



**2** Amir meets senior officials, award winners, researchers



**8** Merkel on tightrope over disputed 'migrant policy'



**24** Aussie Rules Football seeks new ground in multicultural Australia



**رمضان**  
Ramadan Mawsoom

IMSAK	03:03
FAJR	03:13
DHUHR	11:48
ASR	15:22
MAGHRIB	18:48
ISHA	20:20

# Trump-Kim historic summit ends with 'promises and concessions'

## Amir congratulates Trump, Kim; Deal symbolic; US, N Korea agree on denuclearization



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday held an Iftar (fast-breaking) banquet at Dasman Palace in honor of Jordan's King Abdullah II and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his brotherly visit to Kuwait. — KUNA

**SINGAPORE:** Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held a largely symbolic summit yesterday, and the US president offered an unexpected concession to the North, saying he would halt joint military exercises with South Korea. The two men smiled and shook hands before pledging at their historic summit to work toward the "denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula. The United States promised his Cold War foe security guarantees.

The meeting in Singapore, the first between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader, was in stark contrast to a flurry of North Korean nuclear and missile tests and angry exchanges of insults between Trump and Kim last year that fueled global worries about war. But in a joint statement afterward, the two men offered few specifics about how the relationship would evolve. Noting North Korean promises in the past to denuclearize, several analysts cast doubt on how effective Trump had been at obtaining his pre-summit goal of banishing North Korea's "very substantial" nuclear arsenal.

At a news conference later, Trump made a surprise announcement that was sure to rattle South Korea and Japan, which rely on a US security umbrella, saying he would halt the regular military exercises the United States holds with South Korea because they were expensive and "very provocative". North Korea has long sought an end to the exercises. The summit gave international standing to Kim, one of the world's most reclusive leaders. His government is under UN sanctions for its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

The Trump administration said repeatedly before the summit that Washington was seeking steps by North Korea toward complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantling of a nuclear program that is advanced enough to pose a threat to the United States. Several experts said the meeting failed to secure any concrete commitments by Pyongyang toward this. The statement also did not refer to human rights in one of the world's most repressive nations. Trump said at the news conference he expected the denuclearization

Continued on Page 24



**SINGAPORE:** North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (left) shakes hands with US President Donald Trump at the start of their historic US-North Korea summit, at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa island in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

Ramadan Kareem  
**Control your anger**  
By Hassan Twaha Bwambale

According to Nick Morgan, "We humans are social beings; we share mirror neurons that allow us to match each other's emotions unconsciously and immediately. We leak emotions to each other. We anticipate and mirror each other's movements when we're in sympathy or agreement with one another - when we're on the same side. And we can mirror each other's brain activity when we're engaged in storytelling and listening - both halves of the communication conundrum."

There is no way we can stay isolated from our fellow humans. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) says what can be translated as: "A believer who interacts with people and forbears patiently their annoyance, will have a greater reward than a believer who does not interact with people and thus does not forbear their annoyance." - (Al-Albani rated it as Saheeh in Saheeh At-Tirmidhi # 2, 507 and in Saheeh Al-Ja'meu # 6, 651)

If this is the case, then we ought to acquire the skills of dealing socially with our fellow humans without thinking of withdrawal. It is not easy, but we can manage. One thing that can enable us to interact well with our fellow humans is anger management, especially during this auspicious month of Ramadan. You might think that venting your anger is healthy, that the people around you are too sensitive, that your anger is justified, or that you need to show your fury to get respect.

But the truth is that anger is much more likely to damage your relationships, impair your judgment, get in the way of success, and have a negative impact on the way people see you. That's where anger management comes in. It is a fact that you can't always control the situation you're in or how it makes you feel, but you can control how you express your anger. Moreover, you can express your anger without being verbally or physically abusive. Even if someone is pushing your buttons, you always have a choice about how to respond.

Among the people Allah (SWT) praised as God-fearing, are those who suppress their anger. Allah (SWT) says what can be translated as: "And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord, and a Garden (in Paradise), whose breadth is as the heavens and the earth, prepared for the God-fearing. Those who spend (in charity), in prosperity and adversity alike, who suppress (anger), and who pardon people, for Allah loves those who excel in doing good." - (Al-Imraan 3: 133 - 134)

Controlling or managing your anger is among the most meritorious acts of worship in Islam. In a prophetic tradition that was narrated by Abdullah bin Umar (RA), Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said what can be translated as: "There is no gulp that brings greater reward from Allah than a gulp of stifled anger that a man swallows, seeking thereby the

Continued on Page 24

## Iran warns N Korea: Trump could cancel nuclear agreement

**LONDON:** Iran warned North Korean leader Kim Jong Un yesterday against trusting US President Donald Trump, saying he could cancel their denuclearization agreement within hours. Tehran cited its own experience in offering the advice to Kim a month after Washington withdrew from a similar deal with Iran. Trump and Kim pledged at a meeting in Singapore yesterday to work towards complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula while Washington committed to provide security guarantees for its old enemy.

"We don't know what type of person the North

Korean leader is negotiating with. It is not clear that he would not cancel the agreement before returning home," Iranian government spokesman Mohammad Bagher Nobakht was quoted as saying by IRNA news agency. Nobakht questioned Trump's credibility. "This man does not represent the American people, and they will surely distance themselves from him at the next elections," he said.

As well as pulling the United States out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, Trump disowned Saturday a joint communique issued by Group of Seven leaders, just hours after he had left their summit for the meeting with Kim. Trump has said would be open to striking a new nuclear accord with Tehran. However, he says the existing deal negotiated under his predecessor Barack Obama had failed to address Iran's ballistic missile program.

On top of this, he also cited the terms under which international inspectors can visit suspect Iranian nuclear sites and "sunset" clauses, under which limits

## Terror and hooligan threats cast shadow over Russia's WCup

**MOSCOW:** Russia has deployed air defense systems and stringent fan background checks in a sweeping security operation to counter the twin threats of terror attacks and hooliganism at the World Cup. The country was already intensely policed when it was controversially awarded the right to host the event in 2010 but the clampdown that followed saw hardened hooligans seek cover and business barons wind down the operations of factories that process hazardous materials for fear they might be attacked.

Fans travelling to Russia are required to register with the police on their arrival in one of the 12 host cities and even riverboat traffic is being curtailed to make it easier for the authorities to keep track of everything that moves. At least 30,000 security personnel will fan out across Moscow by the time the hosts kick off against Saudi Arabia at the Luzhniki Stadium on Thursday. Squadrons of fighter jets will be on standby near the capital and air defenses will be on the alert for suspicious aircraft. "After long years of preparations we have created a clear security plan," said FSB domestic security service deputy chief Alexei Lavrishchev. "We are ready to avert and overcome any security threat."

The 64 matches beamed around the globe will give President Vladimir Putin the chance to project Russia as a modern state that has regained the superpower status of its Soviet past.

Continued on Page 24

on the nuclear program start to expire after 10 years. Trump has insisted any deal with North Korea should include irreversible and verifiable denuclearization. An Iranian foreign ministry spokesman also advised North Korean leaders on Monday to "exercise complete vigilance" in their negotiations with the United States. "We are not optimistic about these talks ... The United States, especially Mr Trump, has undermined international agreements and has unilaterally withdrawn from them," Bahram Qasemi said.

