over a point of honor.
45. Give over.
47. A member of an American Indian people of Yucatan and Belize and Guatemala who once had a culture characterized by outstanding architecture and pottery and astronomy.
49. Sweet pulpy tropical fruit with thick scaly rind and shiny black seeds.
50. Rounded like an egg.
52. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
53. A flat cake of thin batter fried on both sides on a griddle.
57. A metric unit of length equal to 100 meters.
58. A Loloish language.
61. Norman leader in the First Crusade who played an important role in the capture of Jerusalem (1078-1112).
66. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
67. Fallow deer.
70. A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
71. United States tennis player (born in Czechoslovakia) who won several singles championships.
73. Perennial herbs of eastern North America and Asia having aromatic tuberos roots.
74. An Iranian language spoken in Afghanistan.
75. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
77. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
78. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
79. Live in or as if in a tent.
80. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.

DOWN

1. Informal terms for a meal.
2. Singing jazz.
3. A member of the Siouan people inhabit-

- ing the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
4. (chemistry) P(otential) of H(ydrogen).
5. At or constituting a border or edge.
6. Crowd or pack to capacity.
7. A silvery malleable metallic element that resists corrosion.
8. (used especially of persons) Having lived for a relatively long time or attained a specific age.
9. Buildings for carrying on industrial labor.
10. That is to say.
11. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
12. A Christian Bishop who translated the Bible from Greek into Gothic (311-382).
13. One of a pair of long straps (usually connected to the bit or the headpiece) used to control a horse.
14. Elegant and sumptuous.
19. An agency of the United Nations responsible for programs to aid education and the health of children and mothers in developing countries.
21. A state in southeastern United States between the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico.
23. (computer science) A graphic symbol (usually a simple picture) that denotes a program or a command or a data file or a concept in a graphical user interface.
25. Port city of Denmark in eastern Jutland.
27. A member of the mercantile and professional Hindu caste.
28. Set up for use.
30. A chronic disease of the nose characterized by a foul-smelling nasal discharge and atrophy of nasal structures.
31. The capital and largest city of England.
34. A vehicle mounted on runners and pulled by horses or dogs.
35. A deep bow.
37. Having a sophisticated charm.
38. A typical star that is the source of light and heat for the planets in the solar system.
42. In a murderous frenzy as if possessed by a demon.
44. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
46. Large genus of epiphytic and lithophytic orchids of tropical and subtropical Americas and West Indies.
48. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
51. English monk and scholar (672-735).
54. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring in the air.
55. (trade mark) A soft form of cereal for infants.
56. A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
59. Genus of sticky herbs with yellow flowers open in morning or evening but closed in bright light.
60. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
62. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
63. A lawman concerned with narcotics violations.
64. A river in central Europe that arises in northwestern Czechoslovakia and flows northward through Germany to empty into the North Sea.
65. An administrator in charge of a division of a university or college.
68. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
69. A shaft on which a wheel rotates.
72. Government agency created in 1974 to license and regulate nuclear power plants.
76. A member of the military police who polices soldiers and guards prisoners.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Fight through the frustration you may be feeling today. Today you may seem if you are taking a ride on the infamous emotional roller coaster. Just sit back and buckle up. Even though you may feel as though you encounter an obstacle at every turn you will find great pride when someone from a younger generation seeks guidance from you. You will easily be able to help them in area you have much experience and set their young mind at ease. Even at times you may feel frustrated with your own situation, your ability to help others helps you change your focus and feel productive. You may feel as though you have a special connection with someone close to you today. Love and understanding flow freely with this person. Aries, sometimes helping others is the best way for you to help yourself.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are focused and forceful today. You may feel as if you hit the door running. You may feel the need to have everyone and everything around you organized, and you are ready to conquer all life throws your way today. You have a hit me with your best shot attitude. You are determined to get to the root of who you are today and what makes you tick. Answers to the why's and what ifs are running through your mind and catching your attention. A better understanding of these questions will help you with future decisions and help you achieve your goals. You are determined you will beat the odds. You are a winner and you may well be on your way to having all in your world just the way you want it. Taurus, you are a force to be reckoned with today!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find that you are able to have a very deep conversation with someone close to you today. Mentally, you are sharp and at your best. You are very pleased with your living situation now and find yourself in a very loving mood. Your desire is to help others and let them know just how special they are. This is a great time to work with others and you may find you are able to move mountains today when working as a team. You may find someone close to you is very supportive and understanding of an issue you have been experiencing. You are surrounded by love and support today as you have shown much in the past to those close to you. You may find yourself being the recipient of many compliments today because of who you are and what you have done for others. Gemini, it seems people are taking notice of you and you are earning great respect.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Today may find you wanting to gain control. You may have a desire to control all aspects of your life. You may find yourself in an organizing and restructuring mode. Taking care of everything from your health to your workspace. You may find that you are unable to attempt any other task today until you have everything just as you want it and have things just where you want them to be. This will be a rewarding task as you will be able to be very efficient in the days to come. Cancer, you may find this is a great day to connect with someone special to you. You may find a long phone conversation or a letter to this special someone in order. You never know just how special reaching out to this person could make them feel.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a time your mind is clear, and the lines of communication are open with all around you. Use this time of high energy to your advantage. You may find yourself in an organizing and restructuring mode, taking care of everything from your health to your workspace. You may find that you are unable to attempt any other task today until you have everything just as you want it and have things just where you want them to be. You are able to clearly see what you want and the way you will be able to accomplish it now. Leo, you are extremely organized and focused, and this will be a very productive time for you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

With maturity comes the ability to look at your problems in a new light. Each problem solved becomes a new lesson learned to you now. You desire organization in your life. Everything has a place and there is a place for everything in your world. Any variance from this is quite disturbing to you. This not only includes your material possessions but also the people in your life. You are realizing who and what should be taking priority and working hard to get them there. Your health is important to you and you know to be able to do all you need to get done you have to start with taking care of yourself. You have a very positive outlook on life and are able to really get headed in the right direction.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may be experiencing a great sense of peace and understanding. Reflecting on your past gives you great understanding of where you are today and just how you got here. You see very clearly and may be feeling as if you are experiencing a greater sense of self awareness. This will be very beneficial to you when facing adversity and come over you as a calming spirit as you start to realize your troubles are temporary. You may begin to look for the lesson being taught rather than reacting with haste and anxiety when trouble finds you. Libra, Your emotions and the emotions of others close to you are very clear to you. You are able to become a leader to your peers and admired for your compassion.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may be developing a need to place much value on the feelings and needs of others around you. A long talk, a heart to heart, or taking an extra moment to really get to know someone is what drives you today. You have put much focus on communication. You may feel you not only want to learn more about those around you but also have a desire to share more of the real you with others. Scorpio, Success in this area will lead to more lasting connections with others and you may find yourself developing a very strong support system.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are no-nonsense and taking care of business is your main focus. You believe everything has a place and there is a place for everything. You crave organization and you are determined to make sure everything is in its place. You feel that anything that gets in your way does nothing but get on your nerves. It seems your surrounding are not the only thing that takes on a greater importance for you now. Health and wellness become a major focus for you. You are determined to get yourself in order and take care of yourself physically.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Today finds you craving organization. You believe there is a place for everything and everything has a place and you are determined to get it there. A mission not only to declutter your surroundings but also to declutter your life and relationships. You may find that it is time to rid yourself of all who not make positive contributions to your world. You may find yourself in conflict or even being challenged when you seem to start shutting others out. You seem to be continually giving of yourself to others and when you start to focus more on your own well-being it seems others may be caught off guard. It is time you take care of you, Capricorn. Put yourself first for a change.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find you deeply desire to be respected. This may not only be in the workplace but also concerning your home life. This is an excellent time for you to organize your affairs and your surroundings. You may find yourself much more productive when all around you is in order. This could lead to greater accomplishments and you may find yourself receiving the respect you desire. You are always able to act and accomplish any task put before you quickly. You may find you are not only gain recognition from this ability you may find yourself being praised for it today. You may find today is a great day to surround yourself with friends and find someone younger has a great sense of admiration for you and looks to you as a role model.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A need for nurturing is stronger in your life than ever in the past. You may feel as if you need to care for others. You are also craving the feeling you have when someone cares for you. You need to be needed. You want to feel loved. Your timing is perfect, and this day should bring many opportunities to express yourself and your feelings to others. You are full of spontaneity and are full of life. You have a magnetic personality and others are drawn to you. You may find yourself surrounded by peers and feel much admiration. Pisces, Enjoy this time as it will be a time to remember.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Thankful For...

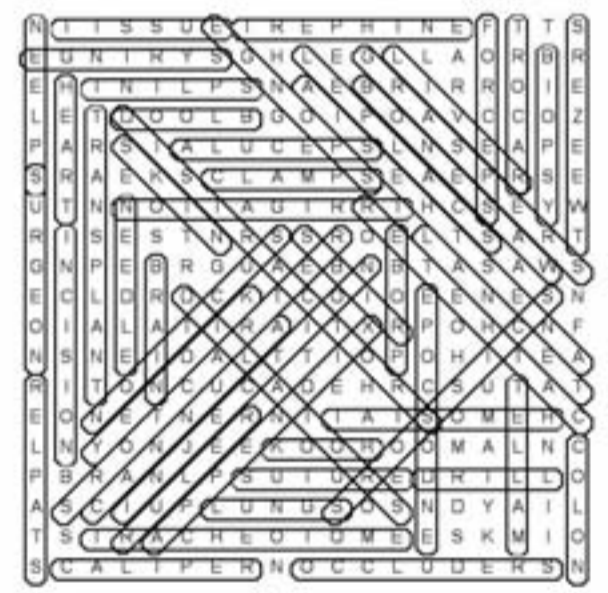
Find and circle all of the people and things to be thankful for. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- |                  |             |                |              |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| ACTS OF KINDNESS | ELECTRICITY | GRANDPA        | PETS         |
| A PLACE TO LIVE  | EYEGLASSES  | HAPPY MEMORIES | RAINBOWS     |
| BEACHES          | EYESIGHT    | HEARING        | SCHOOL       |
| BEAUTIFUL NATURE | FAITH       | HOLIDAYS       | SINGING      |
| BLESSINGS        | FAMILY      | HUMOR          | SISTERS      |
| BOOKS            | FLOWERS     | INTERNET       | SMART PHONES |
| BROTHERS         | FOOD        | LAUGHTER       | SMILES       |
| CARE GIVERS      | FREEDOM     | LIFE           | SUNSHINE     |
| CHILDREN         | FRESH AIR   | LOVE           | TEACHERS     |
| CHRISTMAS        | FRIENDS     | MUSIC          | TELEVISION   |
| CLEAN WATER      | FUN         | NURSES         | VOLUNTEERS   |
| CLOTHING         | GOOD HEALTH | PARENTS        | WARM SHOWERS |
| COMPUTERS        | GRANDMA     | PEACE          |              |

Yesterday's Solution

Surgery



- |             |            |            |             |
|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| ANESTHESIA  | DRILL      | LUNGS      | SPLINT      |
| APPENDIX    | ENDOSCOPE  | MALLET     | SPONGE      |
| BLOOD       | FORCEPS    | NEEDLE     | STAPLER     |
| BONE SAW    | GRASPERS   | OCCLUDERS  | SUCTION     |
| BRAIN       | HEART      | PROBE      | SURGEON     |
| CALPER      | HEMOSTAT   | RETRACTORS | SUTURE      |
| CANNULA     | HOOK       | RIBS       | SYRINGE     |
| CATHETER    | INJECTION  | RULER      | TISSUE      |
| CLAMPS      | IRRIGATION | SCALPEL    | TRACHEOTOME |
| COLON       | KIDNEY     | SCISSORS   | TRANSPLANT  |
| DILATORS    | LAVICET    | SKIN       | TREPINE     |
| DISTRACTORS | LIVER      | SPECULA    | TRICAR      |
|             |            | SPLEEN     | TWEEZERS    |

The hidden message is: THE LARGEST ORGAN OF THE HUMAN BODY IS SKIN

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Lifestyle

MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018

A general view shows the scene of a concert by Lebanese artist Ziad Rahbani at the Beiteddine Palace in Lebanon's Chouf mountains, south of the capital Beirut, during the Beiteddine International Art Festival. Rahbani, very well-known in the Arab world is a Lebanese composer and playwright and the son of Lebanon's renowned diva Fairuz. — AFP



## At some colleges, no need to be separated from a beloved pet



Photo provided by Eckerd College shows a student and her pet at a pet graduation ceremony taking place at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. — AFP photos



A student and her pet at a pet graduation ceremony taking place at Eckerd College.

