

# Friday Times

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RAMADAN 23, 1439 AH | FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018

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Ramadan Kareem

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## Saudi, UAE announce joint economic, defense deals

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## Local

## Jailed for bribery



Local Spotlight  
By Muna Al-Fuzai

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A Kuwaiti female employee was sentenced to three years in prison and fined KD 8,000 for taking a bribe. Lawyer Mona Al-Arbash explained the circumstances of the case to local media, saying the exchange was videotaped and proved the crime against the employee, who had demanded a bribe of KD 4,000 to fix an appointment with a visiting doctor for a patient. Arbash added the case goes back to 2017 and has been referred to investigation in coordination with the legal channels of the ministry.

This case is over, but the matter of demanding a bribe is not, because as long as there are corrupt employees who think that they can never be caught or questioned, then they will keep committing these ill actions. Not only do they give monikers such as "commission" to the bribe, but also encourage and provoke lower-ranking employees to do what they do. Eventually, everyone gets quick cash with what they think is no harm done. But the truth of the matter is that the damage is far beyond these small and greedy minds.

I believe that bribery is a great risk to the individual and society. The threat is in the destruction of society, the spread of corruption, and absence of respect and trust in law and morals. I see bribery as one of the most serious crimes that violate the trust between the citizen and the state because bribery leads to the loss of citizens' confidence in justice and integrity of the state. In addition, bribery leads to violation of equality between citizens.

I see the spread of bribery as a social disease in which members of the community can't have access to their civil rights. It is known that bribery is linked to corruption in any society for two reasons. First, some people only care about personal and private gains with no consideration of the legitimacy of their needs or the damage to others. The other reason is the low salaries, poor standard of living and bad economic conditions of some people, including workers, which may be a reason to accept bribes.

But the risk is that human rights are lost and it only makes the circle of corruption in a society wider and deeper. We all know that Islam has forbidden bribery under any name and form, whether it is called a gift or reward or otherwise - the name does not change the truth.

I keep thinking why should we fight bribery in the business sector specifically? The first thing I can think of is because bribery is detrimental to the equality of the employees themselves. When an employee gets bribed for approving illegal work and makes more money than his or her colleague who does the same work without accepting bribes, this may encourage the latter to take the same wrong turn, thus resulting in rampant corruption in the administration, especially when a corrupt employee gets a promotion instead of being arrested. This is a real danger.

Bribery is contrary to basic human rights, because it is a violation of the freedoms set forth in international conventions. However, when a person is forced to pay money in order to obtain legal and administrative rights, this violates dignity and the principle of equality. I believe that transparency is the solution to deter all law abusers and manipulators of public money and give opportunities to the people to learn how to run things in their country. A lack of transparency and accountability contradicts with the principle of equal opportunities, and jeopardizes humanity and civilization and values of citizenship.

The sentencing is an example of the rule of law and shows the harm inflicted on this patient by a bad and corrupt employee, and the dissemination of the facts of this case is a good act to raise awareness of the seriousness of this crime.

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



Kuwait Towers during a colorful light show. — Photo by Mohamed Sobhi/KUNA

## Respect on the road

'Local views on how the car you drive determines how you are treated by other drivers'

By Nawara Fattahova

Motorists in Kuwait are often accorded respect - or not - depending on the vehicle they drive. These differences in treatment can be seen by both by other drivers and the police as well. Drivers - especially those driving sedans - usually respect large vehicles such as SUVs and pickups. They feel that in the event of a crash, their car will be destroyed by the bigger vehicle. Many motorists have noticed the difference in other drivers' behavior when they changed the vehicle they drive.

"I was treated completely differently and felt very respected by other drivers when I borrowed the vehicle of my friend, which is a luxury jeep. I guess that people think if they hit my car, they will have to pay a lot for repairs. I feel a huge difference in drivers' behavior when I drive my small sedan every day," Belqis told Kuwait Times.

Drivers also feel a difference in other motorists' behavior depending on their nationality. Expats usually feel that Kuwaitis and even some expats don't really respect them on the road, especially if they are driving old vehicles. They assume that if an accident happens, the police will put the blame on the expat, especially if he is a non-Arab.

"Expats usually don't drive very expensive vehicles, and old cars are not much respected. I have an ordinary new but not expensive vehicle, and most drivers don't give me way. Many times they've cut in front of me, and once I even had an

accident due to this. But once when I took my boss' luxury vehicle to the garage, I felt a great difference in how they were avoiding me, as they assumed I was an important personality," said Omar, an Arab expat.

Police also allegedly behave differently depending on the type of vehicle. Sports cars are often targeted by policemen. It's true that some drivers of sports vehicles drive recklessly, but this doesn't mean that police should target all sports cars, even if the driver is driving properly without committing any violation.

Salah, 36, noticed a great difference in attitudes when he changed his car. "I had an American SUV, and later a Japanese sedan, and I was never stopped by any policeman except at checkpoints. Last year I bought a sports car as it was a very good deal and I liked it. Now when driving this car, I get stopped by police at least once a week, although I don't commit any violation. I end up without any fine as I totally respect all traffic laws and rules. But why this annoying behavior towards me and other sports car drivers?" he wondered.

When it's a female driving a sports car, it's even worse. "I guess policemen think that sports cars are made for men, and when women drive it, they somehow insult the prestige of this masculine vehicle. I don't really know what is their problem with me, but whenever a police patrol passes next to me, they have to stop me. Although my car is not modified, many of them claim it is and issue me a ticket, although I haven't committed any offense," said Nouf.



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# #PeopleArePeople

## Project 189 challenges 'otherness' with Ramadan campaign

.....  
Part of the #PeopleArePeople campaign by Project 189  
is showing close up images of domestic workers in  
Kuwait in order to focus in on their humanity.  
— Photo by Roxanne Heuschkel.  
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By Jeri Al-Jeri

A group of volunteers in Kuwait have taken it upon themselves to lessen what sociologists call the element of “otherness” that causes different societies to perceive and treat other communities, who share the same geographical existence, differently than they perceive and treat themselves.

## Local

“ These ‘other’ communities may be victims of mistreatment and verbal abuse on a daily basis ”

Kuwait is very small geographically, yet very deep demographically. Naturally, the predominant members of society who feel they are higher members of the society, in the scheme of things, are more privileged than fragmented communities who have variant religious, ideological and linguistic dispositions. These ‘other’ communities may be victims of mistreatment and verbal abuse on a daily basis. Therefore, the Project 189 campaign speaks for those who cannot express themselves. Kuwait Times spoke to some of its members.

Paola Schietekat leads the campaign, so Kuwait Times asked her two very fundamental questions.

KT: What is your Project 189’s ultimate goal?

Paola: We saw a need for unity at a time where the world has become more fragmented. My team and I wanted to run a campaign throughout the month of Ramadan to remind people to be compassionate towards domestic workers they interact with on a daily basis. Sometimes we must be reminded to stop and look at others with human eyes to realize that they have hopes, fears and dreams the same way we do. We highlight positive Islamic values because the humane treatment of others is embedded in Islam, and therefore in Kuwaiti culture.

KT: Has your team faced any obstacles?

Paola: Absolutely. It was a matter of minutes after we began drawing attention to the problem that we began receiving a backlash, but that just stressed the need for a campaign that focuses on the humanization of domestic workers.

To Nour Al-Failakawi, who runs the project’s research, KT asked: What are the interesting facts your team learned about the challenges facing domestic workers in Kuwait?

Nour: Some neglect to recognize that domestic workers are amongst the most vulnerable members of society, making them a target group for systemic violence. Despite widespread narratives of abuse, every female domestic worker has a platform upon which her unique story of resilience can be heard. Every experience and testimony is inclusive yet exceptionally unparalleled. In addition, the systematic abuse of domestic workers can be attributed to an unequal power structure that creates disparities between social classes.

Zahra Al-Qattan consults on the campaign’s cultural

sensitivity issues, we asked her: What sort of feelings do you want the public to focus on in order to humanize our view of domestic workers?

Zahra: The aim of our campaign is to draw the public’s attention to the human experience of domestic workers. Having left their home countries, leaving behind family, friends and loved ones, and moving to a new environment must have its own emotional difficulties that domestic workers usually have to suffer alone. We hope that members of the public are able to understand what domestic workers go through, and hopefully provide them the support they need.

Roxanne Heuschkel is the group’s volunteer photographer. She was asked: What is the message you want viewers to “read” from your pictures?

Roxanne: The women photographed are colleagues.

We share stories of home, of the things we miss, and provide students with a place to learn and be protected while supporting our families. I chose a close-up portrait composition with a focus on the eyes to allow the viewer to look at the faces without distraction. By gazing into eyes, I want the viewer to feel as engaged with these women as I do, and build empathy for the often oppressed. It is impossible to deny their humanity.

The campaign’s hashtag is #peoplearepeople. Some on social media have commented that it as an exaggerated campaign that somehow excuses Kuwaitis’ bad mannerisms; however, it is merely a reminder of our Islamic teachings and what we all look for to as humans - simple kindness. Our acceptance and encouragement of this nonprofit campaign is a sign enough that Kuwaitis are pro-humanitarian regardless of their religious beliefs or way of life.



Members of the Project 189 team: Paola Schietekat, project director of the Look with Human Eyes campaign; Roxanne Heuschkel, photographer; Zahraa Al-Qattan, translator and coordinator and Nour Al-Failakawi (not shown), volunteer.  
—Photo courtesy Project 189.



# Compost food waste to enrich Kuwait's soil



**KUWAIT:** Local Kuwaiti youth have launched a project called Agrivage to turn food waste into compost. The young men are collecting food waste every evening during Ramadan and will transport it to Al-Abdaly in the north to use to create enriched soil. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

By Nawara Fattahova

**D**on't throw your leftovers in the garbage - instead let it become part of a useful project run by a group of young Kuwaitis hoping to turn food waste into compost.

The group, called Agrivage, have been collecting food waste daily from 9:30 pm to 12:00 am in the parking lot of the Ice Skating Rink in Kuwait City. They have a refrigerated truck parked there to keep the food cool till it's full to transport it to a farm in Al-Abdaly for composting.

Abdulwahab Boodai, co-founder of Agrivage, works along with a group of eight students to collect food waste to compost it and help enrich Kuwait's northern soil. The campaign started in the first week of Ramadan and will end on the last day of this holy month.

"This project started last year when I was studying in high school. Twenty-one other students and myself participated in a competition organized by Injaz for developing the basics of entrepreneurship. We ranked first in Kuwait in this competition in 2017," he told Kuwait Times.

The massive wastage of food in Kuwait was behind the inspiration for Abdulwahab and his team. "Statistics show that in Kuwait, every person discards around 350 kg of food annually. So we thought of finding a solution and came with the idea of this project of changing food waste into fertilizer or compost," he explained.

The team also participated in the larger version

of the Injaz competition - Injaz Alarab - that includes 16 Arab countries. "We represented Kuwait in this competition held in Egypt and also ranked first. This was the first time in 10 years that Kuwait won in this competition. We worked hard to achieve this position as we competed against 350,000 students. We were very excited with this great result, especially since HH the Amir welcomed us when we returned," Abdulwahab explained.

Last month, the project expanded. "Our team shrank to only eight members after some members went to study abroad, so we decided to turn our project to a larger scale. Food consumption increases by 40 percent during the holy month of Ramadan, as well as food waste. So we aimed to make people aware about our campaign and make them participate in this project," he said.

There are no special conditions for the collected foodstuff. "Since the beginning of the campaign, we have collected around 30 tons of food waste. People can bring any kind of food, even if it is spoiled, expired or moldy. But we don't accept liquids," he said. "We can't handle logistics by ourselves, so we have sponsors to support us. The container is available daily to collect the food waste. We also distribute plastic bags for people to bring the food in, or they can collect our bags from all branches of the Trolley minimarkets. People can also bring the food waste in their own bags, but our bags are biodegradable," concluded Abdulwahab.



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# Parliament leaders, Ministers tout Amir's speech

**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Deputy Speaker Issa Al-Kandari extolled His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his call for national unity and cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities.

Commenting on the address delivered on Wednesday by His Highness the Amir to the nation on the occasion of the last ten days of Ramadan, Ghanem said His Highness the Amir made it clear that national unity is the key to development and prosperity. "Social cohesion and political stability on the local and regional scales are inevitable prerequisites for development and welfare," the parliament speaker said in a statement carried by Al-Dustur network.

"These are of paramount importance and constitute the main objective of any political action. This is why His Highness the Amir renewed his call for putting aside any sectarian or tribal or factional differences, cementing the national unity, and boosting cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities," Ghanem pointed out.

"On regional dossiers, His Highness the Amir shed light on the suffering of the Palestinian people and the situations in Syria and Yemen, which signals his recognition of the impacts of these situations on Kuwait. His Highness the Amir raised the alarm about the impending im-

pacts of regional political, economic and social instabilities on Kuwait so as to prompt us to take the necessary precautions and strengthen the immunity of our country," he went on. Ghanem prayed to Allah the Almighty to protect Kuwait against all evils under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince.

## Closer cooperation

On a similar note, Kandari echoed His Highness the Amir's call for closer cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities. "As a veteran leader, His Highness the Amir has a long history of addressing countless local, regional and international issues. He shed light on the essential issues and reminded the citizens of the security challenges in the neighborhood in order to protect our security, abide by the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and stand united against sectarian and tribal tendencies. "This is what we need today in order to guide our national mass media and social networking sites to promote amity, tolerance and coexistence," Kandari noted.

On His Highness the Amir's call for cooperation between the MPs and cabinet members, Kandari said this call is enshrined in Article 50 of the Constitution that provides for such cooperation in order to meet the aspirations of the people.

## Comprehensive speech

Meanwhile, Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Fahad Al-Afasi hailed His Highness the Amir's speech as "holistic and comprehensive." His Highness the Amir's speech had also conveyed noble messages, and outlined priorities for national and regional action, the minister said. He added that the speech had drawn a roadmap for Kuwait's future and highlighted national, regional and international challenges. He applauded His Highness the Amir's calls for retaining national and Gulf unity and achieving greater cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities to better serve the homeland and citizens.

His Highness the Amir had also showed keenness on empowering national cadres, especially youth, Afasi said, citing His Highness the Amir's call for giving youth the opportunity to contribute to the state building. He praised the great role played by His Highness the Amir in bridging the rift and resolving the differences among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states. He hoped that the current standoff would end soon.

The Gulf people share history, geography, family relations and common destiny, he noted. He also appreciated His Highness the Amir's call for bringing the conflict in Syria to a halt

and for reaching a political solution to the crisis in Yemen.

## Ministers laud speech

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri and Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azemi extolled His Highness the Amir for his vision for promoting comprehensive development.

Commenting on the address, Jabri said His Highness the Amir made clear his vision for tackling the local and regional issues. "His Highness the Amir set forth the stances of Kuwait, as a peace-loving country, towards domestic and foreign issues," the minister said in a press release by the Ministry of Information. Jabri appreciated His Highness the Amir's call for cementing the national unity as the key to development and prosperity.

In the meantime, Azemi said His Highness the Amir charted a roadmap for development in all fields with emphasis on youth role and education. "His Highness the Amir is keen on promoting the educational process and encouraging the youth to gain knowledge in all areas of science," he pointed out in statements. The minister also appreciated the call of His Highness the Amir for protecting the youth against erroneous ideology and delinquency. — KUNA

## Finance minister affirms support for KAC

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf said that the government fully backs Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) in its efforts to restore its trailblazing role. "The flag carrier, which has a special status in the hearts of all Kuwaitis, faces some difficulties and we are committed to helping it restore its status," he said. The minister made the comments at a ghabqa hosted by KAC Wednesday night.

"Throughout its 64-year long history, the airline was able to overcome a lot of difficulties," he noted, expressing appreciation for the founders of the airline who attended the ceremony.

He also thanked the incumbent board of directors and staffers, saying they are making history while trying to restore the trailblazing status of the national carrier on the regional level.

Meanwhile, KAC Chairman Youssef Al-Jassem said the airline pursues its plan to modernize its fleet and facilities, and expand its destinations relying on the national cadres. "Terminal T-4 at Kuwait International Airport, allocated to KAC passengers, marks a landmark in the modernization plan," he said, noting that the terminal will open in early July. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf (second from left) attends the KAC ghabqa. — KUNA

## Expert sees growing EU-GCC cooperation in clean energy

**BRUSSELS:** The collaboration between the European Union (EU) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the renewable energy sector is progressing "very well," said a leading energy expert yesterday. Frank Wouters-Director of the EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network-affirmed that there was a lot of interest in events focusing on developing cooperation between the EU-funded ensemble and the six-member states of the GCC. The GCC includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE and Saudi Arabia. The official's statement came on the sidelines of a seminar on "EU opportunities for the energy transition in the Mediterranean and the GCC regions" held as part of the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels.

Carrying on, the director noted that the network in April organized a study tour for GCC officials to Germany, which was highly appreciated, adding that the officials looked at the clean energy sites and installation and research institutions in the country.

Wouters said oil price fluctuations have little effect on clean energy projects in the GCC. "The business rationale for switching into renewable makes sense even if a country earns a lot of money from hydrocarbons. Renewables save you a lot of money and you can use the hydrocarbons for higher-value purposes like in the petrochemical and

fertiliser industry which is much more interesting than burning them for electricity when you can do the same cheaper with solar panels," he said.

Meanwhile, experts and analysts at the seminar discussed policies, technologies and best practices that can unlock the clean energy potential in the Mediterranean and the Gulf (GCC) regions. They spoke about the challenges of the transition towards clean energy that is currently taking place and how EU stakeholders can engage and establish win-win partnerships in these regions, at a policy, technology/industry and research level. Wouters told the seminar that the Middle East has presented several world-record breaking solar energy plants in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia. He noted that hydrogen is now seen as a fuel of the future and it is being developed across Saudi Arabia with incredible results.

EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) is an annual event organized by the European Commission. Nearly 2,500 policy makers, authorities, industry, stakeholders, NGOs, researchers and academia from Europe and around the world are taking part in the 4-day event. EUSEW debates energy policy, creates networking opportunities and spreads the word about the latest developments on the sustainable energy market and in research. — KUNA



## Local

# MP Fadhl suspends grilling to social affairs minister

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** MP Ahmad Al-Fadhl announced yesterday suspending a grilling motion he had threatened a day earlier to file against Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh over alleged violations at the Transparency Society; an NGO supervised by the ministry. The lawmaker's decision came following a meeting between MPs and government officials, in which an agreement was reached to send a letter of condemnation to Transparency International over Kuwait's low ranking in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI). Fadhl had previously charged that the society had played a negative role in Kuwait getting the low grade.

## Councilor rejects VIP passport

Municipal Council member Maha Al-Baghli revealed that she rejected a VIP passport that was given to her upon learning that her husband and children would not get similar passports the way the wives and kids of other male council members do. She explained that her rejection came to demand equality between men and women as stipulated in article 29 of the constitution which states that: 'All people are equal in human dignity and in public rights and duties before the law, without distinction to race, origin, language, or religion.' "This attitude is not motivated by a personal wish to get the passport of any special benefits. I am only doing this out of my responsibility towards women issues and rights," she underlined.

## No rent allowance

The Education Ministry will not pay rent allowance to expat female teachers whose husbands already receive similar payments from their employers, assistant undersecretary for financial affairs, Yousif Al-Najjar said. "In case a husband receives rent allowance, his wife will be immediately deprived of it because this is against regulations", he explained.

## Indian fruit ban lifted

The supreme food safety committee at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition recommended lifting the ban imposed on importing fruits and vegetables from India except for those imported from Kerala state where the Nipah virus had struck.

The authority had held an urgent meeting to discuss the latest developments concerning the Nipah virus as well as a letter sent by the health ministry including WHO-related recommendations such as banning the import of fruits and vegetables from India and washing them thoroughly before use. The authority added that it had received a letter from the Indian ministry of agriculture explaining the measures it had already taken to stop the export of any fresh fruit and vegetable shipments out of Kerala state.

## KU parking

Well-informed sources at Kuwait University (KU) said the duration of the tender to design, build and maintain the multi-floor parking facility at Kaifan campus would be extended by 144 days upon request made by the contractor and accented by KU's purchases committee. The sources added that in view of the extension, the project's conclusion date was deferred from December 22, 2018 until May 14, 2019.

## Old planes sold

Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) has authorized the British SkyTech-AIC company to sell five of its old planes including four A320-300s and one B747-M400, said the CH-Aviation website, noting that KAC had also offered other spare engines and parts for sale. Further, the website explained that KAC stores also include two B777-200 ER planes that had been pulled out of service last August in addition to four A300B4-605Rs and three A310-300 planes.

## Khafji diesel leak under control

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Environment Public Authority (EPA) announced that it is closely watching the latest developments concerning a diesel leak at a marine unit in Khafji, Saudi Arabia. EPA stressed in a statement that it is collaborating with Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) to monitor the leak and the environmental situation in the area. All standard safety and emergency precaution measures were taken in the area and fire fighters were alerted, EPA added, noting that those actions resulted in controlling the leak in a record time with minimal damage. "The contaminated spot was cleaned and the effects will not reach Kuwait," EPA underlined.

In another environmental issue, EPA board of directors held its second meeting in 2018 presided by EPA General Director Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah to discuss future plans and the latest developments. Officials at the meeting also discussed the fines to be collected on environmental violations, as well as the national plan regarding gradual disposal of substances detrimental to the ozone layer. In addition, the meeting discussed the high ammonia levels detected at Shuaiba north and south power plants during afternoons and holidays.

## 4,500 liquor bottles busted

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Farwaniya criminal investigators recently foiled an attempt to smuggle in a liquor shipment that arrived at Shuwaikh Port, said security sources. Case papers indicate that detectives were first tipped off concerning the shipment, and they closely watched it after allowing it out of the port and followed it all the way to the recipients; two citizens who were arrested red-handed on delivery. The shipment was then returned to Shuwaikh Port where custom inspectors examined and confiscated 1,053 cardboard boxes containing 4,500 liquor bottles, the sources said.

## Defense minister heads to Brussels for anti-IS meeting

**KUWAIT:** First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah left Kuwait yesterday, accompanied by a high-level military delegation, for Brussels to attend an anti-IS meeting. The visit comes to attend the ministerial meeting of the member states of the international coalition to combat the so-called Islamic state (IS), to be held at NATO

headquarters, Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations of the Ministry of Defense said in a statement. He was seen off at the airport by Chief of General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khader, Deputy Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and a number of senior army officers. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is seen off at the airport yesterday. — KUNA

## Kuwaiti, Sudanese FM's mull over regional situation

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met with the visiting Sudanese Foreign Minister Dirdiri Al-Dakheri yesterday. They discussed distinguished and close relations between both brotherly countries, ways of promoting and developing them in all fields and the latest regional developments as

well as issues of mutual interest. Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mohieddin Salem and several other Sudanese officials were present at the meeting, while Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and a number of senior officials of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented the State of Kuwait during the meeting. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Sudanese Foreign Minister Dirdiri Al-Dakheri. — KUNA





Pakistanis enchanted by 11-year-old motivational coach

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## Jordan withdraws tax bill after angry protests



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump speaks during an iftar dinner hosted at the White House on Wednesday.— AFP

# Trump hosts iftar at White House

## Protesters hold demo against ‘Muslim ban’

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump hosted his first iftar dinner as president Wednesday, marking the traditional Ramadan fast-breaking meal with Muslim invitees at the White House. Trump, who has frequently engaged in inflammatory anti-Muslim rhetoric, defied recent custom by not holding a similar event during his first year in office. Hundreds of millions of devout Muslims observe the holy fasting month of Ramadan, which is slated to end on June 14 this year. From sunrise onwards, they abstain from food and drink, breaking their fast at sunset.

There were more than 50 guests. At the head table, Trump sat with Saudi Ambassador Prince Khalid Ben Salman, and Jordanian Ambassador Dina Kavar. Ambassadors were invited from Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain, Morocco, Algeria and Libya. “To each of you and to the Muslims around the world: Ramadan Mubarak,” Trump said. “Tonight, we give thanks for the renewed bonds of friendship and cooperation we have forged with our valued partners from all across the Middle East,” he said.

He said iftars “mark the coming together of families and friends to celebrate a timeless message of peace, clarity and love. There is great love.” He described his visit last year to Saudi Arabia as “one of the great two days of my life”. “Only by working together can we achieve a future of security and prosperity for all,” he noted.

Outside the White House, a group of demonstrators displayed slogans and chanted in protest against Trump’s efforts to ban immigrants from several Muslim-majority countries. “We think it’s the height of hypocrisy for Donald Trump to ban Muslims with one hand and then invite lead diplomats into the White House and break fast with them,” said Bilal Askaryar. “It’s hypocritical and his actions with the Muslim ban and spreading hate speech about Muslims is un-American and un-presidential.”

Iftar dinners have been a regular feature on the White House calendar, along with prayer breakfasts, Passover Seders and similar events. Several American Muslim groups said they would not participate in Wednesday’s iftar. — AFP



People hold signs during a rally before iftar in Lafayette Square opposite the White House on Wednesday.—AFP



## International

## Saudi, UAE announce raft of joint deals

## 'Onus on Qatar' to end Gulf standoff

**JEDDAH:** Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have unveiled a raft of economic deals, including in the defense industry, as the Gulf powerhouses look to boost ties. The two oil-rich Gulf nations signed 20 memoranda of understanding for over 60 joint projects to be implemented over the next five years in sectors including oil and gas, banking, nuclear energy and defense.

The projects were approved at a meeting of the Saudi-Emirati Coordination Council in Jeddah Wednesday night, chaired by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahayan. The deals do not involve the four other nations that constitute the Gulf Cooperation Council - Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman.

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and non-GCC member Egypt all broke diplomatic ties with Qatar on June 5 last year, imposing a sea, air and land blockade, while accusing the tiny gas-rich state of links to Islamist extremists and supporting Shiite Iran. But Saudi and UAE say they remain committed to working within the GCC framework.

"The Saudi-Emirati Coordination Council provides the ideal model for bilateral cooperation between countries while supporting the Gulf Cooperation Council joint work system," said a statement by the Saudi information ministry after Wednesday's meeting. Saudi Arabia and UAE have a combined gross domestic product of \$1.06 tril-

lion or 73 percent of the six nation GCC's combined GDP, but their energy-reliant economies have suffered in the past four years due to the crash in oil prices.

Last year, the Saudi economy shrank 0.7 percent while UAE's economy grew just 0.5 percent, with Abu Dhabi's contracting 1.6 percent. The joints projects also include investments in the petrochemical sector, unified food security projects and creating a \$1.4 billion agricultural investment firm. The strategy calls for

### Saudi condemns four to death for forming 'Iran cell'

setting up a joint fund for nuclear energy and a bilateral council to coordinate well over \$1.3 trillion in foreign investments.

Meanwhile, the UAE said the four Arab states facing off against Qatar will not ease up pressure one year after launching their boycott. "The four countries have made their point. They don't have to escalate. We have become more or less accustomed to dealing with our region through isolation of Qatar," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash told Abu Dhabi-based The National newspaper. "The onus is on Qatar if it really wants to come out of its current isolation."

Doha was handed a list of 13 demands, including closing broadcaster Al Jazeera, removing Turkish troops from the country and scaling back its cooperation with Iran, with which it shares the world's largest gas field. Qatar has not fulfilled any of these, but Gargash insisted they remain a basis



**JEDDAH:** Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman attends a meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahayan in this Saudi Red Sea resort on Wednesday. — AFP

for talks even as a "deficit of trust" continues. Gargash in the interview accused Qatar of "undermining the Bahraini regime" and "systematically supporting Saudi opposition" by providing a "platform to try and play a seditious role". He called on Doha to halt its alleged support for extremism and links to Iran's Revolutionary Guards, insisting "it can change its policies and end this crisis. We hope that it will". Qatar has denied all the allegations against it and remains defiant. "One year on and Qatar and its people are stronger," Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani tweeted on Tuesday.

Separately, a Saudi court has sentenced four

people to death for links to regional rival Iran, alleging that they were plotting the assassination of "prominent figures", state media said yesterday. "The criminal court has sentenced four terrorists to death for forming a cell for Iran," the state-owned Al-Ekhbariya TV reported. "The terrorists were trained in camps in Iran" and "planned to assassinate prominent figures," Al-Ekhbariya said, without giving any more details on those convicted. Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia and Iran, the predominant Shiite power, have a long history of rivalry. They today stand on opposing sides of conflicts in the Middle East, from Syria to Yemen. — Agencies

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# Jordan withdraws tax bill after angry protests

## Amman to ask IMF for more time to implement reforms

**AMMAN:** Jordan's new prime minister yesterday announced a controversial IMF-backed income tax bill will be withdrawn, after it sparked a week of angry protests in the kingdom. Crowds have taken to the streets to demand the government drop the unpopular reforms, in some of the biggest economic protests to hit Jordan over the past five years. Doctors, lawyers and teachers staged a strike across the country Wednesday as discontent over high unemployment, poverty and price rises bubbles over.

New premier Omar Al-Razzaz, appointed by King Abdullah II after his predecessor quit over the protests on Monday, announced after talks with legislators that an "agreement had been struck" to withdraw the bill. He said the legislation would be sent back by parliament to the government once a new cabinet is formed, with that process expected to take several days. Razzaz was ordered by the king to carry out a "comprehensive review" of the tax proposals after the country was rattled by days of protests.

Jordan has blamed its economic woes on instability wracking the region and the burden of hosting hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees without adequate international support. The tax bill was the latest in a series of austerity measures to cut national debt since Amman secured a \$723-million loan from the IMF in 2016.

The controversial legislation that has sparked much of the ire would have raised taxes on employees by at least five percent and on companies by between 20 and 40 percent. Jordan will ask the IMF for more time to implement reforms after the wave of protests showed that pushing the country beyond its means risked instability, officials said.

### Scuffles

Although a majority of deputies said they would vote against it, protesters still staged repeated night-time demonstrations after breaking the Ramadan fast to demand the bill be withdrawn altogether. The authorities scrambled to defuse the public discontent, but the call by the king to review the tax bill and resignation of prime minister Hani Mulki failed to stem the protests. Scuffles took place Wednesday between police forces, mobilized in large numbers, and some 2,000 demonstrators who tried to repel them in the capital Amman. Demonstrators waved Jordanian flags or carried placards reading "I'm afraid for my future", while others held up loaves of flatbread with "corruption = hunger" written on them.