Trump has also decided to pull the United States out of the Paris climate change accord. Washington will reimpose a wide array of Iran-related sanctions after the expiry of 90- and 180-day wind-down periods, including measures aimed at the oil sector and transactions with its central bank. Other remaining signatories of the deal - Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia- have criticized the US exit and are still trying to salvage the accord. — Reuters

## Ramadan fast sparks debate ahead of WCup

**CAIRO:** Should top athletes fast during Ramadan? The question has provoked an often heated debate in Muslim countries, particularly as national teams prepare for the 2018 World Cup. For Egypt, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco-four Muslim-majority countries competing in this year's World Cup in Russia-the end of the Muslim holy month on Thursday coincides with the tournament's kick-off. Throughout Ramadan, observant Muslims are expected to abstain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset.

The traditional fast has long proved divisive among players, fans, coaches and preachers-and this year was no different. In the lead up to World Cup play, Egypt's failure to win any of its pre-tournament friendly matches-three of which were played during Ramadan-brought strong criticism from its fans. But despite their lacklustre performance, The Pharaohs remained "determined" to fast the entire month, according to a statement put out by the Egyptian Football Association in late May.

'Affected performance'

After the team's 0-0 draw against Colombia on June 1, The Pharaohs' Argentinean coach Hector Cuper said the Ramadan fast had "affected the players" performance. Cuper's comments came shortly after Egyptian superstar forward Mohamed Salah was injured while playing for Liverpool in the European Champions League final. An observant Muslim, Salah decided not to fast ahead of the May 26 match in Kiev against Real Madrid-which Liverpool lost 3-1.

A Kuwaiti Sheikh said Salah's injured shoulder-which kept him out of the remaining friendly matches-was "divine punishment". But religious figures and citizens across the region rushed to defend Salah beloved both in Egypt and across the Arab world. In Saudi Arabia-home to Islam's two holiest sites-the kingdom's

Continued on Page 24



**KUWAIT:** Muslims pray in Kuwait City's Grand Mosque just before daybreak yesterday morning, during Laylat Al-Qadr or Night of Destiny. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Local

# Amir meets state officials, award winners, researchers

## Astronomer, author, philanthropist meet Sheikh Sabah



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with chairman of Al-Safat Investment Company Abdullah Al-Terkait and his deputy Fahad Al-Mikhaizeem. —KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with poet Saud Al-Mutairi.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sara Al-Rubaie.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif palace His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also met First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and the chairman of Al-Safat Investment Company Abdullah Al-Terkait, along with his deputy Fahad Al-Mikhaizeem, who presented His Highness with a Guinness World Records certificate for the world's largest poster depicting His Highness the Amir.

His Highness the Amir's meetings also included encounters with local poet Saud Al-Mutairi, and Sara Al-Rubaie, who garnered much acclaim for her book over the classification of brain tumors. He also met with Professor Nasser Al-

Mutairi, who took the opportunity to share with His Highness the Amir his research over Kuwait's role in preventive diplomacy and mediation. Meanwhile, famed astronomer Adel Al-Saadoun, author Talal Al-Shili and child philanthropist Khaled Al-Saeedi were also among those who have met His Highness the Amir.

Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad. Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Dr Mishary Al-Mutairi, one of the winners of the Geneva 46th International Exhibition of Inventions held on April 11-15. — KUNA



### PM receives award-winning inventor



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with child philanthropist Khaled Al-Saeedi.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Professor Nasser Al-Mutairi.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with astronomer Adel Al-Saadoun.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with author Talal Al-Shili.

## Cabinet condemns Houthis' missiles on Saudi Arabia

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti cabinet on Monday strongly condemned the recent launch of a projectile by Yemen's Houthi militia into Saudi Arabia killing three civilians. During its weekly regular meeting at Seif Palace and chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the cabinet reaffirmed that such heinous acts by the Houthis targeting Saudi Arabia's security and stability, demonstrate anew the militia's rejection of the international efforts seeking to end the conflict in Yemen.

The ministers reiterated Kuwait's support to Saudi Arabia and all the measures the Kingdom might take to maintain its security and stability, Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said. They prayed Allah Almighty to bless the Kingdom with eternal security and safety under the wise King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Reviewing the political developments on the Arab and international scenes, the cabinet also condemned the suicide attack that targeted religious leaders and scholars in Kabul, Afghanistan, leaving several people killed or wounded. The meeting also condemned a recent car bombing that hit Baghdad's Al-Sadr City. The cabinet reaffirmed Kuwait's unwavering stance rejecting all forms and manifestation of terrorism, and stressed that Islam is fully innocent of such atrocious crimes.

### Eid Al-Fitr

At the onset of the meeting, the Cabinet expressed its sincere congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Muslim nation and the Kuwaiti people on Eid Al-Fitr, which is expected to begin on Friday. The ministers wished for many happy returns of this cheerful occasion to



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's weekly meeting. —KUNA

Kuwait, and both Arab and Muslim nations, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said in a statement.

They prayed to Allah to maintain stability, security, progress and prosperity to the State of Kuwait and Kuwaitis as well as Arabs and Muslims, he added. The meeting reviewed contents of His Highness the Amir's speech delivered last Wednesday on the occasion of the last 10 days of the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan, the minister noted.

In the speech, His Highness the Amir called for solidarity and standing in one rank in the face of those who try to foment sectarian and tribal discords and strife, threatening the country's national unity which is the fence that protects the homeland. His Highness the Amir also called for national unity and cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities as well as concentration on essential issues so as to enhance the national action march and push forward development, the minister stated. His Highness the Amir urged the Kuwaiti youth to benefit from privileges provided by the state through the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Development to revive the country's economy and diversity income sources. In the speech, His Highness the Amir recalled, with a great pride, the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad

Al-Sabah and the late Father Amir Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al-Sabah, praying to Allah to forgive them and keep their souls in Paradise for their sacrifices and achievements for the country, Saleh mentioned. The ministers expressed their great appreciation to the instructions by His Highness the Amir, stressing their full commitment to all of them, wishing further progress and prosperity to Kuwait under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince.

### Makkah summit

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the ministers on His Highness the Amir's recent visit to the Saudi city of Makkah to discuss means of helping Jordan get out of its economic crisis. The meeting included Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The meeting commended the Saudi King's strenuous efforts exerted to boost Arab solidarity and support Arab stances on all levels, wishing further stability to Jordan. The Foreign Minister also informed the Cabinet about the results of the recent visit made by Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyadh Al-Malki and his accompanying delegation to Kuwait, during which Al-Malki voiced his great thanks and appreciation to the State of Kuwait and its serious support for the Palestinian

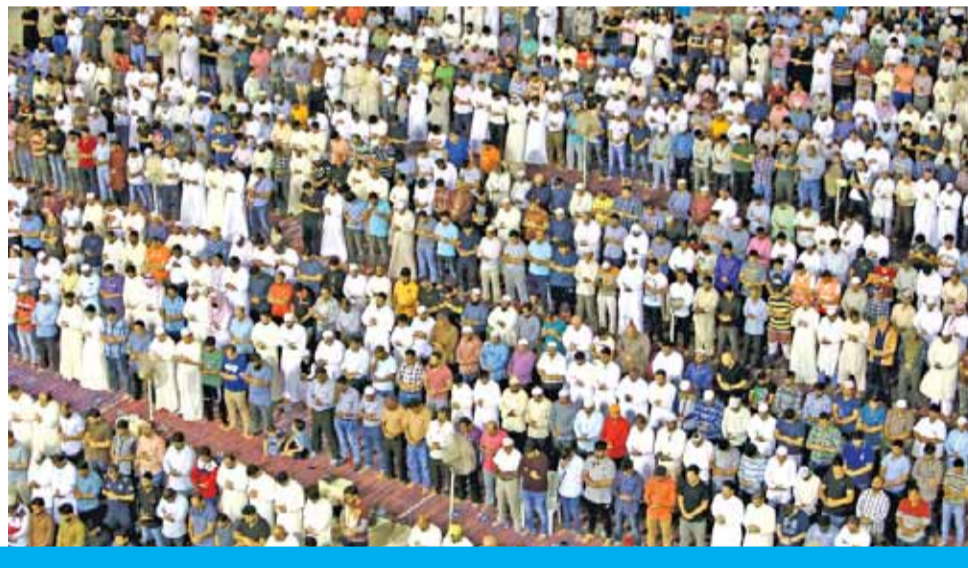
cause, Al-Saleh noted. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled apprised the ministers of outcomes of Sudanese Foreign Minister Al-Dardiri Ahmad's visit to Kuwait, during which the two sides discussed means of developing bilateral ties on all domains. They also exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments as well as topics of common concern, Saleh indicated.