Leaving for college involves some difficult changes, and one of them can be separation from a beloved pet. "If an animal is part of your entire life, and caring for them is a huge part of it, to take that away is pretty dramatic," says Kimberly Brubaker. If it's a high enough priority, though, you might be able to find a way to stay together, as Brubaker did: She lives in a dorm with her cat Dino and ball python Mars at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. Eckerd is not the only campus in the country that allows pets, but they may have been doing it the longest - since the early 1970s. While its pet policies are broadly accepting, it's far from a free-for-all. Brubaker is president of a student organization that registers on-campus pets; oversees their well-being and students' compliance with rules; and adjudicates problems. "We do pet checks once a month - we go around and knock on all the doors," she says. They handle an average of one or two problem reports per month, but most are minor, such as misunderstandings of the registration procedures.

Not only are pets on Eckerd's campus mostly problem-free, they may actually be beneficial. In a recently published study, students "across the board reported that their pet

reduced their levels of stress, and had incredibly favorable things to say about living with the animal," says co-author Miranda Goodman-Wilson, assistant professor of psychology at Eckerd. A majority of students reported that pets had a positive impact on their academic performance. "I think that for many students, having a pet provides a structure that they otherwise lack," she says. "If you have a dog who has to go out to go to the bathroom, that's a powerful alarm clock right there."

### Physical effects of stress

The study's results were mixed when it came to quantifiable mental health benefits. Pet-owning students did not have overall lower levels of stress, depression and anxiety. However, there was an effect when it came to somatic anxiety - the physical effects of stress, such as a racing heart and sweating palms. For students with pets, increased levels of stress did not result in increased somatic anxiety. "If pets are having some sort of psychological impact, it may be that they are serving as a buffer," she says. "So yes, I'm still having stress, but by having my animal, that stress is not translating into this sort of anxiety in the same way." While pets

might be good for students, some might worry whether college life is good for the pet. Last year, Mekenna Hooper, a senior at the Johnson & Wales University Denver Campus, decided to adopt a dog. When she contacted shelter and rescue groups, she recalls, "none of them liked the fact that we lived in a dorm," even though she was sensibly looking for a small, lower-energy senior. She eventually adopted Max, a 16-pound Yorkie mix who's now 11, and it sounds like he's living the good life. With Hooper and her roommate on different schedules, he's rarely alone more than a couple of hours at a time, and gets all the attention and petting he could ever want on campus. "Everyone knows his name," she says. "They know his name better than they know ours."

Goodman-Wilson believes that there can actually be advantages for a pet on campus, where students have flexible schedules and there are lots of eyes on the situation. "More so than your typical animal, there are ways for the wellness of the animal to be checked up on," she says. "And I think students generally are around their animals more than your average working adults." If you're looking for a pet-friendly college, be aware of each institution's

specific rules. More campuses allow small pets that can be kept in cages and tanks than allow dogs or cats, and where dogs are permitted, sizes and breeds may be restricted. Some restrict pets to upperclassmen; Eckerd only allows pets that students lived with before coming to campus.

### General value

Goodman-Wilson expects the number of pet-friendly schools to grow, partly because of the increase in emotional support animals. Once systems are in place for ESAs in dorms, that can open the door to allowing pets in general. At Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, where the first pet-friendly housing will open this fall, the new policy grew out of an increasing number of assistance animals, and because of requests to raise service dogs.

Now, it's seen to have a more general value. "We see this as part of creating a vibrant campus community that is attractive and promotes well-being," says Associate Dean Allison Bridgeman. But it also seems clear that there will be more pet-friendly campuses as long as students have anything to say about it. "I answer emails all that time that say, 'Hey, I'm



A student and her pet at a pet graduation ceremony taking place at Eckerd College.

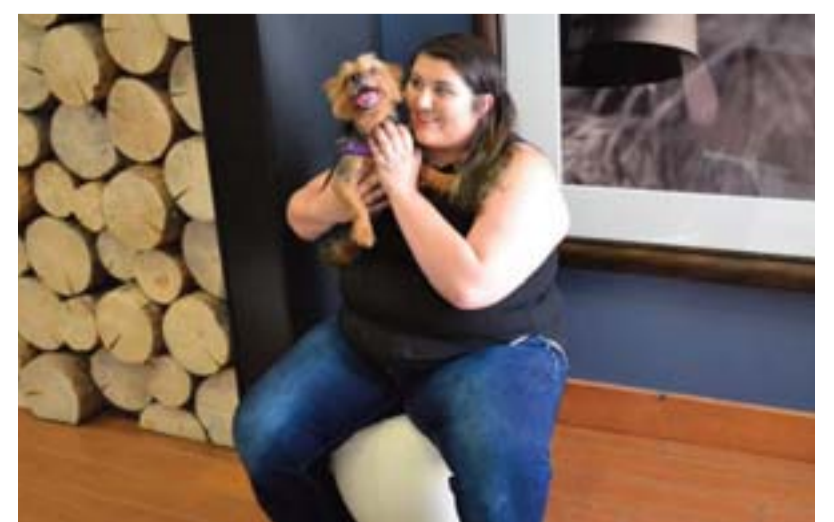
trying to start a pet policy on campus, what are the first steps?" says Brubaker. "I probably get at least one email a week from students at other colleges asking about our program." — AP



Eckerd College shows students at a recent pet graduation ceremony.



Eckerd College President Donald R. Eastman III presenting a certificate to a student's pet at a recent pet graduation ceremony.



Mekenna Hooper and her dog Max at Johnson & Wales University's Denver, Colo, campus.

## Melissa McCarthy's kids banned from watching puppet movie



Melissa McCarthy doesn't want her kids to watch the 'Happytime Murders' until they're 40. The premise of the movie is that puppets actually exist but are considered to be inferior citizens to humans and the 47-year-old actress plays sugar addicted cop Detective Connie Edwards who along with private investigator puppet Phil Phillips - voiced by Bill Baretta - must scour Los Angeles looking for a puppet murderer. Despite its puppet cast the comedy-crime film is R-rated and Melissa insists her daughters, Vivian, 11, and Georgie, eight, have zero chance of watching the adult themed movie. The comedian - who has her kids with her husband Ben Falcone - said: "It's definitely a grown-up movie. My kids are like, 'We can't wait to see this!' And I'm like, 'I can't wait to show you, when you're 40! It will be so wonderful, when you're 110 and you can see this!' "I think it's part of the fun of it. Somebody was saying that there's always that thing, when you watch something from The Muppets, one of the movies, or Sesame Street, that when the

lights go off, somebody says cut, and they walk out the back door, you wonder if they go into the real world and have a life? This is really seeing behind the curtain. When the lights are off and they're not having to perform for people, you see the real grind of their lives, and there's something really cool about it. "There's a weird, edgy coolness, and it's really funny." A lot of the comedy in the film - which has been made with The Jim Henson Company, responsible for creating The Muppets - is improvised, and Melissa has reminisced on the fun she had with the people playing the puppets while shooting the movie. She said: "They're crazy! They're crazy funny! All of them improvise. You can throw anything at them. Every time Drew [Massey], who plays several things in this, did a take, it was completely different, which both delighted and irritated me. "I was like, 'Is this written down?! I really work on this, and I think you might just be saying stuff, off the top of your head.' And each one was super specific, really funny and completely different."

## Irvine Welsh's rights mix-up

Irvine Welsh accidentally sold the rights to 'Trainspotting' to a "random guy" with lots of money. The 59-year-old author knew director Danny Boyle was keen to turn his gritty tale of heroin addiction into a movie, and was under the mistaken belief someone he met with about a big screen project was working for the filmmaker. He admitted in conversation with Underworld and Iggy Pop for Q magazine: "When Danny got in touch to buy the rights to 'Trainspotting', I was living in Amsterdam. "And I knew nothing about business and it meant that everyone wanted to buy it. "People wanted to meet me all the time. I liked Danny's film 'Shallow Grave' and thought it would work well. "I met this guy and he goes, 'Danny Boyle would be a good director for this.' I go, 'Yeah, great.' "I thought he was Danny's



producer but he was just a random guy who had a lot of money who wanted the rights. I sold it to him straight away. "Danny came back and said, 'What the hell, you were going to sell it to me.' And I said, 'I thought he was your guy! He had a big cheque book. What was I gonna do.' " Fortunately, the mystery man was "very gracious" and subsequently agreed to sign the rights back over to Danny. Irvine continued: "The guy was very gracious about it. He signed it over to Danny but it almost didn't happen because of my short-term greed." And Underworld think the implications could have been disastrous if things turned out differently. Karl Hyde said: "Just think what wouldn't have happened. Wow. "Can you imagine, if it had gone to somebody else? Man, there'd be a whole generation that wouldn't have a theme."

## Cher had movies nerves



Cher was "terrified" of working on 'Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again'. The 72-year-old singer plays Ruby, the mother of Meryl Streep's character Donna Sheridan, in the musical sequel and she admitted she was wary about being a newcomer on the project as most of the cast already knew one another from working on the first film. She said: "I was terrified because everyone had been together and my character wasn't very liked, so I was nervous, but everyone was nice to me. "Meryl was behind a piece of scenery watching me do my number and that made me feel good after the fact. "It was hard to go on a set where you were a stranger to everyone. "I knew some of the people, but to have such a 'mean grandmother' thing and then work your way into the story and be friends with everybody... but I felt really kind of loved and kind of a

great grandmother." Though Cher was a big fan of Abba - whose music soundtracks the movie - before she started work on the film, she hadn't appreciated how "complicated" the tracks were until she started singing herself. Speaking at a press conference in London alongside co-stars including Lily James and Amanda Seyfried, she told BANG Showbiz: "In America we knew the hit songs, but then when I heard Fernando I heard a different thing. I heard the acting of it and I didn't realize the songs were so complicated and I didn't realize how orchestrated and produced they were." Meanwhile, Lily plays the younger version of Meryl's character and admitted she watched the original movie "over and over again" to prepare for her role. She said: "Donna Sheridan is the most unbelievably brilliant, extraordinary woman and Meryl Streep is also all those things and her Donna was everything, and I just tried to watch it and capture what Meryl did, of that fearless uninhibited woman. "I watched the [first] film over and over again to get into her physicality, of how open she is to the world, to hope that my Donna could grow into that woman." 'Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again' is released in UK cinemas on July 20.