Since January, resource-poor Jordan has seen repeated price rises including for staples such as bread, as well as extra taxes on basic goods. Fuel



AMMAN: Demonstrators wave Jordanian flags during a protest near the prime minister's office on Wednesday. —AFP

prices have risen five times since the start of the year, while electricity bills have surged by 55 percent since February. "Prices are constantly rising on all products: food, cars, housing and telecommunications ... We do not work for ourselves anymore, but to pay the state," unemployed protestor Suhaib Rabaibai told AFP yesterday.

Jordan, a key US ally, has largely avoided the unrest witnessed by other countries in the region since the Arab Spring revolts broke out in 2011, although protests did flare late that year after the government cut fuel subsidies. The latest protests started last week when unions called for nationwide demonstrations. —AFP

## 8 years on, Syria army conscripts pack bags for home

**DAMASCUS:** After eight years of military service, Syrian conscript Sonel Ali swapped his drab army uniform for bright civilian clothes last week as he packed his things one last time. Ali was among thousands of young men who was enlisted in 2010, a year before the brutal repression of anti-government protests in Syria spiralled into one of the worst conflicts of the century. He thought he was joining the military for a maximum of two years, but instead ended up serving in Syria's war until now. His drawn-out deployment ended last Friday, after the army ordered 2010 conscripts to demobilize.

"I'm finally leaving guns and dirt barricades behind," said the ecstatic 34-year-old, who hails from the central city of Homs but was last deployed hours away in Syria's south. As he packed, Ali's phone buzzed with calls from loved ones congratulating him, but also from comrades for whom the good news had not yet arrived. "We're the first ones and you will join us," he reassured a friend over the phone. "The biggest battles are over."

The number of frontlines has diminished now and Syria's regime has retaken more than half of the country with Russian backing, this year notch-

ing up a string of victories against rebels near Damascus. Before he zipped up his black canvas bag, Ali dropped in the gourd and traditional straw he had used to slurp bitter mate tea throughout the seven-year war. "I'm keeping" these, he said. "They were my companions throughout my military service." All packed, he posed with fellow fighters for their first group picture out of army slacks, before heading their separate ways back to civilian life.

Mohammad Damour had always wanted to become a reporter, but his dreams were postponed when his 18-month deployment turned into an eight-year tour. "War set me back 10 years, but I was demobilized today," Damour told AFP in a bustling market in Damascus, snapping pictures of sweet stands with his camera. "I was supposed to have graduated at 22. But I'm 27 and still in the first year of journalism school," he said.

On the edge of Syria's second city Aleppo, Maher Daro's family had prepared a hero's welcome. His father was waiting to ferry the returning soldier home in a sleek black Mercedes, specially festooned with red and white flowers. He had even hired a drumming band. As soon as Daro pulled up in his car, the drums kicked off, celebratory gunfire rang out, and relieved relatives broke into a traditional Arabic circle dance. —AFP



Mohammad Damour

## Election recount, Baghdad bomb fuel Iraq tensions

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr called on his followers yesterday to remain calm after an explosion killed 18 people in his main stronghold in Baghdad just hours after parliament called for a recount of votes in an election his bloc won. Sadr, a nationalist who tapped growing resentment with Iran, scored a surprise victory in the May 12 vote by promising to fight corruption and improve services. He said in a statement that a committee would be formed to investigate the blast, with findings presented to him within three days. He called for "patience and self-control", the statement from his office said.

At least 18 people were killed and over 90 wounded in Sadr City, a blast that the interior ministry said was the result of the detonation of an ammunition cache. Security forces have opened their own investigation. Iraq's parliament passed a law on Wednesday ordering a nationwide manual recount of votes in the parliamentary election, lawmakers said, a day after the prime minister said there had been serious violations.

The move could undermine Sadr, who has in the past mobilized tens of thousands of followers to protest against government policies he opposed. Sadr's top aide, Dhiaa Al-Asadi, said in a tweet that while any fraud or violations in



BAGHDAD: Iraqis inspect the aftermath of an explosion in the Sadr City district yesterday. —AFP

the electoral process should be condemned, it should be handled by the Independent High Elections Commission and the Federal Court. He also expressed concerns that some parties were trying to sabotage Sadr's victory. "Losers in the recent elections shouldn't hijack or manipulate the parliament. Otherwise, it is a conflict of interests," he said.

### Judges

Sadr has always been seen as a wildcard in Iraq's turbulent politics, which is often driven by sectarian interests. His Mehdi Army militia staged two violent uprisings against United States occupation forces after the invasion and Iraqi and US officials described him at the time as the biggest security threat in Iraq. The defeat of Islamic State in December had raised hopes that the country could ease sectarian and political tensions and find a formula for stability, which has remained illusive since the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. —Reuters



## International

# Erdogan facing genuine challenge in Turkey polls

## Election could go to a run-off vote

**ISTANBUL:** President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is facing an unexpectedly tight contest in this month's Turkish elections, with opponents showing a newfound unity and his charismatic main rival building campaign momentum. Erdogan, who has transformed Turkey since 2003 as prime minister and now president, likes to see himself as the undisputed heavyweight champion of Turkish elections and undefeated at the ballot box. But analysts say his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) could lose its overall majority in the June 24 simultaneous presidential and parliamentary polls to an opposition alliance.



**Ince has been  
unafraid to  
touch nerves**

While Erdogan is favorite to win a second presidential mandate with the enhanced powers agreed in last year's referendum, the election could go to a run-off where victory for the Turkish strongman would not be a foregone conclusion. The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu, a bookish figure who rarely rattled Erdogan, shook up the poll by choosing not to run himself and giving the nod to Muharrem Ince, a fiery MP from the party's left.

While Ince has energetically crisscrossed Turkey and happily ripped out pages from the Erdogan guide to no-holds-barred campaigning, his party has also forged a broad alliance with the

dissident nationalists of former minister Meral Aksener and the conservative Saadet (Felicity) Party. "The opposition is showing a certain degree of coordination and unity for the first time," Asli Aydintasbas, fellow with the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) told AFP, saying it could even "gain the upper hand" in parliament. She said the AKP had underestimated Ince after Kilicdaroglu who was considered an "easy" opponent. "Now Erdogan is faced with someone who talks back, much like he does, and is being listened to."

**'Opposition  
capitalizing'**

The elections are also taking place with a troubled economy looming in the background instead of being the usual campaign ace for Erdogan. Inflation has spiked up to 12.15 percent and the lira has lost some 20 percent in value against the dollar this year. The president is facing a "combination of a difficult economic context and a surprisingly vigorous and unified opposition," Paul T Levin, director of the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies, told AFP. Ince was displaying "his strong rhetorical abilities and taking the fight to Erdogan", said Levin. Levin added there was also growing dissatisfaction over the presence of 3.5 million Syrian refugees in Turkey.



**ISTANBUL:** An election worker shows a ballot paper with portraits of candidates at Ataturk International Airport yesterday. — AFP

"The opposition are capitalizing on this," Erdogan barely needed to break into a sweat to finish off his opponent in the Aug 2014 presidential elections, the softly spoken Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu who, ironically, has said he will vote for his former rival in these polls.

But Ince has been unafraid to touch nerves, playing up the past cooperation between the AKP and the US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen who

is accused of being behind the 2016 failed coup. He even alleged that Erdogan had met Gulen at his Pennsylvania compound to win blessing for forming the AKP. Erdogan filed a criminal complaint against Ince over the "baseless" claim. Touting himself as a candidate of reconciliation, Ince has also sought to make headway with voters who are not natural supporters of the CHP, such as Turkey's Kurds and religious conservatives. —AFP

## Turks eye alternative media as news landscape shrinks

**ISTANBUL:** It's not an obvious location for a media organization. A gritty area dominated by car repair workshops in the backstreets of Istanbul. There's no sign outside - just a photocopied sheet of paper pinned to the door requesting silence: "Broadcast in Progress". Welcome to the headquarters of Turkish broadcaster Medyascope, an almost three-year-old alternative voice in an increasingly constricted media landscape in Turkey and an example of what new media can offer even in tough circumstances.

The door swings open to reveal a surprisingly standard television studio with a desk and colored background. A team of young editors are glued to their laptops around a large table, whispering excitedly, preparing the next broadcast. Medyascope, which was founded in 2015 by leading Turkish journalist Rusen Cakir, does not broadcast through satellite let alone terrestrial TV, but rather via new media like Facebook, YouTube and Periscope. Every weekday it presents several hours of live debate from voices across the political spectrum with a freedom increasingly absent from the major news channels in Turkey under the rule of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

**'No other channels left'**

Awarded the Free Media Pioneer Award by the International Press Institute (IPI) in 2016, its importance has grown as ownership changes and increasingly adverse conditions for reporters have limited the media spectrum, encouraging prominent Turkish journalists to join the channel and frustrated viewers to watch it.



**ISTANBUL:** Journalists work at the headquarters of Turkish alternative media organization Medyascope on May 16, 2018. — AFP

And with Turkey heading for presidential and parliamentary elections on June 24 at a time when journalists complain of a lack of pluralism in traditional media dominated by coverage of Erdogan, its voice is ever more important.

"There are no other channels left in Turkey, where journalists like myself, with a mainstream media background, could work today," said presenter Isin Elicin, formerly a prominent anchor on the NTV news channel. "The mainstream media are not broadcasting news in the way that people need to be informed. They look for sources that do alternative but independent, objective journalism. And they find us," she said. Elicin, once a familiar face on mainstream Turkish TV, insisted it was essential that alternative media did not become identified as pro-opposition. "The main goal of Medyascope is to do journalism. It's not the journalists' job to do opposition. It's our guests who make the comments," she said. —AFP

## Hope for peace as Ethiopia backs down in Eritrea standoff

**ADDIS ABABA:** Ethiopia's surprise declaration that it will implement a 2002 peace agreement with its neighbor Eritrea could spell an end to a long cold war that has damaged both countries, analysts say. Reconciliation, they say, could transform both nations' politics and economies - but it first faces a mighty hurdle of animosity between the two neighbors. "This is a really important first step," said Dan Connell, a researcher on Eritrea at Boston University. "We should welcome the announcement with a degree of caution," said Rashid Abdi, Horn of Africa director at the International Crisis Group think tank in Nairobi.

Once federated with Ethiopia, Eritrea fought a three-decade independence war against Addis Ababa. The two then fought again, from 1998-2000, after Ethiopia refused to accept the ruling of a UN-backed boundary commission that divided up contested territory. On Tuesday, Ethiopia's new prime minister Abiy Ahmed - a former army officer who fought against Eritrea - declared the country would abide by the accord, handing back the occupied frontier town of Badme. Eritrea is yet to respond to the announcement while Ethiopia's troops have not begun their withdrawal from Badme. —AFP



## International

# Spain swears in government with mostly-female ministers

## Openly gay former judge new interior minister

**MADRID:** King Felipe VI yesterday swore in Spain's new pro-EU government, with women holding the majority of ministerial posts. Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez named 11 women to top posts including defense and economy in a cabinet with six male ministers. That makes it the European government with the most women after Sweden's, which has 12 female cabinet ministers and 11 men. Sanchez's administration risks not lasting until the end of the current mandate in 2020, however, given the fragmented state of Spain's political parties. His Socialist Party holds just 84 seats in the 350-seat congress. That is the smallest parliamentary presence of any Spanish government since the return to democracy in the 1970s.

### Gender equality

Sanchez, 46, ousted conservative veteran Mariano Rajoy as prime minister last Friday in a no-confidence vote. The vote was sparked by corruption convictions against former officials from Rajoy's Popular Party (PP). It ended more than six years of PP government and ushered in a progressive administration under Sanchez. The swearing-in ceremony at the Zarzuela palace near Madrid broke with tradition by not involving a Bible, crucifix or other religious symbols.

Each new cabinet member vowed to "faithfully fulfill the duties of minister with conscience and honor". EU budget manager Nadia Calvino became economy minister and former European par-

liament president Josep Borrell foreign minister. The new executive includes two veteran Socialists - Carmen Calvo, vice-president, and Borrell. Calvo, who was culture minister from 2004 to 2007, will also be in charge of equality.

That is a priority for Sanchez's government in a country where women staged an unprecedented strike to defend their rights on March 8. "This is a government that has to work every day for the most important thing of democracy: to reduce inequalities, and build the greatest equality, that between men and women," she said after being sworn in.

The new Spanish executive's pro-EU credentials sets it apart from certain other parts of Europe. They contrast with the eurosceptic stance of the populist government about to take office in Italy and the Brexit process in Britain. Calvino's appointment as economy minister was welcomed by the EU Commission. Borrell was European parliament president between 2004 and 2007. Anti-terror prosecutor Dolores Delgado became justice minister and former Supreme Court judge Margarita Robles defense minister. Other women have been put in charge of education, employment and health. The new interior minister is Fernando Grande-Marlaska, an openly gay former judge at Spain's top-level National Court. He has handled cases against Basque separatist group ETA.

### Catalans, astronaut, author

Borrell fiercely opposes the independence



**MADRID:** The new Spanish government's ministers pose with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez (seventh left) and king Felipe VI (center) after taking oath of office at La Zarzuela palace yesterday. — AFP

movement in his home region of Catalonia. He will be tasked with defending abroad his government's commitment to Spanish unity. Day to day, Meritxell Batet, another Catalan, has been put in charge of relations with Spain's regions. She will have the prickly task of trying to ease the situation in her own deeply divided home region. Sanchez's new team also includes a minister in charge of science, innovation and universities. That role goes to Spain's first astronaut, Pedro Duque. Maxim Huerta,

an award-winning author, became culture minister.

With its parliamentary minority, the government will rely on the votes of far-left party Podemos as well as Basque and Catalan nationalist lawmakers who supported his no-confidence motion. Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias wished the new government "good luck". He warned during an interview with public television channel TVE that his party would "influence from within parliament to change things." —AFP

## Stockholm truck attacker jailed for life

**STOCKHOLM:** A Swedish court yesterday sentenced a radicalized Uzbek asylum seeker to life in prison for terrorism after he mowed down pedestrians with a stolen truck in central Stockholm last year, killing five people. The assault, which mirrored other truck attacks in 2016 that left scores dead in France, Germany and the UK, occurred as Sweden grappled with the aftermath of having taken in more migrants per capita than any other country in Europe.

Arrested hours after the April 7, 2017 attack, Rakhmat Akilov, 40, who swore allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) group on the eve of his assault, told the court during his trial that IS members had given him the green light on encrypted chat sites to carry out a suicide attack in the Swedish capital. However, the organization never claimed responsibility for the assault.

The Stockholm district court convicted Akilov of "terrorist crimes" for five murders and 119 attempted murders in one of Stockholm's busiest shopping streets. Three Swedes, including a girl who would have turned 12 yesterday, as well as a 41-year-old British man and a 31-year-old Belgian woman were killed. Ten more were injured. During his almost three-month trial, Akilov, who confessed almost immediately to the attack, expressed no remorse. His gaze often remained empty, even when photographs and footage of the bloody attack were projected onto a large screen in the courtroom. "He acted with the direct intention to kill as many people as possible," the court said in its verdict, adding Akilov would be expelled after serving the life term, which averages 16 years in Sweden. —AFP

## Son who slaughtered rich family with axe handed 3 life terms

**CAPE TOWN:** A young South African man convicted of slaying his wealthy parents and brother and maiming his sister in a frenzied axe attack was handed three life sentences yesterday. Judge Siraj Desai described 23-year-old Henri van Breda's January 2015 rampage as "savage and vicious" with "an almost unprecedented degree of disregard for one's family". "Each murderous attack on a family member is a severe crime and warrants the severest punishment," Desai told the packed Western Cape High Court in Cape Town after the headline-making trial.

Van Breda, who wore a light grey suit, blue shirt and patterned tie, was also jailed for 15 years for the attempted murder of his sister. After a trial that had sought in vain to understand the motive for the bloodbath, Van Breda remained emotionless as the sentence was handed down. He was then led away by court officers as his girlfriend watched from the public gallery. He had denied murdering his 21-year-old brother Rudi and parents Martin, 54, and Teresa, 55, and leaving his sister Marli struggling with near-fatal injuries to her head, neck and throat after the bloody attack.

### 'Axe-wielding son'

"They were attacks involving a high degree of uncontrolled violence. The victims were unarmed (and) they faced an axe-wielding son or brother, probably not expecting the worst," said Desai. "We have heard no explanation... you have shown no remorse." The trial generated global interest in how a privileged son unleashed such a brutal attack on his family, whose fortune



**CAPE TOWN:** Henri van Breda is handcuffed and led out of the Western Cape High Court after being sentenced yesterday. — AFP

- estimated at \$16 million - was derived from property. The family had moved to Australia many years ago before returning to South Africa in 2014. Van Breda was convicted of three counts of murder, one of attempted murder and one of obstructing justice on May 21 with the judge describing the verdict as "inescapable". Defense lawyer Pieter Botha had called for a "merciful" sentencing, arguing that Van Breda was a first-time offender who was "barely 20" when he killed his family.

He said Van Breda had been in counseling for six months, was "appropriately emotional" when the murders were mentioned, and was taking medication for depression and epilepsy. Since his conviction Van Breda has been held in the medical wing of South Africa's notoriously violent Pollsmoor prison. During the trial, Van Breda had told the court that a late-night intruder had entered the family's luxury residence on the ultra-secure De Zalze Golf Estate in Stellenbosch, outside Cape Town. His claim had echoes of the defence used by Oscar Pistorius, who said he thought a burglar was hiding in an en suite bathroom to explain why he fired four times through the door, killing his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. —AFP



# Trump commutes sentence of non-violent drug offender

## Move comes after Kardashian appeal

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump on Wednesday commuted the prison sentence of a 63-year-old woman whose release had been championed by reality TV star Kim Kardashian. Alice Marie Johnson, 63, had served nearly 22 years of a life sentence for a non-violent drug offense. WVTM-TV in Birmingham, Alabama, later showed pictures of Johnson shortly after her release, running in happiness from a van towards family members holding flowers and waiting for her beside the road.

Kardashian, who is married to rapper Kanye West, met with Trump at the White House last week to appeal for the release of the great-grandmother convicted of cocaine trafficking. The White House said in a statement that Trump had commuted Johnson's sentence and that she "has accepted responsibility for her past behavior" and been a "model prisoner". "Despite re-

ceiving a life sentence, Alice worked hard to rehabilitate herself in prison, and act as a mentor to her fellow inmates," the White House said.

"While this Administration will always be very tough on crime, it believes that those who have paid their debt to society and worked hard to better themselves while in prison deserve a second chance," it said. Kardashian welcomed the commutation of Johnson's sentence with a tweet saying it was the "BEST NEWS EVER!!!!" Following his meeting with Kardashian last week, Trump tweeted: "Great meeting with @KimKardashian today, talked about prison reform and sentencing." Kanye West recently raised eyebrows after tweeting about his "love" for Trump and describing him as a "brother" with whom he shared "dragon energy".

Fixing tough sentencing laws had been a priority of former president Barack Obama's admin-

istration, but he failed to win congressional support, prompting a stream of presidential pardons and clemency actions. Trump has so far taken a more hardline approach, advocating a "lock-em-up-and-throw-away-the-key" approach to criminal justice. During his first year and half in office he has issued a number of pardons, however, mostly involving high-profile cases.

Opposition Democrats say Trump's pardons of political allies - or hints to issue them - is meant to signal to his present and former aides that they need not fear resisting the probe by Special Counsel Robert Mueller into possible collusion between Russia and Trump's 2016 election campaign. Last week, Trump pardoned fire-brand conservative commentator Dinesh D'Souza, who was convicted of violating campaign finance laws.

He previously pardoned disgraced Arizona

sheriff Joe Arpaio, a Trump supporter who violated a court order to halt traffic patrols targeting immigrants. He also annulled the sentence of vice president Dick Cheney's former chief of staff Lewis "Scooter" Libby. Trump issued a posthumous pardon to Jack Johnson, the first black heavyweight boxing champion, who was sent to prison a century ago in a racially charged case.

The president has also signaled that he could similarly favor lifestyle guru Martha Stewart, who went to jail for making false statements in an insider trading case, and commute the prison sentence of Rod Blagojevich, a former governor of Illinois convicted of corruption. Blagojevich - a Democrat - appeared on Trump's reality TV show "The Apprentice" while Stewart once hosted a spin-off version of the show. Trump on Monday even asserted a right to pardon himself of any crime. — AFP

## At least 99 dead as Fuego threatens new eruptions

**ESCUINTLA, Guatemala:** Explosions boomed from Guatemala's fearsome Fuego volcano Wednesday, unleashing fresh torrents of mud and ash down slopes, as the death toll from a previous eruption rose to at least 99. Fears of a new blowup of the 3,763-m volcano have stalked rescue workers since Sunday's eruption buried entire villages on its southern flank. The National Forensic Sciences Agency said in a report Wednesday that morgues had received the remains of 99 people killed as a result of the eruption. Only 28 have been identified so far, it said.

"We already have data with names and locations where there are missing persons and that number is 192," Sergio Cabanas, head of Guatemala's disaster management agency, told reporters earlier in the day. Experts warned Wednesday that heavy rains in the area could provoke avalanches due to the large flows of volcanic mud, known as lahars, since the eruption on Sunday.

Volcanologists recorded the volcano exploding several times an hour Wednesday, which generated a fresh 4,700-m high column of gray ash. "The explosions are generating moderate avalanches that have an approximate distance of 800 to 1,000 meters," the Volcanology Institute said. It said the lahars could sweep down the mountain laden with concrete, rocks up to a meter in diameter and tree trunks. "The activity continues and the possibility of new pyroclastic flows in the next hours or days cannot be ruled out, so it is recommended not to remain near the affected



Municipal firefighters carry the body of a victim of the Fuego Volcano eruption recovered during a search in the ash-covered village of San Miguel Los Lotes in Escuintla Department on Wednesday. — AFP

area," it said. Emergency workers had to temporarily suspend their search late Tuesday after a new eruption triggered a landslide. Hundreds of people were evacuated from seven communities in the Escuintla area near the summit, as panicked locals rushed to their cars to escape, causing chaotic traffic. An AFP photographer saw a large plume of ash rise into the sky, prompting an evacuation of everyone authorities could find before the police, the military and rescuers were ordered to stand down.

### Ongoing search

Hundreds of rescue workers, including firefighters, police and the military, were battling adverse conditions to search for remains in the tangled morass of rubble, dust and earth left behind by the landslides. General Walter Sanchez, in charge of operations around the epicenter of the de-

struction near the village of El Rodeo, said the heat from the ash and hot sediment made rescue work difficult. Firefighters hosed down their smoking boots, which had sunk into molten volcanic material just below the ash surface.

Everything in the search area was covered in a thick blanket of dust. In the murk created by the dust, police were using red ink to mark homes that had already been searched for bodies. More than 12,000 people have been evacuated from their homes, the disaster management agency said, with over 3,000 of them housed in temporary shelters. On the slopes Wednesday, local volunteers distributed food to rescue workers, and columns of cars handed out food, water, toilet paper, diapers and other necessities to residents. Some residents said they had organized themselves to prevent looting that they claimed occurred on the first night of the disaster. — AFP

## Congress suspends Fujimori but leaves him alive politically

**LIMA:** Peru's congress suspended lawmaker Kenji Fujimori late Wednesday over corruption allegations but lacked a quorum to dismiss him as part of a fight with his sister for control of their father's political dynasty. After 11 hours of debate in a special plenary session, 61 lawmakers voted to suspend the youngest son of former president Alberto Fujimori. But many lawmakers then walked out and the speaker of the chamber, Luis Galarreta, suspended the session citing a lack of quorum - 67 lawmakers - before it could vote on a motion to dismiss Fujimori altogether as sought by the party of his sister and rival, Keiko Fujimori.

"I say this to my sister: 'here, you have my head,'" Kenji Fujimori said after the vote. "We are victims of a parliamentary dictatorship." Fujimori, 38, is accused of attempting to buy votes to keep disgraced former president Pedro Pablo Kuczynski from being impeached. Kuczynski ended up resigning, in March. With Fujimori now out of congress and under investigation, the vote Wednesday night shapes up as a win, albeit a costly one, for his sister in their battle for control of their father Alberto's political legacy.

But the younger Mr Fujimori is not disqualified from politics altogether and he and his sister could even square off against each other in presidential voting in 2021. After the vote to suspend him, half of the lawmakers in the chamber walked out, leaving only supporters of his sister. That meant there was no quorum to vote on sacking Fujimori altogether. "If anyone believes that my political life ends here, they are totally wrong, because this is just a beginning," Fujimori said before the vote, shedding a few tears.

Many see Kenji, who polled more votes than any other candidate in Peru's last two legislative elections, as likely to run against his sister for the presidency in 2021. The drive to ban Fujimori from politics was in fact aimed at keeping him out of that presidential race, analyst Fernando Tuesta told AFP. Corruption-tainted Kuczynski survived an impeachment vote in Congress last December thanks to the abstentions of Kenji Fujimori and his supporters, who broke ranks with his sister's Fuerza Popular (Popular Force) party. — AFP



Kenji Fujimori



## International

# With community loans, Manila slum dwellers building homes

## Officials aim to resettle 100,000 families living in shacks

**QUEZON CITY:** Anabelle Elmedo lived for years with her family of six in an informal settlement in Quezon City in the Philippines, and had few worries beyond the daily grind, until she received an eviction notice. Elmedo and hundreds others were declared encroachers on public land, and given a choice: Move to a resettlement area miles away, or build and own their homes, nearby, under a state-backed program with the charity Habitat for Humanity.

Elmedo chose the option of building and owning a home, and her family put in 500 hours over six months to lay bricks, cart sand and host volunteers who worked alongside residents. "I have peace of mind now because I have a title to my home and know I can't be evicted," said Elmedo, 39, who moved into her two-room home six years ago. "We have better facilities and security here, a real community, and my children can inherit our home after we pass on - it is something we can leave for them," she said.

About 4.5 million people are homeless or living in informal settlements in the Philippines, with its population of about 106 million, according to the statistics office. About 3 million of them are in Metro Manila, possibly the most in any urban area in the world, charities estimate. Many are in Quezon City, which lies within Metro Manila, and are mostly migrants from the provinces who come in search of better opportunities. Others have been forced out of their homes by industrial projects in one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

"People are losing lands and homes as a result

of expansion of highways and industries in rural areas," said J P Lapid at the non-profit Urban Poor Resource Centre of the Philippines. "They are moving to urban areas and are forced to occupy spaces that pose risks to their health and safety, and where they constantly face the risk of eviction," he said.

### Tenure security

A critical shortage of affordable housing affects many other Asian countries too. About half a billion people live in informal settlements in cities in the region, as the pace of urbanization quickens, according to the lobby group Asian Coalition of Housing Rights (ACHR). Settlers usually have few choices but to move when they are evicted, and relocation is typically to distant suburbs. Many people instead prefer informal settlements in cities. In the Philippines, this has led to nearly 115,000 units of public housing lying empty in rural areas.

Over the years, people across Asia have organized themselves into community groups in order to secure tenure through community finance. At the same time, governments realized that resettlement in locations far from jobs and services is not feasible, said Marlon Manuel, an advisor to the legal advocacy group Namati. "You

need different approaches, with some in-situ development, some in-city relocation and some outside the city," he said. "For this to work you need the participation of the government, the private sector and non-profits," he said.

Officials in Manila aim to resettle some 100,000 families living in shacks by canals and rivers regarded as "danger zones" within the city, with the participation of communities and the private sector. Some of the financing will be through community mortgage programs, where residents

get cheap loans and make monthly payments for 25 years each. Some of the in-situ and off-site development will be done by private firms and charities such as Habitat and the Philippines-based Gawad Kalinga.

At Gawad Kalinga's Enchanted Farm in Bula-

can, about 40 km north of Manila, 50 families built their own two-room homes on land leased from the local government. The residents each put in 500 hours of so-called "sweat-equity" for their homes in a site that also includes livelihood opportunities to keep them from moving back to the city for jobs, said Joni Morales, a manager at Gawad Kalinga. "These are people who once lived in slums in Manila and in cemeteries in Cebu," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "They now live in their own homes and have security of tenure."



Residents each put in 500 hours of 'sweat-equity'

## More US staffers evacuated from China over mystery illness

**WASHINGTON:** The US State Department has evacuated more staff from China over fears they may have been hit by a mysterious illness that has struck other colleagues in the Asian country and Cuba. The department said Wednesday that "a number of individuals" were sent to the United States for further evaluation following initial medical screenings. A medical team was sent to the southern city of Guangzhou after an American employee who had experienced strange sounds was diagnosed with brain trauma last month, reviving fears that US rival has developed some kind of acoustic or microwave device.

US officials have said that the employee's symptoms were consistent with the ailments that US diplomats experienced in Cuba last year. After the first incident in Guangzhou, medical tests were offered to US government employees and family members who requested them, the State Department said. "The medical screenings are ongoing for any personnel who have noted concerning symptoms or wanted baseline screening," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement. "US medical professionals will continue

to conduct full evaluations to determine the cause of the reported symptoms and whether the findings are consistent with those noted in previously affected government personnel or possibly completely unrelated." Last year, 24 US diplomats and their family members in Cuba fell victim to mysterious "attacks" that left them with injuries resembling brain trauma. Ten Canadian diplomats and their relatives also suffered a strange illness.

Washington has said in the past that Cuban authorities must take responsibility for the safety of US diplomats on their soil, but the Havana government denies any knowledge of an attack. The US has set up a task force to oversee the response to the mystery ailments among diplomats in China and Cuba, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday. The State Department has warned that US diplomats should alert their mission's medical staff "if they note new onset of symptoms that may have begun in association with experiencing unidentified auditory sensations."

"Reported symptoms have included dizziness, headaches, tinnitus, fatigue, cognitive issues, visual problems, ear complaints and hearing loss, and difficulty sleeping," the statement said. The cases come at a sensitive time in relations between the United States and China, with the two nations mired in negotiations aimed at preventing a trade war and exchanging heated rhetoric over Beijing's claims to the South China Sea. —AFP

## Taiwan drill repels 'invasion' as China tensions rise

**TAIPEI:** Fighter jets, helicopters and thousands of troops in Taiwan fought back a simulated Chinese invasion yesterday as the self-ruled island faces increasing military and diplomatic pressure from Beijing. Relations between Taipei and Beijing have deteriorated since President Tsai Ing-wen was elected in 2016, as her government refuses to acknowledge that Taiwan is part of "one China".

Live-fire drills began Monday with troops simulating surprise air and coastal assaults to reflect increased military threats from China, which sees Taiwan as a renegade province to be brought back into the fold - by force if necessary. Tsai watched yesterday's session of the ongoing "Han Kuang" (Han Glory) exercise involving 4,100 soldiers, attack helicopters and fighter jets from an air base in Taichung.