### Health projects

Furthermore, the ministers listened to a presentation made by Health Minister Dr Bassel Al-Sabah and Undersecretary Dr Moustapha Redha about the major and new projects in this sector. The ministers were briefed on a recommendation by the public service committee regarding a report submitted by the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources on studies on Kuwait's sea food reserves.

The Cabinet assigned the authority to take required measures to organize the entry and exit of fishing ships and boats to and from the sea as well as develop control and regulatory plans in order to ensure the implementation of decisions on fishing. Finally, the Cabinet was apprised of the committee's report on Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad's Bridge project and decided to task concerned bodies with finalizing a study of possible investment in this project in the future. —KUNA

Local



KUWAIT: Worshippers pray in Kuwait City's Grand Mosque just before daybreak early yesterday morning, on the 27th night of Ramadan known as 'Laylat al-Qadr' or Night of Destiny. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# Syrian teachers not exempted from retirement condition

## Municipality mulls establishing special police force

**By A Saleh**  
KUWAIT: Ministry of Education's (MoE) human resource manager Saud Al-Juwaisri stressed there would be no exemptions for Syrian teaching staff members while implementing the cabinet's resolution on terminating the contracts of employees who reach the retirement age of 65. He said they would be only given an extension of one extra year and the chance to transfer their residency visas to other sponsors. Juwaisri said only three professions are exempted from the cabinet's resolution - doctors, muezzins and those working in cemeteries. "MoE tried hard to exempt some of its old staff members but failed," he

underlined. Meanwhile, MOE assistant undersecretary for scholarships and cultural relations Fatima Al-Sannan said the total number of applicants for scholarships is so far 1,029. She added that applications can easily be made online and that applications are open until June 26. Sannan stressed that there are around 3,400 seats available this year and expected to cover all accepted applicants.

**Pedestrian bridges**  
The Ministry of Health (MoH) has requested building two pedestrian bridges between Amiri hospital and a popular cafe on the other side of the road, the road and transport authority director Ahmed Al-Hessan in a letter he sent

to the municipality. Hessan added that these bridges could be built within the pedestrian bridge project the municipality plans to link various areas.

**Municipality police**  
Presided by Abdullah Al-Roumi, the Hawally committee at the Municipal Council is scheduled to meet today to discuss proposals by former councilmember Yousif Al-Ghareeb concerning the establishment of a special police force for the municipality, to establish a special inspection unit for butcheries, building two roundabouts in Rumaihiya and paving an open yard in block 12 in Salwa. The committee will also discuss a proposal by former councilmember

Abdullah Al-Kandari about building new entrances and exits linking Jabriya to Maghreb Expressway.

**Forgery**  
In collaboration with MoH, criminal investigators arrested a stateless person working in a public hospital over charges of forging KD 10 revenue stamps so professionally that they are hard to be discovered by ordinary people. A statement issued by MoH said the suspect started forging the stamps in March 2017, when the fees were increased, using old one dinar stamps after changing the fare on them to KD 10 and shutting the stamps machine to force expats to purchase the 'fake' stamps from him.

## Ministry cooperates with embassies to resolve deportation issues

**By Hanan Al-Saadoun**  
KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah received public attorney

and head of the committee entrusted with studying the cases of prisoners awaiting deportation chancellor Mohammed Rashid Al-Duaij at his office yesterday. They discussed the deportation prison's new regulations and cooperation between the ministry and relevant diplomatic missions on that regard. Duaij affirmed there are not any exception when it comes to lifting judicial deportation from any prisoner, unless under the mandatory legal rules and regulations, stressing the importance of enforcing the law fully and not selectively.

**Salmiya fire**  
A fire broke out at dawn yesterday in the basement of a five-storey building in Salmiya, said security sources, noting that firemen found that the basement was used to store food items, which helped the flames to spread

quickly. The building was evacuated and the fire was controlled without any casualties.

**Thieves caught**  
Capital detectives arrested two people, Kuwaiti and Egyptian, who committed 12 robberies this year in various restaurants, stores and cafes in various areas around Kuwait. Investigating several reports about multiple robberies, detectives found the main suspects are two Kuwaitis aged 21 and 17, in addition to an Egyptian aged 18, who was ambushed and arrested. The suspect confessed the trio had robbed several restaurants and stores in Sharq, Ardiya and Qurain markets. One of the two citizens was arrested while the other is still at large. A case was filed.

## Kuwait Food Bank to receive zakat al-fitr

**By Meshaal Al-Enezi**  
KUWAIT: Kuwait Food Bank announced that it will receive zakat al-fitr on a 24/7 basis through SMS messages, on the bank's website or by visiting the bank's headquarters in Adailiya until Eid Al-Fitr's eve. The food bank's manager Salem Al-Hamar said zakat al-fitr equals the value of 2.5 kg of rice per person. He added that the zakat payer will have to pay it for himself, his wife, his children whom he still supports and his parents if he supports them.

**Co-ops elections**  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's (MSAL) assistant undersecretary for co-operative societies' affairs Abdul Aziz Shuaib said on recounting the votes based on contests made in the elections conducted in three co-ops, the final results previously announced by the ministry proved to be correct. Shuaib said the ministry recounted the votes of Sabah Al-Nasser, Nuzha and Ali Sabah Al-Salem co-ops and found the results it had previously announced were correct.  
On a different concern, Shuaib said MSAL is taking seriously social media reports about a co-op throwing fruits and vegetables in garbage dumpsters, from where some of the employees of co-op and the companies working with it retrieve them. Shuaib said on conducting field investigations, MSAL found that the co-op had been buying more fruits and vegetables than it sells daily, which resulted in some of them going bad. He added that the co-op was instructed to investigate the matter and adjust its purchase policies.



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with public attorney and head of the committee entrusted with studying the cases of prisoners awaiting deportation chancellor Mohammed Rashid Al-Duaij. — KUNA



A firefighter tackles a blaze in Salmiya building yesterday.