## Nike collaborate with Anna Wintour



Nike has teamed up with Vogue to create a special line of Air Jordans - inspired by Anna Wintour. The shoe division, which was originally created for professional basketball player Michael Jordan, have reimagined two new versions of their iconic sneakers, with the Vogue editor-in-chief as their muse. The Air Jordan 1 will see the retro, high-top shoe in rich red or white leather with a crimson tongue concealed behind a key-ring zip and is available July 21. The Air Jordan 3 SE, which will be available from September 7, pays homage to her signature Chanel tweed suits and sunglasses, with the top cut from glimmering black or red tweed. The magazine released a teaser for the line on their YouTube channel which gave a sneak peek of the Air Jordan 3 SE. The video began with the fashion icon watching sport, wearing a high neck red and black floral dress and her signature sunglasses when her assistant comes in and asks whether she wants to shut the door, once alone Anna spots a ball on her desk. The short film then shows the artistic director throw the ball into a basketball net on to her office door and then approving an unknown piece of paper with the acronym 'AWOK' which is Vogue code for the 'Anna Wintour Okay'. She continued to score and make notes until eventually the video ends with a preview of the new red trainers worn by Anna herself. Both models of the shoe have 'AWOK' printed on their soles. — Bang Showbiz



## Eminem performs with 50 Cent

Eminem delighted fans at his sell-out London show by bringing 50 Cent out to perform with him. The 45-year-old superstar headlined the first of two shows at Twickenham Stadium on Saturday and stunned the 80,000-strong crowd when he introduced the 'Candy Shop' hitmaker to the stage. After covering Drake's 'Forever', Eminem introduced 50 and the pair performed a number of the 43-year-old star's tracks, 'Patiently Waiting', 'I Get Money', 'In Da Club' and 'Crack a Bottle'. Eminem, whose real name is Marshall Mathers III, then hailed his friend and quipped: "He just stole the show!" 50 Cent wasn't the only high-profile guest at Eminem's gigantic gig in the beloved sports venue, which is part of his European 'Revival-Tour'. During his 90-minute-set, which boasted fan favorites including 'The Real Slim

Shady' and 'Lose Yourself, as well as his more recent efforts 'River' and 'Walk On Water', Eminem also brought support act 2 Chainz back on stage for 'Chloraseptic'. Skylar Grey also made an appearance on stage to provide vocals on 'Walk on Water', 'Stan' and 'Love the Way You Lie', and Royce da 5'9" came out for 'Fast Lane'. The 'Without Me' hitmaker has recently been heavily criticized for using what was described as gunshot sounds at his shows, but despite the backlash he's faced, the sound effects still rang out at Twickenham, though there was no sign of the warning message that's appeared at his previous gigs. A statement has previously appeared on screens at the shows which read: "If you are easily frightened by loud noises or offended by explicit lyrics you shouldn't be here." Eminem returned to the venue for a second show yesterday.



## JORJA SMITH'S CRITIC DAD

Jorja Smith's dad used to critique her teenage songs. The 21-year-old star began writing her own tracks in her bedroom when she was at school and used to run her lyrics past her father, who is a musician. She recalled: "He used to be like, 'I can't hear a chorus in that, it doesn't sound like a song.' "And then I'd go upstairs, change it, come back down and he'd say, 'That's better.' " The 'Blue Lights' singer spent as much of her teenage free time as possible holed up in her room away from other people, writing songs. She told Q magazine: "I always liked doing stuff by myself. "As soon as the school bell would go, I'd run to the bus stop to avoid people because I wanted to go to my room to write a song or finish my homework." Jorja shot to fame when she teamed up with Drake on his track 'Get Together' and she was proud of how little attention he received when he was spotted shopping in a supermarket in her hometown of Walsall, West Midlands, last year. She said: "Nobody comes to Walsall that's huge, so everyone's really respectful. "Drake could go into a pub and there wouldn't be cameras following him." Jorja previously revealed Drake visited the store to see her while she was buying essential items. She shared: "He came because I was at the Birmingham show and he came to The Co-op. I was buying Wine Gums and tampons and he came in and the guy that worked there - I went to church with him - he was like 'what?' he saw (Drake) walking in, and I was like 'hey.' He was like what the hell is Drake doing in the Co-op?"



## Holly Hunter wants boys to see Incredibles 2

Holly Hunter thinks it is "important" for boys to see 'The Incredibles 2'. The 60-year-old actress' animated alter ego, Elastigirl, takes center stage in the new movie while her husband, Mr. Incredible is a stay-at-home dad, and Holly thinks it's great to see a female character "idolized" by others in the film because it's so unusual. She said: "It's fun to see a woman idolized in this way. It's not common. We tend to idolize men. "So it's great for all our eyes to see a woman revered and respected. Maybe it's even more important for boys to see it." Holly admitted it was "thrilling" to see her character take on an unexpected position and is pleased there has been a demand for female superheroes. She told the Sunday Times Culture magazine: "That's the cool thing about Elastigirl. She's not pretending to be a man. "She is approaching the superhero job with a different skill set from any man's. It's thrilling in a way I never imagined. "She inhabits this space culturally

that is a little unexpected. It's fun to see her kicking ass, and how mathematically she approaches her solutions. She's alone, too. Autonomous. And there is a real appetite for that." And Holly is unsure whether the role reversal between hers and Craig T. Nelson's characters would have been depicted in a similar movie around the time of the first film, 14 years ago. She mused: "That's interesting. Because, of course, the 1960s happened. Gloria Steinem. Billie Jean King. We had our own civil-rights movement. Like, women are equal, right? Don't we get the same opportunities? And the answer in the 1960s was, 'Hell, yes!' And then it didn't happen. But we are having a reawakening. "I'm a tea drinker, right? Well, somebody gave me tins to put my tea in, and one was called Little Miss Bossy, the other Mr Strong. That's sexism. If you're a strong woman, you're bossy, if you're a strong man, you're strong. "So, right now, it's imperative for us to see women being heroic."

Lifestyle | Features

# Tainted water exhibition roves around Beijing after initial shutdown



This photo shows a passerby drinking polluted water that was collected in mineral water bottles at a roving exhibition created by Chinese performance artist Nut Brother.



This photo shows polluted water that has been collected in mineral water bottles at a roving exhibition created. — AFP photos



A woman looking at polluted water in a mineral water bottle at a roving exhibition created by Chinese performance artist Nut Brother.

At first glance, it may seem like just a black truck filled with bottles of water, but a closer look reveals a darker—or rather murkier—side to what's sloshing around inside. Its cargo of more than 500 bottles of Nongfu Spring, a ubiquitous Chinese brand, filled with contaminated drinking water from the village of Xiaohaotu in China's northwest Shaanxi province is being driven around Beijing as a reminder of the costs of the country's rapid economic development. The mobile exhibition, created by "Nut Brother"—an artist known for advocacy work on environmental and social issues—was created in defiance after his initial show was shut down.

Shocked by Shaanxi's dirty drinking water during a work trip to the province in May, the

37-year-old enlisted the help of villagers to fill 9,000 empty Nongfu bottles and brought them back to Beijing, where they were installed in a museum. The exhibition caught the attention of Nongfu Spring Company and two weeks later, authorities from the Industrial and Commercial Bureau dismantled his display, removing most of the bottled water. The company later filed a complaint claiming his work infringed on its copyright. "Nongfu Spring literally means 'farmer's spring water', using village farmers as a brand," Nut Brother—who does not reveal his name to the media—told AFP. "But the reality is farmers don't drink this water. A lot of their water is seriously tainted with pollution."

Nongfu Spring Company's legal department refused interview requests and calls to their

public relations team went unanswered. Large parts of China are blanketed in toxic smog and suffer from polluted waterways as a result of the country's economic boom. While much attention has been paid to the impact of rapid industrialization on China's air, the effects on the country's water supply are less well known—and less visible. Across China, much of the water is "unfit for human contact", according to a 2017 report by Greenpeace East Asia, and 14 of 31 provinces failed to meet water quality targets despite a nationwide push for improvement in previous years. "They've been drinking this water for more than 10 years," Nut Brother said.

The samples contain high levels of iron and manganese, which can be toxic in large doses, he added. "It's not fit for consumption but the vil-



lagers have no choice." The roving exhibit seems to have startled some visitors. "It's shocking to know we have people who drink this kind of water," one of the onlookers said. Another passerby bravely took a swig from the bottle. "You can definitely feel bits of the dirt," he said. "It makes me feel very lucky to be able to drink clean water. Very lucky." — AFP

Chinese performance artist Nut Brother standing in front of an empty wall in a gallery where his exhibition on polluted water was dismantled by authorities from the Industrial and Commercial Bureau, in Beijing.

## China's 'Dallas Buyers Club' is surprise box-office hit

The screen portrayal of a cancer sufferer whose illegal import of foreign medicines into China spurred national policy changes has become a box-office smash as audiences flock to a rare Chinese film on a hot-button issue. "Dying to Survive" is based on Lu Yong, who was arrested in 2013 after illegally importing a generic cancer drug in a case that sparked public debate about high medical costs. It is being compared to "Dallas Buyers Club", the critically acclaimed 2013 US film about smuggled HIV treatments, and praised as a breath of fresh air in China's heavily censored cinema landscape.

The public debate eventually saw Lu's case dismissed and his experience is credited with prompting government steps to make cancer medicines more accessible and affordable. Starring popular comic actor and director Xu Zheng as a character modeled after Lu, the movie uses touches of black comedy to lighten the heavy subject matter and is on course to become one of China's highest-grossing films. Released July 5, it surpassed even the first-week box office take of "Wolf Warrior 2", a commando adventure that last year capitalized on rising patriotism to become China's highest-grossing movie ever and the first non-Hollywood title in the 100 all-time top-earners worldwide.

### Three years to live

Lu, now 50, was told in 2002 he had three years left after being diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukaemia (CML). Doctors said Glivec, manufactured by Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis, could stabilise his condition until he was able to get a potentially life-saving bone-marrow transplant. But Glivec-Novartis'



In this picture a girl walks past a poster of the film "Dying to Survive" at a cinema in Beijing. — AFP

brand name for the drug Imatinib—cost a prohibitive 24,000 yuan (\$3,600) per bottle in China then. An Indian generic cost only 2,000 yuan, however, so Lu began ordering it from abroad, increasing the volume over the years as other patients sought his help.

The Indian drug was barred under Chinese rules and Lu was eventually arrested. But in a rare case of Communist authorities bending to popular opinion, prosecutors in central Hunan province dropped Lu's case after thousands of Chinese leukaemia patients signed an open letter urging his release. Lu, who says he never sought to profit from the scheme, was never charged. Since then, the government has relaxed policies on cancer drug imports and allowed reimbursement for Glivec prescriptions under national health insurance.

"I know the pressure of being tortured by disease, so I never thought to make one cent,"

Lu said in comments on his personal blog. "Since the movie's release, it's become a sensation. To be able to push healthcare reform is an excellent thing." Lu, still awaiting his bone-marrow transplant, is now a businessman who owns a handglove factory in eastern China. As of Friday, the film had earned 2.04 billion yuan (\$300 million). "Wolf Warrior 2" earned a total 5.67 billion yuan in a 12-week cinema run.

### Changing minds

China's censors rarely green-light mass releases of films on touchy subjects. But the key villain in "Dying to Survive" is the pharmaceutical industry, and the Communist Party apparently saw the propaganda value of a movie that portrays the government as responsive on the issue. The government announced earlier this year that it would lift tariffs on many cancer treatments, and the buzz around the film's release has coincided with yet more change. In late June, it was announced that dozens of previously-banned imported drugs had been added to national medical insurance.

After the release of "Dying to Survive" rekindled the discussion, China's drug administration said it also would remove hurdles to foreign generic drugs "to better satisfy the medication need of China's patients". The movie hit a 9.1 average rating on popular Chinese film-review website Douban.com shortly after its release, one of the site's highest-ever marks. Bai Feng, the original prosecutor in Lu's case, told a government-run news portal after the film came out that Lu's case helped change government thinking. "It promoted a transition in our concept of justice and the perception of how we enforce the law," Bai said. — AFP



Indian men carrying a dead body for cremation at the Manikarnika ghat in the old quarters of Varanasi.

## King of the Ghats: Life and death on the banks of the Ganges

It is well past midnight as Bahadur Choudhary, a fourth-generation caretaker of Varanasi's ancient cremation grounds, sprinkles ceremonial butter on huge funeral pyres burning on the banks of the Ganges. Choudhary is illiterate, poor and low caste, but his role in Varanasi, one of the holiest cities in India, is sacrosanct in Hindu mythology. Born a keeper of the flame, tradition dictates that Choudhary oversee the sacred fires and cremation grounds at Varanasi that Hindus believe free them from the cycle of life and death.

These funeral custodians are the Doms, a small community living by Varanasi's burning "ghats", where cremation fires burn day and night and the smell of the dead hangs heavy in the air. "The dead are our only business," Choudhary told AFP at the Manikarnika ghat, where thick black smoke rose from pyres as huddled families sobbed, and beggars and near-naked holy men wandered around seeking donations. For centuries, the Doms have provided the ceremonial flame used to cremate the dead brought to Varanasi for "moksha", or release from the Hindu life cycles.