Yesterday's scenario simulated the enemy bombing of an airfield and a paratrooper attack, with air and ground troops deployed to take back the base. An F-16 fighter flew overhead and deployed flares in a defensive move against heat-seeking missiles. Special operations troops were seen moving to secure a building. "I have seen our troops' capabilities and I have faith that our troops can achieve the goal of 'solid defence and multiple deterrence'," Tsai said.

China held its own live-fire drills in April in the Tai-



TAICHUNG, central Taiwan: Taiwan soldiers take part in during the Han Kuang drill at the Ching Chuan Kang (CCK) air force base in Taichung, central Taiwan, yesterday. —AFP

wan Strait - the narrow waterway separating the Chinese mainland from Taiwan - following weeks of air and naval maneuvers in the area. Beijing has also stepped up diplomatic pressure on Taipei, luring four countries to switch allegiance from Taiwan to China since Tsai took office. China has been incensed by a recent warning in relations between Taiwan and the United States, which remains the island's most powerful ally and arms supplier even though it has no official diplomatic ties.

President Donald Trump recently signed a symbolic bill paving the way for mutual visits by high-level officials and Washington gave long-awaited approval for a license necessary to sell submarine technology to Taiwan. A defense spending bill currently before congress in Washington calls on the US military to participate in Taiwan's drills, including the annual Han Kuang exercise. —AFP



## International

# Pakistanis enchanted by young motivational coach

## Safi's youth and precociousness part of the enchantment

**PESHAWAR:** Several hundred Pakistani university students sit enraptured as Hammad Safi lectures them on the merits of bettering their diction by watching Barack Obama speeches on YouTube. The elegantly dressed motivational speaker is something of an Internet sensation in Pakistan and regularly draws large crowds. But it's not just because of his infectious enthusiasm and engaging smile. It's also because he's only 11 years old.

Safi speaks into his wireless microphone, his hand gestures practiced and his confidence unwavering before the attention of his elders at the University of Spoken English (USECS) in the northwestern city of Peshawar. The pint-sized motivational coach is already an online star with his own YouTube channel and 145,000 subscribers. Some videos have been viewed millions of times. Some of his advice may sound hackneyed: "every second is a challenge," he says in one video. "Failure is the basis of success."

But his audiences don't seem to mind. Bilal Khan, a political science student twice Safi's age who came to listen to his speech, said the boy wonder had had a profound effect on him. "A few months ago I was really disappointed with life... I was (thinking) about suicide, because there are no jobs and no success in life," he told AFP. "Then I saw a movie of Hammad Safi. I thought, if an 11-year-old child can do anything, why can't I?"

Online comments also shower him with praise. "People love him because he's just talking, he's a hit every time," says Samiullah Waqil, one of his former English teachers. Safi's youth and precociousness seem to form part of the enchantment. But he is also seen as presenting a positive image of Pakistan, one that resonates powerfully with his listeners. Discussing Allama Iqbal, a renowned poet widely regarded as having inspired the movement to create Pakistan, Safi says: "If he had not been there, I or anyone else would surely be cleaning the toilet in the house of an Englishman."

### 'I inspire the universe'

At USECS, the faculty see him as a "nanha professor", or little teacher; a protege who could go on to great things one day - though what, exactly, they are looking for from him remains undefined. Safi was studying at a traditional school but also taking English classes at USECS, where he was quickly noticed for his "phenomenal self-confidence", says director Ammer Sohail. Shortly afterwards, he left his school to be full-time at USECS, continuing his English studies and embarking on his motivational career. The university, made up largely of working-class students, now has Safi offer motivational lectures each week, in addition to his growing Internet fanbase.

His "job", says Sohail, is to encourage the



**PESHAWAR:** In this picture taken on April 3, 2018, 11-year-old Pakistani motivational coach Hammad Safi lectures students at a languages academy. —AFP

poorer students, "to give them hope, so that they break their glass ceiling" in a country with glaring education inequality, where more than 40 percent of the population is illiterate, according to UN data. "We want it to spread this education awareness to the whole country," he says emphatically. Safi's father, a wealthy 48-year-old businessman

from Peshawar named Abdul Rehman Khan, agrees. "He is not an ordinary child," he explains. "People have seen something in him. I have myself seen abilities in him. That's why I have appointed special teachers for him. I want him to become a special leader. 'I'm very proud... For his abilities, for his intelligence, he is God-gifted.'—AFP

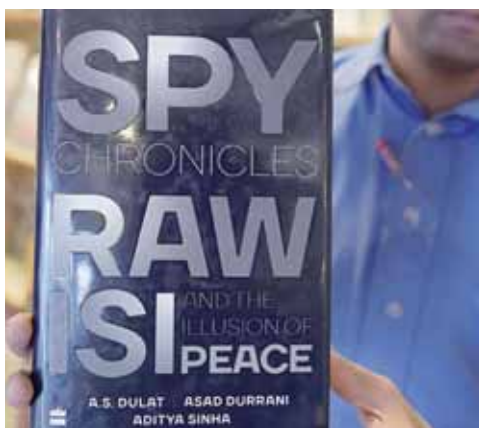
## India, Pak ex-spies spark furor with secret book project

**ISLAMABAD:** It began with hushed conversations in hotels dotted around Asia, and resulted in a nearly unthinkable book: "Spy Chronicles", a secret collaboration by former intelligence chiefs of India and Pakistan that has caused uproar in Islamabad. The book, published last month, was co-authored by retired General Asad Durrani, head of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) between 1990 and 1992, and his counterpart A S Dulat, who led India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) from 1999-2000.

They are the two most powerful intelligence agencies in the neighboring countries, who have been fierce adversaries since Partition in 1947. "The CIA and the KGB had lines of communication, even at the height of the Cold War. But ISI and RAW don't," Indian journalist Aditya Sinha, who facilitated the conversations, told AFP. The project, which he said was conducted covertly, took two and a half years to complete.

It required four marathon sessions in neutral territory - Istanbul, Bangkok and Kathmandu - organized on the sidelines of meetings between Indian and Pakistani officials seeking to hold dialogue. "We did not wear overcoats or glasses. But the two chiefs have a lifetime habit of being discreet," Sinha said. "We met in each other's hotel rooms. In (Kathmandu), we found a corner of a lobby. If somebody came near our corner, everybody would stop talking."

Among the topics discussed are longstanding allegations that Pakistan uses proxies in India and



**ISLAMABAD:** A bookstore employee displays a copy of the book "The Spy Chronicles: RAW, ISI and the Illusion of Peace" on May 30, 2018. —AFP

Afghanistan, such as the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network, and provides them safe haven. The US has repeatedly demanded that Islamabad take action against militancy. In the book, Durrani asserts that - if the fighters are indeed in Pakistan - doing so would be a "disaster". "(By) going against them, we would not only turn some more of our own people against us but also these groups who have never harmed us," he writes.

Durrani, who was no longer Pakistan's top spy in 2011 when Osama bin Laden was killed in a US raid in the military town of Abbottabad, also suggests that Islamabad probably knew where the Al-Qaeda leader was hiding - though he provides no smoking gun. "Cooperating with the US to eliminate a person regarded by many in Pakistan as a 'hero' could have embarrassed the government," he writes. —AFP

## Summit brings envoy Pompeo center stage

**WASHINGTON:** Shortly after Mike Pompeo was unveiled as US Secretary of State it was revealed that he had already, as outgoing CIA director, embarked on a historic diplomatic mission. While still working in the shadows as President Donald Trump's spy chief, Pompeo met with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un and set in motion plans to stage next week's nuclear summit. Now installed as Washington's top diplomat and one of the heavyweights in the US administration, the former soldier and Kansas lawmaker has stuck with the dossier, despite its challenges.

On May 24, he looked uncomfortable and grim as he appeared to announce his failure, reading senators a letter that Trump had sent to Kim, cancelling the summit after a perceived slight from Pyongyang. But barely eight days later, the 54-year-old secretary's more familiar smile was back in place as he and Trump walked Kim's right-hand man back to his car after a historic White House meeting.

The summit was on for June 12 in Singapore - and Pompeo's stock was again on the rise as an agency leader who can both interact productively with Trump and pursue a diplomatic strategy. No-one yet dares guess whether Trump's Quixotic decision to grant Kim his long sought after summit with a US leader will suc-

ceed in convincing the North to commit to nuclear disarmament. But Pompeo has already proved more successful than his predecessor Rex Tillerson, the Texan oilman who clashed with Trump, demoralized his own staff and came up with little on the international stage.

### Follow Trump's instincts

Nevertheless, he has more than most riding on the outcome of next week's once seemingly impossible face-to-face encounter between two unpredictable world leaders. Mark Fitzpatrick of the International Institute for Strategic Studies warns that, whereas Tillerson tried to act as a cautious counterweight to Trump's geostrategic inexperience, Pompeo has followed his president's instincts. "Pompeo is heavily invested in making the summit happen, with form seeming to be more important than substance," he told AFP. "We will soon find out how successful he has been."

While Tillerson, for example, saw value in standing by America's commitment to the Iran nuclear deal and its European allies who backed it, Pompeo supported Trump's decision to pull out. "Tillerson knew that leaving the nuclear deal would isolate America. Pompeo may understand this, but has hitched his reputation to Trump," Fitzpatrick said. Another difference between Pompeo and his discreet predecessor, is his understanding of showmanship and symbolism. The former Exxon executive shunned the press, the former congressman courts it. —AFP



Mike Pompeo



## International

# B'desh defends drug war as murder claims surface

## Security forces have a record of staging executions

**COX'S BAZAR:** Bangladesh says Akramul Haque was a meth kingpin who died after opening fire at police, one of 130 accused dealers killed in murky late-night shootouts in an increasingly bloody war on drugs. But his wife has gone public with tapes that she says prove her husband was murdered in a set-up, causing a sensation in Bangladesh as the police crackdown faces its first real scrutiny. Ayesha Begum says the phone conversations she recorded with Haque on the night he died contradict the official narrative - that he was armed and shot at police, who returned fire in self-defense.

"They killed him in cold blood," Begum told AFP from Teknaf in southeast Bangladesh, where her husband, a local councilor, was gunned down on May 27. "They said it was a shootout. But his hands were tied when he was killed. Someone was told to untie his hands after he was shot," she said, describing what she heard over the phone. AFP has listened to the audio but cannot independently verify that the voices belong to Haque, his wife and young daughter.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said police had copies of the recordings and were investigating, but would not elaborate. Rights groups say that if true, the chilling tapes - which have gone viral in Bangladesh - are proof that police have committed extrajudicial killings in the campaign that began on May 15 and has also seen 15,000 people arrested.

The recordings have cast doubt on what many Bangladeshis considered a legitimate effort to stamp out drugs, most notably "yaba", a cheap and hugely popular methamphetamine pill. There have been calls for an immediate inquiry, with some drawing parallels to the Philippines, where the rule of law has been eroded as thousands of bodies have piled up from a deadly drug war.

### 'Terrorizing the people'

A letter co-signed by 10 high-profile Bangladeshis, including independence heroes and celebrated writers, said the allegations were "unimaginable in any democratic state and society". "One such incident is enough to question the entire campaign and terrorize the people," the widely published letter said. Police say all the people killed so far were wanted drug kingpins, and all died in late-night gang wars or shootouts with police. No officers have been seriously injured.

Haque was no different, they say. They allege he was a "top godfather" of the yaba trade in Teknaf, a key transit town for the little red pills crossing the border from labs in Myanmar. As is the case with almost all the other shootouts, police say they found drugs and weapons on his body - in Haque's case 10,000 yaba tablets, two guns and rounds of live ammunition.

But Haque's family says the father of two was innocent. "If he were a yaba dealer, we would



**COX'S BAZAR:** This photograph taken on May 31, 2018 shows Ayesha Begum, the widow of Akramul Haque, holding a press conference to dispute the police's version of events of his death. — AFP

have many properties. Yet we struggle to pay our daughters' school fees," his wife Begum told AFP. She released four recordings to the media on May 31. Haque speaks to his daughter briefly in the first three, but in the fourth he says nothing into the phone as the tape rolls. Sometime later, gunshots ring out and Begum says her husband can be heard moaning. Another man is then heard discussing how to best plant loaded guns,

bullets and yaba at the scene. Rights groups say Bangladesh's security forces have a record of staging executions and Haque's alleged murder fits a pattern. "We have documented in the past, that all too often they engage in extrajudicial killings and then make up stories of these deaths in an armed exchange or in crossfire," said Human Rights Watch South Asia director Meenakshi Ganguly. —AFP

## Kabul announces ceasefire with Taleban for Eid

**KABUL:** Afghanistan announced yesterday an apparently unilateral ceasefire with the Taleban for Eid, the holiday that caps off Ramadan, though operations against other groups including Islamic State will continue. The weeklong ceasefire, which was backed by the US and would bring some welcome relief to war-weary civilians, will last "from the 27th of Ramadan until the fifth day of Eid-al-Fitr", President Ashraf Ghani tweeted from an official account, indicating it could run from June 12-19.

It was not immediately clear if the Taleban would agree to the ceasefire, the first during Eid since the US invasion in 2001. "We are checking with our officials regarding the ceasefire announcement," Taleban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP. The surprise declaration comes on the heels of a fatwa issued by Afghanistan's top clerics branding suicide attacks "haram", or forbidden, and after the Pentagon announced that senior Taleban officials had been negotiating with Afghan authorities on a possible ceasefire.

Nearly 17 years after they were toppled from power, the Taleban are resurgent, with Afghan forces - who have taken the lead in the conflict since NATO combat troops pulled out in 2014 - struggling to contain them, while civilians pay a disproportionate price in the fighting. "(T)he Afghan government directs all the security and defense forces of the country... to stop all the attacks on the Taleban, but the operation will continue against



**Afghan children sit next to a poppy field in the Argo district of Badakhshan province on Wednesday.** — AFP

Daesh (Islamic State), Al-Qaeda and other international terrorist networks," Ghani said in an official statement. Ghani added that more details about the ceasefire will be revealed during a "massive gathering" next week but did not elaborate further.

Deputy interior affairs minister General Akhtar Mohammad Ebrahimi said that if security forces are attacked during the ceasefire period, "your security and defense forces will respond". General Mohammad Sharif Yaftali, the army chief of staff, added that if the ceasefire holds it "could be extended". The US will also "honor" the ceasefire, US Forces in Afghanistan said in a statement, though it seconded Ghani's stipulation that this did not extend to IS and other groups. "We will adhere to the wishes of Afghanistan for the country to enjoy a peaceful end to the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, and support the search for an end to the conflict," said General John Nicholson, head of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan. —AFP

## Facebook staff to learn Sinhala insults after Sri Lanka riots

**COLOMBO:** Three months after Sri Lanka was rocked by deadly anti-Muslim riots fuelled by online vitriol, Facebook is training its staff to identify inflammatory content in the country's local languages. The social network has been seeking penance in Sri Lanka after authorities blocked Facebook in March as incendiary posts by Buddhist hardliners fanned religious violence that left three people dead and reduced hundreds of mosques, homes and businesses to ashes.

Until the week-long ban, appeals to Facebook to act against the contagion of hate speech had been met with deafening silence, at a time when the California-based tech giant was reeling from unprecedented global scrutiny over fake news and user privacy. "We did make mistakes and we were slow," Facebook spokeswoman Amrit Ahuja told AFP in Colombo. The dearth of staff fluent in Sinhala - the language spoken by Sri Lanka's largest ethnic group - compounded the issue, with government officials and activists saying the oversight allowed extremist content to flourish undetected on the platform.

Ahuja said Facebook was committed to hiring more Sinhala speakers but declined to say how many were currently employed in Sri Lanka. "This is the problem we are trying to address with Facebook. They need more Sinhala resources", said the island's telecommunications minister Harin Fernando. Since the violence broke out in March, two high-level delegations from the company have visited Sri Lanka, where ethnic divisions linger after decades of war, to assure the government of its intent. Ahuja said Facebook was working with civil society organizations to familiarize its staff with Sinhala slurs and racist epithets. —AFP



# Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018

www.kuwaittimes.net

A Muslim child participates in a collective Quran reading session during the month of Ramadan, at the Imam Ali Ibn Abi Taleb shrine in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf. —AFP

**Spade was under treatment  
for depression, anxiety**

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## Lifestyle | Music &amp; Movies

# London gang members who made violent drill music to be sentenced

**F**ive London gang members who made drill music, a niche form of hip-hop that glorifies violence and has been linked by the authorities to a surge in knife crime in the city, were due to be sentenced on yesterday. The five young men, aged between 17 and 21 years old, were convicted in May of conspiracy to commit violent disorder after they were arrested in November last year armed with machetes, baseball bats, masks, balaclavas and gloves. Police said the group, members of a gang based in the Notting Hill area of west London, were on their way at the time of their arrest to attack a rival gang.

Kingston Crown Court was shown seven drill music videos which showed how the group had been promoting violence, according to prosecutors who have asked the

court to impose "criminal behaviour orders" that would ban the men from making that type of music. One song called "No Hook" included sounds of gunshots and lyrics about shooting and stabbing such as "Ching (stab) Splash (stab) aim for his lungs", police said. "We are very clear we will take decisive action to get videos of this nature removed from the internet," said Detective Superintendent Adam Lowe of the Metropolitan Police.

"Despite what the gangs may claim, there is a clear link, as in this case, to violence," he said. The authorities in London have been struggling to come to grips with an increase in knife crime that saw London's murder rate overtake that of New York in February and March, for the first time in modern history. Some youth workers have disputed the link

between drill music and gang violence, pointing to cuts to youth services due to government fiscal austerity measures as a more substantive reason for the increase in knife crime. Police had spent two years gathering evidence of the Notting Hill gang's music and social media activity. Police gave annotated excerpts from the lyrics of "No Hook": "Clock me an opp (opposing gang member), wind down the window, back (get) out the spinner (revolver firearm) and burst (shoot) him." "I put bullets in numerous guys like how come the opps ain't learning?" The criminal behavior orders being sought would also prevent the gang members from entering certain areas, wearing face coverings such as balaclavas in public places, and displaying gang-related hand gestures. Sentencing was due to start later today. — Reuters



Isaac Marshall, whom along with 4 others pleaded guilty to charges conspiracy to commit violent disorder, is seen in a still from the Drill music video "No Hook" he appeared in, in an image released by the Metropolitan Police in London. — Reuters

## BRITISH RED PHONE BOX REBORN AS TINY NIGHTCLUB



**A** small English town has converted its red phone box into what might be the world's smallest nightclub, complete with glitterball, disco lights and a selection of telephone-themed tunes. Enter the phone box in Kingsbridge in the southwestern county of Devon, pop in a pound coin and you, and possibly one close friend, can dance to songs such as Blondie's "Hanging On The Telephone" or "Telephone Line" by Electric Light Orchestra, played down the phone.

With payphones all but defunct in the age of mobile telephones, local communities have sought ways of preserving the remaining phone boxes, treasured as relics of a bygone era. Kingsbridge council toyed with planting the box with flowers or using it as a place to distribute leaflets. "I was falling asleep with the excitement of it all," councilor Chris Povey said. "So I thought let's do something different, do something a little bit off the wall, so we put forward the idea of a nightclub and here we are today, with a glitterball, music, flashing lights." Proceeds from the nightclub will go to support a local charity. — Reuters

## Underwood makes history again, Shelton wins top CMT Award

**C**arrie Underwood continued to make history as the most decorated act at the CMT Music Awards with 18 wins, while Blake Shelton walked away with the night's top prize. Shelton, the only person to win two awards Wednesday, won video of the year for "I'll Name the Dogs" at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee. "I've been doing this for 18 years. I have been making records and luckily enough you guys have accepted them," said Shelton, who also won male video of the year. "It's been a crazy ride."

Underwood won female video of the year for the Ludacris-assisted song, "The Champion," also giving the rapper-actor his first CMT Award. "Thank you God for you guys - the fans," Underwood said. "Thank you Ludacris for wanting to inspire." Ludacris didn't attend the show, but others from outside of country music were in the house, from Kelly Clarkson to Backstreet Boys, who both performed at the show. The boy band also picked up an award, winning CMT performance of the year for the Florida Georgia Line-featured version of their classic hit, "Everybody," from the "CMT Crossroads" TV special. "Seriously, so who would have

thought?" BSB's Brian Littrell said of winning an award for their 20-year-old song. "We're everything because of y'all," FGL's Brian Kelley said to the fans. Another duet - Kane Brown and Lauran Alaina's "What Ifs" - won the former classmates collaborative video of the year. "This is my first award I've ever won. It's an amazing feeling," Brown said.

Little Big Town - who hosted the show for the first time - won group video of the year and performed their funky single, "Summer Fever," which featured colorful lights and disco balls onstage. Underwood, per usual, was a vocal powerhouse as she sang "Cry Pretty," earning off the night's loudest applause.

Some performers sang outdoors, including Luke Bryan, Chris Stapleton and Sam Hunt, who sang "Downtown's Dead" in downtown Nashville, walking the streets and going into bars during the performance. Dan + Shay, who also performed, picked up duo video of the year. Carly Pearce won breakthrough video of the year and cried as she walked to the stage to collect her trophy. "Y'all, I sat in the stands with my mom ... wondering if I'd get here," she said. "Oh my goodness, I'm freaking out." She won the



Carrie Underwood continued to make history as the most decorated act at the CMT Music Awards with 18 wins, while Blake Shelton walked away with the night's top prize. — AP photos



Blake Shelton accepts the male video of the year award for "I'll Name the Dogs" at the CMT Music Awards.



Jimi Westbrook (from left) Kimberly Schlapman, Karen Fairchild, and Phillip Sweet, of Little Big Town, perform "Summer Fever" at the CMT Music Awards.

award for her hit song, "Every Little Thing," telling the audience before she walked away: "To the guy that broke my heart, 'Thank you!'" The CMT Music Awards, which kicked off with a spoof of the Royal Wedding, honors the year's best country music videos. — AP



## KIRA MURATOVA, AWARD-WINNING UKRAINIAN FILMMAKER, DIES AT 83



In this file photo Ukraine's film director Kira Muratova arrives at the premiere of "Eternal return: Screen Tests" during the 7th Rome film festival. — AFP

Ukrainian director Kira Muratova, one of the Russian-speaking world's most respected filmmakers, has died at the age of 83, Ukraine's state film agency announced yesterday. The award-winning director and screenwriter, who received a special jury prize at Berlin Film Festival in 1990 for her film "The Asthenic Syndrome", died late on Wednesday in the Ukrainian city of Odessa, where she had lived and worked for many years. "She was a very talented film director, she personified an era, her views on the world were applauded by critics," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko wrote on Facebook, adding that Muratova "will remain in our hearts".

Muratova was born on November 5, 1934 in the city of Soroca, which was then part of Romania but later became part of the Soviet republic of Moldova, in a family of active Communists. She graduated from the renowned VGIK film school in Moscow in 1959 and went on to work with famous Soviet actors and entertainers, including Russian singer-songwriter, poet and actor Vladimir Vysotsky and theatre director Oleg Tabakov. Her films included "Brief Encounters" from 1968, which starred Vysotsky and Muratova herself, as well as 1971's "Long Farewells".

She won a lifetime achievement award at the Berlin festival in 2000 and at the Locarno international film festival in 1994. In 2004 Muratova released the grotesque comedy "The Tuner" starring Russian actress Renata Litvinova. The film, which tells the story of a piano tuner who seduces a rich elderly lady, won nine awards, including a Nika, the top Russian film award. Muratova lived and worked in Odessa for a long time and considered herself Ukrainian. In 2017 she was invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences that annually chooses the best films for the Oscars. "Kira Muratova has died. The best. Genius," Russian film critic Anton Dolin posted on Facebook. The Hollywood Reporter wrote that "her fame transcended the Soviet era and her works influenced a new generation of Russian and Ukrainian filmmakers". — AFP

## 'Ocean's 8,' a glamorous crime tale for the #MeToo age

They're eight women, poised to take over from the men for an "Ocean's" reboot full of glitz and glamor—a particularly #MeToo affair that does away with the saga's traditional masculinity. "Ocean's 8" is to be released Friday, more than 10 years after "Ocean's 13," the third volume following the escapades of Danny Ocean (George Clooney) and his casino-robbing gang. But to freshen up the latest installment, Warner Bros bid farewell to Danny killed in 2018 in unknown circumstances and replaced him with his sister Debbie (Sandra Bullock), who, like her brother at the beginning of the saga, has just been released from prison.



Meanwhile, there's another change of scenery. Rather than casinos, Debbie's focus is one of the most extravagant events in New York's calendar: the Met Gala. It's at this party-organized by Vogue editor Anna Wintour—that Debbie wants to get her hands on a \$150 million Cartier necklace. In preparation, she's gathered an expert team—all women, of course, echoing the likes of "Set It Off" (1996). But "Ocean's 8" does away with testosterone, darkness and dramatic tension elements synonymous with the crime genre and prominent in the first three "Ocean's" films. There



Australian actress Cate Blanchett (left), rapper/actress Awkwafina (second left), Sarah Paulson (third left), Anne Hathaway (fourth left), Sandra Bullock (fourth right), Mindy Kaling (third right), British actress Helena Bonham Carter (second right) and singer/actress Rihanna (right) attend the World Premiere of OCEAN'S 8 on June 5, 2018 in New York. — AFP

are no guns, bombs or physical violence. No enemy opposition, such as Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia) in the first three films, either. Once that's all stripped away, all that remains is planning the heist and its precise execution.

### "A lot has shifted"

And while historically, female gangs have often been portrayed as clumsy or inexperienced, "Ocean's 8" presents Debbie and her accomplices as a diverse force to be reckoned with—with skills matching those of her brother's team. "One of the things we're celebrating is not just their communality but their differences," director Gary Ross ("The Hunger Games"), told a New York press conference at the end of May. "These are eight distinct women with eight distinct backgrounds and that roughly look like what the world looks like, not just what Hollywood has made the world look like."

But the director and co-screenwriter added the film did not see the light of day for "three or four years"—despite its hefty budget, and three Oscar-winning actresses and the singer Rihanna among its cast. "Isn't it interesting that

two or three years ago, this seemed like an impossibility. Like how could you possibly get this made. And it's so great that it's being released now when you go: well, of course!" said Cate Blanchett, who plays Debbie's partner-in-crime Lou. "A lot has shifted, I think." In the era of #MeToo, nothing is neutral—not even a movie which, lacking any political plot elements, looks on paper to be pure entertainment.

And even though the film was started long before the Harvey Weinstein affair, its creators and cast have nonetheless considered questions about Hollywood's attitude toward women. "What really matters, especially to young women, is if you get to see not just archetypal, which is productive, flat, female characters, but how distinct and complex and nuanced the possibilities are," said screenwriter Olivia Milch. "You can't underestimate the power of visual representation," added Anne Hathaway, who stars as Daphne Kluger, the wearer of that target necklace. "To an eight-year-old girl we're not trying to say, 'go and have a life of crime.' But we're saying 'go do what you want. And there's space for you,'" she said. — AFP

## Daughter blasts biopic of tragic film star Romy Schneider

The family of the tragic star Romy Schneider have attacked a new movie about the actress which they claim paints her as an alcoholic. Her daughter Sarah Biasini told AFP that they were "scandalized" by the film "3 Days in Quiberon", which she said smears one of Europe's biggest postwar female stars. The biopic turns on an interview given by the star of the "Sisi" trilogy, "The Swimming Pool" and "What's New Pussy-cat?" to the German magazine Stern over three days while staying at a spa resort in 1981, the year her son died in a freak accident.

But Biasini—herself an actress—said the film "contains multiple insinuations which are totally false", particularly that her mother, who died aged 43 in 1982, was an alcoholic. "When you look back at all the directors and actors who worked with her, no one ever said that she had a drink prob-

lem," her daughter insisted. The last months of Austrian-born Schneider's life were marked by tragedy after the death of her 14-year-old son David, who was impaled on a spiked gate at his grandparents' home. The new film suggests the actress went to the Brittany spa in the hopes of curbing her dependency on drugs and drink after his death.

### Mysterious death

Her daughter, who was four when Schneider died, insisted her mother was there simply to recover and lose weight. "She went to Quiberon every year to lose a few kilos like a lot of actresses. It was something she always did. It wasn't a detox center, it was just a spa," Biasini said. To suggest otherwise "is completely malicious. They wanted to smear her," she told AFP. "I want people to stop trying to

This file photo taken on January 1, 1976 shows a portrait of German actress Romy Schneider.



make money on these lies." Mystery still surrounds the death of Schneider, whom the French film idol Alain Delon later called the love of his life.

She is thought to have died of a heart attack after reportedly taking painkillers with wine, but the Paris coroner who investigated her death refused to order an autopsy. — AFP



# 'IT LOOKS LIKE NEW:' MUMBAI SLUMS GET COLORFUL MAKEOVER



This aerial picture shows a view of houses painted in bright colors at a fishing area in Mumbai.



Indian children stroll near a mural in Mumbai. — AFP photos

Mumbai's slums are getting a colorful makeover thanks to an organization that aims to change how people perceive deprived areas in India's financial capital. Volunteers have transformed some 12,000 homes across four different areas in the city of 20 million people into a bright visual spectacle. Artists have also created several elaborate murals as part of the initiative by non-profit group Chal Rang De, which means "Let's Go Paint". "We wanted to change the way people look at slums in Mumbai, in India," the organization's co-founder Dedeepya Reddy told AFP. "When you say 'slums' all you think about are the negative things, the dirtiness. That becomes a reflection of the people who stay here but

it's not the case. "They are really amazing people, they are very happy individuals, and we wanted their locality to be a reflection of who they are," she added. Around 40 percent of Mumbai's population live in slums, according to various estimates. The settlements are typically cramped and structures are often dilapidated and lack access to proper toilets. Chal Rang De was born last year when Reddy had the idea to paint the outside of homes in the gloomy hilltop slum village of Asalpa in the north of the city.

Some 750 volunteers answered a call on social media to help brighten up the area by painting homes in a rainbow of colors. Some in the city now even refer to the area as Mumbai's "Positano", after

“

You take a paintbrush and feel like you can change the world

”

the Italian town which has buildings with equally vibrant facades. The group then turned their attentions to three neighboring settlements in the northern suburb of Khar. Almost 3,000 volunteers turned up

over two weekends last month. "It gives so much hope that people don't care about getting their hands dirty and want to do something for society. It's so simple, you take a paintbrush and feel like you can change the world," says Reddy.

The 31-year-old says residents are initially skeptical when she approaches them with the idea but are quickly convinced. "There are now lots of colors in our area. It looks like something new and is like a gift for us," 30-year-old Sanjay Naresh Gaikar told AFP outside his newly painted home.