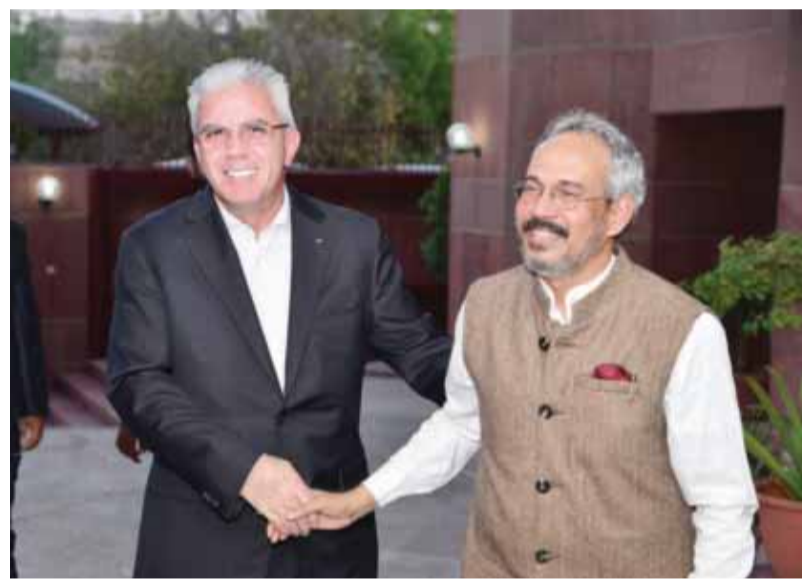


This photo provided by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows CCTV footage showing a thief breaking into a shop in Kuwait.

Local



KUWAIT: Ambassador of India to Kuwait Jeeva Sagar hosted an iftar recently at the embassy's building that was attended by diplomats and other dignitaries.



**KFH hailed for organizing prayer in 3 mosques**

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) received praise and recognition for its efforts in organizing the Qiyam prayer and providing hospitality service to worshippers and the personnel in three mosques: the state's Grand Mosque, Saad Bin Abi Waqqas mosque and Al-Rashed mosque.

This comes as part its Ramadan program 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 4', that reflects the commitment in the corporate social responsibility and efforts to strengthen ties with the all segments of the society, especially in the month of Ramadan. KFH voluntary team worked in collaboration with the concerned parties to organize the Qiyam prayer at these

Mosques. KFH continues this efforts until last day of Ramadan.

Moreover, it continues 'Feed the Fasting' campaign in distributing iftar meals in different locations in Kuwait. KFH voluntary team prepares and distributes iftar meals daily at four locations in collaboration with the Capital and Hawalli Governorates. The locations are: Nayef Palace, Al-Shamlan Mosque, Souk Al-Mubarakiya and Hawalli Park, in addition to the participation with Ramadan Aman campaign for distributing iftar meals.

KFH's Ramadan program 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 4' includes various visits and voluntary work, social and humanitarian events and activities stemming from the bank's endeavors to solidify its commitment towards the society, while supporting all social and humanitarian initiatives.

KFH's efforts in Ramadan underline the bank's pioneering role in the social responsibility, while contributing in strengthening the social ties. KFH voluntary team prepares and distributes iftar meals daily on different locations until end of Ramadan.



**KIB distributes cold refreshments to worshippers**

KUWAIT: As part of its social responsibility program during Ramadan, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) organized an initiative to distribute cold refreshments amongst those who have finished Tarawih and Qiyam prayers at mosques across the country.

Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "This initiative was one of the many initiatives that KIB organized during the holy month and aimed at serving diverse segments of the local community. Through these initiatives, the bank continues to establish itself as a partner in all aspects of people's lives, a 'Bank for Life'. We are adamant on organizing various social initiatives that aim at fostering community values and strengthening ties between everyone. By distributing water amongst those praying, we recognize and appreciate their efforts and spiritual devotion during the last ten days of Ramadan."

Najia also noted that the high spirits and positivity brought upon by KIB staff volunteers during the initiative reflected their genuineness and strong sense of social responsibility, going beyond their day-to-day job



roles by spreading their love for volunteerism during these blessed days of the year.

Organizing and supporting humanitarian initiatives during the holy month has always been a priority to KIB. Accordingly, the

bank always strives to serve all segments of the community, as well as engage with all its members, in order to instill habits of giving and serving in everyone's lives across the country.



International Flavors

# Ramadan dishes from the ancient Armenian cuisine

By Faten Omar

Kuwait Times adds the perfect mouthwatering dishes to your Ramadan table from the glory of Armenian cuisine, which extends far beyond the country's borders. Lilit Galstian-Badeyan, the wife of the Armenian ambassador to Kuwait, prepared Armenian dishes enriched with more than 2,000 years of history. Armenian cuisine is as ancient as its history. The abundance of meat on Armenian tables is the result of the most ancient development of cattle breeding in Armenian uplands, which led to a variety of livestock and poultry. "Today I will prepare Armenian dolma, a rich and tasty dish. It is stuffed with vegetables and dried Armenian tomatoes, mixed with herbs and olive oil," she said. For dessert, Badeyan said gata is a traditional delicious Armenian pastry. "It has been prepared for many centuries, especially for weddings. This sweet pastry is associated with happiness and prosperity. Gata can last for months as cookies, like lavash (Armenian flatbread). Lavash quickly dries out and hardens the longer it is exposed to air. Once dried, the bread can be kept for nearly a year.

Armenian summer dolma/stuffed cabbage leaves and vegetables

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cabbage.
- 3 small eggplants
- 3 medium tomatoes
- 3 green peppers
- Ground beef 700 gm



KUWAIT: Lilit Galstian-Badeyan, wife of the Armenian ambassador to Kuwait. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

- 1 bunch of fresh or dried herbs/parsley, rosemary, coriander, basilica
- 2 onions
- 1/2 cup of uncooked ground rice
- 2 teaspoons of salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper and 1 teaspoon paprika, chili pepper (optional)
- 2 tablespoons of tomato paste
- Water and salt

**Filling**

Mix the meat, rice, chopped onions and herbs, spices and tomato sauce. Add a little water to let it mix better.

**Preparing the wrapping and vegetables**

Cut the core of the cabbage from the bottom, then carefully remove the leaves one by one and let the cab-

bage leaves boil in salted water for 5 minutes. Remove the cabbages leaves from the boiling water and place them in ice-cold water for 1 minute. Cut the center vein of each leaf, place a tablespoon of stuffing and start wrapping. Cut the top of eggplants and tomatoes, remove the pulp and stuff with the meat mix. Place each stuffed cabbage roll in a pot with the stuffed vegetables on top. Pour water in the pot until it reaches the top of the dolmas. Place a plate on top of the dolmas to keep them fixed. Cook on medium heat for about 30-40 minutes. You can use grape leaves also if you want!

**Armenian gata  
Ingredients for puff pastry:  
(For the dough)**

- 2 1/2 cups of all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 1 1/2 tbsp sugar
- 150 grams of cold unsalted butter, cubed
- 1/2 cup of full fat plain yogurt

**Filling**

- 1 cup granulated white sugar
  - 1 cup all-purpose flour
  - 4-5 tbsp room temperature unsalted butter, 120-130 grams
  - 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Preparation process
- Preheat the oven to 180 C.
  - In a bowl, combine and mix the butter, flour and sugar.



Lilit Galstian-Badeyan, wife of the Armenian ambassador prepares the dish for serving.

- If the mixture sticks together after you palm it, then the consistency is good.
- Open the puff pastry along your baking sheet to be about the same size.
- Place the butter mixture onto the pastry sheet and spread it evenly.
- Roll the pastry, flatten it and cut it into medium sized pieces (the size can vary according to your taste.)
- Place the pieces on a baking sheet, aligned with parchment paper.
- You can dot the already folded and sliced dough with a fork to give it a nice design.
- Beat an egg and brush the pieces of gata with it.
- Bake gata for about 25-30 minutes, or until they become nice and golden.