At the ghats, the Doms pass flaming torches to the families of the deceased, who ignite the wooden pyres dotting the riverside. As the bodies wrapped in white shroud and marigold flowers are turned to ash, the remains are collected and sprinkled in the Ganges, and the Doms collect their dues. Choudhary, instructing two fire attendants to add more butter and wood to a pyre, said their community survives off whatever the mourners pay them. "Some can barely afford the cremation," he said. "Others make generous donations, and even

offer to feed all the laborers." Choudhary said he could earn as little as 150 rupees (\$2) for backbreaking labor that could last 18 hours. A good day could bring up to \$75, he said. It is little income to sustain their families, Choudhary said, but there are few other opportunities for work.

### 'King' of the ghats

Despite the importance of their ceremonial duty in Hindu funeral rites, the Doms hail from the bottom rungs of India's lowest-caste Dalit community. All are engaged at some level in the cremation business—maintaining fires in the ghat temples, arranging wood for the pyres or selling flowers and other ornaments for the ceremony. The most coveted role is that of "king" of the ghats—a temporary designation that rotates through Dom families. The titleholder is afforded clout, honor and additional alms in the day-to-day running of the cremations. But most within the marginalized community work are confined to menial jobs tending to the dead. On the ghats, the Doms spend long hours surrounded by the heat of pyres and the swirling chaos synonymous with Varanasi. Some also sift for any valuables, including gold ornaments or even gold teeth left behind on the bodies by family members.

Choudhary wanted his two sons to find a different path in life, but both dropped out of school to follow in their father's footsteps, he said. They will become the fifth generation from his family to tend the pyres. "Times may change but nothing will change here. People will keep dying and coming to Varanasi, and will look to the Doms to do the sacred work of the gods." — AFP



This photo shows Indian men waiting for a dead body to finish being cremated at the Manikarnika ghat in the old quarters of Varanasi.

## TV sensation 'Downton Abbey' coming to the big screen



Nigerian musician Femi Kuti performs on stage in Quebec City during the 2018 Festival d-Ete. — AFP

It was the soapy period drama about the upstairs-downstairs lives and loves at an English country estate that enjoyed astonishing success on both sides of the Atlantic—and now it's back. "Downton Abbey" the movie is in the works. "We're thrilled to announce that 'Downton Abbey' is coming to the big screen," the television series tweeted Friday. Film production begins this summer. The six-season television series ran on Britain's ITV from 2010 to 2015, and in the United States on PBS' Masterpiece. In the United States, it won three Golden Globes, 15 primetime Emmy Awards and commanded a rave following, becoming the most nominated non-US television show in the history of the Emmys.

It followed the lives of the Crawley family,

headed by the Earl of Grantham, and their servants as they navigate changing times from the Edwardian heyday of the British aristocracy, to World War I and the roaring 1920s. The original principal cast, including Maggie Smith, Michelle Dockery and Hugh Bonneville, are set to reprise their roles in the big-screen production, Hollywood entertainment news website Deadline reported.

Creator Julian Fellowes has written the screenplay and will co-produce, it added. Highclere Castle in England is expected to return as the family seat. "Downton Abbey" became one of Britain's biggest ever drama exports with an international audience of around 120 million. The television series ended in 1926 with daughter Edith Crawley marrying and outranking the

rest of the family, sister Mary expecting a second child, and butler and lady's maid Bates and Anna welcoming their first.

New York-based company Focus Features has set production for the cinema release with British-based Carnival Films. "It was our dream to bring the millions of global fans a movie and now, after getting many stars aligned, we are shortly to go into production," said Gareth Neame, Carnival's executive chairman. "We're thrilled to join this incredible group of filmmakers, actors and craftspeople, led by Julian Fellowes and Gareth Neame, in bringing back the world of Downton to the big screen," said Focus chairman Peter Kujawski. No plot twists have yet been revealed and no release date yet announced. — AFP

# Smelly skins make for fishy fashion in Kenya



A man poses for a picture in one of the finished leather hats made out of tanned fish pelts.

Newton Owino (right), an industrial chemist, hangs tanned fish pelts with the help of an employee after a soak in a softening formula concocted from extracts. — AFP photos



Newton Owino selects fish skins from an artisanal filleting market.



An employee uses a knife to descale fish skin discarded at fish filleting factories at the lakeside city of Kisumu.



An employee displays a catch of fresh water fish Nile Perch skin discarded at the lakeside city of Kisumu.

Women sharpen their knives before setting about stinking piles of fish skins, flesh and bones that cover the floor at an unusual artisanal tannery in western Kenya. Set up by a 39-year-old industrial chemist named Newton Owino, Alisom Products separates fish skins from the rest of the waste, then tans them to make a kind of leather used to manufacture handbags, wallets, shoes, hats and jackets. Kisumu, on Lake Victoria, is a piscatorial place, a city where grilled tilapia and Nile perch are a ubiquitous delicacy, and from where cleaned fillets are exported around the region and the world.

But Owino saw opportunity in the leftovers. An estimated 150,000 tons of fish waste is produced every year and 80 percent of it is dumped. Owino and his dozen employees offer an alternative. "My major business here is (to) turn fish skin into leather," he says, pacing the yard in gumboots and a polo shirt. "(There are) plenty of raw materials that we have around here." Fleets of bicycle transporters bring sacks of skins from fishermen, restaurants and factories to his little facility every day. There, workers strip the last pieces of rancid flesh from fly-covered skins and hang them to dry on wooden beams, like clothes on a washing line. Hungry

birds peck at his product. The dried skins are stuffed inside a rusty hand-cranked drum and drenched in an acidic herbal solution, based on local fruits such as papaya or avocado, that tans them into fish leather. "We now do what is called the drum turn," says Owino, putting his shoulder into spinning the contraption.

#### Stylish, affordable, unusual

What comes out is softer, darker and less smelly. The skins are then descaled, stretched and dried again, becoming workable leather. Fella Atieno is a fish leather shoe designer, making sandals, boots and other footwear.

Everything is done by hand with only a pen, a pair of scissors, some glue and dye. The result is distinctive products, with scale patterns reminiscent of crocodile or snake skin, but at a fraction of the price. Shoes sell for 1,500 shillings (\$15, 13 euros) and jackets for 2,000. Allan Ochieng, a student working with Owino, looks forward to earning "thousands of shillings" once his training is complete.

"In addition to creating jobs for slum dwellers, we also offer leather products that they can afford," said Owino. His customers agree. "If we have fish, why can't we be proud of our fish and use it more economically?" says

Lawrence Odero, who is visiting the workshop. "So, when I put on the shoes made from fish leather, I put on the cap as well as the jacket I feel happy! I feel very proud," he adds. While there are other tanneries in town, Owino's is the only one specializing in fish leather. He says he uses a chemical-free tanning process for his unique products. And he hopes to expand his business with a manufacturing school and training facility for prospective fish tanners. "We actually (have) the vision of establishing a leather school so that we could pass on this knowledge on technology to other people. Not just doing it for ourselves," Owino says. — AFP



An employee straightens out tanned fish pelts next to a finished garment made out of the same fish at the Alisam Product Development.



An employee adds some finishing touches to leather hat and shoe made out of tanned fish pelts.



An employee soaks tanned fish pelt in a softening formula at the Alisam Product Development.



An employee churns fish pelts in tanning compounds using a mechanical drum.



Newton Owino, an industrial chemist, selects fish skins from an artisanal filleting market.





People cheer as they watch the 2018 World Cup final football match between France and Croatia in Montpellier in southern France yesterday. — AFP

## From Paris to Moscow, France fans go wild

**PARIS/MOSCOW:** Millions of French fans were overwhelmed with joy yesterday as France beat Croatia 4-2 to win soccer's World Cup in a pulsating final in Moscow, sparking ecstatic scenes of celebration from Paris to Marseille, from Lyon to Lille. In the capital, where 90,000 people watched the match on vast TV screens next to the Eiffel tower, there were choruses of the Marseillaise, honking horns and hundreds of thousands of red, white and blue tricolor flags fluttering in the breeze.

The boom of fireworks and firecrackers filled the air, while drivers honked their horns incessantly to celebrate France's second world title after their triumph on home soil in 1998. A deafening chorus of "We are the champions, we are the champions" rang out from the Sacre Coeur in the north of the city to the Sorbonne on the Left Bank. Similar scenes erupted in Marseille, Lyon, Lille, Bordeaux and other major cities.

Even before the final whistle, crowds streamed on to the Champs Elysees, the elegant, tree-lined boulevard that runs up to the Arc de Triomphe, the traditional gathering place for celebration, including the Bastille Day parade 24 hours earlier. The entire area around the Arc de Triomphe, all the way down the two-kilometre-long Champs Elysees and the Place de la Concorde at its end was a sea of singing and cheering people. "It's

just astonishing what they've done," said Josh, 41, who travelled from Brittany to Paris to watch the match with his girlfriend. "Pogba, Mbappe, Grizou (Griezmann) - they're on top of the world," he said, naming three of the standout players. "We're the champions of the world! It's phenomenal, just phenomenal."

More than 250,000 people were expected to descend on the Champs Elysees and the Place de la Concorde, yet the atmosphere was warm and convivial. Security forces kept a distance. "To get a second star (World Cup) after 20 years, it's just brilliant," said Tommy Hamon, 23, who was working in Le Deauville, a bar on the Champs Elysees.

Even football fans who were not rooting for France but found themselves in the French capital for the game were overcome by the occasion and the scenes of celebration. "France was not my team but I am so pleased for them today," said Sarah, a 24-year-old from Birmingham in England who is studying medicine in Paris. "The players just showed something special all along, something that I liked, and I was not sure they would win today but they did. A lot of people are going to be drunk, if not already."

In Moscow, where tens of thousands of fans travelled to watch the game, there were tears of joy among the sea of red, white and blue. President Emmanuel Macron, who travelled to Moscow to watch the final with his wife Brigitte, hugged the players after the win and stood with them in the pouring rain. As the World Cup trophy was brought on to the pitch for the victory ceremony, Macron briefly kissed it and beamed with joy. "It was a great trip," said Sebastien Mefort, 33, smiling broadly at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium, his face painted the colours of the French flag. — Reuters

culties," he said. He said his country would also try to outdo the success on the pitch of the Russian team, who surpassed expectations by reaching the quarterfinals. "Although it will be hard to repeat that success as we're a small country, but we are very keen on sport," he said.

In the build-up to this year's World Cup, some Western politicians called for a boycott over Russia's annexation of Crimea and over allegations, denied by Moscow, that the Kremlin assassinates its opponents overseas. There were also warnings from some campaign groups about the potential for hooligan violence, racist attacks and homophobia. The tournament proceeded without any significant organizational hitches, there was no violence, and no widespread evidence of racism or harassment of gay visitors. — Reuters

ers and a manhunt is on for others. Some of the accused were identified from the attack video circulating on WhatsApp. An investigating officer speaking on condition of anonymity told AFP that those arrested included the administrator of a WhatsApp group behind the viral message that triggered the attack.

The latest attack comes after five people were lynched by a mob in neighboring Maharashtra state on July 1. The mob had spotted the victims talking to a child at a market, triggering allegations of child abduction. Azam's brother Ahmad told reporters in Hyderabad that his brother and his friends were returning in a brand new car when they were chased by the mob and beaten ruthlessly. "It's just shocking. The mob was so violent that they refused to budge even after one of my brother's friends showed his Qatari passport," Ahmad said, urging the government to take tough action against rumors spreading on WhatsApp.

The spate of lynchings started last May in eastern Jharkhand state after rumors on WhatsApp about child kidnappers led to the killing of seven men. The rumors have since resurfaced, with 21 deaths reported in dozens of attacks across the country mostly targeting non-locals. India accused WhatsApp of failing to curb false information on its platform. WhatsApp has promised to introduce new features to flag forwarded messages but has refused to snoop on user content over privacy protection. India is WhatsApp's largest market in the world, with some 200 million users sending a billion messages each day. — AFP

## France beat Croatia in thrilling final...

Continued from Page 1

over West Germany in 1966, and for Mbappe becoming the youngest player to score in the final since Pele in 1958.