Mumbai's slums flood during the annual monsoon from June to September. Large areas of the city turn blue as residents place tarpaulins over their corrugated iron roofs to try to keep out heavy rains. Chal Rang De has teamed up with a waterproofing company to lay special material that will prevent leakages for up to five years. "We are also coloring the top of that material so when you fly you will see a very different kind of Mumbai," says Reddy. After the monsoon

ends Chal Rang De will start planning ways to transform its next slum. "When you see something that looks like an eyesore to someone, it looks like a canvas to us. We want to color the entire country," she says. — AFP



Indian residents walk past a mural in Mumbai.







Rachel Geller leads a talk at The Cat Connection, a Waltham, Massachusetts-based non-profit organization and no-kill shelter. — AP photos



American short hair cat named Treats is shown at home in the Boston area.



An American short hair cat, climbs up the window screen at his home in the Boston area.

# A cat is terrorizing this family, can a cat whisperer help?

Cats are often misunderstood by their owners. This I learned from “cat whisperer” Rachel Geller. I became aware of Geller after my kitten Treats’ behavior suddenly shifted into problematic realms - biting, scratching, random middle-of-the-night attacks. He had become a nuisance at best, a terror at his worst. My 7-year-old son, Oliver, had begged for months for a cat, and eventually I gave in, but I’d come to regret this decision.

I was told this cat whisperer could tame the craziest cats. I was skeptical at first, but why not try it? There is no shortage of animal behaviorists, especially after the success of National Geographic’s reality series Dog Whisperer, in which star Cesar Millan visits the homes of harried dog owners and teaches them techniques for improving their dogs’ bad manners. Pet whisperers come in a wide spectrum of specialties. There are whisperers for horses, small animals like rabbits, and pets who have experienced trauma.

Amy Nichols, the Humane Society’s vice president of companion animals, urges people to check out thoroughly any animal behavior specialist before hiring them, because this is an unregulated industry. “There are absolutely proven and effective training techniques that when correctly applied, can be life-changing for both the pet parent and the cat or dog, but there is a very wide range of the practical application of those techniques,” Nichols said. In our case, bringing in a professional proved to be helpful. Here’s how it worked: Geller works with cat shelters in eastern Massachusetts, and with private cat owners. She sits on the board of some cat welfare organizations. She is a bone-deep cat lover.

## Getting rid of the cat

I told her the basics of our story: Having Treats was great fun at first, but once he hit puberty, he went crazy. He scratched furniture and our arms and legs. He bit and attacked everything from the baby’s stuffed toys to our geriatric Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. Treats commonly crouched in a corner, and when we’d walk by he’d spring out and grab onto a leg with his claws. We started sleeping with closed bedroom doors.

Secretly, I wanted to get rid of this cat. He wasn’t a terror all the time. He could be sweet, cuddling up with me on the couch after a

psychotic outburst. But I was worried he might try to attack the baby. Still, abandoning him would break Oliver’s heart. So, the cat stayed. Geller grew up in rural Maine with a menagerie of pets, but now she lives in Newton, Massachusetts. “I have this ability to think like a cat,” she told me the first time we spoke over the phone. Common cat-related problems that she encounters include litter box issues, aggression, scratched furniture and running away from home.

Some behaviors are instinctual to cats: They like high spaces, for instance, and many crawl up onto tables and counters. Human behaviors complicate the cat’s world. Leave food on the counter, and the cat will jump up there even more. “The biggest part of my job is explaining to someone how to see the problem from a cat’s point of view, and why they do it,” Geller said. “Some people think their cats aren’t using the litter box to spite them, because the cat is mad about something, but that’s just not the case.” Geller empathizes with her clients. “By the time people reach out to an animal behavior specialist, it’s usually the end of the rope,” she said.

“

I have this ability to think like a cat

”

## Skin is a toy

Often, she works for free, or in return for a donation to a cat welfare organization. “I want to express to the client that I know how upsetting the cat’s behavior is, but with these problems, there is usually something that can be fixed” pretty straightforwardly, she said, even by talking over the phone. For my Treats’ incessant need to bite and attack, Geller believed active playtime should help. “Get him a fishing pole with a toy at the end,” she said. “Make sure the toy is one he can really bite into. This will help curb his natural instinct to hunt.” Her other instructions included allowing the cat to “capture” the toy, and never using your bare hand to wrestle with him - it teaches the cat that skin is a toy.

Having 15 minutes of active play two times a day should wear the cat out and give him the outlet he needs. It’s been almost two months now, and I can say that Treats terrorizes our family less. Although he’s not the perfect companion, he behaves better when we’ve played with him. “Try to think about the problem from the point of view of the cat, not from one of a human,” Geller said. “In many of these situations, there is a simple solution that can make everyone’s lives better, for the owner and cats. — AP



Rachel Geller poses with a shelter cat getting a veterinary check up near Boston.



Tracee Herbaugh poses with her cat Treats in the Boston area.



# Spade was under treatment for depression, anxiety

Designer Kate Spade, who committed suicide in New York this week, had been treated for depression and anxiety for five years, her husband said Wednesday. “She was actively seeking help for depression and anxiety over the last five years, seeing a doctor on a regular basis and taking medication for both depression and anxiety,” her husband Andy Spade said in a statement carried by The New York Times. It was a blunt rebuke to claims by the designer’s sister that Kate Spade needed mental health care but refused treatment over concerns about potentially hurting the light-hearted brand.

The death of the 55-year-old star designer, whose body was found Wednesday in her Park Avenue apartment, “was not unexpected by me,” Spade’s older sister Reta Saffo told The Kansas City Star from her home in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Spade—a Missouri native who first worked as a journalist, including a stint as accessories editor at Mademoiselle magazine—launched her Kate Spade fashion label in 1993 with her husband Andy and the help of outside investors. Her cheerful

use of bright colors and prints proved a hit with career women. Over a decade ago, she sold the business and later launched a luxury line Frances Valentine.

Celebrity news website TMZ cited police sources as saying Spade had fallen into depression in recent weeks after her husband left her and was seeking divorce. Andy Spade said that the couple had been living apart but in the same neighborhood, caring for their 13-year-old daughter Bea.

**Embodying authenticity**

“Our daughter was our priority. We were not legally separated, and never even discussed divorce. We were best friends trying to work through our problems in the best way we knew how. We were together for 35 years. We loved each other very much and simply needed a break,” Andy Spade added. “There was no substance or alcohol abuse. There were no business problems. We loved creating our businesses together. We were co-parenting our beautiful daughter,” he stressed. “My daughter and I are devastated by her

loss, and can’t even begin to fathom life without her.”

Anna Wintour, the grand priestess of fashion and editor-in-chief of Vogue magazine, hailed Spade as a woman who “defined” authenticity. “There was a moment when you couldn’t walk a block in New York without seeing one of her bags, which were just like her; colorful and unpretentious,” Wintour said in a statement. “Kate designed with great charm and humor, and built a global empire that reflected exactly who she was and how she lived. Long before we talked about ‘authenticity,’ she defined it.” Several admirers such as First Daughter Ivanka Trump highlighted the importance of suicide helplines and seeing the signs of depression. “Kate Spade’s tragic passing is a painful reminder that we never truly know another’s pain or the burden they carry. If you are struggling with depression and contemplating suicide, please, please seek help,” Trump tweeted. — AFP



In this file photo designer Kate Spade attends the “2004 CFDA Fashion Awards” at the New York Public Library in New York City. — AFP



## French fashion powerhouse SAINT LAURENT takes New Jersey

Saint Laurent decamped from Paris to New Jersey for a menswear show with a shine that matched the glittery Manhattan nightscape Wednesday just across the downtown harbor. Creative director Anthony Vaccarello, in his first turn in town, put his guests on a high platform and his models, both men and women, on a liquid black marble runway overlooking New York’s twinkly skyscrapers on the other side of the water. His clothes? They were mostly black, silver and gold, with snakeskin touches here and there, including a rustic tan jacket that evoked, what, the American West? Also plentiful: bandanas.







The finale came in a march of bare-chested men painted in silver glitter to go with their black disco pants. Vaccarello's vision, he said after the show, was indeed an urban cowboy, one fond of 1970s short jackets paired with high-waisted trousers. Some had on killer boots in white leather and snakeskin. There were also black hats, wide-brimmed ones, red cowboy shirts, silver belts and a lacy open weave in a long-sleeve top.

"New York is freedom, a city brimming with energy and possibilities," Vaccarello said, "the perfect backdrop to frame the spirit of this menswear collection," one that had him crossing boundaries by putting women in the same clothes. As for New Jersey, the French-based fashion powerhouse built open scaffolding to go with the shiny floor, facing guests that included Sean Lennon, David Franco and Ezra Miller (he's "The Flash") toward the inky water and New York skyline. Charlotte Gainsbourg, Kate Moss, Lauryn Hill and daughter Selah Marley were also on hand at Liberty State Park with actors Caleb Landry Jones, Miles Heizer and Tommy Dorfman. — AP



Models present creations from the Saint Laurent Men's Spring/Summer 2019 collection during a runway show in Liberty State Park on June 6, 2018 in Jersey City, New Jersey. — AFP photos



# What the secret to making great whoopie pies? Brown sugar

By America's Test Kitchen

Made up of two cookie-like chocolate cakes stuffed to the gills with fluffy marshmallow filling, the whoopie pie is a sweet indulgence. For the cake component, we drew inspiration from devil's food cake, creaming butter with sugar, adding eggs and buttermilk for tenderness, and using all-purpose flour and baking soda for the right amount of structure.

For the chocolate flavor, we preferred the darker color and flavor that Dutch-processed cocoa provided. One-half cup of cocoa delivered a balanced flavor, especially when boosted with a splash of vanilla extract. We tried replacing some of the granulated sugar with brown sugar, and found that it deepened flavor and added moisture. In fact, we liked the results so much we wound up using all brown sugar.

Using a 1/3-cup dry measuring cup, we portioned the batter onto two baking sheets to give the cakes plenty of room to spread. For the filling, we eschewed the traditional sugar and lard in favor of marshmallow creme, which we enriched with butter for a mixture that was fluffy yet firm. Don't be tempted to bake all the cakes on one baking sheet; the batter needs room to spread while it bakes.

## WHOOPIE PIES

Ingredients

Makes: 6 sandwich cookies

Start to finish: 1 hour

## Cakes

2 cups (10 ounces) all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup (1 1/2 ounces) Dutch-processed cocoa powder  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
8 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened  
1 cup packed (7 ounces) light brown sugar  
1 large egg, room temperature  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 cup buttermilk

## Filling

12 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened  
1 1/4 cups (5 ounces) confectioners' sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
2 1/2 cups marshmallow creme

## Preparation

### For the cakes

Adjust oven racks to upper-middle and lower-middle positions and heat oven to 350 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Whisk flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt together in

bowl. Using stand mixer fitted with paddle, beat butter and sugar on medium speed until pale and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add egg and beat until incorporated, scraping down bowl as needed. Add vanilla and mix until incorporated. Reduce speed to low and add flour mixture in 3 additions, alternating with buttermilk in 2 additions. Give batter final stir by hand to ensure that no flour pockets remain. Using 1/3-cup dry measuring cup, scoop 6 mounds of batter onto each prepared sheet, spaced about 3 inches apart. Bake until centers spring back when lightly pressed, 15 to 18 minutes, switching and rotating sheets halfway through baking. Let cakes cool completely on sheets.

### For the filling

Using stand mixer fitted with paddle, beat butter and sugar on medium speed until fluffy, about 3 minutes. Beat in vanilla and salt. Add marshmallow creme and mix until combined, about 2 minutes. Refrigerate until slightly firm, about 30 minutes. (Filling can be refrigerated for up to 2 days.) Place 1/3 cup filling on bottom of half of cakes, then top with remaining cakes, pressing to spread filling to edge. Serve. (Whoopie pies can be refrigerated for up to 3 days.)

### Nutrition information per serving:

923 calories; 364 calories from fat; 41 g fat (25 g saturated; 2 g trans fats); 141 mg cholesterol; 555 mg sodium; 131 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 81 g sugar; 9 g protein.







# Quinoa-Stuffed Tomatoes

## are hearty, healthy - as a side or a main

By Melissa d'Arabian

Does your meatless Monday game need an overhaul? As a meat eater myself, I find that the trick to meatless meal-making is to have a small repertoire of recipes that can work as a side dish or first course, or be eaten in larger quantities as a vegetarian main dish.

Quinoa-Stuffed Tomatoes fits the bill perfectly. Serve one tomato as a tasty and toothsome side along roasted chicken or sliced beef tenderloin, or double up for a vegetarian meal that will fill you up, even if you aren't vegetarian. The tomatoes can be made in advance, so they are brilliant for company dinners or family suppers.

Tomatoes, a source of lycopene, are stuffed with quinoa and sauteed eggplant and mushrooms. But, swap out the quinoa for brown rice, and use whatever veggies you find in the crisper drawer or freezer. Baking tomatoes is an excellent strategy for using up the less-than-perfectly-sweet ones.

While I don't think you'll miss the meat, if you must, add a little cooked ground meat right into the filling. Either way, you'll have a healthy and hearty dish. And as for the pulpy, fleshy middle of the tomato that you'll remove to stuff it: Don't throw it out. Blend it up with a little garlic and onion and mix it into your next tomato-

based pasta sauce, or use it as part of your liquid next time you make rice.

### QUINOA-STUFFED TOMATOES

8 medium-sized tomatoes  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 2 teaspoons olive oil  
 1 small yellow onion, diced (about 3/4 cup)  
 1 small eggplant, cut into small dice (1/2 inch), about 2 cups  
 3 cloves garlic, minced  
 1 cup roughly chopped or sliced white mushrooms  
 3 tablespoons dry white wine  
 3 tablespoons chopped fresh basil  
 1 1/2 cups cooked quinoa  
 1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

### Preparation

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Slice off the top of each tomato, reserving the tops. Run a paring knife around the inner rim of the tomato, loosening up the flesh on the inside of the tomato. Scoop

out the flesh, juice and seeds of the tomato. (You can pulse it all in a blender to use in a tomato-based pasta sauce.)

Sprinkle the insides of the tomatoes with half the salt and set aside. In a large saute pan, cook the onion and eggplant in the olive oil over medium-high heat until vegetables start to soften, about 8 minutes, stirring frequently. Add the garlic and mushrooms and cook until mushrooms soften, about 5 more minutes.

Pour in the wine and stir to let it evaporate. Add the basil, quinoa, remaining salt and pepper and turn off the heat. Stir in the Parmesan cheese. Gently spoon the filling into the empty tomatoes, and top each one with a reserved tomato top. Place the tomatoes in a baking dish sprayed with a little olive oil or nonstick spray. Mist the tomatoes with a quick spray of olive oil from a mister. Cover the dish with an oven-safe lid or foil. Bake until the tomatoes are tender and quinoa mixture is hot, about 35 to 40 minutes.

**Note:** The recipe works well with up to a half pound of cooked ground meat added to the filling if desired. Tip: Crinkle up foil into a ball if you need to secure tomatoes in baking dish so they don't slide around.

Nutrition information per serving: 115 calories (26 calories from fat), 3g fat (1g saturated, 0g trans fats), 2mg cholesterol, 176mg sodium, 19g carbohydrates, 5g fiber, 6g sugar, 5g protein.



# PALERMO: Sicily's multicultural capital



Palermo's atmospheric Vucciria Market

**P**alermo is a beguiling city, set like a jewel in the fan-shaped Conca d'Oro plain between two rocky promontories. For almost three millennia, empire after empire has colonized the place, depositing fragments of language, art, architecture, cuisine and customs that make it a fascinating mirror of Mediterranean history and culture over the centuries.

## Ancient Greek treasures

Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Normans, Saracens, Germans and Spaniards have all left their mark on Palermo. The Greeks left more Doric temples in Sicily than in Greece itself, and Palermo's Museo Archeologico Regionale possesses one of the richest collections of Punic and Greek art in Italy.

Rooms clustered around the complex's cobbled cloister contain a rare series of metopes (sculptural reliefs) from the ruined Greek temples of Selinunte, a fragmented Gorgon's head and a room ringed with 19 roaring lions. The lions once formed a monumental fountain at Himera - a city destroyed in 409 BC by Phoenician general Hannibal, who would later lead his elephants across the Alps to the doorstep of Rome.

## Arab-Norman splendors

When the Greek and Roman empires fell, Palermo was occupied by the Saracens, who transformed the skyline with their oriental domes. Many of the city's honey-colored buildings still sport elegant arches, geometric mosaics and arabesque friezes, including the hybrid baroque cathedral, which was once Palermo's great mosque until Norman King Roger I reconsecrated it in 1072 when he crowned himself Count of Sicily.

Impressed by the cultured Arab lifestyle, the Norman kings opted for a policy of reconciliation. Roger II wore Saracen robes and even kept a substantial harem, and set the court's army of Arab engineers to work on his magnificent Palazzo dei Normanni. Now the seat of the Sicilian parliament, the palace has a



## Lifestyle | Travel

fortress-like exterior that belies the exquisite decoration of Roger's apartments (visitable by guided tour), which are decorated with Persian peacocks, palms and leopards. Likewise, in the shimmering Cappella Palatina on the first floor, Eastern influences are evident in the inlaid marble floors and the intricate muqarnas (stalactite) ceiling typical of the artistic fashions of Iraq's Abbasid period.

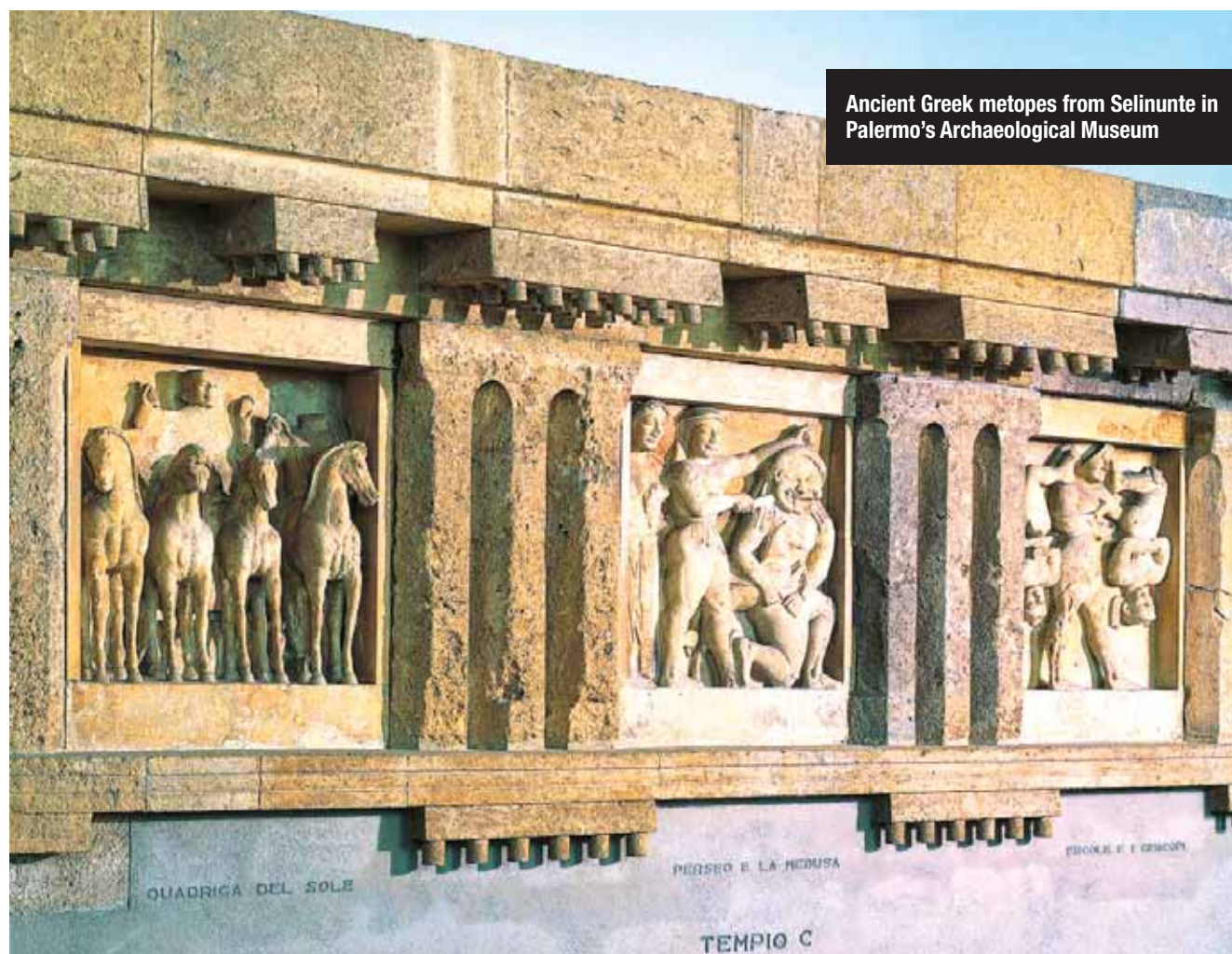
#### Street life and atmospheric markets

As the centuries rolled on and Palermo was shattered by earthquakes and occupations, its Kasbah-style streets were overlaid with a fanciful 17th-century baroque style, typified by the city's central piazza, the stage-set Quattro Canti (Four Corners). But though the surface of the city changed, North African street culture remained in the city's thriving markets: Vucciria, Ballaro and Capo.

In dialect, Vucciria means something like 'hubbub', and the market is filled with the sound of pirated rock music and vociferous stallholders extolling the virtues of their fanfaro fish, saut ed snails or panelle (chickpea fritters). Likewise, Palermitan's still prefer to live much of their lives out in the streets. Wander down the canyon-like alleys of La Kalsa or Albergheria and you'll spot neighbors chatting on adjacent balconies, fruit vendors hauling up baskets of groceries to housewives in top floor apartments and office workers congregated around market stalls gossiping about the latest political scandal.

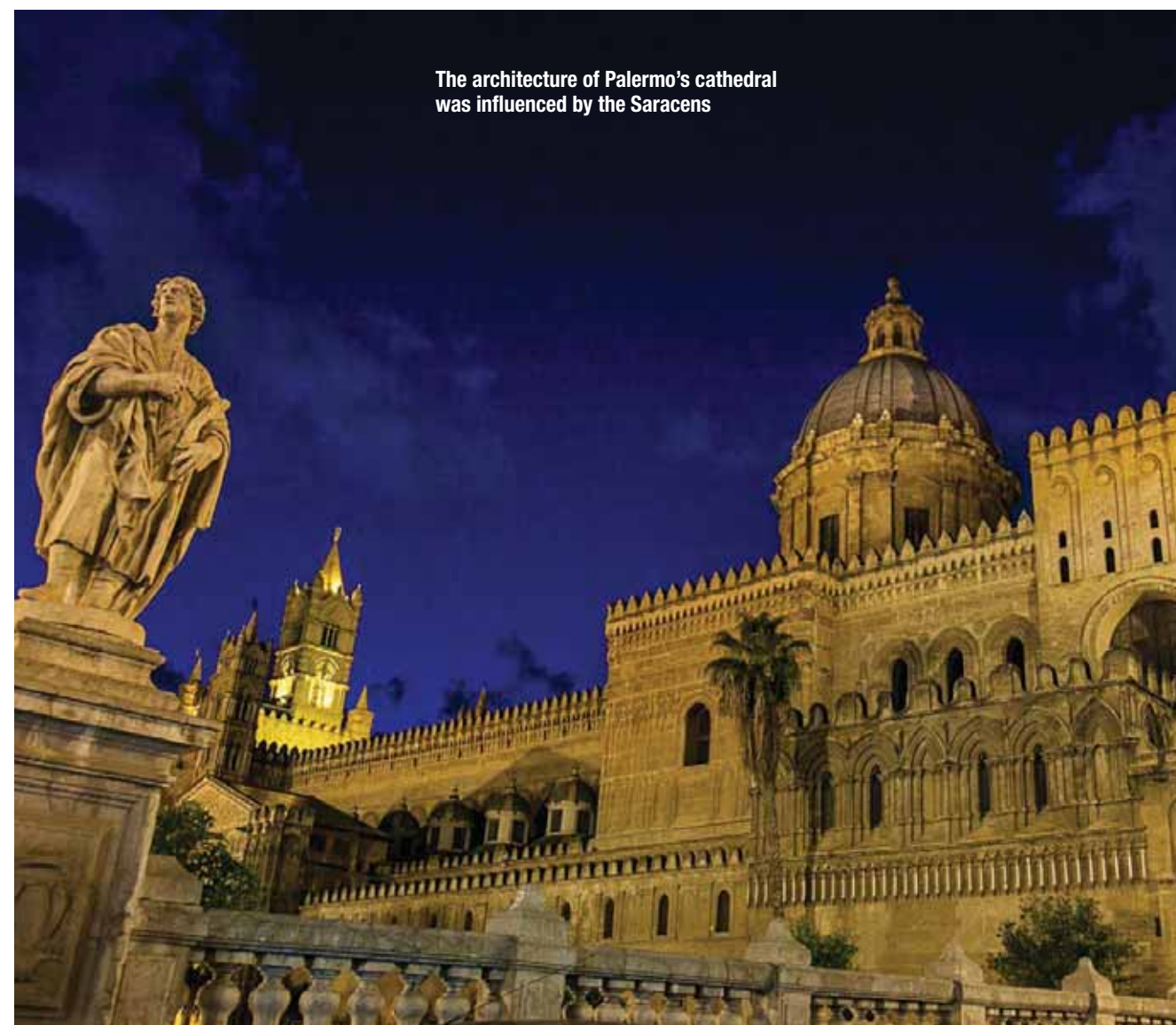
#### Street food

Just as in Middle Eastern souqs, street food is an integral part of Palermitan life. It reflects the diversity of the city's multicultural past and suits the Palermitan disinclination to invite strangers into the privacy of their homes. Thus, the daily buffet thrives at friggitorie (fry shops) such as Friggitoria Chiluzzo, which serves up arancine (rice balls stuffed with meat sauce),



Ancient Greek metopes from Selinunte in Palermo's Archaeological Museum

The architecture of Palermo's cathedral was influenced by the Saracens



panelle and potato croquettes known as cazilli (little pricks). Smaller enterprises specialise in just one or two items, such as the braziers in Piazza Caracciolo that serve up wine-soaked skewers of stigghiole (lamb or goat intestines wrapped around stalks of parsley) or Rocky Basile's ever-popular stall serving pani ca meusa (bread rolls stuffed with saut ed beef spleen).



Stigghiole (intestines) on the grill

Graze your way through this parade of snacks and the multicultural influences are startling. Romans introduced the chickpeas found in panelle; Saracens gave Sicilian cooking its unique sweet, sour and spicy flavours showcased in the island's signature dish, caponata (sweet and sour aubergine); Germans added barbecued meat; and, finally, Spaniards added New World treats like chilli, sweet pepper and chocolate. Take a tour with Palermo Street Food and you'll learn much about the city's exotic food history.

#### Decadent desserts

Even the Sicilian mania for ice-cream has its origins elsewhere, probably in Middle Eastern sarbat (a concoction of sweet fruit syrups chilled with iced water), although its evolution into





Traditional pupi theatre

granite, cremolata, cassata gelata and gelato is thanks to the island's knack for fusion. Strictly speaking ice-cream is not an apt translation since Sicilian gelato is not made with cream but biancomangiare (blancmange), which has been an island staple for centuries. Strict practitioners include the award-winning Brioscia, Gelateria del Cassaro and Il Signor di Carbognano, who serves his dark Modica chocolate gelato the traditional way - in aromatic brioche buns.

Pastries and confections are a Palermitan specialty, too, evolved to a high art in the city's multitude of Renaissance convents. A font of creativity, convents strove to outdo each other in the magnificence of their marzipan sweets, fruit preserves and sfinci (fried honey puffs). Peer in the windows of historic pasticcerie Cappello and Antico Caffè Spinnato and you'll see the most famous of these, the minni di virgini (virgin's breasts) custard tarts designed in honor of Saint Agatha's gruesome martyrdom; and the frutta di Martorana, marzipan sweets crafted into lifelike fruits such as deep purple figs oozing drops of crystalline sugar, made in October to celebrate Ognissanti (All Soul's Day).



Minni di virgini

Marionette theatre

Another typical sweet, much loved at Ognissanti, are pupi ri zuccaru, marzipan models of Sicilian chivalric puppets representing knights and paladins alongside the modern equivalent: footballers and TV personalities. The sweet is linked to Palermo's Opera dei Pupi (puppet theatre), a folkloric tradition recognized by UNESCO as part of the city's intangible cultural heritage and showcased over three floors in the Museo Internazionale delle Marionette.

Although puppet theatre was popular throughout medieval Europe, Palermo's hand-painted, wire-jointed marionettes took on their chivalric form in the 18th century when Frankish tales, such as the Song of Roland and Orlando Furioso, were all the rage. With storylines heavy with treachery, heroism and tragedy, the plays subversively dramatized the era's current affairs and everyday frustrations, thrilling audiences with swift and violent justice as villains lose their heads and limbs spurt a satisfying squirt of red beetroot juice. Join the foot-stamping, cheering audiences at Mimmo Cuticchio's theatre on Via Bara all'Olivella. —www.lonelyplanet.com



A stallholder at Vucciria market



The glistening Cappella Palatina



Comic

WORD SEARCH

Parkinson's Disease

Find and circle all of the Parkinson's Disease related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Helen Keller quote.