## Ramadan's Umrah with double the reward

By Nawara Fattahova

Kuwait Times celebrates Ramadan in Kuwait with 30 days of the Icons of Ramadan. We highlight our favorite activities, events, symbols and foods that are popular during this holy month, along with Kuwait's Ramadan culture, history and traditions.

During the holy month of Ramadan, people strive to do more good deeds, as they believe that God will double their rewards. Also, the atmosphere of this month is spiritual in general and people practice religious rituals more than the rest of the year. Umrah is an optional ritual similar to the hajj pilgrimage but shorter, during which a Muslim visits the Grand Mosque in Makkah, circumambulates the Kaaba, runs between Safa and

Marwa and performs other acts also done in hajj like cutting the hair, wearing ihram and others.

Umrah can be performed at any time during the year, but many faithful choose to do it during Ramadan to be rewarded more by God. People even prefer to perform it during the last 10 days of Ramadan. According to a hadith, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Whoever goes for umrah in Ramadan, it's like going on hajj with me." When pilgrims return from the umrah, they are welcomed by their families with flowers. They usually bring holy Zamzam water from Makkah, as this is the most popular gift from there and the most demanded.

Email us at [local@kuwaittimes.com](mailto:local@kuwaittimes.com) with your favorite symbols of Ramadan and Ramadan photos.



## Zain shares the joys of Ramadan with children in hospitals

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, shared the joys of the holy Month of Ramadan with children and patients in a number of the biggest hospitals in Kuwait. The company's team visited the hospitals during this blessed time of year to distribute gifts and girgiran to children and their families and celebrate the occasion in a family atmosphere full of joy and happiness in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Society for the Care of Children in Hospitals (KACCH).

Zain organizes visits to hospitals several times a year in many occasions, most importantly the holy month of Ramadan. The initiative, which comes under the umbrella of Zain's CSSR strategy, aims at sharing the blessings of the holy

month with the children, their parents, as well as the medical staff who take care of them.

Zain's team, including staff and volunteers, distributed gifts and girgiran candy to children in a number of Kuwait's biggest and most prominent hospitals, including Al-Amiri Hospital, Al-Razi Hospital, and Ibn Sina Hospital.

Zain expressed its heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all the parties involved in organizing the visits including hospital staff, officials, children's families, and the volunteers themselves, who all helped draw a smile on the faces of the children. Zain highlighted that the aim of undertaking the annual hospital visits during special occasions is part of the company's commitment to celebrating the holy month of Ramadan through ongoing social activities that generate a sense of generosity and caring. As a responsible telecommunications company, Zain looks to improve the lives of the people within the communities it serves.

Zain affirmed that its social and Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility campaign during the holy month of Ramadan will include an extensive array of initiatives and programs that will focus on helping less fortunate people to enjoy Ramadan happily, as well as celebrating the true spirit of the Holy month brings.

Eid Mubarak

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Canada rallies to Trudeau after Trump's insult

Domestic, gang violence no longer grounds for US asylum



SINGAPORE: US President Donald Trump (right) shakes hands with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un as they sit down for their historic US-North Korea summit at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa Island yesterday. — AFP

# Kim and Trump reach hands across history

## 'Alpha male' handshakes, but body language shows some nerves

SINGAPORE: Steadily, almost warily, the two leaders approached each other on a colonnaded verandah, their hands outstretched as a gaggle of media watched from a platform and the rest of the world looked on. Weeks in the making after decades of war, antagonism and venom, the first encounter between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump was a crucial moment. Within the first minute in Singapore, the US president had proclaimed, he would know whether a deal over the North's nuclear arsenal was possible.

The drive to the venue took both men through the tourist enclave of Sentosa island and past the towers of Shrek's castle at a Universal Studios theme park. But they emerged from their limousines grim and unsmiling, and the first few moments of their meeting appeared uneasy. As the two shook hands for around 13 seconds, Trump reached out to touch Kim's shoulder, looking down at the shorter man as he spoke. The two turned to face the cameras in front of a dozen American and North Korean flags, upright and unsmiling.

But as Trump ushered the North Korean towards their meeting room, Kim's lips creased into the beginnings of a smile, and the two men visibly relaxed the moment they turned off the stage at the Capella Hotel. They chatted and smiled as they went into the first-ever one-on-one encounter between a leader of the North and a sitting US president. The first minute of the meeting, Trump said, had felt "really great." "I think it's going to be really successful and I think we will have a terrific relationship, I have no doubt."

### 'Not easy'

Held on a former British military base, the summit came 65 years after Pyongyang's Chinese-backed forces fought the US-led UN coalition to a standstill in the Korean War, and followed years of increasing tensions over the North's banned nuclear and ballistic weapons programs. According to the South Korean news

agency Yonhap, it was the first time the US and North Korean emblems had been officially displayed side-by-side since the New York Philharmonic played a concert in Pyongyang in 2008.

In Seoul, South Korean President Moon Jae-in - whose country remains technically at war with the North - watched live ahead of a cabinet meeting. "I, too, could hardly sleep last night," he told his ministers, hoping for a "new era among the two Koreas and the United States". Sitting across from Trump at a small side table, Kim told the US president through a translator: "It was not easy to get here. The past worked as fetters on our limbs and the old prejudices and practices worked as obstacles on our way forward," he went on, his listener looking him in the eye and nodding. "But we overcame all of them and we are here today." Trump responded "That's true," before another handshake - smiling this time - and a thumbs-up from the US president.

The clasps represented an agreement to overcome decades of hostile relations, said Koh Yu-hwan, professor at Dongguk University. It was more formal than Kim's encounters with his neighbors - the North Korean leader used both hands when he met Chinese President Xi Jinping, and embraced the South's President Moon Jae-in at their second summit in the Demilitarized Zone last month. But Koh told AFP: "Right now, it's the first meeting between the heads of two enemy states so they can't exchange friendly hugs. Technically, we are still in a state of war," he added. "But if the talks go well, they could end it with a hug."

In their first moments of meeting each other, Trump and Kim

both sought to project a sense of command but displayed some anxiety at the start of their high-stakes summit. Body language experts said that in the 13 seconds or so the US president held on to the hand of Kim for the first time, he projected his usual dominance by reaching out first, and patting the North Korean leader's shoulder. Not to be outdone, Kim firmly pumped Trump's hand,

looking him straight in the eye for the duration, before breaking off to face the media. "It wasn't a straight-out handshake," said Allan Pease, an Australian body language expert and author of several books on the topic, including "The Definitive Guide to Body Language". "It was up and down, there was an argy-bargy, each one was pulling the other closer. Each guy wasn't letting the other get a dominant grip," he told Reuters by telephone from Melbourne.

Ahead of the meeting, Trump had said he would be able to work out within the first minute whether his North Korean counterpart was serious about making peace. Projecting authority comes easily to Trump, who as a global leader, businessman and former television personality is well-versed in using body language effectively. He also has a height advantage over Kim. While both men walked to the library where they held their first face-to-face meeting, Trump sought to ease any tension in the air by chatting to Kim, and letting him walk slightly ahead.

Trump, however, maintained control over the chat by patting Kim, and using his hand to guide him, who is almost half his age, into the room. Kim also patted Trump, in an attempt to assert control. He mainly looked down, listening, as Trump spoke, but did

look up at several times during the conversation. "Donald Trump was talking in conciliatory terms, almost submissive, but his body language was clearly saying 'I am in charge here,'" Pease said. "If you didn't know who these people were, you'd say the big guy was the father and the little guy is the son."