But while the celebrations begin on the Champs Elysees avenue in Paris and across France, Croatia will wonder what might have been had the first-half penalty not been awarded just as they were in the ascendancy. The smallest country to reach the final in the modern era will feel they were ultimately beaten by modern technology. The questions before the match surrounded whether a tired Croatia side could pick themselves for this game after needing extra-time to beat England in the semifinals.

Croatia played all the football early on, with Mbappe on the fringes of the game, but it was France who went in front in the 18th minute. Griezmann won a soft free-kick wide on the right and his delivery into the area was flicked into his own net by the unfortunate Mandzukic. It was harsh on Croatia, especially with Pogba possibly a fraction offside when the free-kick was played.

Zlatko Dalic looked rueful, but his team continued to

## Abadi calls Amir to allay Kuwait's...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, head of the Assembly's foreign relations committee MP Hamad Al-Harashani said the events taking place in Iraq are internal affairs and that Kuwait wishes Iraq stability. But he wondered why demonstrators have come close to the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border crossing point in Safwan if their demands are for domestic reforms, and called for carefully watching the developments.

Harashani said he hopes that there is nothing hidden behind the Iraqi popular protests towards Kuwait and called on Kuwaiti officials to closely monitor the developments and deal seriously with them. He said he is confident in the Kuwaiti political leadership and the ministries of defense and interior for efficiently handling the situation.

Rapporteur of the committee MP Mohammad Al-Huwailah expressed deep concern over the developments near the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders and protests in southern Iraq. He said he expects that the developments are the results of tensions between Iran and the United States and also between Iran and a number of Gulf countries. But he expressed fear that the turmoil in Iraq could be manipulated to threaten Kuwait's security and called on Kuwaiti security agencies to be alert and to upgrade their readiness.

In Iraq, two protesters were killed yesterday in clashes with Iraqi security forces in the town of Samawa, a police official said, amid growing anger in southern Iraq over poor public services and widespread corruption. The unrest is piling pressure on Abadi, who hopes to serve a second term once politicians form a new government following a May 12 parliamentary election tainted by allegations of fraud. "Hundreds of people tried to storm a courthouse. Shots were fired towards us. It was not clear who was shooting. We had no choice but to open fire," said the police official in Samawa.

Earlier, police in oil hub Basra wounded 48 people when they fired in the air to disperse a crowd of hundreds that tried to storm a government building and demonstrated near an oilfield. Some 28 members of the security forces were also wounded, according to Major General Thamir Al-Hussaini, commander of the Interior Ministry's Rapid Response Forces. In a town near the southern city of Amara, police shot into the air to dis-

assert themselves and were back level just before the half-hour, Domagoj Vida laying the ball off for Perisic, who shuffled the ball from right foot to left before drilling a superb shot past Hugo Lloris with the aid of a touch off Raphael Varane. But Perisic was at the center of the controversy that led to France's second goal in the 38th minute. His handball at a corner could hardly be described as deliberate, but Argentine referee Nestor Pitana reviewed the video by the side of the pitch and gave the penalty.

As a thunderstorm erupted in the sky over Moscow, Griezmann stroked home the penalty, his fourth goal of the competition and his third from a spot-kick. It was also France's first actual attempt on goal, but they picked off Croatia after the break. Shortly after three pitch invaders briefly interrupted proceedings, the third French goal arrived in the 59th minute. Pogba started the move with a drilled pass for Mbappe on the right. His cutback found Griezmann, and he laid the ball off for Pogba to score at the second attempt from 18 yards.

Mbappe then added his name to the scoresheet in the 65th minute when he collected a Lucas Hernandez pass and fired low past Subasic from 25 yards, capping what has been a fine tournament for the 19-year-old. That should have been that, but Croatia were given something to cling to as Lloris absurdly tried to dribble away from Mandzukic on the edge of his six-yard box, and the striker stuck out a foot to divert the ball in. But for Lloris the World Cup winner's medal will help make up for the embarrassment of that moment. — Agencies

perse protesters after demonstrators set fire to the municipality building. Thirteen protesters and seven policemen were wounded in the clashes.

Internet access in Iraq has been dramatically reduced. Local officials said demonstrations have not affected crude production in Basra, whose shipments account for more than 95 percent of OPEC producer Iraq's state revenues. Any disruption could severely impact the country's limping economy and push up global oil prices.

Abadi's Dawa party has dominated Iraqi politics since the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. "The Dawa party has been running Iraq for 15 years and its leaders failed to live up to even a single promise they made," said Ziad Fadhil, 38, who is unemployed, in Basra. He held up a piece of cardboard to shield his head from the scorching sun. Earlier yesterday, Jordan's state airline said it had suspended four weekly flights to Iraq's holy city of Najaf due to the "security situation at its airport". Flydubai followed suit. Air traffic was temporarily suspended on Friday when protesters stormed Najaf's international airport. Flights from Iran to Najaf will be diverted to Baghdad, Iranian state television reported.

A political bloc led by populist cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr unexpectedly won a majority in May's vote on an anti-corruption platform that had appeal across Iraq's electorate. Abadi has said his caretaker government will release funds to Basra for water, electricity and health services but major relief is unlikely to come soon for the city once dubbed the "Venice of the Middle East" for its network of canals. Iraq needs to generate billions of dollars to rebuild after its three-year war with Islamic State.

Demonstrators demanding jobs and better government services, have cut off access to the southern Umm Qasr commodities port. Saddam Hussein oppressed Iraq's majority Shiites, neglecting their southern heartland, and successive Shiite-led governments after him have done little to improve lives there. "Since the fall of Saddam in 2003 and until now the only real thing Shiite politicians have been saying is their lies," said Usama Abbas, 25, an unemployed college graduate in Basra, where oil money rarely trickles down to the population. "We still drink filthy water and forgot what air conditioning means during summer."

In addition to local government headquarters, the demonstrators have taken the unusual step of attacking buildings belonging to powerful Shiite militias. Abadi, who also serves as commander-in-chief of Iraq's armed forces, issued a nationwide order yesterday placing security forces on high alert in the southern provinces, aiming to stem the burgeoning protests. — Agencies

## Russia hands over World Cup hosting...

Continued from Page 1

We are, of course, ready to share the experience we acquired in holding the World Cup this year, along with our friends," Putin said. At the climax of the ceremony, Putin handed an official World Cup ball to Infantino, who then handed it on to the Amir. The Qatari amir said his country would apply all its efforts to making a success of the 2022 World Cup. "We hope to overcome all the diffi-

## India mob kills man over child...

Continued from Page 1

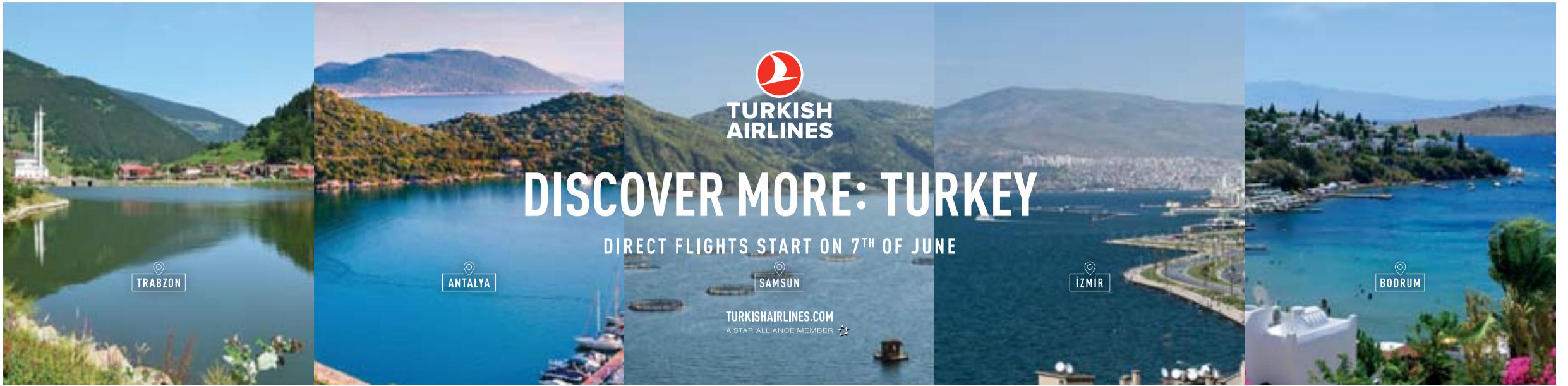
Police said 27-year-old Azam and his companions were returning to their home in neighboring Hyderabad city after visiting a friend in Bidar when they stopped midway and offered chocolates to local school children. "One of them had bought chocolates from Qatar and tried to offer it to the children as a token of affection," Bidar deputy police chief V N Patil told AFP.

But one of the children started crying, alerting the elders who accused the men of being child kidnappers amid rife social media rumors about child kidnapping rings in the area, the officer said. Patil said the three managed to flee but were attacked by a much larger mob a few kilometres ahead after locals alerted nearby villages via WhatsApp. Their car flipped after hitting a roadblock placed by the angry mob before they were dragged out of the vehicle and beaten with sticks and stones.

A video broadcast on Indian news channels showed a policeman pleading with the attackers as they kicked and hit the victims with sticks. Three policemen were injured in rescue attempts as the mob rampaged for nearly an hour. Police said they have arrested 32 attack-



Sports



# Euphoria over, back to reality for Southgate's England

## 'It will be even harder for emerging talent'

**ST PETERSBURG:** It could have been the greatest day of their lives but England's World Cup squad returned home yesterday with the euphoria that surrounded their run to the last four having dissipated and familiar, less exhilarating, challenges lying ahead.

The Premier League begins in just four weeks and Gareth Southgate's squad, players who were being hailed as national heroes just a few days ago, will return to the day job and the struggle for starting places at their clubs.

In a league where a large majority of the players are imported from Europe and beyond, being a member of the England squad is no guarantee of first-team football. It makes life tough for the England manager, who, even at the height of their World Cup optimism, noted the unique issue facing him. "We only have 33 percent of the league to pick from. So that is still a huge problem for us," he said. So for all the talk of England being stronger at the European Championship in two years time, Southgate knows it is not as simple as just adding experience to his side. The situation is particularly hard for those players at the biggest clubs — none of Marcus Rashford, Phil Jones or Jesse Lingard are guaranteed a regular starting spot under Jose Mourinho at Manchester United.

Fabian Delph, John Stones and Raheem Sterling will all have a battle on their hands to appear regularly on the Manchester City team sheet alongside their England team mate Kyle Walker, who is a fixed presence at right back. Sterling may have scored 18 goals in 33 appearances in last year's title-winning campaign, but while he was in Russia, City manager Pep Guardiola completed the signing of Algerian winger Riyad Mahrez from Leicester City for a reported club record fee of 60 million pounds (\$79 million). Liverpool midfielder Jordan

Henderson was an essential part of their run to the Champions League final last season but he too faces expensively-recruited competition in the shape of Brazilian Fabinho and Guinean Naby Keita. It is even harder for emerging talent. Ruben Loftus-Cheek, who ended the tournament with a promising display in the third-place playoff defeat to Belgium, does not even know where he will be playing next season.

His club Chelsea loaned him out to Crystal Palace last term and a change of manager at Stamford Bridge adds to the uncertainty he faces.

### AIR OF OPTIMISM

Those who can be confident of regular football are found at Tottenham Hotspur—where Harry Kane, Dele Alli and Kieran Trippier are established first-teamers.

Outside the Champions League clubs, goalkeeper Jordan Pickford is a clear number one at Everton and Harry Maguire is at the heart of Leicester's defence.

There is an undeniable air of optimism around the England team though and Football Association Technical Director Dan Ashworth summed up the view that gaining experience is now the key. "We've got some good players in our senior team and some good technical players in our development pathway as well," said Ashworth.

"We're probably a little bit short on big-game experience, a bit short on number of national caps and we're a bit young for what a winning national team looks like," he said. Much of the optimism over England's future stems from the success of the junior teams. Last year, England's junior teams won the Under-20 World Cup, the Under-17 World Cup and the Under-19 European Championship.