NEURONOTITINGOCANTBS  
HOUREDUTULIPGNHOTHEEI  
PMRETNOLAGONISTTWTN  
ODEMENTIAODRTLZADIOE  
SIAISENIKYDARBBAEBCM  
TSIGOLORUENMMLSGEIFE  
UYROSNSPUIUOMLCBRLT  
ROFSTSURTFCEQAORIFL  
ESNGERESSIKHULRHTIDA  
HSEAFSEMUELAPELMUAYT  
LYRLSFOMRSLAAVIEOMSE  
ECPOTGTOTIOLIIDTEFKR  
HGOOPPONTTRAJGTISNTIA  
RNNMKCGYIESFAAOYIENL  
IAYERIONHXAOHRPSMXES  
GSMALFNRIPOXPEARAESH  
IEHYLLREOKSBSNTOPRIU  
DCGIGOADSTLHYEHTOCAF  
IEFDLDOHAIODAGIODIVF  
TEEAIVAGCRACWECMOSML  
YIINEOELEWYBODIESEGE  
OSFLISDTAFLEXIBILITY

- AEROBIC

AGONIST

AMYGDALA

BETA BLOCKER

BOXING

BRADYKINESIA

CHALLENGE

CHARCOT

COGNITION

DEGENERATIVE

DEMENTIA

DEPRESSION
- DOIDGE

DOPAMINE

DYSKINESIA

DYPHAGIA

EXERCISE

FESTINATION

FLEXIBILITY

FREEZING

GAIT

HYPOKINESIA

IDIOPATHIC
- LATERAL SHUFFLE

LEVODOPA

LEWY BODIES

LONG TERM

MICHAEL J FOX

MOTOR SYSTEM

MUHAMMAD ALI

NEUROLOGIST

NEURON

PLACEBO

POSTURE
- QUALITY OF LIFE

RED TULIP

RESEARCH

RIGIDITY

SENSORY

SIALORRHEA

SINEMET

STAGES

SYMPTOMS

TREMORS

WALKING POLES

Yesterday's Solution

Oliver Twist

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

- AGNES FLEMING

BARNEY

BEADLE

BLATHERS

BOLTER

BRITTLES

BROWNLOW

BULL'S-EYE

BUMBLE

CHARLEY BATES

CHARLOTTE

COACH

COURT

DICKENS

DOCTOR
- DODGER

DUFF

FAGIN

GALLAWS

GAMFIELD

GILES

GRIMWIG

GRUEL

HANDKERCHIEF

HARRY MAYLIE

HOUSEBREAKER

INHERITANCE

JAIL

LEEFDOR
- LIMBKINS

LOCKET

LONDON

LOSBERNE

MAGISTRATE

MONKS

MR. FANG

MRS. BEDWIN

MRS. CORNEY

MRS. MANN

NANCY

NOAH

OLD SALLY

OLIVER TWIST
- ORPHAN

PICKPOCKET

PISTOL

ROSE MAYLIE

SIKES

SOWERBERRY

SURGEON

TOBY CRACKIT

TOM CHITLING

TRAPS

UNDERTAKER

WAISTCOAT

WILL

WORKHOUSE

The hidden sentence is: TREATS OF THE PLACE WHERE OLIVER TWIST WAS BORN AND OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES ATTENDING HIS BIRTH

CROSSWORD 1930

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
15				16									17		
18			19						20			21			
22					23				24		25				
			26						27						
28	29	30				31					32			33	34
35				36	37				38	39			40		
41							42	43				44			
45					46						47		48		
49				50				51		52		53			
			54				55			56					
57	58	59					60		61						
62					63						64	65	66	67	
68					69				70		71				
72					73	74		75					76		
77					78								79		

ACROSS

1. A master's degree in fine arts.  
4. Type genus of Geastraceae.  
12. Sandwich filled with slices of bacon and tomato with lettuce.  
15. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.  
16. Lacking a cutting edge.  
17. 10 hao equal 1 dong.  
18. Goods carried by a large vehicle.  
20. An expression of greeting.  
22. The sixth month of the civil year.  
23. Not reflecting light.  
24. Having ones attention or mind or energy engaged.  
26. Fill with high spirits.  
27. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.  
28. Type genus of the Anatidae.  
31. A German man.  
32. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.  
35. (Old Testament) Wife of Isaac and mother of Jacob and Esau.  
38. A port city in southern Wales on an inlet of the Bristol Channel.  
41. Thorny shrub or small tree common in central Argentina having small orange or yellow flowers followed by edible berries.  
44. Family based on male descent.  
45. At a previous time.  
46. At or constituting a border or edge.  
48. The products of human creativity.  
49. Owed and payable immediately or on demand.  
51. United States historian who wrote a nine volume history of the people of the United States (1852-1932).  
56. An agency of the United Nations that promotes education and commu-

nication and the arts.

57. Slender long-legged African wild-cat having large untufted ears and tawny black-spotted coat.  
60. Furnished or strengthened with ribs.  
62. Type genus of the Amiidae.  
63. The capital and largest city of Yemen.  
64. A sensation (as of a cold breeze or bright light) that precedes the onset of certain disorders such as a migraine attack or epileptic seizure.  
68. The vein in the center of a leaf.  
70. Type genus of the family Crangonidae.  
72. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.  
73. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).  
76. A local computer network for communication between computers.  
77. Large semi-evergreen tree of East India.  
78. A Powhatan Indian woman (the daughter of Powhatan) who befriended the English at Jamestown and is said to have saved Captain John Smith's life (1595-1617).  
79. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.

DOWN

1. An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.  
2. King of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (born in 1922).  
3. An elaborate song for solo voice.

Daily SuDoku

	1			9	5			8		
				4		3		5	2	
						7			4	
2		7			3	1	8	9		
	9							2		
	8	3	2	9			5		1	
4				1						
1	7			6		8				
	2				4	9		1		

Yesterday's Solution

2	6	7	8	1	9	4	3	5
5	8	4	2	3	6	7	1	9
9	1	3	7	4	5	2	6	8
4	9	8	3	2	7	6	5	1
7	3	6	4	5	1	8	9	2
1	2	5	9	6	8	3	4	7
3	4	1	5	7	2	9	8	6
8	5	2	6	9	4	1	7	3
6	7	9	1	8	3	5	2	4



## TV Listings

Friday, June 8, 2018



00:00 Colossal  
02:00 Lost & Found  
03:45 Roadside  
05:20 Nick Of Time  
07:00 Resident Evil: Vendetta  
08:45 Lost & Found  
10:30 Captain America: The Winter Soldier  
12:55 Somnus  
14:30 Nick Of Time  
16:10 Bad Company  
18:15 Railroad Tigers  
20:25 Captain America: Civil War  
22:55 Entrapment



00:45 The Jeff Corwin Experience  
01:40 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
02:35 Orangutan Island  
03:00 Orangutan Island  
03:25 Whale Wars  
04:15 North Woods Law  
05:02 Wildest Islands  
05:49 Untamed & Uncut  
06:36 Meet The Orangutans  
07:00 Meet The Orangutans  
07:25 Orangutan Island  
07:50 Orangutan Island  
08:15 The Jeff Corwin Experience  
09:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
10:05 Wildest Islands  
11:00 Orangutan Island  
11:28 Orangutan Island  
11:55 Whale Wars  
12:50 North Woods Law  
13:45 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
14:40 Wildest Islands  
15:35 Untamed & Uncut  
16:30 The Jeff Corwin Experience  
17:25 Missouri Mountain Family  
18:20 Life At Vet University  
19:15 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
20:10 Orangutan Island  
20:38 Orangutan Island  
21:05 Missouri Mountain Family  
22:00 Life At Vet University  
22:55 Wildest Islands  
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:20 The Detectorists  
00:50 New Tricks  
01:45 Holly City  
02:40 Liar  
03:30 Liar  
04:20 Friday Night Dinner  
04:45 The Detectorists  
05:15 Agatha Raisin  
06:00 Doctors  
06:30 EastEnders  
07:00 Holly City  
08:00 Doctors  
08:30 Doctors  
09:00 EastEnders  
09:30 Hold The Sunset  
10:00 Carters Get Rich  
10:20 New Tricks  
11:20 Casualty  
12:15 Holly City  
13:10 Doctors  
13:40 EastEnders  
14:10 Casualty  
15:05 Hold The Sunset  
15:35 Carters Get Rich  
16:00 Doctors  
16:30 Doctors  
17:00 Doctors  
17:30 Doctors  
18:00 Doctors  
18:30 Carters Get Rich  
19:00 New Tricks  
20:00 Trust Me  
21:00 Shakespeare And Hathaway: Private Investigators  
21:50 Maigret  
23:25 Doctors  
23:55 Carters Get Rich



00:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
01:00 Motive For Murder  
01:55 Marcia Clark Investigates  
03:45 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
04:30 Motive For Murder  
05:15 The First 48  
06:00 Homicide Hunter  
07:00 It Takes A Killer  
07:20 The First 48  
08:05 Homicide Hunter  
08:50 Cold Case Files  
09:35 Crimes That Shook Australia  
10:30 Jo Frost On Britain's Killer Kids  
11:25 Kids Who Kill  
13:15 Evil Up Close  
14:10 Homicide Hunter  
15:05 It Takes A Killer  
16:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
17:00 The First 48  
18:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
22:00 Monster In My Family  
23:00 The First 48  
Comedy Central  
00:05 Impractical Jokers  
00:30 Friends  
00:55 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
01:20 Impractical Jokers  
01:45 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef  
02:15 Disaster Date  
02:40 Impractical Jokers  
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol  
04:15 Catch A Contractor  
05:05 Life Or Debt  
05:55 Disaster Date  
06:20 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef  
06:50 I Used To Be Fat  
07:35 Impractical Jokers  
07:58 Impractical Jokers  
08:20 Disaster Date  
08:45 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef  
09:15 Catch A Contractor  
10:05 I Used To Be Fat  
10:55 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol  
11:45 Ridiculousness Arabia  
12:15 House Of Food  
13:05 Framework  
13:50 Ridiculousness Arabia  
14:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol  
15:30 Ridiculousness Arabia  
16:00 House Of Food  
16:55 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
17:20 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
17:45 Ridiculousness Arabia  
18:10 Ridiculousness Arabia  
18:35 Takeshis Castle Thailand  
19:00 Friends  
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
21:30 Impractical Jokers  
22:00 Nick Swardson: Taste It  
22:50 Friends  
23:35 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef



00:30 Destroyed In Seconds  
00:55 Destroyed In Seconds  
01:20 How It's Made  
01:45 How It's Made  
02:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
03:00 Tanked  
03:50 Ultimate Survival  
04:40 How The Universe Works  
05:30 Weather Top Tens  
06:20 How It's Made  
06:40 How It's Made  
07:00 Destroyed In Seconds  
07:25 Destroyed In Seconds  
07:50 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
08:40 How It's Made  
09:05 How It's Made  
09:30 Tanked

10:20 Ultimate Survival  
11:10 Destroyed In Seconds  
11:35 Destroyed In Seconds  
12:00 How It's Made  
12:25 How It's Made  
12:50 Don't Blink  
13:15 Don't Blink  
13:40 The Carbonaro Effect  
14:05 The Carbonaro Effect  
14:30 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
15:20 How It's Made  
15:45 How It's Made  
16:10 Ultimate Survival  
17:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
17:50 Tanked  
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds  
19:05 Destroyed In Seconds  
19:30 Don't Blink  
19:55 Don't Blink  
20:20 The Carbonaro Effect  
20:45 The Carbonaro Effect  
21:10 How It's Made  
21:35 How It's Made  
22:00 Ultimate Survival  
22:50 Don't Blink  
23:15 Don't Blink  
23:40 The Carbonaro Effect



00:45 Betrayed  
01:40 Blood Relatives  
02:35 Murder Calls  
03:30 The Detectives Club: New Orleans  
04:25 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall  
05:20 I Almost Got Away With It  
06:10 Married With Secrets  
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
07:25 Murder Comes To Town  
08:15 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall  
09:10 Married With Secrets  
10:05 Grave Secrets  
11:00 Disappeared  
11:55 Murder Comes To Town  
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:45 Married With Secrets  
14:40 Grave Secrets  
15:35 The Detectives Club: New Orleans  
16:30 Murder Comes To Town  
17:25 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall  
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It  
19:15 Married With Secrets  
20:10 Grave Secrets  
21:05 Love Kills  
22:00 Murder Calls  
22:55 Murder Calls  
23:50 James Patterson's Murder Is Forever



00:00 Hank Zipzer  
00:25 Alex & Co.  
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Binny And The Ghost  
02:55 Hank Zipzer  
03:15 Disney Mickey Mouse  
03:20 Hank Zipzer  
03:45 Alex & Co.  
04:10 Alex & Co.  
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
05:25 Binny And The Ghost  
05:45 Disney Mickey Mouse  
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks  
06:00 Raven's Home  
06:25 Elena Of Avalor  
06:55 Tangled: The Series  
07:20 Stuck In The Middle  
07:45 K.C. Undercover  
08:10 Bunk'd  
08:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
09:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir

09:25 Tangled: The Series  
09:50 Tangled: The Series  
10:15 Bizaardvark  
10:40 Bizaardvark  
11:05 Liv And Maddie  
11:30 Liv And Maddie  
11:55 K.C. Undercover  
12:20 K.C. Undercover  
12:45 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
14:00 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
14:15 Bunk'd  
14:40 K.C. Undercover  
15:10 Kitty Is Not A Cat  
15:35 Elena Of Avalor  
16:00 Tangled: The Series  
16:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
16:50 Raven's Home  
17:15 Stuck In The Middle  
17:40 Hotel Transylvania: The Series  
18:05 K.C. Undercover  
18:30 Bunk'd  
19:00 Raven's Home  
19:25 Liv And Maddie  
19:50 K.C. Undercover  
20:20 Tangled: The Series  
20:45 Bizaardvark  
21:35 Stuck In The Middle  
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
22:50 Lolirock  
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 Trulli Tales  
00:30 PJ Masks  
00:55 Trulli Tales  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:30 The Hive  
02:40 Loopdidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopdidoo  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:00 Art Attack  
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:45 Loopdidoo  
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
06:15 Calimero  
06:30 PJ Masks  
07:00 Trulli Tales  
07:25 PJ Masks  
07:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
07:45 Doc McStuffins  
08:00 Jake And The Neverland Pirates  
08:15 PJ Masks  
08:30 Vampirina  
09:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
09:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
09:55 Unbungalievable  
10:00 Trulli Tales  
10:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
11:00 Doc McStuffins  
11:30 The Lion Guard  
12:00 Sofia The First  
12:30 Sofia The First  
13:00 PJ Masks  
13:30 PJ Masks  
14:00 P-King Duckling  
14:30 Vampirina  
15:00 Puppy Dog Pals  
15:30 Sofia The First  
16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
16:30 Trulli Tales  
17:00 Vampirina  
17:30 PJ Masks  
18:00 DuckTales  
18:30 DuckTales  
19:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
19:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
19:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers

19:45 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
20:00 A Goofy Fairy Tale  
20:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
21:00 Trulli Tales  
21:30 Sofia The First  
22:00 P-King Duckling  
22:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
22:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
23:00 Miles From Tomorrow  
23:30 PJ Masks



00:15 Deadliest Catch  
01:05 Hell Road Russia  
01:50 Dark Woods Justice  
02:35 Strip The City  
03:20 Street Outlaws  
04:05 Alaskan Bush People  
04:50 Kindig Customs  
05:35 Storage Hunters  
06:00 Auction Kings  
06:23 Container Wars  
06:45 Storage Hunters  
07:10 How Do They Do It?  
07:35 Alaskan Bush People  
08:20 Auction Kings  
08:45 Container Wars  
09:10 Kindig Customs  
09:55 Alaskan Bush People  
10:45 Kindig Customs  
11:30 Deadliest Catch  
12:20 Auction Kings  
12:43 Container Wars  
13:05 Storage Hunters  
13:30 How Do They Do It?  
13:55 Kindig Customs  
14:40 Deadliest Catch  
15:30 Telescope  
16:15 Dark Woods Justice  
17:05 Strip The City  
17:50 Bushcraft Build-Off  
18:40 The Wheel  
19:25 Deadliest Catch  
20:15 Street Outlaws  
21:00 Sticker Shock  
21:50 Gear Dogs  
22:40 Twin Turbos  
23:30 Jungle Gold



06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man  
06:25 Lab Rats  
06:50 Phineas And Ferb  
07:05 DuckTales  
07:32 Furiki Wheels  
07:45 Phineas And Ferb  
08:00 Milo Murphy's Law  
08:25 Disney Mickey Mouse  
08:30 Phineas And Ferb  
08:55 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
09:20 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
09:45 Phineas And Ferb  
10:00 Kid vs. Kat  
10:25 Kid vs. Kat  
10:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot  
11:00 Counterfeit Cat  
11:15 Counterfeit Cat  
11:30 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
11:55 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
12:20 Gravity Falls  
12:45 Milo Murphy's Law  
13:00 Lab Rats  
13:25 Lab Rats  
13:50 Mech-X4  
14:15 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
14:40 Milo Murphy's Law  
15:05 Supa Strikas  
15:32 Lab Rats  
16:00 DuckTales  
16:25 Disney Mickey Mouse  
16:32 Big Hero 6 The Series  
16:55 Big Hero 6 The Series: Shorts  
17:00 Milo Murphy's Law  
17:25 DuckTales  
17:32 Furiki Wheels  
18:00 Mech-X4  
18:25 Lab Rats Elite Force  
18:50 Lab Rats Elite Force  
19:15 Walk The Prank  
19:40 Phineas And Ferb  
19:55 Disney Mickey Mouse  
20:00 DuckTales  
20:25 Two More Eggs  
20:32 Big Hero 6 The Series  
21:00 Marvel's Spider-Man

21:25 Star Wars Rebels  
21:50 Disney Mickey Mouse  
21:55 Phineas & Ferb  
22:10 Furiki Wheels  
22:25 Phineas And Ferb  
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:05 WAGS LA  
01:50 E! News  
02:50 WAGS  
05:30 Celebrity Style Story  
06:00 So Cosmo  
06:55 E! News Middle East  
07:10 So Cosmo  
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop  
09:10 Botched  
12:00 E! News Middle East  
12:15 WAGS LA  
15:00 E! News Middle East  
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop  
16:15 Botched  
19:00 E! News  
20:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
21:00 Citizen Rose  
23:00 E! News Middle East  
23:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian



00:10 Broadchurch  
01:00 Emmerdale  
01:30 Coronation Street  
02:30 The Chase  
03:25 What Would Your Kid Do?  
04:20 One Night With My Ex  
05:15 Broadchurch  
06:15 Cash Trapped  
07:10 The Chase  
08:05 What Would Your Kid Do?  
09:00 One Night With My Ex  
09:55 Broadchurch  
11:00 Cash Trapped  
11:50 The Chase  
12:45 Emmerdale  
13:45 Coronation Street  
14:15 Cash Trapped  
15:10 The Chase  
16:00 One Night With My Ex  
16:55 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...  
17:50 Broadchurch  
18:50 Emmerdale  
19:45 Coronation Street  
20:10 The Chase  
21:00 One Night With My Ex  
21:55 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Cities Of The Underworld  
01:00 The Universe  
02:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files  
02:50 Ancient Aliens  
03:40 Search For The Lost Giants  
04:30 Dogfights  
05:20 Modern Marvels  
06:10 Modern Marvels  
07:00 Cities Of The Underworld  
08:00 The Universe  
09:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files  
10:00 Ancient Aliens  
11:00 Search For The Lost Giants  
12:00 Dogfights  
13:00 Cities Of The Underworld  
14:00 The Universe  
15:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files  
16:00 Ancient Aliens  
17:00 Search For The Lost Giants  
18:00 Cities Of The Underworld  
19:00 The Universe  
20:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files  
21:00 Ancient Aliens  
22:00 Missing In Alaska  
23:00 Dogfights



00:20 Football Godfathers  
01:10 Mountain Men  
02:00 Football: A Brief History By Alfie Allen



## TV Listings

02:50 Football's Greatest Stage  
03:15 Football's Greatest Stage  
03:40 Road To Russia  
04:05 Road To Russia  
04:30 Football Godfathers  
05:20 Football's Greatest Stage  
05:45 Football's Greatest Stage  
06:00 Road To Russia  
06:25 Road To Russia  
06:50 Football Godfathers  
07:40 Head-To-Head  
08:05 Head-To-Head  
08:30 Head-To-Head  
08:55 Head-To-Head  
09:20 Football's Greatest Stage  
09:45 Football's Greatest Stage  
10:10 Road To Russia  
10:35 Road To Russia  
11:00 Football Godfathers  
11:50 Head-To-Head  
12:15 Head-To-Head  
12:40 Head-To-Head  
13:05 Head-To-Head  
13:30 Football's Greatest Stage  
13:55 Football's Greatest Stage  
14:20 Road To Russia  
14:45 Road To Russia  
15:10 Football Godfathers  
16:00 Head-To-Head  
16:25 Head-To-Head  
16:50 Head-To-Head  
17:15 Head-To-Head  
17:40 Head-To-Head  
18:05 Head-To-Head  
18:30 Football's Greatest Stage  
18:55 Football's Greatest Stage  
19:20 Road To Russia  
19:45 Road To Russia  
20:10 Football Godfathers  
21:00 Head-To-Head  
21:25 Head-To-Head  
21:50 Head-To-Head  
22:15 Head-To-Head  
22:40 Head-To-Head  
23:05 Football's Greatest Stage  
23:30 Road To Russia  
23:55 Road To Russia



00:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
00:45 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
01:10 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen  
01:40 Dog Whisperer  
02:35 Dog Whisperer  
03:30 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med  
04:25 Places We Go  
04:50 Fish Of The Day  
05:20 Fish Tank Kings  
06:15 Fearless Chef  
07:10 Dog Whisperer  
08:05 Dog Whisperer  
09:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med  
09:55 Places We Go  
10:20 Fish Of The Day  
10:50 Fish Tank Kings  
11:45 Fearless Chef  
12:40 Dog Whisperer  
13:35 Dog Whisperer  
14:30 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med  
15:25 Places We Go  
15:50 Fish Tank Kings  
16:45 Fish Of The Day  
17:15 Fearless Chef  
18:10 Eat Street  
18:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
19:05 Dog Whisperer  
20:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med  
21:00 Places We Go  
21:30 Fish Of The Day  
22:00 Fish Tank Kings  
22:55 Fearless Chef  
23:50 Eat Street



00:10 WW2 Hell Under The Sea  
01:00 Nazi Underworld  
02:00 Airport Security: Peru  
03:00 Megastructures  
04:00 WW2 Hell Under The Sea  
05:00 Street Genius

05:30 Street Genius  
06:00 Strippers: Cars For Cash  
07:00 Youtube Revolution  
08:00 Operation Royal Wedding  
09:00 Street Genius  
09:30 Street Genius  
10:00 Breakout  
11:00 Airport Security: Peru  
12:00 Two Tales Of China  
12:30 Two Tales Of China  
13:00 Strippers: Cars For Cash  
14:00 The Great Human Race  
15:00 Human Inferno  
16:00 Inside Cocaine Wars  
17:00 Airport Security: Peru  
18:00 WW2 Hell Under The Sea  
19:00 Nazi Underworld  
20:00 Inside Cocaine Wars  
20:50 Airport Security: Peru  
21:40 WW2 Hell Under The Sea  
22:30 Nazi Underworld  
23:20 Megastructures



00:20 Built For The Kill  
01:10 Ultimate Animal Countdown  
02:00 Botswana  
02:50 Man V. Monster  
03:45 Natural Born Monsters  
04:40 Going Wild  
05:35 Botswana  
06:30 Man V. Monster  
07:25 Natural Born Monsters  
08:20 Going Wild  
09:15 Snakes In The City  
10:10 Wild Russia  
11:05 Giant Carnivorous Bats  
12:00 Tiger Shark Terror  
12:55 Built For The Kill  
13:50 Man V. Monster  
14:45 Natural Born Monsters  
15:40 Wild Russia  
16:35 Snakes In The City  
17:30 Behind Russia's Frozen Curtain  
18:25 Mission Critical  
19:20 Natural Born Monsters  
20:10 Wild Russia  
21:00 Snakes In The City  
21:50 Behind Russia's Frozen Curtain  
22:40 Mission Critical  
23:30 Tiger Shark Terror  
00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:36 Rabbids Invasion  
01:00 Rabbids Invasion  
01:24 Sanjay And Craig  
01:48 Sanjay And Craig  
02:12 Winx Club  
02:36 Winx Club  
03:00 Harvey Beaks  
03:24 Harvey Beaks  
03:48 Rabbids Invasion  
04:12 Rabbids Invasion  
04:36 Breadwinners  
05:00 Breadwinners  
05:24 The Loud House  
05:48 Harvey Beaks  
06:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
07:00 Breadwinners  
07:24 Bunsen Is A Beast  
07:48 Toon Marty  
08:00 Toon Marty  
08:12 Rabbids Invasion  
08:36 The Loud House  
09:00 Regal Academy  
09:24 Winx Club  
09:48 Game Shakers  
10:12 School Of Rock  
10:36 Henry Danger  
11:00 The Thundermans  
11:24 The Thundermans  
11:48 The Thundermans  
12:12 The Thundermans  
12:36 The Thundermans  
13:00 The Thundermans  
13:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
13:48 The Adventures Of Kid Dancer  
14:12 Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library  
15:24 Bunsen Is A Beast  
15:48 The Adventures Of Kid Dancer

16:12 The Adventures Of Kid Dancer  
16:36 The Adventures Of Kid Dancer  
17:00 The Adventures Of Kid Dancer  
17:24 The Adventures Of Kid Dancer  
17:48 Hunter Street  
18:12 Henry Danger  
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn  
19:00 School Of Rock  
19:24 Game Shakers  
19:48 The Thundermans  
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
21:00 Harvey Beaks  
21:24 Breadwinners  
21:48 Bunsen Is A Beast  
22:12 Sanjay And Craig  
22:36 Rabbids Invasion  
23:00 The Loud House  
23:24 Regal Academy  
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:06 Max & Ruby  
00:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
00:40 Kiva Can Do!  
00:51 The Day Henry Met  
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:41 Paw Patrol  
01:53 Kid-E-Cats  
01:58 Kid-E-Cats  
02:04 Shimmer And Shine  
02:26 Nella The Princess Knight  
02:38 Paw Patrol  
03:01 Max & Ruby  
03:24 Dora The Explorer  
03:47 Sunny Day  
04:09 Nella The Princess Knight  
04:31 Shimmer And Shine  
04:54 Wallykazam!  
05:17 Zack & Quack  
05:27 The Day Henry Met  
05:32 The Day Henry Met  
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
06:00 Rusty Rivets  
06:13 Paw Patrol  
06:37 Dora The Explorer  
07:00 Nella The Princess Knight  
07:21 Kiva Can Do!  
07:32 Kiva Can Do!  
07:42 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
08:05 Paw Patrol  
08:28 Shimmer And Shine  
08:51 Nella The Princess Knight  
09:14 Paw Patrol  
09:38 Rusty Rivets  
10:01 Wallykazam!  
10:24 The Day Henry Met  
10:29 Bubble Guppies  
10:53 Team Umizoomi  
11:16 Kid-E-Cats  
11:21 Shimmer And Shine  
11:44 Sunny Day  
12:06 Max & Ruby  
12:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
12:40 Kiva Can Do!  
12:51 The Day Henry Met  
12:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
13:41 Paw Patrol  
13:53 Kid-E-Cats  
13:58 Kid-E-Cats  
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15:01 Max & Ruby  
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15:47 Sunny Day  
16:09 Nella The Princess Knight  
16:31 Shimmer And Shine  
16:54 Wallykazam!  
17:17 Zack & Quack  
17:28 The Day Henry Met  
17:32 The Day Henry Met  
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
18:00 Rusty Rivets  
18:13 Paw Patrol

18:37 Dora The Explorer  
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight  
19:21 Kiva Can Do!  
19:32 Kiva Can Do!  
19:42 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
20:05 Paw Patrol  
20:28 Shimmer And Shine  
20:52 Nella The Princess Knight  
21:15 Paw Patrol  
21:38 Rusty Rivets  
22:02 Wallykazam!  
22:25 The Day Henry Met  
22:30 Bubble Guppies  
22:54 Team Umizoomi  
23:16 Kid-E-Cats  
23:22 Shimmer And Shine  
23:45 Sunny Day



00:15 How I Met Your Mother  
00:40 How I Met Your Mother  
01:05 The New Adventures Of Old Christine  
01:30 The New Adventures Of Old Christine  
01:55 Marry Me  
02:20 The Orville  
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
04:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
04:50 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
05:40 The Carmichael Show  
06:05 Marry Me  
06:30 Superstore  
06:55 Speechless  
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
09:50 The Goldbergs  
10:15 The Goldbergs  
10:40 The Carmichael Show  
11:05 Marry Me  
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
12:20 Superstore  
12:45 Speechless  
13:10 How I Met Your Mother  
13:35 How I Met Your Mother  
14:00 The New Adventures Of Old Christine  
14:25 The New Adventures Of Old Christine  
14:50 The Carmichael Show  
15:15 The Goldbergs  
15:40 The Goldbergs  
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
17:00 Superstore  
17:30 Life In Pieces  
18:00 How I Met Your Mother  
18:30 How I Met Your Mother  
19:00 The New Adventures Of Old Christine  
19:30 The New Adventures Of Old Christine  
20:00 Ghosted  
20:30 American Housewife  
21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
22:00 The Orville  
23:00 The Last Man On Earth  
23:25 Late Night With Seth Meyers



01:30 First Kid  
03:30 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest  
06:00 Herbie Fully Loaded  
08:00 The Sorcerer's Apprentice  
10:00 The Princess Diaries  
12:00 Mulan  
13:45 The Muppets  
15:45 Blank Check  
17:45 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End  
20:45 Mulan  
22:30 The Muppets



00:00 This Is Us  
01:00 Riverdale  
01:50 The Flash  
02:40 Quantico  
03:30 9-1-1  
04:20 This Is Us  
05:20 Supergirl  
06:10 The Blacklist  
07:00 Good Morning America

09:00 The View  
10:00 9-1-1  
11:00 The Flash  
12:00 The Blacklist  
13:00 Empire  
14:00 Quantico  
15:00 The View  
16:00 Live Good Morning America  
18:00 The Blacklist  
19:00 The Flash  
20:00 Empire  
21:00 The Amazing Race  
22:00 Once Upon A Time  
23:00 WWE Experience



00:00 Daddy's Home  
01:45 Mr. Wrong  
03:30 Elizabethtown  
05:45 All She Wishes  
07:30 Fan Girl  
09:15 Mr. Wrong  
11:00 Daddy's Home  
12:45 All She Wishes  
14:30 Fan Girl  
16:15 Planes, Trains And Automobiles  
18:00 Big Momma's House  
19:45 Step Dogs  
21:30 Without A Paddle  
23:15 Without A Paddle: Nature's Calling



01:40 We Are Many  
03:45 The Last King  
05:35 The New Adventures Of Aladin  
07:35 True Heart  
09:10 We Are Many  
11:15 The New Adventures Of Aladin  
13:15 Glena  
14:50 Noble  
16:40 Dalida  
18:55 An Inconvenient Truth  
20:45 The Man Who Knew Infinity  
22:40 Stand By Me



01:20 Ivan The Incredible  
02:45 Emilie Jolie  
04:15 Ozzy  
06:00 Zodiac: The Race Begins  
07:35 The Emperor's Secret  
09:05 Krazzy Planet  
10:20 Rainbow Valley Heroes  
12:00 Catcher: Cat City 2  
13:40 Ivan The Incredible  
15:10 Emilie Jolie  
16:30 Free Birds  
17:55 Rainbow Valley Heroes  
19:35 Micropolis  
21:05 The Fairy Tales Tree  
22:30 Free Birds  
23:55 Krazzy Planet



00:05 Me Before You  
02:05 My Bakery In Brooklyn  
03:55 Bicentennial Man  
06:10 Nim's Island  
07:50 Me Before You  
09:45 The American President  
11:45 Alvin And The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked  
13:15 The Big Year  
15:00 Madagascar 2  
16:35 Parental Guidance  
18:25 Men At Work  
20:10 The Last Witch Hunter  
22:00 Criminal  
23:55 The Big Year



00:05 Food Factory  
00:30 Mythbusters  
01:20 Extreme Engineering  
02:10 How We Invented The World

03:00 Strangest Weather On Earth  
03:48 Nextworld  
04:36 Mythbusters  
05:24 How Do They Do It?  
05:48 Food Factory  
06:12 Extreme Engineering  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:26 Strangest Weather On Earth  
08:14 Mythbusters  
09:02 How We Invented The World  
09:50 How Do They Do It?  
10:14 Food Factory  
10:38 Strangest Weather On Earth  
11:26 Nextworld  
12:14 Mythbusters  
13:02 Extreme Engineering  
13:50 How We Invented The World  
14:38 How Do They Do It?  
15:02 Food Factory  
15:26 Strangest Weather On Earth  
16:14 Nextworld  
17:02 How We Invented The World  
17:50 Extreme Engineering  
18:40 How Do They Do It?  
19:05 Food Factory  
19:30 How The Universe Works  
20:20 Mythbusters  
21:10 Futurescape With James Woods  
22:00 How The Universe Works  
22:50 Nextworld  
23:40 How Do They Do It?