### Desire for dominance

Karen Leong, Managing Director of Singapore-headquartered Influence Solutions, said Trump did not display any of the hostility seen at the G7 summit in Canada last week, during which the US leader blasted allies including the European Union and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over trade. A photograph showing Trump sitting with his arms folded as German Chancellor Angela Merkel speaks was seen as defining the acrimonious nature of those talks.

Still, Trump's desire for dominance was on display. "Whenever they're shaking hands, you can see the whites of their fingertips - these two guys are alpha males," Leong said. "They both want to show dominance and that is why there's this bone-crushing handshake." However, Leong said both found it difficult to conceal their nervousness once they were seated, with Trump displaying a slanted smile, and fidgeting with his hands and Kim leaning and staring at the ground. "Trump is a gambler and he's gambling on being able to rein in North Korea like a parent does to naughty child," Leong said.

This contrasted with Kim, who had comparatively less to lose, having already scored a major win through Trump's agreement to meet him. Kim's first major interaction with the international community also betrayed a sense of awe and wonder as he faced the rapid fire shutters of photographers in the opulence of the Singapore luxury hotel where the meeting took place. "Kim looked a bit like a kid in a theme park: Not intimidating, excited and a bit nervous," Pease added. — Agencies



### Tensions, then smiles

## Nobel in the offing for Trump, Kim?

OSLO: Could their historic Singapore summit earn Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un a Nobel Peace Prize? Maybe, but it's still early days, say experts. The US president and the North Korean leader yesterday signed an agreement which, while short on details, reaffirmed Pyongyang's commitment to the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula". Some commentators and politicians have suggested the pair be awarded a Nobel for their efforts. But experts say the prestigious prize - at least for now - may remain elusive for the duo.

Timing and personalities count against both leaders, they say. Trump has given a seismic shock to international diplomacy by, among other things, pulling the US out of a landmark nuclear deal with Iran, while Kim is guilty of numerous human rights violations. And then there is the question of whether their process bears fruit. The diplomacy of disarmament is invariably risk-laden, complex and long.

"It's too early," Asle Sveen, a historian who specializes in the Nobel prize, said of the prospects for a Kim-Trump award. "But if (the agreement) were to lead to real disarmament on the Korean peninsula, it would be very difficult to not award them the prize. It would be a bizarre situation, but that's happened in the past, that people with a pretty violent past have received the Nobel Peace Prize," he said.

Even before the Singapore summit, several people, including South Korean President Moon Jae-in, former US president Jimmy Carter and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, suggested Trump could deserve the Nobel. One fake Nobel Peace Prize nomination for Trump has already been invalidated after a case of identity fraud was uncovered earlier this year. But 18 Republicans have nominated him for 2019 in recognition of "his tireless work to bring peace to our world."

Ten years after it awarded the Peace Prize to the newly-elected Barack Obama in a move that was widely mocked as being premature, the Nobel committee does not want to repeat past mistakes. And in 2000, the Nobel was awarded to then South Korean president Kim Dae-jung for his reconciliation efforts with the North, which turned out to be little more than "a public relations campaign," said



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un walks with US President Donald Trump during a break in talks yesterday. — AFP

Henrik Urdal, the head of the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PrIO). "I think they'll probably wait to see some pretty significant results before giving another prize in that direction," Urdal told AFP.

Dan Smith, the head of Stockholm peace research institute SIPRI, agreed the Nobel would be premature. "Today's agreement is a good first step but the journey is long and complicated. Other things President Trump has done - most notably withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement, which is crucial for global security, and destabilizing the Iran nuclear deal, which is crucial for Middle East regional stability - are much less positive for peace."

### 'Blood on their hands'

If real progress were to be made on the Korean peninsula, the Nobel committee would find itself in a bit of a dilemma, given the track record of the two main actors. "Many of those who have received the Peace Prize have had quite a bit of blood on their hands," noted Urdal. "The question is whether they did enough good that it washes out the blood. Neither Trump nor Kim Jong Un have done enough this year to win the prize."

Geir Lundestad, who served as the influential

secretary of the Nobel committee between 1990 and 2014, used to say that the "Nobel is not a prize for saints".

"But you don't have to push this logic to the extreme either," he told AFP yesterday. He hailed the Singapore summit but expressed skepticism about the possibility of a Nobel at this stage. "These two people have a lot of baggage: Kim is one of the worst dictators in the world and Donald Trump is in the process of tearing down the political and economic structures that the US set up after 1945 and that have benefited everyone," he said.

Urdal meanwhile pointed to the paradoxes in Trump's diplomacy. "The thing that damages Trump's chances the most is that he pulled the US out of the Iran nuclear deal," Urdal said. "At the same time that he's choosing the path of peace on the Korean peninsula, he's stoking a conflict in the Middle East and is putting an entire region in danger." Peter Wallensteen, a Swedish professor specialized in international relations, said South Korean President Moon Jae-in deserved to be included if ever a prize were awarded for peace in Korea. "Actually, Moon might be the one that deserves this the most, but that would be a slap against Trump!" — AFP

## Summits fuel questions about Trump's embrace of autocrats

SINGAPORE: Donald Trump's warm embrace of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un after a spectacular bust-up with G7 allies is the latest example of what critics say is a worrying penchant for autocrats. The backslapping, smiles and handshakes in Singapore yesterday stood in conspicuous contrast to the furrowed brows and piercing looks of a summit just days before in Canada. Whereas Trump looked tired and annoyed in Quebec, where he was surrounded by leaders of democracies, he could barely have been more relaxed around the lunch table with Kim - a man who oversees industrial scale human rights abuses and is suspected of ordering the assassination of his own brother last year.

"Getting a good picture everybody?" he joked with photographers before sitting down to ice cream with Kim, "so we look nice and handsome and thin." At a post-summit press conference, Trump praised Kim as "very smart" and a "very good negotiator," in the same breath as warning critical statements by Canada's prime minister would cost the country "a lot of money". Trump's embrace of strongmen and autocrats has long been a point of contention at home. He has repeatedly praised Russian leader Vladimir Putin and has voiced admiration for Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, whose drug policies have resulted in thousands of deaths.

But the juxtaposition of Trump's treatment of Kim and his disdain for G7 friends has pushed criticism to new levels. "The president disrespects our closest allies and gives a pass to dictators," said Democratic congresswoman Nanette Barragan. "I never thought I would see the day." For Trump's fiercest crit-



SINGAPORE: US President Donald Trump holds up a document signed by him and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un following a signing ceremony yesterday. — AFP

ics, it is just more evidence of a dangerous predilection for authoritarian figures. "How long will you remain silent as President Trump lays ruin to our alliances and tears apart the very fabric of our democracy?" Democrat Adam Schiff asked his Republican colleagues. "Patriots do not stand mute when our country is in jeopardy, no matter what party occupies the White House."

Trump's joint stroll and bonhomie with Kim was too much even for some of the party faithful. "If Obama had had the last 24 hours that Trump has had, the GOP would be demanding his impeachment," said prominent Republican commentator Erick Erickson. The White House has balked at the notion that Trump is more comfortable around strongmen than fellow democrats. When a CNN reporter put the point to Trump in Canada, Trump denounced him as "fake news" and his national security advisor John Bolton laughed derisively.