But there is long-standing concern over how much



**SAINT PETERSBURG:** England's midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek (L) and England's defender Harry Maguire (R) applaud as England's coach Gareth Southgate walks between them following their loss in their Russia 2018 World Cup play-off for third place football match between Belgium and England at the Saint Petersburg Stadium in Saint Petersburg on Saturday. — AFP

playing time those youngsters will get at their clubs.

Phil Foden, the talented captain of that Under-17 team, has been highlighted by many as a possible answer to the lack of a creative midfielder in Southgate's squad but the 18-year-old faces a daunting challenge even to get into

Manchester City's midfield.

"He's got a lot of ability and I can see him developing into a really talented player," said his team mate Delph, who offered a reminder that Foden is still "learning his craft". — Reuters

## WCup tops and flops

**MOSCOW:** Kylian Mbappe and Luka Modric—at different ends of their careers—have dazzled in Russia to help propel France and Croatia to yesterday's World Cup final. Four years ago Germany were in the same position, but the holders were sent home in the group stages, while another chance of World Cup glory for Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo slipped by.

### TOPS Kylian Mbappe

Hardly an unknown following a 180-million-euro (\$210-million) transfer from Monaco to Paris Saint-Germain, Mbappe became a global phenomenon after tearing Argentina apart in a thrilling 4-3 last-16 win.

In scoring twice, Mbappe, 19, became the first teenager since Pele in 1958 to score multiple times in the same World Cup game.

### Luka Modric

Fresh from winning a fourth Champions League in five

years with Real Madrid, Modric boosted his case to be considered the world's best midfielder with three man-of-the-match awards before the final. Modric's stunning strike was the highlight as Croatia announced themselves as contenders by thrashing Argentina 3-0 in the group stage. He bounced back from missing a penalty in extra-time against Denmark to make amends in penalty shootout wins against the Danes and Russia.

### Eden Hazard

It was another case of what might have been for Belgium's 'golden generation', who lost their semi-final defeat against France by the finest of margins. But unlike four years ago and at Euro 2016, Hazard showed his full range of skills on the international stage.

The Chelsea forward scored three times and was instrumental in both a spirited fightback from 2-0 to beat Japan 3-2 in the last 16 and then victory over Brazil in arguably the game of the tournament.

### FLOPS Germany

The defending champions went the same way as Spain four years ago and Italy in 2010 as holders who failed to get out of their group. Defeats to Mexico and South Korea saw the four-time world champions finish bottom of their section and fall at

the first hurdle for the first time in 80 years.

### African teams

For the first time since 1982 no African teams made it beyond the group stage. Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, Egypt and Morocco won just three matches between them, sparking concerns over the competitive balance of a tournament dominated by European sides.

Bad luck, though, also played a big part in Africa's downfall as Senegal missed out on second place in Group H to Japan because of a marginally poorer disciplinary record, while Egypt's talisman Mohamed Salah's impact was limited by injury.

### Messi, Ronaldo domination over?

Messi, 31, and Ronaldo, 33, may have seen their last chance to win a World Cup come and go as Argentina and Portugal both exited in the last 16. Ronaldo at least had the consolation of a hat-trick to kickstart the competition into life in a thrilling 3-3 draw with Spain, but added only one more goal and was even lucky to avoid a red card against Iran. Messi scored just once, against Nigeria, to at least avoid the embarrassment of a group-stage exit, but was no match for Mbappe in the seven-goal shootout with France. After 10 years of sharing the Ballon d'Or, with five wins each, the time may finally have come for Messi and Ronaldo to be dethroned. —AFP

## US dominates opening day of inaugural Athletics WCup

**LONDON:** The United States will take a healthy lead into the second and final day of the inaugural Athletics World Cup in London yesterday after heading the standings at the close of Saturday's opening session.

The showpiece, featuring eight nations in a rapid format designed to attract fresh audiences to track and field, was expected to suffer from the non-availability of many leading lights with South African middle-distance star Caster Semenya joining the no-shows on the eve of the event. However, with a 30,000-strong crowd attracted to the 2012 Olympic stadium despite the competing priorities of football's World Cup and Wimbledon tennis, initial feedback from organisers and athletes suggests it is a format which has the potential to continue.

Even with a lengthy list of absentees, the Americans claimed the maximum eight points available by winning five events. Jeron Robinson landed victory in the men's high jump with a clearance of 2.30m, Clayton Murphy took the men's 800m and Ashley Henderson edged out Olympic champion Elaine Thompson to win the women's 100m in 11.07 seconds, before the USA won both the women's 4x400 and men's 4x100m relays. "It was fun to get back to the team competition because I sort of miss that from college," Murphy said. "To have so many different sport events



**LONDON:** The US team celebrate their win in the women's 4x400m relay during the Athletics World Cup team competition at the London Stadium in London on Saturday. — AFP

happening and still get this big of a crowd is awesome." His efforts helped propel the Americans into top spot in the standings on 109 points with France behind on 85, Poland and Jamaica level on 77 with hosts Britain and Northern Ireland in fifth place on 74. Poland made the strongest possible start with three early victories, with two-time Olympic champion Anita Wlodarczyk throwing a world lead of 78.74 metres to win the women's hammer ahead of Rio 2016 bronze medalist, Sophie Hitchon of Britain.

"It is the best result for me this year," Wlodarczyk declared. "I have great memories in the Olympic Stadium in 2012 and last year and here I am winning again." There were two home wins with British team captain Lorraine Ugen leaping 6.86m for first place in the long jump and Holly Bradshaw victorious in the pole vault.

Jamaica's Janieve Russell was an impressive victor in the 400m hurdles but her compatriot Ronald Levy was held off by Pascal Martinot-Lagarde in the 110m hurdles, with the French champion sensing he is reaching his best form ahead of next month's European Championships in Berlin. "I can be in better shape by Berlin," he said after running 13.22 seconds, his quickest time of 2018.

"I saw some elements at the end of the race that I can improve but I got eight points and first place here and that was perfect," yesterday's action included the men's 100 metres where American Kendal Williams, who has run 9.99 seconds this season, will start as favourite. While South Africa's Luvo Manyonga, who claimed the world title in the London Stadium eleven months ago, heads the rankings in the men's long jump. — AFP

## Rooney makes triumphant MLS debut in 3-1 DC United win

**WASHINGTON:** England career goals leader Wayne Rooney was thrilled at his triumphant Major League Soccer debut Saturday, assisting on a goal in DC United's 3-1 victory over Vancouver. The 32-year-old striker, star attraction in the opening match for United's new 20,000-seat stadium, entered in the 58th minute.

Former Manchester United star Rooney helped set up Paul Arriola's goals in the 69th and 80th minutes after Argentine midfielder Yamil Asad provided United the lead for good in the 27th minute. "Excellent. It was a great victory," Rooney said. "I thought we played some fantastic football. It was a big night for the club opening the stadium and it was important to get the win." Rooney, who played for hometown Everton last year, signed a 3 1/2-year deal worth \$13 million with United on Tuesday. "We were very sharp in the second half, especially when Wayne came on," United coach Ben Olsen said. "Stalwart, high quality, made some great passes and got on the end of some. Good balls in the box. That's what we expected from him."

The \$500 million Audi Field, already nicknamed "Wayne's World," features a Rooney-dominated front banner declaring "This is Our House." Dozens of fans sported his number 9 United jersey and a cheer erupted when he took the field for warmups.

"It has been easy (adjusting). I'm enjoying it," Rooney said. "It was a great atmosphere. People in the city have given me a lot of freedom to be me, which hasn't always been the case." Ten minutes into the second half, fans began chanting "We want Rooney" and moments later he replaced Darren Mattocks to an ovation from the crowd of 20,504. Olsen limiting his time until he regains top fitness.

"I was just as eager to get on the pitch as they were to see me on the pitch," Rooney said. "They were great. I hope we can give them a few more wins." In the 69th minute, Rooney sparked a series of passes that set up Arriola's blast into the bottom left corner for a 2-0 lead. Rooney fired a dangerous header in the 79th minute that was fisted away by Vancouver goalkeeper Brian Rowe.

But moments later, Rooney was on the attack again, passing to Arriola just before he blasted a shot from outside the penalty area into the bottom left corner of the net.

"It's great to work with the young players with longer legs and I feel like I bring a lot of experience to help them, which I felt showed in the last 30 minutes," Rooney said. —AFP

## Sports

# 'Smoking hot' Pacquiao, 39, rolls back years to knock out Matthyse

## Philippines erupts in joy after Manny's win

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Manny Pacquiao rolled back the years as he stopped WBA welterweight champion Lucas Matthyse yesterday—the 39-year-old Filipino icon's first knockout win since 2009.

It was a dominant, devastating display as "smoking hot" Pacquiao registered the 60th win of a fabled 23-year career that now looks certain to extend beyond his 40th birthday in December. Pacquiao knocked down the big-puncher from Argentina as early as the third round with a stunning left uppercut that thudded around the Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur.

The 35-year-old Argentine, who came in with a reputation as a big puncher, had no answer to Pacquiao's blistering speed and he dropped again in the fifth. When a right-left combination thudded home to send Matthyse crashing down for a third time in the seventh round referee Kenny Bayless stepped in to save him from further punishment.

"It was a long time ago since I've done that. I came out smoking hot," said Pacquiao who extended his record to 60 wins, seven losses and two draws. "I'm surprised I knocked him down so early—in the third, fifth and seventh. "We did a good job in training. We were not pushing hard—we controlled our pace and ourselves. "I'm no longer young, so thanks to my trainer and all my team members." A shell-shocked Matthyse, who had come in with a record of 36 knockouts in 39 wins with just four defeats, conceded he had no answer to Pacquiao's speed, movement and power as the "old Manny" returned with a vengeance. "It's most difficult to be fighting Manny Pacquiao," he said. "He's a great fighter. I lost to a great legend."

Back in Manila millions of boxing fans across the Philippines erupted in cheers and tears of joy yesterday after national icon Manny Pacquiao beat Argentine Lucas Matthyse in a world title bout.

But when Pacquiao's victory was sealed in the seventh round by knockout, fans around the nation of over 100 million jumped to their feet and roared with joy. "I was confident he could do it. It's not about his age," Christopher Lasala, 39, told AFP in Manila. "I was so

happy when he knocked out Matthyse. "I kept clapping. I said I knew Pacquiao would win." Flora dela Paz, a life-long boxing fan, had tears streaming down her face as she watched Pacquiao raise his arms in victory. "I am just so happy. I got goosebumps," the 68-year-old retired shoemaker told AFP. "He won, he won!" Pacquiao's rags-to-riches story, from high school dropout to millionaire world boxing champion in an unprecedented eight weight divisions, is a huge source of pride in the Philippines.

In keeping with tradition, many Filipinos stopped what they were doing to watch the fight, which took place around midday yesterday in the Philippine time zone. President Rodrigo Duterte, who attended the bout at the Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, flashed a thumbs up after Pacquiao's win. The boxer is also a lawmaker in the nation's senate and a staunch supporter of the president, whose unprecedented crackdown on narcotics has killed thousands and drawn international condemnation.

### 'FIRST STEP TO A DREAM'

On a great morning in Malaysia for fighters of the Philippines, Jack Tepora earlier stopped Mexico's Edivaldo Ortega to win the interim World Boxing Association featherweight title. Tepora unleashed a wicked short right hand in the ninth round to knock down Ortega for the first time in what had been to that point an even contest.

He swiftly followed up with a barrage of powerful swinging punches that forced the referee to step in after 2min 38sec of round nine. "I didn't expect the win but I really trained hard for this fight for three long months," said the big-punching Tepora who extended his unbeaten record to 22 wins with 17 inside the distance. Tepora cited Pacquiao as his inspiration. "When I saw Manny's story, coming from the streets, I thought one day I could be like that and this is the first step to that dream," he said.

Lu Bin's brave bid for a record world title win in just



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Philippines' Manny Pacquiao (R) fights Argentina's Lucas Matthyse during their world welterweight boxing championship bout at Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP

his second professional fight came crashing to earth when he was knocked out in the dying seconds of his battle with experienced WBA light flyweight champion Carlos Canizales of Venezuela.