00:25 Action Jackson  
03:00 Action Jackson  
03:05 Barefoot To Goa  
04:35 The Front Row  
05:00 Koffee With Karan  
06:00 Fakira  
08:45 Mangal Pandey: The Rising  
11:45 Coolie No.1  
14:25 Khatta Meetha  
17:25 Ready  
20:00 Bajrangi Bhaijaan  
23:00 De Dana Dan



01:45 Nurse Betty  
03:45 Reclaim  
05:30 The Wedding Planner  
07:15 The Jane Austen Book Club  
09:00 Swimming Upstream  
10:45 The Air I Breathe  
12:15 View From The Top  
13:45 Zero Dark Thirty  
16:15 Nurse Betty  
18:15 The Singing Detective  
20:00 P.S. I Love You  
22:00 Gambit  
23:45 Frank



00:00 Black Box  
02:00 Devious Maids  
03:00 Married At First Sight  
04:00 Project Runway  
05:00 Cougar Town  
06:00 Black Box  
08:00 Devious Maids  
09:00 Married At First Sight  
10:00 Project Runway  
11:00 Cougar Town  
12:00 Black Box  
14:00 Devious Maids  
15:00 Married At First Sight  
16:00 Project Runway  
17:00 Devious Maids  
18:00 The Wedding Band  
20:00 Project Runway All Stars  
21:00 The Fashion Fund  
23:00 Devious Maids



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress UK  
01:05 90 Days To Wed  
01:50 Say Yes: Wedding SOS  
02:35 90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?  
03:20 Outdaughters: Busby  
03:20 Quints  
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras



Stars

Friday, June 8, 2018



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a great day for your career wise. You may be just the one for the job that is coming available. It is an awesome day of harmony with not only your friends but with your co- workers. Your ideas and input are greatly appreciated today. Stick to your routine and stay true to yourself and you will experience a great since of admiration from others. Even though today may find you in a very impulsive mood, resist temptation and think long and hard about decisions you make today. You may be facing some life changing decisions. This is not only a great day to organize your thoughts but also work on organizing your affairs and surroundings.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You have always been one to say exactly what is on your mind. You may find yourself extremely outspoken and impulsive today. You may find yourself feeling very passionate today. You are ready for change. The changes you make today will have a great effect on your life for a great while so resist the urge to make impulsive decisions and put much thought into this. You may find yourself in a curious mood possibly paying close attention to and even taking part in a gossip session today. You feel not only the need to discover what drives and motivates others but are spending much of your time and focus trying to figure out the same about yourself.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find your desire for independence today overwhelming. Not everyone will be supportive and those closest to you may feel left out or left behind. All that is different and unique appeals to you today. Whether it is varying from your usual on the lunch menu or finding yourself visiting a new hangout, today is all about life and what is has to offer you. You may find yourself strongly desiring to spend time out and about. Choose your company wisely today, Gemini. Sometimes there is a fine line between friend and foe.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a very nostalgic time for you. Maybe a talk with an older relative and just sitting down and learning more about your family history could be very satisfying to you. Learning of the struggles of others may make you more determined than ever to ensure your personal growth, not only on a personal level but also in the career place. Hearing this history brings a sense of mortality to you. You may realize it will your story that is being told one day and you want it to be a story of great success.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your relationships have taken priority in your life. You value the love you have for others and the love you feel from them. Your emotional needs are being deeply satisfied. There is a vast difference between independence and loneliness. At this time, you seem to be becoming more of a homebody. You find more at ease staying in surrounded only by your loved ones or close friends. This is where you belong as your feelings are finding you more reflective rather than expressive. You crave new beginnings, perhaps this would be a great time for a new experience or a new hobby. Leo, take the time to reflect and learn from your past and make plans for your future.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are being noticed in the workplace. It may become very obvious to your superiors at work that you are talented beyond the title you hold. You may find that you are in line for a promotion or you will be assigned a special project due to your leadership abilities. Everyone has their eye on you. From your personal life to your career, you are beginning to outshine those around you. You may find your analytical skills are in top shape and you are not only able to solve every problem you come across but may be finding satisfaction in spending your spare time solving puzzles or playing word games. You are in the mood to exercise your mind.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This isn't the best time for you to make decisions about your living situation. You find yourself beginning to become very impulsive. The decisions you make may not be the best if you are not putting thought into them. You feel led to make changes in your lifestyle. Make sure your choices are good ones because the consequences could be long lasting. You may find yourself going in a different direction from your norm. This may catch those close to you off guard and bring conflict into your world. A time of change met with conflict may bring feelings of isolation into your world. The lack of support could cause you emotional stress.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your mood is one of sensuality and pleasure. Be careful as you may come across as being overbearing or controlling; this doesn't work with someone you're beginning to care for. The outdoors is where you spend time recharging and letting your mind wander. You understand that life can be everything you want but you may have to do things differently. A new project looks like it can provide some income. Shopping for someone else is a priority right now, and you rise to the occasion; the items you seek seem to simply manifest! An assertive energy is strongly felt, almost as though you're flying! Dinner and dancing even if you don't, you'll be around it brings fun times you'll remember. You could more emotionally involved.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may find yourself speaking before you think. You are somewhat direct with those around you today. Your emotions seem to be in overdrive and putting on the brakes is not an option. You desire to make a fresh start. New surroundings, whether this means physically or surrounding yourself with new friends seems to be a goal you are ready to put in motion. This is a great time to make a move. Make wise decisions you have put much thought into because these changes will have a great impact on your future. You may feel a heightened sense of confidence and independence now. Make sure the decisions are ones you can live with when you are back to your normal self.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Today may find you in that familiar impulsive mood. You are ready to start fresh, new projects, new beginnings. Think long and hard about your actions and the decisions you make today because some things cannot be undone. You may have to live with the consequences of decisions made today for a very long time. Sit down with a love one today and enjoy a great conversation. You may find that the lines of communication are very open, and your friend is very receptive to the point you are trying to get across.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Enjoy this day as you will be able to appreciate the beauty in all things surrounding you. You may have a special place in your heart for an older acquaintance today. Start working on developing new habits. This is a great time for a fresh start. You will reap the benefits of these new lifestyles for a long time to come. Enjoy spending time with someone you love and enjoy all the peace and harmony surrounding you. Resist the urge to rebel, this will hinder your progress and prevent you from reaching your goals.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may be longing for power and control. Your desire to control situations around you may find that your thoughts are reaching new levels. You may find that following your intuition could lead you in the wrong direction. The conclusions you are jumping to and assumptions you are making have no hard evidence supporting them. Use caution, Pisces, there is a good chance you are looking in the wrong direction and you have been misled. It is reactions like these that will lead you down a rocky path and cause turmoil and conflict in your world. Now would be a good time to sit back and let the whole story unfold without reaction.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Jordan	00962
Albania	00355	Kazakhstan	007
Algeria	00213	Kenya	00254
Andorra	00376	Kiribati	00686
Angola	00244	Kuwait	00965
Anguilla	001264	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Antiga	001268	Laos	00856
Argentina	0054	Latvia	00371
Armenia	00374	Lebanon	00961
Australia	0061	Liberia	00231
Austria	0043	Libya	00218
Bahamas	001242	Lithuania	00370
Bahrain	00973	Luxembourg	00352
Bangladesh	00880	Macau	00853
Barbados	001246	Macedonia	00389
Belarus	00375	Madagascar	00261
Belgium	0032	Majorca	0034
Belize	00501	Malawi	00265
Benin	00229	Malaysia	0060
Bermuda	001441	Maldives	00960
Bhutan	00975	Mali	00223
Bolivia	00591	Malta	00356
Bosnia	00387	Marshall Islands	00692
Botswana	00267	Martinique	00596
Brazil	0055	Mauritania	00222
Brunei	00673	Mauritius	00230
Bulgaria	00359	Mayotte	00269
Burkina	00226	Mexico	0052
Burundi	00257	Micronesia	00691
Cambodia	00855	Moldova	00373
Cameroon	00237	Monaco	00377
Canada	001	Mongolia	00976
Cape Verde	00238	Montserrat	001664
Cayman Islands	001345	Morocco	00212
Central African Republic	00236	Mozambique	00258
Chad	00235	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Chile	0056	Namibia	00264
China	0086	Nepal	00977
Colombia	0057	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Comoros	00269	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Congo	00242	New Caledonia	00687
Cook Islands	00682	New Zealand	0064
Costa Rica	00506	Nicaragua	00505
Croatia	00385	Nigar	00227
Cuba	0053	Nigeria	00234
Cyprus	00357	Niue	00683
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Norfolk Island	00672
Czech Republic	00420	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Denmark	0045	North Korea	00850
Diego Garcia	00246	Norway	0047
Djibouti	00253	Oman	00968
Dominica	001767	Pakistan	0092
Dominican Republic	001809	Palau	00680
Ecuador	00593	Panama	00507
Egypt	0020	Papua New Guinea	00675
El Salvador	00503	Paraguay	00595
England (UK)	0044	Peru	0051
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Philippines	0063
Eritrea	00291	Poland	0048
Estonia	00372	Portugal	00351
Ethiopia	00251	Puerto Rico	001787
Falkland Islands	00500	Qatar	00974
Faroe Islands	00298	Romania	0040
Fiji	00679	Russian Federation	007
Finland	00358	Rwanda	00250
France	0033	Saint Helena	00290
French Guiana	00594	Saint Kitts	001869
French Polynesia	00689	Saint Lucia	001758
Gabon	00241	Saint Pierre	00508
Gambia	00220	Saint Vincent	001784
Georgia	00995	Samoa US	00684
Germany	0049	Samoa West	00685
Ghana	00233	San Marino	00378
Gibraltar	00350	Sao Tome	00239
Greece	0030	Saudi Arabia	00966
Greenland	00299	Scotland (UK)	0044
Grenada	001473	Senegal	00221
Guadeloupe	00590	Seychelles	00284
Guam	001671	Sierra Leone	00232
Guatemala	00502	Singapore	0065
Guinea	00224	Slovakia	00421
Guyana	00592	Slovenia	00386
Haiti	00509	Solomon Islands	00677
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Somalia	00252
Honduras	00504	South Africa	0027
Hong Kong	00852	South Korea	0082
Hungary	0036	Spain	0034
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sri Lanka	0094
Iceland	00354	Sudan	00249
India	0091	Suriname	00597
Indian Ocean	00873	Swaziland	00268
Indonesia	0062	Sweden	0046
Iran	0098	Switzerland	0041
Iraq	00964	Syria	00963
Ireland	00353	Taiwan	00886
Italy	0039	Tanzania	00255
Ivory Coast	00225	Thailand	0066
Jamaica	001876	Toga	00228
Japan	0081	Tonga	00676



## Health

## Nigeria's military urged not to add to oil pollution

**WARRI, Nigeria:** Like many communities in southern Nigeria, the people of Okpare rely on the waters of the creeks that surround them for fishing and farming to survive. Pollution is a constant threat in the Niger Delta but locals say it is not just thieves stealing crude oil from pipelines that criss-cross the region who threaten their livelihoods. Military operations against illegal "bush refineries" and militants who target oil and gas infra-

structure are also adding to the damage.

"Aquatic life in our rivers has been destroyed and our farms have been ravaged by fire as a result of the burning of stolen crude oil by the army," said Okpare resident Gabriel Ekoh. Oil is the mainstay of Nigeria's economy, accounting for some 70 percent of overall government revenue and nearly 90 percent of export earnings. The West African giant, which is home to more than 180 million people, currently churns out

some 1.8 million barrels per day.

But oil has been a curse for the people of the Niger Delta since it was found in commercial quantities in the 1950s. Despite the billions of dollars it has generated, few locals have shared in the wealth and the region remains desperately poor. Instead, theft from pipelines, or "bunkering" as it is called locally, has become commonplace.

Nigeria's government in 2015 estimated that

the equivalent of at least 250,000 barrels of crude were being stolen every day, feeding a thriving black market for illicitly refined fuel. The deputy commander of the military's Operation Delta Safe, Brigadier-General Kelvin Aligbe, last month gave an indication of the scale of the problem. Since 2016, troops had destroyed 1,437 illegal refineries, 795 wooden cargo boats, 3,872 metal surface tanks, 1,019 plastic tanks, 13,129 drums and 13,343 jerry cans, he said. —AFP

CLINIC  
PAGE

**Kuwait Times**  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

**Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem**  
فهد علي المخيزيم  
Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال  
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Information

Friday, June 8, 2018

STATE OF KUWAIT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817

Fax: (+965) 24348714

www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY NIGHT:** Relatively hot with light to moderate freshening over costal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 40 km/h .

**BY DAY:** Very hot and Dusty with moderate to fresh northerly wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 25 - 55 km/h .

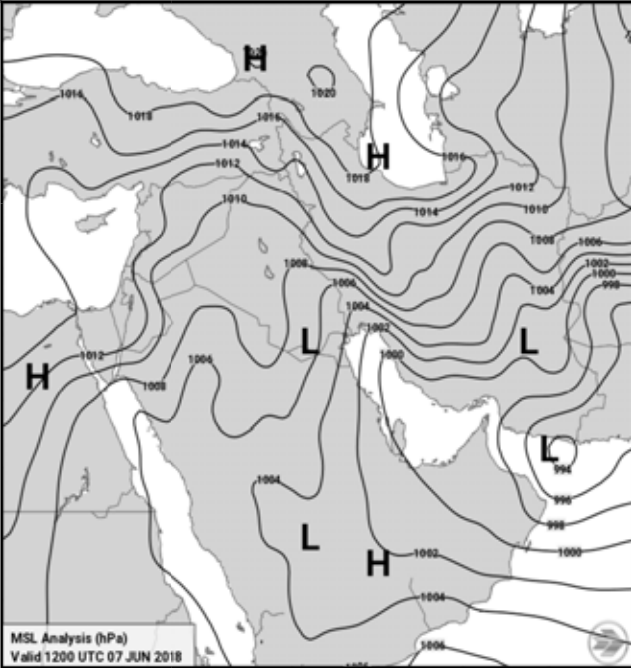
WEATHER WARNING

No Current Warnings

STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	48 °C	34 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	49 °C	37 °C
ABDALY	49 °C	31 °C
BUBYAN	-- °C	34 °C
JAHRA	50 °C	35 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	45 °C	33 °C
SALMIYAH	44 °C	34 °C
AHMADI	43 °C	35 °C
NUWAISIB	48 °C	35 °C
WAFRA	48 °C	32 °C
SALMY	48 °C	30 °C

SFC. CHART

07/06/2018 1200 UTC



MSL Analysis (hPa)  
Valid 1200 UTC 07 JUN 2018

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	06/08	Very hot and Dusty	48 °C	37 °C	N-NW	25 - 55 km/h
Saturday	06/09	Very hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	47 °C	36 °C	N-NW	20 - 45 km/h
Sunday	06/10	Very hot	46 °C	35 °C	N-NW	12 - 40 km/h
Monday	06/11	Hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	45 °C	34 °C	NW	20 - 50 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES		RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
Fajr	03:13	MAX. Temp.	47 °C
Sunrise	04:48	MIN. Temp.	34 °C
Zuhr	11:48	MAX. RH	35 %
Asr	15:21	MIN. RH	10 %
Sunset	18:46	MAX. Wind	N 32 km/h
Isha	20:18	TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Kuwait Times

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Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401



## Business

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018

**39** Bayer-Monsanto merger creates agrichemical juggernaut**40** China's gateway to N Korea pins hopes on Kim-Trump summit**41** Trump trade clash dooms prospects of G7 consensus

**KIMBERLEY, South Africa:** Clara Maitse, 77, a former illegal miner, filters dirt and soil as he searches for minerals following the legalisation of mining in limited areas in Kimberly, Northern Cape, South Africa. — AFP

# S African diamond miners emerge from shadows

## South Africa combats illegal mining by legalizing it

**KIMBERLEY, South Africa:** Grandmother Clara Maitse, 77, has been arrested seven times over the past decade for illegally mining precious stones in Kimberley, South Africa's diamond hub. Despite the steep legal penalties for DIY mining, the mother of 11 was not "scared of being arrested because the earth and its minerals belong to us black people". Unlike formal mining operations, small-scale miners pan for precious minerals around the edge of established quarries in the hope of coming up lucky. "We voted for Mandela and now there is no more fear," added Maitse.

Her defiant patience has paid off and small-scale mining, an industry that employs many thousands of people, has been decriminalized for

the first time under a permit system. In April, Maitse and 800 other illicit miners received licenses to operate on a vast tract of land near Kimberley in the country's centre. The landmark deal was aimed at curbing the rapid growth of illegal mining which has been spurred on by rising unemployment.

"The most effective way of combating illegal mining is legalizing it," said deputy mining minister Godfrey Oliphant. "Once you formalize it, it solves many problems." Armed with rudimentary hand tools, workers set off from their shacks at sunrise to work the soil. Dotted across a vast plain, they shovel gravel into recycled plastic buckets before sieving it for hidden treasures. "I feel very relieved now that we have licenses,"

said Maitse, a former maid, as she crushed clumps of soil in search of precious stones. "Beautiful money is what we will get."

Maitse, who lives with her 94-year-old husband, turned to illegal mining to provide for her nine grandchildren after three of her daughters died. Obakeng Monyera, 36, has been working the soil around Kimberley since 2007 and has dozens of scars from where police fired rubber bullets at him and other illicit miners.

### Millionaires in the making

"I don't even remember how many times we have been arrested, we were beaten by dogs, chased with helicopters—just to try to break our spirit," said Monyera. "We were treated like ter-

rorists. Now we are millionaires-in-the-making," added Monyera, who has thick locks and goes by the name "Rasta". "It was a hard journey." The new permits have meant more than just increased earnings for the miners they have restored their dignity.

Elisa Louw, a 47-year-old mother-of-five joined the so-called "zama-zama" miners, a Zulu word for "chance takers", in January 2013. She labored for 12 months without uncovering a single diamond. Then on Christmas Day she discovered a small stone that earned her 1,200 rand. It was around that time that her and others decided to lobby the government for recognition. After more than a year of protests and negotiation "change came to our lives", said Louw. — AFP



## Business

# Euro, bond yields extend gains on ECB while risk appetite grows

## US Treasury yields flirt with 3 percent level

**LONDON:** World stocks hit a three-week high yesterday and the euro and euro zone bond yields extended gains as investors priced in a potentially earlier-than-expected wind-down of ECB stimulus. The selloff in safe-haven Bunds and US Treasuries drove money into riskier assets, especially financial stocks, despite investors' anxiety over how a G7 leaders summit that kicks off today will pan out in view of global trade concerns.

Bank stocks, which tend to gain from higher bond yields, drove European shares up in early trade. The pan-European banks index jumped 0.6 percent, supporting the STOXX 600. Banks remain the worst-performing sector in Europe year-to-date, however, having been dented by a selloff triggered by political risk in Italy.

MSCI's index of world stocks rose 0.2 percent to its highest since May 14, helped by Asian shares which climbed to an 11-week high overnight.

European stocks pared gains by mid-morning, however, as the euro rose, weighing on exporting companies. The single currency hit its highest level since May 15 at \$1.1838, and traded up 0.5 percent at \$1.1827 by 1033 GMT in its fourth straight session of gains. It helped drive the dollar index down 0.4 percent to 93.295. Germany's benchmark 10-year bond rose in step with the euro, breaching 0.50 percent for the first time in two weeks on signs that the Euro-

pean Central Bank could soon call an end to its stimulus program. The selloff in German Bunds spread across the Atlantic as the US benchmark 10-year yield hit a 2-1/2 week high of 2.9940 percent, edging closer to the 3 percent level it breached a month ago. The ECB's Chief Economist Peter Praet said on Wednesday that robust growth made it increasingly confident inflation was on its way back to target, raising chances it may reveal more about the end of the bond-

buying program at its meeting next week.

Praet's comments took the market by surprise, given a recent slowdown in the euro zone economy. Data yesterday showed German industrial orders plunged unexpectedly in April, a fourth consecutive monthly drop. "It's a

complex backdrop where ultimately the economy is not doing badly, but the economic surprises in Europe have not been to the upside," said Antoine Lesne, head of EMEA strategy and research at State Street's SPDR ETF.

"Bad momentum has eased the overall backdrop the ECB is navigating - but if you're looking at the broader macro picture it is still positive for risk assets." Analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch said Praet's speech showed the central bank was willing to look through the recent soft patch in data.

### Too bullish?

The risk-on moves across markets coincided

“The economy is not doing badly”



TOKYO: A pedestrian looks at an electronics stock indicator showing share prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo.—AFP

with a calendar of potentially destabilizing political events. The run-up to the G7 summit has been dominated by a widening divide over trade between US President Trump and the club's remaining six members.

But gauges of investor anxiety, including stock volatility, showed little sign of strain, flummoxing some investors. The VIX, which measures volatility on the S&P 500, was last trading at 11.79. It has fallen from more than 50

to less than 12 in just 83 days - a record decline, traders said.

"I am amazed to see everyone so bullish," said Charles de Boissezon, deputy head of global asset allocation and equity strategy at Societe Generale. "Everyone assumes that ...central banks will be behind the curve by default, but it's not that obvious." Commodities continued to climb thanks to a still strong global economy and tight supply.—Reuters

## How Argentina's sovereign debt could threaten Macri's program

**BUENOS AIRES:** Argentina is in talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a credit line to guarantee government funding and bring stability to financial markets, after the peso currency sharply weakened. President Mauricio Macri's announcement of a return to the IMF last month generated anger and concern among many Argentines, who still blame austerity policies imposed by the multilateral lender for an economic collapse in 2001-2002. That initiative plunged millions into poverty. The country stopped paying its debts in the world's largest sovereign default.

Argentina remained a pariah in international markets for nearly 15 years under a succession of populist governments. But it received a wave of fresh capital after the market friendly Macri took office in December 2015, though the opposition has warned about the risks of rising public debt. Macri has focused on gradually reducing the fiscal deficit, rather than a "shock" of severe budget cuts, but that approach depends on the willingness of international lenders to keep financing the government through debt. Below is a summary of Argentina's debt situation.



Mauricio Macri

change controls in 2011 to slow capital flight, a move that caused a slowdown in investment and economic activity. That year, debt was 39 percent of GDP.

Months after taking office, Macri reached a deal with hedge funds that had refused to accept a haircut on Argentina's defaulted debt. That allowed Argentina to return to global debt markets in 2016 and sell bonds to cover its wide fiscal deficit. Nearly 70 percent of Argentina's debt is in foreign currency. By comparison, in Brazil just 5 percent of debt is foreign denominated, while in Chile the figure is 18 percent, according to ratings agency Moody's. "Argentina has a relatively high portion of its debt in foreign currency, and that leaves it vulnerable," said Gabriel Torres, a senior analyst at Moody's. Public data shows that more than 40

### Foreign currency exposure

Official data show that Argentina's public debt reached \$321 billion in 2017, roughly 57 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and up 33.3 percent from when Macri took office. That is slightly above the levels in Chile and Peru, in line with Mexico and below Colombia and Uruguay, according to Argentina-based think tank FIEL. Debt as a percentage of GDP remained relatively low under former President Cristina Fernandez, who implemented ex-

change controls in 2011 to slow capital flight, a move that caused a slowdown in investment and economic activity. That year, debt was 39 percent of GDP.

### Austerity and debt

Experts believe that in exchange for the IMF credit, which would likely be at least \$20 billion, the Fund will ask for an acceleration in budget cuts. Last month, the government announced a downward revision in its fiscal deficit targets for 2018-2020. During the first two years of the Macri administration, the government tried to cut the deficit gradually to limit the social and economic impact of cuts. But growing foreign currency debt means the country will need to issue even more to pay off maturing debt. The government has said that the IMF loan could guarantee financing to last through the end of Macri's first term in December 2019. That would reduce the impact of potential future increases in global rates.

"Maturities in the short and medium term are high," Cynthia Moskovits, a senior economist at FIEL, said in an interview. "On top of that there is a high current account deficit, which is induced by the public sector, making the need for foreign currency very high." The sustainability of Argentina's debt going forward will depend in large part on the local economy. GDP expanded in 2017 after a long recession, but early expectations for 3 percent growth this year are unlikely to come to pass due to the recent financial volatility and a drought harming farm output.

The crisis also introduces new risks to the country's provinces, many of which issued international bonds in the last 2-1/2 years amid investor optimism about Macri's policies. Previously, provincial governments tended to borrow mostly from the federal government.—Reuters



## Business

# Bayer-Monsanto merger creates agrichemical juggernaut

## Monsanto's GM seeds meet resistance in Europe

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** German chemicals and pharmaceuticals giant Bayer will seal a \$63-billion merger with US-based Monsanto yesterday, creating an agrichemical behemoth with lofty ambitions to feed the world but lambasted by environmentalists. "Feeding a growing world population is a long-term trend, and we want to contribute to its solution," Bayer chief executive Werner Baumann told business newspaper Handelsblatt in an interview Tuesday.

Executives are betting big on projections that around 10 billion people will live on Earth by 2050, meaning more food must grow on the same amount of arable land. They say that can best be achieved with technologies rejected by green organizations and politicians, including genetically-modified (GM) seeds designed to resist strong pesticides. Modified crops and digital tools to help farmers adapt to the weather and monitor the health of their fields could also help swell harvests threatened by climate change.

"We will help our customers to grow more with less," Baumann told journalists Monday while promising "we will apply the same rigor in achieving our sustainability targets as we do to our financial targets." "The decisive question will be whether Bayer is strong enough to do the splits," Handelsblatt predicted.

"On the one side is the business necessity to make as much money as possible with plant protection chemicals and seeds as investors demand. On the other, Bayer must earn trust among a public that's increasingly skeptical about industrial agriculture."

### Money where your mouth is

Following Dow and DuPont's 2017 merger and ChemChina's acquisition of Swiss firm Syngenta, the Bayer-Monsanto tie-up is the latest in a string of mega-mergers in the chemical industry that have created mammoths in Europe, the US and Asia. "Fewer and fewer firms are sharing out power over farming and groceries... determining what arrives on our plates at what price," the Heinrich Boell Foundation, close to Germany's Greens party, warned last year.

Launched in 2016, the Bayer-Monsanto marriage will create a global giant with 115,000 employees and annual revenues of 45 billion euros. Competition

authorities forced Bayer to sell chunks of its existing seeds and agrichemical business, with revenues of around 2.2 billion euros per year, to rival BASF before allowing the deal. Even taking that into account, Bayer and Monsanto's agriculture arms boasted combined sales of 19.7 billion euros last year, far outstripping DowDuPont and ChemChina.

“

We will help our customers to grow more with less

”



**LEVERKUSEN:** In this file photo German chemicals giant Bayer's logo is pictured at the Bayer headquarters in Leverkusen. — AFP

The combination completes the firm's transition from a chemicals and pharmaceuticals maker to what it calls a "life science" business. In its new form Bayer will earn around half its revenue from prescription and over-the-counter medications and half from agriculture. While they hailed a "sound strategic rationale" for the deal and "robust long-term fundamentals" in the agrichemical sector, ratings agency Moody's downgraded Bayer's debt earlier this week.—AFP

## China offers to buy \$70bn of US goods

**WASHINGTON:** China has offered to buy \$70 billion worth of US goods if Washington drops plans to impose tariffs in return, an official in President Donald Trump's administration told AFP on Wednesday, confirming an earlier report. Top Chinese economic advisor Liu He made the offer during weekend trade talks in Beijing with a US delegation led by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday. The new purchases would include soybeans, natural gas, crude oil and coal.

The Commerce Department on Wednesday told AFP no definitive agreement had been reached and no further information was available. During a regular news briefing Thursday in Beijing, the Chinese commerce ministry confirmed the two sides had discussed detailed proposals during the trade negotiations. "China and the US carried out in-depth and concrete discussions in some specific areas of trade cooperation, especially agricultural products and energy," said Gao Feng, the ministry's

spokesman, when asked about the \$70 billion figure.

"China is willing to expand imports from the US under the precondition of both sides walking towards each other," Gao said. US exports to China last year hit \$130.4 billion, according to the Department. A \$70 billion package of purchases would amount to a 53.8 percent increase. For goods alone, the US trade deficit with China hit a record \$375 billion last year, and the White House has demanded Beijing cut the imbalance by \$200 billion. "If the United States introduces trade sanctions including tariffs, all the economic and trade achievements negotiated by the two parties will be void," China's official news agency Xinhua said Sunday.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Liu personally explained to Ross the offer would be void in the event Washington imposed additional tariffs. Trump had announced last week that the US was pressing ahead with plans to impose 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion worth of Chinese imports tied to the tech sector, which Washington says has benefitted from the alleged theft of US know-how and intellectual property. Washington's trade battles with China, Europe, Mexico and others are an effort to make those countries buy more US goods and force down the US trade deficit, which Trump sees as a job killer and threat to the American industrial base.—AFP

## Greece optimistic for June debt relief deal

**PARIS:** Greece is optimistic about prospects for a debt relief deal in June that will help make its post-bailout return to bond markets credible, along with EU monitoring and a cash buffer, a Greek government official said. Greece was in talks in Paris yesterday with its euro zone and IMF lenders about hammering out later this month a debt relief deal.