But some observers say there are more personal, less ideological, reasons for Trump's behavior - he likes people who praise him. The Putins, Kims and Dutertes of the world have been more than willing to lavish praise when needed. Putin has variously called Trump "brave" for meeting Kim and heralded his business acumen. — AFP

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## International

# Merkel on tightrope over disputed migrant policy

## Seehofer hastily cancels plans to present immigration 'masterplan'

**BERLIN:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel was fighting yesterday to stamp out the first major row within her uneasy coalition, as disputes over her refugee policy returned to haunt her while she negotiates a broad EU asylum deal. The discord within her conservative bloc burst into the open when Interior Minister Horst Seehofer of Merkel's Bavarian allies CSU hastily cancelled plans to present his "masterplan" on immigration. The interior ministry said in a short statement that the presentation had been pushed back because "several points still need to be agreed".

Seehofer, the former premier of conservative Bavaria state, has long been one of the fiercest critics of Merkel's decision to open Germany's borders at the height of Europe's migration crisis in 2015. The migrant influx has shaped German politics since. Voters handed Merkel her worst ever score in September's elections as well as giving the far-right AfD seats for the first time in the Bundestag.

With a crucial state election in Bavaria coming up in October, Seehofer and his Christian Social Union party are anxious to stop a hemorrhage of support to the anti-migrant and Islamophobic AfD. The CSU's strategy is underpinned by Seehofer's 63-point immigration plan, anchored by the key proposal to push migrants back across the border. Standing his ground late Monday, Seehofer stressed that all 63 points of his plan "are in my view necessary in order to restore control and order in Germany." He added that he would not "publish a half-baked plan with lazy compromises." Underlining what is at stake, broadcaster

Deutschlandfunk said if no deal is found, "the choices there for the interior minister would be resignation or dismissal". "That of course, would be the end of the coalition," it added.



**Chancellor won't accept turning refugees back**

### 'They must be turned back'

The arrival of more than a million asylum seekers, many fleeing war-torn Syria and Iraq, since 2015 has deeply divided Germany. Three years after the migration crisis erupted, the inflow has slowed dramatically but the coalition is still bickering over what would be a sustainable solution. Within Merkel's CDU party too, some are openly championing Seehofer's vision. "The masterplan is important now and it must be implemented quickly," said Saxony premier Michael Kretschmer. "Of course they must be turned back at the border. That's why we have police at the border and it

is right to have them there," said the CDU politician.

But Merkel won't accept turning refugees back, as it would simply shift the problem to Germany's neighbors. Germany must not act "along individual national lines," she said. For the chancellor, the only sustainable solution would be a Europe-wide agreement. That is a point she will likely push when she meets later Tuesday with Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, whose country would be hardest hit if Germany were to close its doors.

Ironically though, Kurz shares Seehofer's criticism of Merkel's refugee policy and is due to meet the interior minister today. Merkel has the backing for now of the third party in her coalition, the Social Democratic Party. It too rejects stepping up border controls of asylum seekers, which it says goes against the spirit of the Schengen passport-free zone.

### 'Wait for reform'

But the refugee influx has not only influenced electoral decisions in Europe's biggest economy. It has also pushed voters to the arms of populists and the far-right in Austria and Italy. Signalling increasing frustration with new arrivals, Italy's far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini flatly refused to allow a rescue vessel carrying hundreds of migrants to dock on Monday. Demands from the populist and far-right leaning forces are complicating Merkel's push for EU solidarity in dealing with immigration issues. The issue is to be covered at a summit on June 28 and 29.

With Austria taking over the rotating presidency of the



**BERLIN:** German Chancellor and leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party Angela Merkel talks with German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer prior to a parliamentary group meeting at the Reichstag yesterday. — AFP

EU on July 1, Merkel is hoping to convince Kurz to sign up to a system of "flexible solidarity" and help put in place an effective European border police. EU budget commissioner Guenther Oettinger of Merkel's CDU called on Seehofer for patience. "It would be good if Germany waits to see what the reform of the Dublin rules in Brussels brings, before it takes one-sided measures," he told newspaper group Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland, referring to regulations surrounding asylum-seeking procedures in the bloc. — AFP



**Israeli police evict settlers in the Netiv Haavot neighbourhood of the Elazar settlement, south of Jerusalem, yesterday. — AFP**

## Israel police evict wildcat settlers as deadline looms

**NETIV HAAVOT OUTPOST:** Israeli police began evicting settlers from homes in a West Bank outpost yesterday ahead of a court deadline to leave structures partially built on Palestinian land, an AFP correspondent reported. Young boys in tears were followed by a young woman holding a baby, as they were escorted out of their home in the Netiv Haavot neighborhood of Elazar settlement, south of Jerusalem. They left without any resort to physical contact by the unarmed police.

In February, Israel's Supreme Court gave the settlers until June 15 to vacate 15 homes found to have been built partly on private Palestinian land. An estimated 2,000 people, most of them young activists, had travelled to the outpost to support the settlers and protest against their eviction. Large Israeli flags were flying on some of the rooftops, as well as signs pledging to return to the site.

After morning prayers, men sang and danced in a show of faith outside the homes to be razed. Police entered house after house, escorting residents and supporters or in some

cases carrying them out without objection. By the early afternoon, only one house remain occupied, with dozens of youths standing on its roof, as police assessed how to tackle the potentially volatile situation.

### 'Peaceful protest'

Resident Aviad Amitai said that yesterday marked the start of a three-day process, with police clearing people from the houses subject to the court order before demolishing them. "We have a peaceful protest, we are law-abiding people, we are not going to show any violence here," Amitai told AFP. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said that while residents did not want the event to be violent, "we've seen in previous evacuations police officers being injured as a result of stones or violent incidents."

He said that to keep away those intent on violence, police had set up roadblocks and denied access to 10 people. Police deployed 500 officers to secure the location and "continue to evacuate the area, step by step". Rosenfeld said the eviction of the 15 families was expected to take "at least several hours, probably the whole day." Hananel Dorni, chairman of settler group the Yehsa council, said the court's decision to demolish the homes was "unwarranted". Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel, himself a settler, said the discussions leading up to the court's decision were like those in Sodom and Gomorrah, ancient cities that according to the Bible were demolished by God for their sinfulness. —AFP

## US unveils new de facto embassy in Taiwan

**TAIPEI:** The United States yesterday unveiled a new \$255 million de facto embassy in Taiwan in what was hailed as a "milestone" in relations, drawing the ire of China which considers the self-ruled island as part of its territory. Donald Trump's administration is moving to strengthen ties with Taiwan in the face of China's diplomatic moves and military threats. In March, after Trump approved new rules allowing top US officials to travel to the island, Beijing called on Washington to "correct its mistake".

But the US sent an assistant secretary of state for the unveiling. Beijing said it lodged an official diplomatic protest with Washington. The US switched diplomatic recognition to China in 1979 but maintains close economic, political and security ties with Taiwan. It manages its relations through the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT). Marie Royce, assistant secretary of state for educational and cultural affairs, attended the dedication ceremony with Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen.

"AIT's new home is both a tangible symbol that reflects the strength of our ties and a state-of-the-art facility that will make possible even greater cooperation for years to come," said Royce, the wife of pro-Taiwan congressman and House foreign affairs committee chairman Ed Royce. AIT chairman James Moriarty called the new complex a "milestone" in the US-Taiwan relationship and a "testament to the strong US commitment to Taiwan".