Lu was felled near the end of the 11th round for the first time in his short pro career. Canizales went for the kill in the 12th and final stanza. After a barrage of

punches a storming straight right dropped Lu and the referee waved it off.

Moruti Mthlane from KwaZulu Natal in South Africa got off the canvas to take home the vacant International Boxing Federation flyweight title by out-pointing Waseem Muhammad, who was bidding to become Pakistan's first ever world champion. —AFP

## Root urges England to remain 'ruthless' against India

**LONDON:** Joe Root insisted England must stay "ruthless" when they go in search of a one-day international series victory over India at his Headingley home ground tomorrow. Root's well-constructed 113 laid the platform for an 86-run win at Lord's on Saturday that saw England square the three-match contest at 1-1.

His innings, allied to fifties from captain Eoin Morgan (53) and David Willey (50 not out) helped England post a total of 322 for seven. India could only manage 236 all out in reply as they batted out their full 50 overs, with England fast bowler Liam Plunkett taking four for 46.

Victory saw England remain at number one, with India second, in the International Cricket Council men's ODI standings. It was a win made all the more satisfying by the fact England, the 2019 World Cup hosts, had suffered an eight-wicket drubbing in Thursday's series-opener at Trent Bridge.

"That ruthless side of the ODI team really came out today (Saturday)," said Test skipper Root. "And we're seeing it more and more." "Hopefully we can back that up and finish the series off now," added Root after his first century at this level since March.

England were faltering at 239 for six but Willey picked a good time to make his maiden ODI half-century, with his innings coming during a quickfire seventh-wicket stand of 83 with Yorkshire teammate Root.

"David came in and took a lot of pressure off me, to help us turn in what was at least a par score, so it was a fabulous effort from him," said Root. Prior to Saturday, Root had faced just three deliveries from India's Kuldeep Yadav, whose left-arm wrist-spin had been proving something of a mystery for England's batsmen.

They certainly appeared to have little idea of how to play him while Kuldeep was enjoying a stunning return of six for 25 at Trent Bridge. But Root looked far more assured at Lord's, even if Kuldeep still took three for 68. Root was dropped recently from England's Twenty20 team and there have been suggestions that his brand of patient accumulation is no longer suited to the modern one-day game.

But when it comes to rebuilding an innings, there appears little wrong with Root's approach. "Ultimately you've just got to trust your game and trust your technique; I felt I was picking him (Kuldeep) OK," he said. He added: "I feel I've got a solid approach against spin bowling. "On a turning surface it's important to make sure you feel you're playing it in the right manner and working things out. "Thankfully I managed to follow through here. I thought we were quite smart in getting to what we thought was a good total; we didn't go too hard too early." No India batsman made a fifty and the tourists struggled after England's quicks took three wickets early in their chase. — AFP

## Bogaerts' slam lifts Red Sox in 10th inning

**BOSTON:** Xander Bogaerts delivered a walk-off grand slam to center field in the 10th inning as the Boston Red Sox got back in the win column with a 6-2 victory over the visiting Toronto Blue Jays on Saturday afternoon. Mookie Betts reached on a fielding error with one out in the 10th against Blue Jays reliever Chris Rowley (0-1). Betts advanced to third after getting a running start from first on Brock Holt's grounder to left field. After J.D. Martinez was intentionally walked, Bogaerts proceeded to drive a 2-0 fastball from Rowley to center to end it. It was Boston's first walk-off grand slam since Rico Brogna's slam on Aug. 14, 2000, against the then-Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Martinez contributed a solo shot for his major-league-leading 29th home run for Boston, which has won 11 of its last 12 games after losing 13-7 on Friday to snap its 10-game winning streak.

### ASTROS 9, TIGERS 1

Alex Bregman reached base three times while Josh Reddick and Evan Gattis recorded back-to-back home runs as Houston pounded visiting Detroit. The Astros struck early and often against Tigers right-hander

Michael Fulmer (3-9), whose struggles continued unabated. Fulmer surrendered season highs in hits (10) and earned runs (seven) in extending his personal losing skid to four decisions over five starts. Fulmer has recorded only one victory over his last nine outings. Gerrit Cole (10-2) allowed one run on three hits and four walks and posted eight strikeouts over 5 2/3 innings, joining fellow Astros starters Charlie Morton and Lance McCullers Jr. with double-digit victories.

### DIAMONDBACKS 3, BRAVES 0

Zack Grienke pitched 7 2/3 shutout innings and won his fifth straight decision as Arizona shut out host Atlanta. Grienke (10-5) allowed just four hits, no walks and struck out seven in winning his fifth straight road start. Over his last six starts, Grienke has a 1.67 ERA with 34 strikeouts in 38 innings. He has not been beaten by Atlanta since 2011, when he played for Milwaukee. Brad Boxberger pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his 24th save, his second of the series. The victory was Arizona's 53rd, matching a team record for most wins before the All-Star Game.

### METS 7, NATIONALS 4

Zack Wheeler tossed 7 2/3 solid innings in his longest outing in more than four years for New York in a win over visiting Washington. The Mets have won the middle two games of the four-game series to give themselves a chance to close out their first series win since they swept the Arizona Diamondbacks from May 18-20. Since then, New York has lost 11 series and split four others. Wheeler (3-6) allowed four runs on eight

hits and two walks while striking out seven. He recorded an out in the eighth inning for the first time since his lone career complete game on June 19, 2014. Wheeler didn't pitch in the majors in 2015 or 2016 as he recovered from Tommy John surgery.

### PIRATES 2, BREWERS 1 (GAME 1)

Pittsburgh made back-to-back homers by Starling Marte and Gregory Polanco in the first inning hold up for its fourth straight win, topping visiting Milwaukee in the first game of a doubleheader. The Brewers were 2-for-7 with runners in scoring position and stranded seven runners. Pittsburgh right-hander Ivan Nova pitched 4 2/3 innings, giving up one run and seven hits, with three strikeouts and no walks. Four relievers held Milwaukee at bay after Nova, with Richard Rodriguez (2-2) picking up the win and Felipe Vazquez pitching the ninth for his 22nd save.

### PIRATES 6, BREWERS 2 (GAME 2)

Rookie right-hander Clay Holmes pitched six scoreless innings for his first career win as Pittsburgh swept its doubleheader with visiting Milwaukee for a five-game winning streak. Max Moroff, Jordan Luplow (two), Starling Marte and Gregory Polanco hit solo homers, and David Freese added a two-out RBI double for the Pirates, who have won seven of eight. Felipe Vazquez got the final out for his 23rd save and second of the day. Jesus Aguilar had a two-run single in the ninth for the Brewers, who have a season-worst five-game losing streak, have lost seven of nine and haven't held a lead in the series. — Reuters



**KINGSTON:** West Indies team pose for pictures with the winners trophy at the end of day 3 of the 2nd Test between West Indies and Bangladesh at Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica, on Saturday. — AFP

## Holder wraps up Windies rout of Bangladesh

**KINGSTON:** Skipper Jason Holder produced another devastating burst of bowling as the West Indies completed a 2-0 series win over Bangladesh on Saturday, romping to a 166-run victory inside three days at Sabina Park. Chasing a daunting target of 335 after the hosts were dismissed for 129 in their second innings, Bangladesh slumped to 162 all out off just 42 overs. West Indies captain Holder was responsible for most of the carnage, taking six for 59 in the second innings to finish with match figures of 11 for 103. "We played as a

team and different players stood up at different times," said Holder, named Man of the Match and Series. "It's all about heart, about putting in the effort every day to ensure that we are able to come away with the results and the performances that we wanted." Holder's opposite number, Shakib al Hasan, fought with both bat and ball in a vain attempt to stave off defeat.

He took six for 33 with his left-arm spinners to engineer the West Indies' second innings collapse from their overnight position of 19 for one. Shakib then offered the lone meaningful resistance with a topscore of 54 as the wickets tumbled around him. "I knew coming back as captain it would be tough but I didn't expect it to be this tough," said Shakib.

"Our batting just didn't show up at all as a team. We continue to have this problem when we play away from home and I am really disappointed that we didn't show any of the fight that we are known for." When he was eighth out, bowled fittingly by Holder, the home side

knew the match was in their grasp, along with a promotion up the international rankings to number eight.

Earlier, Holder initiated the collapse by trapping Tamim Iqbal leg-before without scoring. Liton Das played positively for 33 but fell in the penultimate over before tea, caught by Shai Hope in the gully off debutant Keemo Paul. Worse was to follow with the interval just seconds away when Roston Chase, brought on to bowl his off-spin in the final over of the afternoon period, caught Mominul Haque plumb in front and then accounted for Mahmudullah at the start of what proved to be the final session of the match. Only when Mushfiqur Rahim partnered Shakib in a 54-run fifth-wicket stand did Bangladesh show any degree of competence at the crease. It took the return of Holder for another spell to breach Mushfiqur's defences for 31. In the West Indies second innings, Chase topscored with 32 as the hosts struggled to build on a huge first innings lead of 205 runs. —AFP



## SNIPPETS

# After Russia, World Cup focus now turns to Qatar

Tournament will be hosted from Nov 21-Dec 18, 2022

**MOSCOW:** Germany came out of its shell, South Africa exceeded expectations and Russia changed negative perceptions when they all hosted the World Cup but just what will unfold in four years' time when the tournament goes to Qatar is anyone's guess.

There is only one certainty—it will be an event like no other. The small gulf kingdom, which stretches only 180km from one end to the other, is unlike any previous host with little sporting tradition, a population of just over 2.5 millions, has never played at the World Cup and is so hot in the customary mid-year window for the tournament that it has moved towards the end of the year.

But what oil-rich Qatar does have is fabulous wealth, enough to persuade FIFA to allow them to host even though that selection process has since been clouded by allegations of bribery. The first Arab country to host the event are planning eight new stadiums for the tournament, with one completed, two more due this year and the rest scheduled to be finished by 2021. None is more than 35km from the centre of the capital Doha and all serviced by a brand new metro system.

Furious construction has led to allegations of exploitation of migrant workers building the new infrastructure with human rights organisations condemning labour practices in the country. "We are ready based on the path we have set," said Hassan Al Thawadi, the secretary-general of the Qatar 2022 organising committee, in Moscow with a delegation of more than 100 officials shadowing the Russians.

FIFA have confirmed that the tournament will be



**MOSCOW:** A supporter holds a suitcase with text reading "collect suitcase in Qatar 2022!" at the fan Fest in Moscow before the Russia 2018 World Cup final football match between France and Croatia yesterday. — AFP

hosted from Nov. 21-Dec. 18, 2022, but whether it will be a 32-team event or expand to 48 remains to be decided. "It will be a common decision taken between FIFA and Qatar and we are now studying the feasibility of expanding it to a 48-team World Cup. However, all preparations are on the basis of 32 teams," Al Thawadi added.

Changing the timing of the tournament will disrupt major league seasons and has set FIFA on a collision course with the powerful European clubs but the Qataris are seeking to put a positive spin on the

change, claiming it could lead to more exciting football. "Players will be mid-season, not at the end of their seasons, at a time when they can be at their peak of their performance levels," Al Thawadi said.

Qatar will also relax laws on the consumption of alcohol, planning areas for visiting fans where alcohol can be consumed to ensure they replicate the party atmosphere of past tournaments. "We are well aware of the wonderful opportunity the World Cup presents to change opinions and deflect stereotypes. We will be a welcoming nation," he added. —Reuters

## Wave of optimism sweeps France as WCup unites nation

**PARIS:** French fans dared to dream of a World Cup victory yesterday as they prepared to watch the final on a sunny summer weekend after a tournament that has lifted spirits and led to a rare sense of national unity. Across the country, parks, bars and balconies have been transformed into a sea of blue, white and red flags as football fever sweeps the nation, with a flood of excited fans hungry to watch the action.

Much of the younger generation is hoping to taste the same euphoria their parents knew 20 years ago when France won its first World Cup. "They've talked so much about '98 but I wasn't even born. We're going to make a new '98!" said 15-year-old Martin said after the team qualified this week.