"We are weeks away from the completion of the bailout program. There is no doubt that the program will be completed successfully, that is, Greece will be able to regain sustainable and lasting market access beyond 2018 and 2019," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The official said Athens was aware of the risk of contagion from jitters in the Italian bond market, where difficulties in forming a coalition government have driven yields higher.

"It's important to design a strategy that will enable us to decouple Greek bonds from what is going on in the Italian bond market," the official said. Greece is therefore counting on a three-pronged strategy of a cash buffer, post-bailout surveillance by the European Commission and debt relief to plot a credible return to markets.

Athens aims to bring the cash buffer to up

to 20 billion euros, which would permit it to abstain from tapping markets for more than two years if issuing conditions are not favorable, the official said. Greece will commit to sticking to existing fiscal and reform targets, though no new conditions would be imposed, the official said. The return of profits that euro zone central banks made on Greek government bonds to Athens would hinge on meeting those targets.

The official said he was optimistic loans will be extended under the debt relief deal euro zone finance ministers aim to agree at a June 21 meeting. One of the objectives of that meeting is to secure IMF backing for the euro zone debt relief offer for Greece to boost its credibility with markets and bring investors back to Greece after it exits its bailout on Aug. 20. Though the IMF would prefer debt relief measures going beyond the euro zone's offer, the official said that in the government "in our own analysis we don't need it".

The official also said that a French proposal to link repayments to economic growth was "on the table" but depended on how long existing loans are extended in the debt relief package. With growth strong and revenues coming in better than expected, the government now sees room to ease taxes and increase spending on things like child poverty, the official said. The government sees room to cut taxes by about 700 million euros next year. In 2019, 1.2 billion euros is expected to be available with 75 percent going to tax cuts and 25 percent to higher spending. By 2022, the extra money is seen reaching 3.5 billion euros with half going to taxes and half to spending.—Reuters



## Business

# China's gateway to N Korea pins hopes on Kim-Trump summit

## Traders learn to work around sanctions

**DANDONG, China:** After a sanctions-driven hiatus, dozens of North Korean women are again cutting cloth, pedaling sewing machines and manning production lines at a garment factory in a Chinese city buoyed by hopes of peace across the border. The workshop had been silent for months, whipsawed by United Nations sanctions that sent North Korean workers home, but machines have sprung back to life in the trade gateway of Dandong as tensions ease on the Korean peninsula.

Beijing, an old ally of Pyongyang, has officially shown no signs of lifting the punishing UN measures, but President Xi Jinping's embrace of his younger North Korean counterpart, Kim Jong Un, has provided breathing room to businesses and traders in the border city. Many businessmen are now looking ahead to the fortune they hope to make should US President Donald Trump's summit with Kim on Tuesday in Singapore lead to the lifting of sanctions.

The city of 2.4 million bet its economy on commerce with the North, emerging as the main artery for bilateral trade trucked back and forth across the Yalu River separating the two Cold War-era allies. But the economy has been in the doldrums since the UN punished Pyongyang for its nuclear and missile tests last year, squeezing trade in coal, seafood, textiles and other commodities, while forcing a portion of its cheap North Korean workforce to return home.

"We are just doing some small business, we don't understand the politics but we have been majorly impacted," a manager of the garment factory surnamed Tian said. Today things are looking up: curious Chinese tourists are returning, housing prices are jumping, and some traders have learned how to work around sanctions.

"Most of my buyers are businessmen from southern China. They think they will do business with the North," said Yue Yue, a realtor selling apartments overlooking the Yalu. "We have sold a year's worth of apartments in one month's time," she said.



**Small businesses have been majorly impacted**

### Signs of life

North Koreans, with their tell-tale lapel pins bearing images of past leaders, have returned to

Dandong. At the city's lone border crossing, dozens milled about with bags bulging as they waited for a bus home. Chinese tourist Liu led a group of seven friends the other way, back to China. "We wanted to see what North Korea is like, how far it has developed," said the man in his sixties, after two days of sightseeing in Sinuiju across the border.

The group from northern China booked their tour after Kim visited Beijing in March. The entertainment provided by their hotel included a screening of "The Flower Girl", written by Kim's grandfather, Kim Il Sung.



**DANDONG, China:** This picture shows a man riding his bike in the border city of Dandong, in China's northeast Liaoning province. —AFP

North Korean eateries are also back in business. The marble Pyongyang Restaurant near the border crossing put on a show of ballads and dance numbers performed by North Korean women in traditional gowns on a recent night. It reopened at the end of March, waitresses said, around the same time that Kim passed through town in his armored train on the way to his first meeting with Xi.

The restaurant was owned by businesswoman Ma Xiaohong and the Korea National Insurance Corporation, both sanctioned by the US, until the North transferred its shares to a local guest house last year. An employee at the guest house said they served as a proxy holder. Its owner, Piao Zhehao, was unreachable across the border. Inside, Chinese and North Korean diners recently discussed business as they picked at specialty dishes from the North. —AFP

who want President Faure Gnassingbe to quit. Gnassingbe has led Togo since the death of his father, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, in 2005. In all, the family has been in charge of the country for more than 50 years. The government is playing a game of attrition and is banking on protesters running out of steam before the next elections in two years' time.

## Togo's long-running political deadlock hits business

**LOME:** Seibou Issa sits in his shop for a meeting with his two employees. As usual since the start of the political crisis in Togo in September last year, business has not been good "Trade is practically dead," he complained at his electrical store in the Deckon area of the capital, Lome, which is the economic driver of the tiny West African nation. "My sales are down more than half because most of my clients are from neighboring countries. Recently, they've been afraid to come," he told AFP.

A short distance away from Issa's unsold new fridges and cookers, Paul Azedjan is trying to sell telephones. "It's really hard," he said. "Customers are few and far between and some suppliers are going to Benin and Ghana because we haven't got rid of the stock." Deckon is home to dozens of shops, banks and the headquarters of major firms. As a result, the government has tried, sometimes unsuccessfully, to prevent protesters from heading there in case their marches hit economic activity.

### Budget cut

Since September last year, hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets across the country in support of opposition parties

The strategy has been effective in grinding down popular support for the opposition but is harming economic activity in the longer term. A study published in April by the Togo Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIT), saw 72 percent of 912 company bosses say they had seen second-quarter revenues drop by 25-50 percent in 2017. An International Monetary Fund delegation that visited Togo in the same month also noted that economic activity had slowed because of socio-political strife.

The rate of economic growth was estimated to be 4.4 percent in 2017, down from 5.1 percent in 2015. This year, the IMF said it would be just under 5.0 percent. On May 25, the government adopted a proposal to reduce the state budget this year by 1.0 percent because of the decline in fiscal revenue from the first quarter. It justified the budget cut because of "the changing socio-economic and financial situation of the country... hit by violence that has negatively affected economic activity". The political opposition this week announced a fresh wave of demonstrations, as talks with the government brokered by the presidents of Ghana and Guinea remained in deadlock. —AFP

## Kuwait's credit profile reflects low govt debt

**Frankfurt am Main:** Kuwait's credit profile (Aa2 stable) reflects the country's substantial oil and gas reserves, historic fiscal and balance of payments surpluses and comparatively low government debt levels, Moody's Investors Service said in an annual report published last week. Kuwait's key credit challenge is its very high dependence on oil and the resulting volatility for its economy, exports and government finances.

The country has been slower than its regional peers in developing its non-oil and private sectors. "Kuwait's credit profile would be supported by a steady diversification of government revenues and economic activity away from the oil sector," said Thaddeus Best, a Moody's Analyst and co-author of the report. "Sustained improvements to the institutional framework, in particular government transparency and reporting standards, would also be positive."

The importance of the oil and gas sector leads to huge swings in the Kuwaiti economy during

times of volatile global oil prices. Non-hydrocarbon growth has been supported by the current five-year National Development Plan (2015-19), which provides direction for prioritizing capital expenditure, encouraging private investment, and creating jobs for nationals in the private sector. Public and private investments are expected to sustain non-hydrocarbon growth rates of 3.5% to 4% between 2018 and 2021.

Institutional strength and government effectiveness were tested during the oil price slump, with Kuwait's pace of reforms being much slower than for other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) peers. Reform implementation is likely to be further delayed as oil prices rise. Despite rising government debt levels and Moody's expectation that government revenues will remain heavily reliant on hydrocarbon revenues for the foreseeable future, Kuwait will maintain an extraordinarily strong government balance sheet and an overall net asset position.

Moody's estimates that the budget balance will return to a surplus of around 7.0% of GDP in the 2018-19 fiscal year, driven largely by rising oil prices. A further sustained oil price fall, a marked worsening in the fiscal balance and signs of falling government financial assets would exert downward pressure on Kuwait's sovereign rating. A deterioration in institutional capacity sufficient to sustain its current creditworthiness would also be credit negative.



## Business

# Trump trade clash dooms prospects of G7 consensus

## Trudeau, Macron won't hesitate to isolate US

**WASHINGTON:** Summits of the Group of Seven powers are often marred by anti-globalist demonstrations in the streets of the host city. This time, the greatest threat to the liberal world order will be inside the fence. President Donald Trump comes to this week's Quebec G7, which begins today, touting an America First agenda that hits US allies with trade tariffs and threatens multilateral free trade deals. His stance will receive such a hostile reception from the other leaders of the world's richest democracies that some observers have suggested renaming the G7 summit the G6+1.

If there are no other options, "they would not hesitate to isolate the United States," Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron agreed after a "very friendly" dinner in Ottawa late Wednesday ahead of the summit, sources with the French presidency said. Trump may well be distracted by preparations for his June 12 summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, which will be in Singapore immediately after the rich-world talking shop in Canada. But it is not such a stretch to imagine that the US leader will



**Observers suggest renaming summit as G6+1**

enjoy a warmer encounter with the autocrat from Pyongyang than with his Canadian hosts and European and Japanese allies. "Isn't it ironic?" Trump tweeted.

"Getting ready to go to the G-7 in Canada to fight for our country on Trade (we have the worst trade deals ever made), then off to Singapore to meet with North Korea & the Nuclear Problem...But back home we still have the 13 Angry Democrats pushing the Witch Hunt!" He was making a passing reference to the probe into Russian interference in the 2016 US elections and possible collusion with Trump's presidential campaign. Leaders like Trudeau and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel admit it will be difficult to even agree on a joint

communique at the two-day meeting. "We know certainly that there will be frank and sometimes difficult discussions around the G7 table, particularly with the US president on tariffs," Trudeau told reporters.

### All-out trade war

Merkel told German lawmakers Wednesday before setting off for Canada that there would be "no compromise for its own sake" and that dropping the statement "may be the more honest way." But Trump's decision to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum—and eventually other goods, such as German luxury cars—have pushed G7 members to the brink of all-out trade war. Canada's Trade Minister Francois Philippe Champagne was blunter, declaring: "What we are seeing is that the world economic order is under pressure, under attack."

And Trump is not likely to back down. "There are disagreements," top White House economics advisor Larry Kudlow acknowledged. "He is sticking to his guns." Kudlow, in line with the longstanding expert consensus in the G7 industrialized democracies, had

long opposed tariffs before joining Trump's team, but now says he agrees that the trade status quo hurts America. "Until we can have reciprocal relationships we will not have free trade, and we will not have fair trade," Kudlow said. "So I think his cause is just and I think the rest of the world agrees with him."

Europe does not come to Quebec from a position of strength. Britain's Theresa May is mired in endless Brexit negotiations and Italian premier Giuseppe Conte only formally took power on Wednesday. Macron made initial headway in forming a public friendship with Trump, but has failed to sway the US leader on any issue, while Merkel has been distracted



OTTAWA, Canada: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, right, holds a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, left, at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada. —AFP

by coalition negotiations.

The G7's only Asian member, Japan, has close relations with the White House, but Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's support for Trump's North Korean outreach has not seen his country spared the tariffs. A senior European Union official briefing reporters on the pre-summit negotiations used discreet understatement to describe the impasse, but only ended up underscoring the width of the rift. "We find the tariffs to be illegal, so finding common language continues to be a challenge," he said.

### End of the world order

The G7 developed in part because the world's rich powers—despite their supposed Cold War victory—became frustrated in working through the broader multilateral system with lesser rivals. The globalized economy that they helped build had winners and losers,

of course, but until Trump's election the United States was seen as the system's uncontested leader and a major beneficiary. But now, according to Laurence Nardon of the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI), one of the main actors on the international stage is no longer following the same script.

"It completely calls into question the international system," she told AFP. "This G7 summit is a new act in the drama. So far, the six are standing strong, but Trump has not finished. William Reinsch, a senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, said he expected the other six nations of the G7 to "gang up" on Trump. "The president's proclivity, though, you know, when criticized is consistently to hit back," he added. Since coming to office in January 2017, Trump has pulled the US out of the Paris climate accord, the Iran nuclear deal and the TPP Pacific free trade deal. —AFP

## Digital bank Revolut to offer customers fee-free share trading

**LONDON:** British digital-only bank Revolut said yesterday it is building a commission-free trading platform on its app, its latest bid to use technology to undercut traditional financial services. Users, who can already use the app to manage their money and spend abroad with minimal fees, will be able to invest in stocks from British and US listed firms as well as exchange-traded funds and options.

Revolut, which launched in 2015, said it wants to break down barriers to entry in investing, which include high costs, confusing interfaces and complicated sign-up processes. Nikolay Storonsky, founder and CEO of Revolut, said with brokers charging as much as 5 pounds per trade and offering clunky technology, there was "massive" room for improvement.

"To put it bluntly, we are going to cause the

same disruption in investments as we have done in banking." Revolut is one of a number of app-only banks and other financial technology firms that have sprung up in Britain, aiming to take business away from established providers with slick technology that is easy and cheap to use. It said has now signed up two million customers across Europe, representing a 300 percent increase in user growth over the last year.

While there are some fintech firms focused on commission-free trading, such as Robinhood in the United States, Revolut will be the first digital bank to integrate an investment platform into its app alongside everyday banking services. The move pits it against the investment platforms of established financial services groups like Hargreaves Lansdown, Barclays and Close Brothers.

Revolut said users will be able to buy and sell listed stocks in seconds, without paying commission. A spokesman for the firm said the product would generate income from premium subscriptions, which will give perks to paying customers, as well as margin trading, securities lending and interest on cash held.—Reuters

## Turkey's central bank raises benchmark rate after inflation spike

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey's central bank raised its benchmark rate by 125 basis points to 17.75 percent yesterday, following up on last month's dramatic increase with more tightening after inflation spiked. The lira firmed to 4.4516 against the dollar following the decision, from 4.5799 directly before. "Despite the mild outlook for demand conditions, elevated levels of inflation and inflation expectations continue to pose risks on the pricing behavior," the bank said in a statement following its last scheduled monetary policy committee meeting before national elections on June 24.

"Accordingly, the Committee decided to further strengthen the monetary tightening to support price stability." Concerns about President

Tayyip Erdogan's growing influence on monetary policy and doubts over the central bank's ability to rein in double-digit inflation have sent the lira down some 16 percent this year. To stem the sell-off, the bank hiked rates by 3 percentage points at an emergency meeting last month and said it would return to a single policy rate. Investors have been expecting further tightening, particularly after data on Monday showed annual inflation quickened to 12.15 percent in May.

Eleven out of 16 economists polled by Reuters had predicted the bank would hike its one-week repo rate, with five each forecasting increases of 50 and 100 basis points. One economist predicted an increase of 75 basis points while five forecast no change. The bank's move to a single rate — it had for years used a complex system of multiple rates to set policy — was something long sought by investors. Its other rates, including the late liquidity window, are now directly derived from the benchmark rate, meaning policy should be more predictable. —Reuters



# All change for Boks against England after Wales loss

## SA Rugby agree that 50 percent of the team should be blacks

**JOHANNESBURG:** South Africa will field a completely different team for the first rugby Test against England tomorrow from that which lost to Wales last weekend if prop Trevor Nyakane passes a fitness test.

The tighthead prop has a rib injury and a decision on whether he can play in the first match of a three-Test series will be made today, coach Rassie Erasmus said. Should Nyakane pull out, the number three shirt will go to Wilco Louw, who started in the 22-20 loss to the Welsh in Washington.

Flanker Siya Kolisi will lead the Springboks, the first black to do so after 60 white captains of a national team that included only whites until the collapse of apartheid. Should Nyakane play, there will be a record-equalling seven black starters in the team with Erasmus keeping his promise to racially transform the team.

SA Rugby and the government have agreed that 50 percent of the team at the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan should be blacks, who comprise 92 percent of the population. Wholesale changes were expected as Erasmus left what proved to be his 15 first choices for England behind when the rest of the squad travelled to the American capital.

There are three new caps-wingers Sibusiso Nkosi and Aphiwe Dyantyi and lock RG

Snyman, who owes his place to injuries ruling out Eben Etzebeth and Lood de Jager. "I am especially pleased for the three newcomers, Aphiwe, Sibusiso and RG," said Erasmus.

"I am looking forward to seeing how they will perform in tough Test match conditions against formidable opponents," Erasmus said. England, were a very well-drilled team under the leadership of Eddie Jones, an assistant coach of the 2007 South Africa Rugby World Cup-winning team.

"England are a top-class, quality side and they will no doubt be very determined to be successful in this series. "With us desperate for success as well, supporters can expect a really good Test match tomorrow," said Erasmus.

"We have prepared as well as we could and the players are looking forward to playing in front of our passionate supporters in Johannesburg." Full-back Willie le Roux and scrum-half Faf de Klerk, both based in England, are recalled after falling out of favour with previous coach Allister Coetzee.

Coetzee was sacked this year after a disastrous two-season reign in which South Africa lost 12 of 25 Tests and twice conceded 57 points against greatest foes New Zealand. The Johannesburg match marks the start of a sixth attempt by England to win a Test series in South Africa.



(FILES) In this file photo taken on May 28, 2018, South African flanker Siya Kolisi, the first black Test captain who will lead South Africa in a three-Test series against England in June. —AFP

Free State Stadium in Bloemfontein will host the second Test on June 16 and Newlands stadium in Cape Town the third on June 23.

### Team (15-1)

Willie le Roux; Sibusiso Nkosi, Lukhanyo Am, Damian de Allende, Aphiwe Dyantyi; Handre Pollard, Faf de Klerk; Duane Vermeulen,

Jean-Luc du Preez, Siya Kolisi (capt); Franco Mostert, RG Snyman; Trevor Nyakane/Wilco Louw, Bongi Mbonambi, Tendai Mtawarira.

Replacements: Akker van der Merwe, Steven Kitshoff, Wilco Louw/Thomas du Toit, Pieter-Steph du Toit, Sikhumbuzo Notshe, Ivan van Zyl, Elton Jantjies, Warrick Gelant. Coach: Rassie Erasmus (RSA). —AFP

## Wallabies coach fired up to end Ireland hoodoo

**MELBOURNE:** Australia coach Michael Cheika laid a foundation of success for Irish rugby during his stint at Leinster, and eight years on, he faces the juggernaut he helped create at Lang Park tomorrow.

Joe Schmidt holds the reins of the visiting Six Nations champions, but Cheika's influence runs deep through a squad looking to extend its 12-match winning streak in the southern hemisphere. Cheika transformed an under-achieving Leinster into European Cup champions in 2009, nurturing the likes of Johnny Sexton, Rob Kearney and Cian Healy before handing over to New Zealand-born Schmidt who carried on the Australian's success.

Cheika has since worked his magic on home shores, guiding the Sydney-based New South Wales Waratahs to their maiden Super Rugby title in 2014 before lifting an unfancied Wallabies side to the World Cup final in England the following year.

Virtually all major rugby nations have suffered a loss to Cheika's Wallabies, including the world champion All Blacks last year. Schmidt's Ireland, however, have proved the

stubborn exception, claiming two tight home wins in 2014 and 2016.

"They're the best team Ireland's had since the start of their rugby history," Cheika told reporters in Brisbane yesterday. "They're coming down here as number two in the world. They can claim they're underdogs as much as they like but they're certainly going to be the favourites when they go off the back of the season they've had."

June has been a forgettable month for Australian rugby in recent times, with a shock home loss to Scotland last year and a 3-0 whitewash by Eddie Jones's England in 2016. The buildup to the Ireland series has been typically chaotic.

Cheika's preparations were distracted by a tug-of-war with New Zealand over uncapped loose forward Pete Samu, who was only belatedly released by the rival nation over the weekend. Local provincial side ACT Brumbies also refused to rest flanker David Pocock and two other Wallabies from Super Rugby duties on Sunday, giving them little time to recover ahead of the Ireland series-opener.

Hooker Jordan Uelese was then a late scratching after sustaining a season-ending knee injury, forcing a late call-up for Tolu Latu. Uncapped rake Brandon Paenga-Amosa will be thrust into a starting role along with loose forward Caleb Timu, while reserve Samu could be a third debutant. —Reuters

## Kabaddi, kabaddi, kabaddi - pro league a lucrative hit in India

**MUMBAI:** The success of the Indian Premier League cricket tournament has spawned several copycat competitions in other sports but kabaddi left them all trailing in its wake with a string of record bids at last week's auction of players.

While cricket maintains a stranglehold on the sporting landscape in the country of 1.3 billion, the indigenous mixture of team tag and wrestling has grown in stature since the launch of the Pro Kabaddi League in 2014. Bankrolled by Twenty-First Century Fox unit Star India and Mashal Sports, which counts India's Mahindra group chairman Anand Mahindra among its promoters, the league has transformed the homegrown sport into a high-octane televised spectacle.

The viewership numbers have grown steadily with each edition and last season's final witnessed a jump of over 70 percent from the previous title match with 26.2 million tuning in to watch the Patna Pirates beat Gujarat Fortunegiants.

The league's popularity - the 10th final of cricket's IPL attracted only 13.2m more viewers - has also resulted in quite a windfall for the players, who were all amateurs until the PKL started.

Monu Goyat ended up fetching 15.1 million rupees (\$225,609) at the two-day auction in Mumbai when the 25-year-old raider was bought by the Haryana Steelers for the sixth edition - slated to start in October. That made Goyat the highest

valued non-cricketer in Indian sport, bringing him more money than the national soccer captain Sunil Chhetri, who was retained by Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League for 15 million rupees last season. "I am extremely happy to be the highest paid player this season," Goyat said.

"There is a huge responsibility to deliver and I am glad to receive this opportunity. I will now focus on increasing the standard of my game and playing the best I can." Revolving around very basic skills, the game is played by two teams of seven with a 'raider' entering the other half of the court to try and tag or wrestle opponents before returning 'home' while holding his breath and chanting 'kabaddi, kabaddi'.

The sport, which requires no sophisticated equipment and is hugely popular in South Asia, was included in the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing for the first time as a regular discipline. Indian men have won all seven gold medals in the Asian Games since its introduction and also won the women's event in the two Games since it was introduced in 2010 in Guangzhou.

The money Haryana paid for Goyat's services was over 60 percent more than the top bid of 9.3 million rupees Nitin Tomar received during the auction for the fifth season. Four more Indian players, including Tomar, crossed the '10 million' mark during the auction while Iranian defender Fazel Atrachali was the lone foreigner to touch the mark when he was bought by U Mumba.

"Kabaddi has proven to be a viable career option for emerging talent and with six players crossing the (10 million) mark," league commissioner Anupam Goswami said after the 12 franchises spent a total of 459.3 million rupees. —Reuters



## Sports

# Kevin Durant's heroics power Warriors to brink of NBA crown

## 'We have another opportunity today to extend the series'

**CLEVELAND:** Defending champion Golden State, powered by 43 points from Kevin Durant, moved to the brink of a third NBA title in four seasons Wednesday by defeating the Cleveland Cavaliers 110-102. The Warriors seized a commanding 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven NBA Finals and by winning game four Friday would complete the first championship series sweep since Cleveland was blanked by San Antonio in 2007. "I don't want to downplay anything but I don't want to act like this is the end of the road," Durant said. "We did some things that we need to correct if we want to win the next game. I've just got stay locked in." No team has ever recovered from a 3-0 deficit to win an NBA playoff series, but the Cavaliers made the top comeback in NBA Finals history in 2016 from 3-1 down to swipe a title from Golden State.

"It's definitely a tough loss," said Cavaliers star LeBron James. "We had our chances. But we have another opportunity today to extend the series but we've got to come out and play 48 minutes."

Durant added 12 rebounds and seven assists to his top playoff scoring total, but it was not until his 3-pointer with 49 seconds remaining to give the Warriors a 106-100 lead that Cleveland's fate was sealed. "That was amazing what he did out there," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "Some of those shots, I don't think anybody in the world but him could have made those shots. He was incredible."

Durant's last basket was eerily like a 3-pointer he made late in game three last year against the Cavs that clinched a Golden State victory. "He's

definitely an assassin and that was one of those assassin plays right there," James said.

"It was like deja vu seeing that shot again," Cavaliers forward Kevin Love said. It was another dagger in the title hopes of James, who had 33 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists while Kevin Love added 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Cavaliers.

"It was a big shot," Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue said. "He was four or five feet behind the (3-point) line and he raised up and made a big shot for them. So, you know, kind of like he did last year."

The Cavaliers had been 8-1 at home in the playoffs with eight wins in a row since losing their first-round opener to Indiana. "We feel like we've been right there," Love said. "We just have to come out Friday and not give in."

But the Warriors improved to 10-2 against the Cavaliers since Durant joined Golden State before last season. "His overall game was ridiculous—the passing, the rebounding, the scoring," Kerr said. "It wasn't just the number of points. It seemed like every time we needed a bucket he got it for us."

James landed badly going for a rebound early in the second quarter and limped on his right ankle, but the four-time NBA Most Valuable Player kept the Cavaliers in contention to the end. "I twisted it pretty good," James said. "But I'll be in the lineup today." Durant scored nine points in a 15-8 run to close the second quarter that pulled Golden State within 58-52 at half-time after trailing by as many as 13 points.



CLEVELAND: Kevin Durant #35 of the Golden State Warriors defends LeBron James #23 of the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game Three of the 2018 NBA Finals on Wednesday at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio. —AFP

"Kevin was the story in the first half just keeping us in the game," Kerr said. "And then he was the story in the second half as well, closing it out." JaVale McGee scored six points and Durant added five in a 15-3 Golden State run early in the third quarter that produced the Warriors' first lead and saw it grow to a team-best 69-64.

The Cavaliers battled into the final seconds but Stephen Curry, who missed 13 of his first 14 shots, connected on a layup and 3-pointer back-to-back to give Golden State the lead for good.

"As usual he hit a big one," Kerr said. "He always finds a way to make big plays even on his toughest nights." Curry had 11 points while McGee, Draymond Green, Klay Thompson and Jordan Ball all had 10.

Warriors forward Andre Iguodala, the 2015 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player, returned to Golden State's lineup after being sidelined by a left leg bone bruise. He suffered a bruised right leg in the second quarter but returned in the fourth quarter. —AFP

## Lord's inspires Australia's World Cup 'dream'

**LONDON:** Australia captain Tim Paine believes training at Lord's has fuelled the team's "dream" of appearing in next year's World Cup final at the 'home of cricket'.

The reigning world champions have been at Lord's this week ahead of a one-day international series against England. The five-match contest, which gets underway across London at The Oval on June 13, will mark the first time Australia have been in international action since March's ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

The fall-out from one of the most humiliating episodes in Australian cricket history led to year-long bans for former captain Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner, as well as a nine-month suspension for batsman Cameron Bancroft, who applied sandpaper to the ball during the third Test in Cape Town in a flagrant breach of cricket's rulebook.

Darren Lehmann subsequently resigned as team coach, with Justin Langer succeeding his fellow former Australia batsman. It was at Lord's where the now 33-year-old Paine made his Test debut in a 'neutral' match against Pakistan in 2010.

"I haven't been here for about eight or nine years but one of the first things we (the squad) did was a slow lap together and let it all sink in, the history and tradition," Paine told reporters at Lord's on Wednesday. "We also talked about the World Cup final here in 12 months' time as a dream for our guys to work to," the wicket-keeper explained.

Langer, who knows the ground better than most Australians, hav-

ing also played for Lord's-based county side Middlesex, added: "This is the best place on earth. Literally. "Mate, what a place. Lord's is the best place on earth. What about lunch (here)?"

But Australia, who won the 1999 World Cup final at Lord's, may need to improve their ODI form if they are to reach next year's showpiece match and be crowned champions for a record-extending sixth time.

England, who beat Australia 4-1 in an ODI series 'Down Under' earlier this year, are currently top of the 50-over rankings, with Langer's side fifth. As well as Smith and Warner, Australia will also be without injured first-choice fast bowlers Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood for the upcoming series.

They will look to the likes of Travis Head and D'Arcy Short to fill the run-gap, while pacemen Kane Richardson, Andrew Tye, Jhye Richardson and Billy Stanlake stake their claims. "How do you replace David Warner's and Steve Smith's runs and experience?," asked Langer.

"But the reality is that's where we're at. If we're going to come and win the World Cup here next year we'll need unbelievable depth in Australian cricket," Paine added. "We can win this series. It's an opportunity for other guys to come in and fill the void."

"Not having our big three bowlers here is an opportunity for guys who are probably a bit better than people around the world realise." Meanwhile Paine, who took over as captain in South Africa, said Australia were prepared for taunts from English crowds following the ball-tampering scandal. "We expect that when we come to England all the time," he said ahead of Thursday's tour-opener against a Sussex side coached by former Australia fast bowler Jason Gillespie.

"We cop a little bit of ribbing and this time we come with a bit more of a reason for them to do it," Paine added. "We're looking forward to it, to be honest." But the Tasmanian stressed: "We won't be overly nice. We've still got to have that hard edge. We're here to win." —AFP

## Kohli named Indian cricketer of the year

**NEW DELHI:** Virat Kohli won India's cricketer of the year award for the fifth time yesterday for outstanding performances over the past two seasons. Kohli became India's captain in 2015 and led his team back to number one place in the Test rankings the following year.

The 29-year-old, who was also named International Cricket Council player of the year in January, amassed 1,332 runs in 13 Tests in 2016-2017. He also averaged 84.22 for his 1,516 runs in 27 one-day internationals. In six Tests in 2017-18, the star batsman has scored 896 runs at an average of 89.6.