Football fever has built over the last four weeks as the country took its young national team to heart, with ecstatic scenes after their semi-final victory. On what is a traditional holiday weekend to mark France's national day, many families will watch from

camp sites or hotels, while giant screens have been erected in 230 fan zones across France under exceptionally tight security. The biggest gathering of all is expected in Paris where 90,000 will converge on a fanzone beneath the Eiffel Tower—and walking distance to the Champs Elysees avenue where all national triumphs are celebrated. On Tuesday, when France beat Belgium to qualify for the final, hundreds of thousands of revellers gathered on the Champs Elysees. And if Les Bleus end up striking gold on Sunday, the numbers will likely be far higher.

"It's very touching to see the whole of France reunited, regardless of where people come from or social class," said 26-year-old Lea Perier in the northern town of Bayeux as she waited to catch a train to Paris to watch the match with friends.

Although she "normally hates football", Perier found herself swept up in the wave of excitement. And if they win? "I'm going to party in every single street in Paris," she grins.

### 'PROUD TO BE FRENCH'

With success on the pitch, a country riven by tensions and still shaken by a string of attacks that have killed nearly 250 people since 2015 has been able to revel in a newfound feeling of togetherness.

"We must be proud to be French! We don't say it enough," star striker Antoine Griezmann reminded his compatriots on Friday. Despite France's enviable

lifestyle, it has lacked "joie de vivre" for years, with numerous surveys finding the French some of the most pessimistic people on Earth.

Much of this is down to decades of high unemployment, mounting public debt and the more-recent homegrown terror threat that has fuelled immigration fears and support for far-right parties.

The national football squad, most of whom are non-white, has provided a tonic to a divisive debate about French identity after their impeccable performance on and off the pitch as national ambassadors. "France today is a France full of colours," star midfielder Paul Pogba said last week.

"There are people of many different origins, that's what makes France so beautiful. We all feel French, we're happy to wear this shirt." Such talk has led to inevitable comparisons with 1998 when France last won the World Cup, celebrating diversity with its "Black, Blanc, Beur" (Black, White, north African) team led by Zinedine Zidane.

### POLITICAL AFTERGLOW?

One person desperate for victory will be President Emmanuel Macron, a keen football supporter who will be at the stadium in Moscow with his wife Brigitte. Former president Jacques Chirac enjoyed a surge in popularity following France's 1998 victory—and Macron too will be hoping for the same amid a poll ratings slump. —AFP

## As WCup ends, Russia's stadiums face uncertain future

**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin knows the legacy of his World Cup will be judged partly by the fate of the stadiums after the tournament and he is determined they are put to good use. Russia has spent at least \$4 billion (3.4 billion euros) on arena construction and refurbishments for the month-long showpiece. Stunning venues rose from the ground in developed cities far from Moscow such as Nizhny Novogrod on the Volga River and in small and isolated places like Saransk.

Putin's last TV phone-in show held a week before the tournament was unremarkable—until the moment he decided to underscore the importance of 12 stadium's fate. Russia's dominant leader for most of the past two decades suddenly turned serious and even emotional. The regional bosses he was lecturing via video link froze behind their respective desks.

"I want to address colleagues from the regions," Putin said. "No matter what, you cannot allow these venues to turn into some sort of markets like those in the mid-1990s." The idea of Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium becoming the go-to destination for second-hand clothes might puzzle fans lucky enough to have tickets for yesterday's final between Croatia and France. The 80,000-seat arena will be the focus of global attention and packed to the rafters. But this will be Luzhniki on its good day. The venerable crucible of Soviet sport entered the era of Russia's independence in the 1990s looking scruffy and bleeding cash. The country was mired in poverty and the only way to pay for Luzhniki's upkeep was by parcelling off space to fly-by-night merchants who set up stalls across its vast grounds.

It stood as the unsightly symbol of Russia's problems until being torn down in 2011 and lavishly rebuilt as the focus of the World Cup. While Luzhniki's



**MOSCOW:** Players take part in the Russia 2018 World Cup final football match between France and Croatia at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow yesterday. — AFP

future as the national stadium is probably safe, it is the subsistence model that places such as Saransk and Samara are forced to consider as they inherit grand stadiums that will be home to teams that draw a few thousand fans.

### PUTIN'S PROMISE

The stadiums that start to resemble Luzhniki as it was in the 1990s will remind locals of the sums Putin splurged showing off how his Russia could stage the most complex event in the world. Ones that help develop football and the neighbourhoods around them will be remembered as historic turning points.

A spin around the 11 host cities suggests that most of the 12 arenas are destined to struggle—at least at first. Only six have teams playing in the Premier League that fans are willing to pay money to watch.

FC Mordovia Saransk have been promoted from third-tier status to the more respectable second division to help fill the stands. The Black Sea resort of Sochi did not even have a team until being assigned one last month that usually played before a couple of hundred determined supporters in Saint Petersburg.

The move was orchestrated by one of Putin's wealthy childhood friends. Average attendance in the

lower FNL division where five World Cup stadium teams play was 2,029 last season. Premier League matches have been drawing 12,000-13,000 and all but two of the new and rebuilt arenas have at least 44,000 seats. "When we were designing our stadium, we were planning to include many options for making it commercially viable," said Samara's sports minister Dmitry Shlyakhtin. "Right now, we do not fully understand how this can be done."

### MISSING MILLIONS

Regional authorities told the Kommersant business daily that running all the new and rebuilt facilities will cost up to \$100 million a year. The federal government intends to allocate around \$200 million to help teams and local officials cover the costs. But that money will be paid out over five years and also be used for youth football development and other expenses. Few provincial bosses think it will be enough—and not many analysts see a quick fix. Industry experts say the appeal of being inside new stadiums boosts tickets sales slightly and for only a matter of years. The US engineering firm AECOM is confident about the arena it designed for Spartak Moscow in which five World Cup matches were played. —AFP



**25** US dominates opening day of inaugural Athletics WCup

**26** 'Smoking hot' Pacquiao, 39, rolls back years to knock out Matthisse

**27** After Russia, World Cup focus now turns to Qatar



## France lift second World Cup

One of the most entertaining and action-packed finals for decades



MOSCOW: France's goalkeeper Hugo Lloris (C) holds the trophy next to France's forward Olivier Giroud (R) and France's forward Kylian Mbappe (L) as they celebrate with teammates during the trophy ceremony after winning the Russia 2018 World Cup final football match between France and Croatia at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow yesterday.—AFP

MOSCOW: France won the World Cup for the second time by ending battling Croatia's dream of a first title with a 4-2 victory yesterday in one of the most entertaining and action-packed finals for decades. France led 2-1 at halftime after a Mario Mandzukic own goal and an Antoine Griezmann VAR penalty, with Ivan Perisic briefly bringing first-time finalists Croatia level.

Quickfire strikes by Paul Pogba and Kylian Mbappe midway through the second half put France on course for the title but Mandzukic was gifted a goal by French keeper Hugo Lloris to set up a nervous last 20 minutes.

France, however, withstood a spirited Croatia assault to lift the trophy for the second time, following their success on home soil 20 years ago, and ensure there was no repeat of two years ago when they were beaten in the European Championship final by Portugal in Paris.

The victory means that Didier Deschamps, captain

of the 1998 side, becomes the third man to win the World Cup as player and coach after Brazil's Mario Zagallo and Germany's Franz Beckenbauer. It was the highest-scoring final since England beat West Germany 4-2 after extra-time in 1966 and the highest in normal time since Brazil beat Sweden 5-2 60 years ago. The landmarks came thick and fast in the first half too.

### OWN GOAL

Croatia had started full of energy but fell behind when Mandzukic, who scored the extra-time winner against England in the semi-final, became the first man to score an own goal in a World Cup final when a Griezmann free kick skidded in off his head in the 18th minute. It was the 12th own goal of the tournament.

That meant it was the fourth successive knockout game that Croatia had conceded first but Perisic, who got the equaliser against England, was on hand again to

level the scores 10 minutes later, smashing in a low shot after Sime Vrsaljko had headed Luka Modric's free kick across the box.

But it was then Perisic's turn go from hero to zero when he flapped an arm at a corner and, after a VAR review, Argentine referee Nestor Pitana awarded the 28th penalty of the tournament, another record, which Griezmann stroked home in the 38th minute for his fourth goal of Russia 2018.

That made it the highest-scoring first half since 1974, when West Germany led the Netherlands 2-1 - also the final score then.

It was harsh on Croatia, who had made most of the running, and they were on top again after the break, continually winning their one-on-one duels in the air and in every tackle and forging forward in the French box with plenty of variety.

But France's defence, so impressive all tournament,

held and they went 3-1 up on the hour as Mbappe and Griezmann combined to set up Pogba on the edge of the box. His right-footed shot was blocked but he coolly curved the rebound in with his left.

After three successive extra-time knockout games the chances of another Croatian comeback seemed slight but they looked dead and buried six minutes later. Lucas Hernandez tore down the left to set up Mbappe who drilled a low shot beyond keeper Danijel Subasic for the 19-year-old's fourth goal of the tournament.

An awful blunder by Lloris revived Croatia, as the French keeper tried to dribble around Mandzukic only for the striker to tap the ball straight into an unguarded net. Croatia, beaten by the French in the semi-finals in their first World Cup appearance in 1998, continued to press but their energy was sapped and France safely held out for the victory.—Reuters

## Djokovic wins fourth Wimbledon title, 13th major

LONDON: Novak Djokovic raced to a fourth Wimbledon title and 13th career Grand Slam crown yesterday when he defeated a battling but exhausted Kevin Anderson 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7/3). World number 21 Djokovic added the 2018 title to his wins in 2011, 2014 and 2015 as he became the lowest-ranked champion since Goran Ivanisevic in 2001. It also took his Slam total to within one of Pete Sampras and just four behind the 17 of Rafael Nadal who he defeated in the semi-finals. "It's more special as it's the first time I can hear my little boy say 'daddy, daddy,'" said Djokovic whose son Stefan was up in the players box. "I would like to congratulate Kevin, he had an incredible run. He had quite a few hours on the court.

"In his first Wimbledon final he didn't play his best in the first two sets, but in the final set he

was a better player and I was quite lucky to get through." This time last year, Djokovic's career was in turmoil after he retired in the quarter-finals with an elbow injury which required surgery and forced him off the tour for the rest of the year. "It's easy to talk now. I had to really trust the process. I had to trust in myself," he said. "I had a surgery, faced for the first time this kind of severe injury. There were many moments of doubts.

"I didn't know if I could come back to this level to compete." Anderson, the eighth seed, was the first South African in the final in 97 years and was bidding to become the first man from his country to be crowned Wimbledon champion.

However, he had spent 21 hours on court getting to the final and that marathon effort came back to haunt him at the worst possible time despite a late rally when he had five set points in the third set. Victory was 31-year-old Djokovic's first at the majors since he completed the career Grand Slam at Roland Garros in 2016. It also came just a month after he threatened to skip Wimbledon after a quarter-loss exit in Paris and with his ranking at its lowest in over a decade. Anderson had needed five sets and saved a match point to beat Roger Federer in

the last-eight.

He then played six hours and 36 minutes to defeat John Isner in the semis in the second longest singles match ever played at a Grand Slam. It was hardly surprising that he suffered a dramatic power failure in the first two sets against a player who he had defeated only once in six previous meetings and that was 10 years ago. Having arrived in the final with 172 aces to his name, Anderson managed just 10 yesterday.

He also failed to convert any of his seven break points. "I tried my best. I came close to taking it to a fourth set but Novak is a true champion of our sport," said Anderson. "I am definitely not as fresh as I was at the start of the week. "But this is an amazing tournament and players give everything to be on this court." "Only a few have done it. I would have given another 21 hours to have this opportunity."

Anderson, sluggish in the 30-degree, was broken on a double fault in the first game. That set the tone and Djokovic broke again in the fifth game on his way to securing the opener. The Serb conceded just three points on his serve. In the first Wimbledon final featuring two players over 30, Anderson's chances looked slim when he called for treatment on his upper right arm during the changeover.—AFP



LONDON: Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the winner's trophy after beating South Africa's Kevin Anderson 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 in their men's singles final match on the thirteenth day of the 2018 Wimbledon Championships.—AFP