Kohli will receive the prestigious Polly Umrigar award, named after a former India captain, and a \$45,000 prize at a Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) function in Bangalore on June 12. He previously won the award in 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2017. The prize is not granted in every calendar year, due to scheduling issues, and is determined on previous seasons' performances. Known as "King Kohli" in his home country, the player was recently ranked the highest paid cricketer in the world, at 83rd in the Forbes' list of big earning athletes. —AFP



## Sports

# Heyward's walk-off grand slam lifts Cubs to 7-5 triumph over Phillies

## Los Angeles survive early departure of starting pitcher Ohtani

**CHICAGO:** Jason Heyward hit a game-winning grand slam with two outs and two strikes in the bottom of the ninth inning, lifting the Chicago Cubs to a 7-5 win over the Philadelphia Phillies on Wednesday night at Wrigley Field. Teammates mobbed Heyward near home plate after the towering, walk-off blast, which marked his third career grand slam. He drilled a high fastball into the right field bleachers to even the series at one game apiece. Anthony Rizzo also homered for Chicago. The Cubs trailed by two runs before loading the bases in the ninth to set up Heyward's heroics. The blast spoiled a milestone night for Phillies rookie Dylan Cozens, who hit his first career homer, a tiebreaking, two-run shot in the top of the ninth to give the Phillies a 5-3 lead. The homer came in the sixth career at-bat for the 24-year-old.

### YANKEES 3, BLUE JAYS 0 (13 INNINGS)

Aaron Judge hit a two-run home run in the 13th inning, and Giancarlo Stanton added a solo blast to give New York a victory at Toronto and a sweep of the two-game series. Judge's 17th homer of the season came against Joe Biagini (0-5), who had allowed a one-out single to Brett Gardner. Stanton hit his 13th homer of the season with two outs. David Robertson (4-2) pitched a perfect 12th with two strikeouts to earn the win. Aroldis Chapman pitched around a double by Kendrys Morales-Toronto's fourth hit of the game in the bottom of the 13th to notch his 15th save of the season.

### ANGELS 4, ROYALS 3

Ian Kinsler and Justin Upton hit home runs, and Los Angeles survived the early departure of starting pitcher Shohei Ohtani in a win over Kansas City at Anaheim, Calif. Ohtani gave up one run on four hits and three walks while making 63 pitches in four innings before leaving due to a blister on his right middle finger. He was also forced out of an April 17 start because of a blister on the same finger. Kinsler's two-run homer in the sixth inning broke a 1-1 tie, and Upton added a solo shot in the seventh.

### GIANTS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 4 (10 INNINGS)

Brandon Crawford followed Andrew McCutchen's two-out double with a walk-off single in the 10th inning, capping a rally that gave host San Francisco a victory over Arizona. Pinch hitter Alen Hanson's two-out, two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth off Diamondbacks closer Brad Boxberger tied the game at 4-4 and prompted extra innings. McCutchen's double, his second of the game, came after Andrew Chafin (0-2) retired the first two batters he faced in the last of the 10th. With first base open, Crawford worked a full count before coming through with his game-winner to right field.

### NATIONALS 11, RAYS 2

Tanner Roark threw six solid innings and drove in two runs as host Washington jumped out to a big early lead in a rout of Tampa Bay. Roark allowed two runs on six hits with four strikeouts and a walk in six innings. He hit a two-run single in the first inning to combine with An-

thony Rendon (4-for-5, four runs, three RBIs) and Michael A. Taylor (3-for-5, three RBIs) to produce most of the Nationals' offense. The Rays tried to go with their bullpen starter experiment again as Jonny Venters (1-1) got his first major league start after being a career reliever. Venters lasted six batters and gave up five runs on three hits before Ryan Yarbrough took over. Tampa Bay's losing streak stands at six games.

### ORIOLES 1, METS 0

Dylan Bundy tossed seven scoreless innings as Baltimore beat reeling host New York to sweep a two-game series. Manny Machado's sacrifice fly in the top of the eighth put Bundy in line for the win and gave the Orioles, who have the worst record in baseball, consecutive victories for just the fourth time this season. The Mets fell to 0-6 on a nine-game homestand that concludes this weekend against the New York Yankees. The Mets have scored just seven runs in the six games and only two runs in the last four.

### RED SOX 7, TIGERS 1

Eduardo Rodriguez pitched 5 2/3 innings of one-run ball, Andrew Benintendi and Christian Vazquez each knocked solo home runs, and host Boston beat Detroit for its four straight victory. Rodriguez (7-1) gave up five hits, walked one and struck out five. Benintendi, Vazquez and Xander Bogaerts (3-for-4) all finished with a pair of RBIs as the Red Sox improved their record to a major-league-leading 43-19. Jose Iglesias hit an RBI single for the Tigers, who have dropped four of five. Detroit starter Blaine Hardy (2-1) allowed five runs on eight hits with no walks and two strikeouts in six innings.

### PIRATES 11, DODGERS 9

Josh Harrison was 2-for-3 with three RBIs, and Corey Dickerson was 3-for-4 with four runs as Pittsburgh halted a three-game losing streak in a slugfest over visiting Los Angeles. Pittsburgh, which had been shut out in two games in a row, had 10 hits and drew 10 walks. Matt Kemp went 3-for-5 with five RBIs, including a three-run homer, to pace the Dodgers, who had their four-game winning streak broken.

### RANGERS 8, A'S 2

Jurickson Profar homered twice and knocked in five runs as Texas routed visiting Oakland. Joey Gallo and Ronald Guzman also went deep for the Rangers, who homered nine times in sweeping the two-game series from the A's. Texas' first 13 runs of the series scored exclusively on homers before Profar knocked in two with a single in the seventh inning. Bartolo Colon (3-3) made his way through five innings to pick up his 243rd career win, permitting two runs on six hits. Colon earned his 243rd career win, tying him with Hall of Famer Juan Marichal for the most by a Dominican pitcher.

### ASTROS 7, MARINERS 5

Yuli Gurriel extended his hitting streak to 12 games with a two-run single that capped a turnaround four-run seventh inning as host Houston rallied to a victory over Seattle. The Astros



**CHICAGO:** Jason Heyward #22 of the Chicago Cubs hits a walk-off grand slam home run against the Philadelphia Phillies during the ninth inning on Wednesday at Wrigley Field in Chicago, Illinois. The Cubs won 7-5. — AFP

capped their six-game homestand 3-3 and a 13-game stretch against stiff competition with a 6-7 mark. The Mariners had their five-game winning streak snapped despite rallying to the lead in the top of the seventh against Houston starter Lance McCullers. Evan Gattis hit a two-run homer for Houston. Seattle got homers from Nelson Cruz, Denard Span and Kyle Seager.

### MARLINS 11, CARDINALS 3

Derek Dietrich drove in three runs and Lewis Brinson homered twice as Miami rolled to a win at St. Louis. Dietrich went 4-for-5, including a two-run homer, as part of Miami's season-high, 17-hit attack. Starlin Castro went 4-for-6 with three doubles, and J.T. Realmuto went 3-for-4 with a triple and two doubles. Brinson also had three hits. Cardinals rookie shortstop Yairo Munoz had a rough night, making three errors. He had just four errors in his first 25 major league games. St. Louis second baseman Jedd Gyorko made his pro debut as a pitcher. With the game out of hand, he pitched the ninth inning and allowed Brinson's second homer, a solo shot.

### WHITE SOX 5, TWINS 2

Tim Anderson hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the sixth inning and finished with three RBIs as Chicago recorded a victory over Minnesota in Minneapolis. Anderson came into the game with two hits in his last 18 at-bats but produced a solid all-around game as the White Sox won for the fourth time in six games. It was his third game with at least three RBIs this season. Ehire Adrianza and Ryan LaMarre hit RBI singles for Minnesota, which lost for only the third

time in its last 11 home games against Chicago and mustered two hits in the final five innings.

### ROCKIES 6, REDS 3

Ian Desmond ripped a two-run home run, and the bottom of the Colorado lineup knocked in all six runs as the Rockies won at Cincinnati. Desmond's homer off Reds starter Sal Romano capped a three-run fourth inning that gave the Rockies a 4-2 lead. The Rockies have won two straight in Cincinnati after arriving with a four-game losing streak. The Reds have lost seven of nine.

### PADRES 3, BRAVES 1

Five relief pitchers held Atlanta to four hits as host San Diego scored a victory. Due to starter Joey Lucchesi being on the disabled list and with Thursday being a day off, Padres manager Andy Green designated Wednesday a "bullpen" game and started Matt Strahm. The southpaw was followed by fellow relievers Jose Castillo, Adam Cimber, Kirby Yates and Brad Hand. Castillo (1-0) was credited with the win in his second career major league appearance. Hand worked two innings to get his 18th save. The five Padres relievers had 13 strikeouts.

### INDIANS 3, BREWERS 1

Carlos Carrasco struck out 10 over seven solid innings as Cleveland swept its two-game interleague series from visiting Milwaukee. Carrasco (7-4) scattered eight hits and a walk while allowing one run. Cody Allen recorded the final four outs for his 11th save of the year. Chase Anderson (4-5) absorbed the loss, lasting only 4 1/3 innings and permitting three runs on four hits and three walks. He struck out four. — Reuters



# Putin says World Cup stadiums must not turn into markets

## Russia has spent \$4bn either building or refurbishing 12 arenas

**MOSCOW:** President Vladimir Putin firmly told regional leaders yesterday not to turn World Cup stadiums into flea markets once the football showpiece wraps up next month. Space around stadiums such as Moscow's Luzhniki became bustling hubs that sold everything from fruit to clothes during Russia's post-Soviet economic crisis in the 1990s.

The money helped pay for the land-but also fed crime-driven and unregulated trade. The authorities tore them down once growth picked up and Moscow acquired Western-style shopping centres.

The one in Luzhniki only closed its doors in 2011. Putin told an annual televised phone-in that the World Cup kicking off next Thursday must leave a lasting sports legacy in which the new arenas play an integral part.

"I want to address colleagues from the regions-no matter what, you cannot allow these venues to suddenly turn into some sort of markets like those in the mid 1990s," Putin said.

"That is categorically inadmissible." Russia has spent at least \$4 billion (3.4 billion

euros) either building or refurbishing 12 arenas in 11 host cities for the month-long celebration of the world's most popular sport.

The World Cup's entire budget adds up to more than \$13 billion and the world football governing body FIFA is keen to make sure the money does not go to waste. The question of what happens to the huge arenas after the July 15 final has been hounding Russia since it won the hosting rights over England in 2010.

Host city Sochi did not even have a football club a second division side was moved there this week. Others are home to teams that have not played top flight football for years and draw just a few thousand people a game. "We spent a lot of money and we need to make sure that all this infrastructure works first and foremost for the development of sport," said Putin.

"And it has to be popular sport, children's sport. We have to create children's and youth teams, leagues and organised competitions." Putin stressed that the stadiums have to become "self-sufficient".

Russia had earlier earmarked \$190 million to help pay for the their operations over the



**MOSCOW:** A picture taken on June 1, 2018 shows a monument to the Soviet Union founder Vladimir Lenin in front of the 80,000-seater Luzhniki Stadium as final preparations are under way for the 2018 FIFA World Cup football tournament, Moscow. — AFP

coming five years. Putin's plan for using as little of that money as possible included using the space inside the arenas for retail.

"A modern stadium is not just a football

pitch," he said. "You can put anything you want there. You can install stores, cafes, restaurants ... and special gyms," said Putin. "Much will depend on regional leaders." — AFP

## Amazon.com to screen Premier League soccer for first time

**LONDON:** Amazon.com has won rights to show 20 English Premier League soccer matches a season from 2019, giving its Prime Video online streaming service a foothold in the most watched sports league in the world.

The US company secured one of two previously unsold three-year packages for UK rights, the Premier League said yesterday, with BT picking up the other to increase its access to live action. Amazon said it would make two rounds of games-the early December midweek games and the Christmas bank holiday games- and weekly highlights available to its Prime members in Britain for free.

Premier League Executive Chairman Richard Scudamore said Amazon was an "exciting new partner", and its Prime Video would provide "an excellent service on which fans can consume the Premier League".

The deal underlines Amazon's ambition to take on traditional pay-TV broadcasters in the multi-billion dollar battle for sports rights. Amazon Prime, which includes free delivery on purchases as well as music and video content, costs 79 pounds (\$106) a year in Britain.

BT won the rights to show an additional 20 matches a season for 90 million pounds (\$121 million), taking its total to 52 games at a cost of 975 million pounds for three years. Sky will continue to show the most games after agreeing in February to pay 3.58 billion pounds for 128 matches a season for three years, including new Saturday evening fixtures.

The Premier League had introduced two new

packages of live fixtures that included matches played simultaneously which would particularly appeal to an online streaming group. However, analysts said they probably did not sell in February because they did not achieve the reserve price set by the Premier League.

The value of the packages sold in February brought to an end the rampant inflation previously seen in the rights to show matches featuring the likes of Manchester City, Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United. Amazon.com and the Premier League did not disclose the price achieved for the final package. Analyst Paolo Pescatore at CCS Insight said the Premier League would be delighted to have secured a leading online giant as a partner, but it was a headache for fans who would need to sign up with another provider.

"Undoubtedly, Amazon is pulling together a strong and growing set of live TV rights to complement its vast content relationship," he said. "But we should not forget that Sky is still the dominant provider and the home of Premier League football."

Amazon's Jay Marine said Prime members in Britain would be able to watch every team and every game in the two rounds of fixtures, "so no matter which Premier League team you support, you're guaranteed to see them play live on Prime Video".

Amazon has already bought rights for tennis and America's National Football League to bolster its offer, along with original entertainment content such as motoring show "The Grand Tour" and drama "The Man In The High Castle".

Analysts at Liberum, however, said Amazon's main rationale for buying the rights was a way to boost Amazon Prime membership rather than looking to become a pay-TV operator. "Crucially, Amazon does not need to offer the best matches to boost take-up of Prime but only some matches," they said.

"Amazon should therefore not be a major threat to rights providers." Sky said yesterday it had won the rights to show 128 games a season in Ireland in a deal that mirrors the rights it won in Britain. — Reuters

## Bend it like Einstein: Science and the WCup

**PARIS:** Football fans won't be alone when they sit glued to their TV sets for the 2018 World Cup. Scientists, too, will follow every move of the players and ball, probing all facets of the beautiful game for insights into disciplines as divergent as aerodynamics, psychology and the human physique.

With just about every World Cup, there seems to be grumbling about the ball, which Adidas has designed for the four-yearly FIFA tournament since 1970. Already, this year's offering, Telstar 18, has been criticised by some goalkeepers for being too flighty and hard to grip. But scientists say the new sphere is actually quite stable-certainly more so than Jabulani, the much-denigrated official ball for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. The Telstar 18 is a nostalgic nod to Adidas' first-ever World Cup ball, the Telstar, used in Mexico for the 1970 World Cup.

That was the first black-and white sphere made for a World Cup-designed for better visibility on monochrome TV screens-and sported the mix of pentag-

onal and hexagonal panels that has become synonymous with soccer balls.

The latest offering is white, black and grey, with gold lettering. Eric Goff, a physics professor at the University of Lynchburg in Virginia, was part of a team that analysed the ball using wind-tunnel experiments and surface measurements. Compared to the Brazuca, its predecessor used in Brazil in 2014, the Telstar 18 experiences more "drag" or resistance as it flies through the air, the researchers found. This means it will travel shorter distances-about eight to ten percent less than Brazuca-when kicked at high impact speeds of more than 90 kilometres (56 miles) per hour, Goff told AFP.

"That could be bad for strikers who kick from a great distance and must therefore kick the ball very hard," he explained. But potentially good news for goalies, as it means balls kicked at high speed "will reach the goal a little slower than Brazuca did in 2014."

Like Brazuca, Telstar 18 has six panels, compared to Jabulani's eight-far fewer than the traditional 32-panel recipe long followed. But Telstar 18's panels are shaped differently, and the seam that holds them together is 30 percent longer in total than Brazuca's, though also narrower and more shallow. Sungchan Hong of the University of Tsukuba's sports science faculty in Japan, said kicking robot tests revealed the Telstar 18 has "a very stable trajectory compared to the previous balls". — AFP



## Sports

# Salah's Iraqi lookalike dreams of football glory

## Ali's similarity to Salah has prompted him to rethink his own life

**BAGHDAD:** With his black beard, curly hair and football shirt, Iraqi striker Hussein Ali is often mistaken for one of the world's top players: Egypt's Mohamed Salah. In the Iraqi capital Baghdad, 20-year-old Ali is frequently stopped in his working-class Hurriya neighbourhood by people wanting a photograph with their idol.

Although he is himself a striker, for the Al-Zawraa club, it is Ali's likeness to Salah which piques Iraqis' interest. "At the first training session, he introduced himself as 'Hussein Ali'. I replied, 'No, no, you are Mohamed Salah,'" said Ali's coach Adnan Mohammad. Back when Salah was playing for AS Roma, Ali was aware of the resemblance but took the comments as "a joke".

But when the Egyptian shot to global fame in the Premier League-becoming "the number one footballer for all Arabs" according to Ali-his Iraqi doppelganger started to seriously work on his image. Since then, he has started wearing the red shirt of Salah's club Liverpool. "It's the real shirt, bought from an official supplier," he said proudly from his small house, where the shutters are closed against the Baghdad heat during the long hours of electricity cuts.

Ali said he paid \$40 for the shirt, which he takes carefully from its hanger, while working every day to support his large family and without a wage from playing football. Lately, the "Mohamed Salah of Iraq" can't leave his house without being stopped for photographs or approached by football fans who mistake him for the Egyptian star.

"The day before yesterday I was in a mall; the security guards, the shop workers and the clients, everyone wanted to take a photo with me... even the girls!" said Ali. He attracts similar attention at football matches. When Ali's team played against the Lebanese club Al-Ahed, "people were taking photos with me for an hour and a half," he said.

Last month Ali joined a group of supporters in the city centre to watch Salah's Liverpool take on Real Madrid in the Champions League final. "When Mohamed Salah was injured, there were some who came to see me as if it was me who was suffering," he said. "In my neighbourhood, over a number of days, people who passed me would say 'Get well soon,'" he remembered, laughing. While such confusion amuses him, Ali's similarity to Salah has prompted him to rethink his own life.

Passionate about football since his was little, Ali made it onto the B team of Al-Zawraa, Iraq's most decorated club. One day he hopes to live the same dream as Salah, who was thrust from his Nile Delta village into the heart of international football. "We play in the same position and I do everything to imitate and copy his movements," said Ali, smiling widely.

The Iraqi player is also keen to follow Salah's example off the pitch, which in the past has led English fans to adopt an "I'll be Muslim too" chant praising the footballer. "He reads the Koran and he asks God to help him before his matches. I also read the Koran and pray, like Abu Makka," said Ali, using a nickname for the



**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi footballer Hussein Ali, who plays for the Iraqi Al-Zawraa FC and is a lookalike of Liverpool's Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah, poses for pictures in the capital Baghdad, on June 4, 2018. — AFP

Liverpool striker who named his daughter after the Muslim holy city of Mecca. After Salah's injury fans globally were on tenterhooks to find out if their hero would be going to the World Cup which kicks off on June 14. He has now been included in The Pharaohs squad and

Egyptians will be hoping he can continue his record goal-scoring streak in Russia.

For Ali, his hopes will rest in one day coming face-to-face with his hero: "My life's dream is to meet Mohamed Salah... Perhaps he will invite me to the World Cup in Russia?" — AFP

## Injured Ozil to miss Germany's WCup warm-up

**BERLIN:** Arsenal star Mesut Ozil will miss Germany's final warm-up match today with a knee injury, but the attacking midfielder's participation in the World Cup is not in danger, according to the German Football Association (DFB).

Ozil, 29, will sit out the friendly against Saudi Arabia in Leverkusen with light bruising to his left knee, but was able to run in training yesterday. The midfielder, who picked up the injury in Saturday's shock 2-1 defeat to Austria, has not taken part in full training over the last four days at Germany's pre-World Cup camp in Eppan, north Italy. "It's nothing dramatic, we just don't want to take any risk and he was able to sprint in training. I assume he will be okay for the World Cup," said Germany's team director Oliver Bierhoff.

Ozil, who finished the 2017/18 season with a back injury, faces a race to get his knee ready

for Germany's first World Cup game against Mexico in Moscow on June 17 having also drawn South Korea and Sweden in Group F. Germany, who are winless in their last five games, are set to name a full strength side against Saudi Arabia, who play hosts Russia in the World Cup opener next Thursday.

Bayern Munich star Boateng could play his first game since suffering a groin injury in April, "we assume that Jerome is now 100 percent fit", added Bierhoff, but a final decision has not been taken. With Ozil out, Paris Saint-Germain's Julian Draxler is set to fill the attacking midfield role with Chelsea's Antonio Ruediger stepping in for Boateng if needed.

World Cup winners Toni Kroos, Mats Hummels and Thomas Mueller are all set to return having sat out the Austria defeat with Timo Werner as the lone striker.

Having thrown away the lead against Austria, who enjoyed their first victory over their neighbours for 32 years, world champions Germany know they need to produce a good performance in their final game before flying to Russia on Tuesday. "We've worked through the defeat, taken our mistakes to heart-tomorrow we want to do a much better job," said left-back Jonas Hector. — AFP

## Egypt, Nigeria continue to splutter in world Cup warm-ups

**CAPE TOWN:** Egypt and Nigeria continued their recent poor form in World Cup warm-up games on Wednesday ahead of their bids to become the first African side to reach the semi-finals of the global showpiece event.

Belgium eased past Egypt 3-0 in Brussels to extend the north African side's winless streak since qualifying for the tournament in Russia starting next week. Eden Hazard provided the sparkle as Belgium dominated. The Chelsea forward set up Romelu Lukaku for the first goal and netted the second himself before halftime.

Marouane Fellaini added a third in stoppage-time to complete a strong performance by the hosts, who underlined their status as one of the favourites in Russia. Egypt were missing injured forward Mohamed Salah but their coach Hector Cuper said his talisman might be fit for the opening Group A game against Uruguay on June 15.

Nigeria turned in a disappointing performance in their final tune-up, losing 1-0 to the Czech Republic who failed to qualify for the

World Cup. Tomas Kalas gave the Czechs a deserved lead in the 25th minute in Schwechat, near the Austrian capital of Vienna, after he fired home a rebound following a corner to beat sprawling Nigerian goalkeeper Francis Uzoho.

Nigeria, who have lost three of their last four games and drawn the other, kick off their World Cup campaign against Croatia on June 16, but they looked disinterested during the opening half as the Czechs dominated. The Nigerians stepped up the pace in the second half - briefly interrupted by a rain delay - and created a few chances but could not find the net against a Czech side who conceded four goals against Australia last week.

Also playing on Wednesday were Panama, whose preparations ended on a low note as they slumped to a 1-0 defeat by Norway after an early goal by Joshua King. Worryingly for the Panamanians, who face Belgium, England and Tunisia in Group G in their first World Cup finals appearance, they struggled to deal with Norway's physical power, but they did create decent chances in the second half. Earlier on Wednesday, Israel demanded that FIFA investigate what it said were threats against Argentina players that forced them to cancel a match in Jerusalem, including Palestinian calls to burn replica shirts of Lionel Messi if he played. But Palestinian football officials praised World Cup-bound Argentina and their captain Messi for calling off the friendly, which Israel had moved to Jerusalem from the coastal city of Haifa. —Reuters



## Sports

Friday, June 8, 2018

# Del Potro powers past Marin Cilic to set up Nadal clash

## Halep stops Muguruza to reach third French open final

**PARIS:** Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro felled Marin Cilic in a French Open clash of the titans, winning 7-6(5) 5-7 6-3 7-5 yesterday, and will now aim his heavy artillery at 10-times champion Rafael Nadal in the semi-finals.

Del Potro has looked one of the biggest threats to Nadal's domination this year, with his pulverising forehand dismantling everyone in his path on the Parisian clay. After dropping the opening set of his first round match he won the next 12. But Cilic, who like Del Potro stands 1.98m tall, owns a US Open title, has a beast of a serve and always looked like being his first serious test. And so it proved.

After returning to a sunny Court Suzanne Lenglen locked at 5-5 in the first set tiebreak after battle was halted because of rain on Wednesday, Del Potro flirted with danger before racking up an eighth win in succession against Cilic.

He appeared almost overcome with emotion after reaching his first French Open semi-final since 2009, when he was beaten by eventual champion Roger Federer. "Well, it's tough to speak," the 29-year-old, who has risen back to sixth in the rankings after battling back from three left wrist surgeries, said on court as fans sang "Delpo, Delpo".

Asked about facing Nadal, who he has beaten five out of 14 times but never on clay, he was drowned out by his fans. "It's a challenge that every player wants to have," he said. "I don't know if I will win, but I will take big love from

you and that's most important for me."

The first set always looked key and Del Potro clinched the opener as Cilic blinked first, netting a routine forehand on the second point of the second installment of the match. The second set, like the first, was dominated by serve until Cilic fired himself up to break at 4-4 — a furious Del Potro throwing his racket at the changeover.

Croatian Cilic played an awful game when serving for the set, making four unforced errors, but he was gifted another chance to serve for the set after breaking Del Potro again and levelled the match at the second time of asking.

Del Potro dipped at the start of the third and Cilic had points for a double break. However, the burly Argentine recovered his drive to hit back from 0-2 and take the third set. Former Roland Garros junior champion Cilic, bidding to reach the semi-finals for the first time after falling in the quarter-finals 12 months ago, kept his nose in front in the fourth.

He buckled at 5-5, though, and sent a backhand long on break point, leaving Del Potro to serve for the match, which he did with ease as Cilic missed with three more backhands.

Meanwhile, top seed Simona Halep reached her third French Open final when she stopped hard-hitting Spaniard Garbine Muguruza in her tracks with a 6-1 6-4 semi-final victory yesterday. The Romanian, who will also keep hold of the world number one ranking as a result of the victory, made a flying start and was 5-0 in quick time as Muguruza made some wild errors.



**PARIS:** Romania's Simona Halep returns the ball to Spain's Garbine Muguruza during their women's singles semi-final match on day twelve of The Roland Garros 2018 French Open tennis tournament in Paris yesterday. — AFP

Muguruza ratcheted up the intensity in the second set and broke in the third game when a powerful return forced an error, only for Halep to fight her way back to level at 4-4. A marathon ninth game proved pivotal as Halep saved three break points to pile the pressure on the third seed.

Halep then seized her chance, moving 0-40 ahead and then raising her arms in triumph as Muguruza blazed a backhand long. She will face the winner of the all-American showdown between Sloane Stephens and Madison Keys in her fourth Grand Slam final. — Reuters

## Germany go to World Cup atop FIFA rankings

**PARIS:** Defending champions Germany will have the psychological advantage of going to the Russian World Cup finals sitting atop the FIFA rankings. The Germans are in good shape heading to Russia after their talismanic goal-keeper Manuel Neuer, a key player in their 2014 victory, returned to action after a long absence through injury.

Neymar's on-form five-time World Cup winners Brazil are second, multi-talented Belgium are third, Cristiano Ronaldo's European champions Portugal fourth and Lionel Messi's Argentina are fifth. British bookmakers would agree with the top two as they make Germany and Brazil joint World Cup favourites at odds of five to one followed by Spain, France and Argentina.

World Cup host nation Russia meanwhile slide to 70th position after a seven-game winless streak. They kick off the tournament against Saudi Arabia on June 14.

### Standings June 7:

1. Germany
2. Brazil
3. Belgium
4. Portugal

5. Argentina
6. Switzerland
7. France
8. Poland (+2)
9. Chile
10. Spain (-2)
11. Peru
12. Denmark, England (+1)
14. Uruguay (+3)
15. Mexico
16. Colombia
17. Netherlands (+2)
18. Wales (+3)
19. Italy (+1)
20. Croatia (-2)
21. Tunisia (-7)
22. Iceland
23. Costa Rica (+2)
24. Sweden (-1)
25. United States (-1)
- Selected**
27. Senegal (+1)
34. Serbia (+1)
36. Australia (+4)
37. Iran (-1)
41. Morocco (+1)
45. Egypt (+1)
48. Nigeria (-1)
55. Panama
57. South Korea (+4)
61. Japan (-1)
67. Saudi Arabia (0)
70. Russia (-4). — AFP

## Belgium cruise past Egypt 3-0 to settle World Cup nerves

**BRUSSELS:** Belgium hammered the final nail into Egypt's halting World Cup warm-up campaign with an assured 3-0 win in Brussels on Wednesday that settled some nerves among the fancied hosts, who lacked injured defensive linchpin Vincent Kompany.

Sticking with a three-man defence, England's group-stage opponents Belgium showed more cutting edge up front than in their goalless outing at home on Saturday against Portugal. Romelu Lukaku, favoured as starting striker over Michy Batshuayi, thumped home from close range in the 27th minute when Egypt's 45-year-old keeper Essam El-Hadary spilled from Eden Hazard.

Chelsea midfielder Hazard then made it 2-0 11 minutes later after Yannick Carrasco cut the ball back from the goal line. Batshuayi, on for Lukaku, set up Marouane Fellaini for a final

flourish in stoppage time to complete a sixth straight game without a win for Egypt.

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez hailed improvements in his side's "togetherness" as well as their attacking performance. The Spaniard had raised eyebrows by slotting Laurent Ciman into skipper Kompany's number four shirt and keeping him on for 90 minutes. Ciman is officially only on the waiting list for Russia in case the Manchester City man or Barcelona's Thomas Vermaelen are still injured. "If those players are not in the squad, Laurent will be a straight replacement," Martinez said, describing Ciman as a good fit for either injured defender. He insisted he was still giving Kompany and Vermaelen, who are training with the squad, time to prove their fitness and said there could also be roles for Dedryck Boyata and Leander Dendoncker, depending on the opposition.

Belgium will complete their warm-up fixtures with another home tie, against Costa Rica, next Monday after which Martinez must decide on his final 23-man squad for Russia. Egypt, missing injured Liverpool striker Mohamed Salah, rarely troubled Belgium keeper Thibaut Courtois, although midfielder Trezeguet forced Courtois into a save a minute after coming on for Marwan Mohsen in the second half. Egypt begin their World Cup campaign against Uruguay in Russia next Friday. — Reuters



# Sport Times

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018

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PARIS: Romania's Simona Halep serves the ball to Spain's Garbine Muguruza during their women's singles semi-final match on day twelve of The Roland Garros 2018 French Open tennis tournament in Paris yesterday. — AFP