Tsai hailed the complex as a new chapter in the "great story of US-Taiwan relations". Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Beijing was "gravely concerned" and launched "solemn representations" with Washington - diplomatic speak for an official protest. "If



**TAIPEI:** Journalists tour new office complex of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) during a dedication ceremony yesterday. — AFP

any US official attends this activity, whatever their excuse may be, it violates the one China principle," Geng told a regular press briefing. "We urge the US to honor its words on the Taiwan issue and redress its wrongdoings so as to avoid doing harm to China-US ties and peace and stability in cross-straits relations."

China and Taiwan have been ruled separately since 1949 but Beijing views the island as a renegade province awaiting reunification, by force if necessary. It bars Taiwan from membership in the United Nations and many other international organizations and has been luring away the

island's remaining diplomatic allies. Since Tsai came to power two years ago, Beijing has cut contact with her government because Taipei refuses to acknowledge that Taiwan is part of "one China".

Beijing officials have described intensified Chinese military drills near the island as a warning against any moves to assert its sovereignty. While Taiwan's relationship with the US is essential to its security, it must also guard against provoking China, its biggest military threat but also the dominant market for the island's export-driven economy. — AFP

### News in brief

#### Landslides kill 12 Rohingya

**DHAKA:** Landslides triggered by monsoon rains killed at least 12 people yesterday in Bangladesh near camps housing one million Rohingya refugees, officials said. Aid agencies have been warning of the potential for a humanitarian catastrophe over the coming months as heavy rains lash an area home to the world's largest refugee camp. Most of yesterday's victims were buried under mud when surrounding hills gave way after a deluge. Eleven people died in Naniarchar including a family of four, while several people remained missing, district administrator Mamunur Rashid told AFP. Another person was killed in neighboring Cox's Bazar district, police said. Landslides have so far killed at least 13 people this week, after a Rohingya boy was crushed to death by a collapsing mud wall at the Kutupalong refugee camp on Monday. — AFP

#### 11 dead after Russia boats collide

**MOSCOW:** Eleven people on a river cruise were killed when their boat collided with a tugboat late on Monday in the Russian city of Volgograd, which is hosting matches in the soccer World Cup, rescue services said. Emergency services received notification at around 10 pm (1900 GMT) on Monday that the vessels had collided on the Volga River, about 250 m from the riverbank. There were 16 people on board the pleasure craft, all of them Russians, the RIA news agency cited the local administration as saying. Five people had been rescued, and three of the survivors were in hospital, according to the website of regional governor Andrei Bocharov. — Reuters

## Deadly IS attacks in Syria a taste of more to come

**BEIRUT:** The Islamic State group may have lost most of its territory in Syria but recent deadly attacks against pro-regime fighters are a foretaste of more to come, analysts say. Despite pro-government forces ousting IS from urban centers in eastern Syria last year, surprise raids there in past weeks have killed dozens of regime and allied fighters. On Friday, the group rammed into Abu Kamal on the Iraqi border in its first major incursion inside the town in more than half a year.

Despite being expelled from most towns of the proto-state it declared in 2014 in Syria and neighboring Iraq, analysts say IS has retained the ability to pounce from the desert. "When the (Syrian) regime or the Iraqi government declared that they were able to vanquish IS, this is a very inaccurate statement," military analyst Nawar Oliver at the Turkey-based Omran Institute said. "You were able to vanquish IS in the city - such as Deir Ezzor, Abu Kamal, Mayadeen, Palmyra - but you were not able to get rid of IS in the desert, which is your main problem right now," he said.

Syria's army backed by Russia retook these urban areas last year, the first three in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor and the last in the central province of Homs. The militants consider raids like those on Abu Kamal to be victories, Oliver said, but there will be many more hit-and-run raids to come. "The attacks will continue launched from the desert, targeting pipelines, main roads, border crossings - which will give any government a huge headache," he said.

The border post near Abu Kamal is for now controlled by Syrian and Iraqi forces, but activist Omar Abu Leila said there was undoubtedly coordination between IS fighters on both sides of the frontier. This came through "their hidden movement through the deserts and through disguise - perhaps with the uniforms of local drivers", the Deir Ezzor native said.

### 'Soft underbelly'

Analyst Hassan Hassan, a senior fellow at the Tahrir Institute, warned the militants would continue to rely on their deep knowledge of Syria's vast desert and adjacent Iraqi areas in coming years. "Eastern Syria and northeastern Iraq will continue to be the soft underbelly of both countries, and where IS will operate for many years to come," he said. "The group knows the area very well, has established an insurgency infrastructure in the deserts, river valleys and rural areas stretching from Kirkuk and Diyala in Iraq to the Qalamun region near Damascus in Syria." Its enemies are unable "to police and secure these areas in a sustainable way", Hassan said.

In Deir Ezzor, a US-backed Kurdish-Arab alliance - the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) - is also battling the extremists in a small slither of land east of the Euphrates River that cuts across the province. But in past weeks, the jihadists have focused their raids on the river's western banks as they are the gateway to their sandy stronghold in Homs province, military analyst Oliver said. These have spiked since the jihadists were evacuated from their last bastion outside Damascus last month, many heading to Syria's vast Badiya desert, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says.

Government posts there are easy targets, as they are few and far from each other so reinforcements are slow to arrive, the Britain-based monitor says. The victims of these raids on regime forces have included Russian, Iranian and Lebanese fighters, even as the militants retain a presence in other parts of Syria. The SDF backed by the US-led coalition has been battling IS in a pocket in the northeastern Hasakeh province, where Oliver says high-profile commanders are present. Last week, one of its sleeper cells executed rival jihadists in the northwestern province of Idlib, and a surprise attack revealed IS' presence in the southern province of Sweida. — AFP



International

# Domestic and gang violence no longer grounds for US asylum

## Session's statement sets standard for immigration judges

WASHINGTON: US Attorney General Jeff Sessions declared Monday that victims of domestic and gang violence will no longer qualify for asylum, in an effort to stem a flow of illegal immigrant families from Central America. In a deciding opinion on a case of an unidentified woman from El Salvador who was raped and beaten by her husband for years, Sessions said that asylum seekers must prove that they suffer persecution arising from their membership in a distinct group.

"An alien may suffer threats and violence in a foreign country for any number of reasons relating to her social, economic, family, or other personal circumstances. Yet the asylum statute does not provide redress for all misfortune," Sessions said. Such a group cannot be overly broad or diffuse, Sessions said, overruling a previous asylum decision which accepted married women who are victims of violent relationships as a persecuted group. "The mere fact that a country may have problems effectively policing certain crimes - such as domestic violence or gang violence - or that certain populations are more likely to be victims of crime, cannot itself establish an asylum claim."

The ruling came as part of a pushback to the arrival of thousands of migrants from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador over the past year fleeing

widespread violence in their country. Most of them cross the US-Mexico border and immediately turn themselves in to request asylum. In early May Sessions announced that any illegal border-crossers, including asylum seekers, would first be charged with a crime, and parents and children would be separated. The policy, meant to be a deterrent, has

“**The asylum system is being abused**”

sparked strong criticism and an accusation from the UN Human Rights Office that children's rights are being violated by the policy.

**'A high burden'**

In a speech earlier Monday, Sessions made clear the Trump administration's ongoing frustration with

the border situation. "The asylum system is being abused to the detriment of the rule of law, sound public policy, and public safety - and to the detriment of people with just claims," he said. "The vast majority of the current asylum claims are not valid," he added, saying only 20 percent have met asylum standards. "Asylum was never meant to alleviate all problems - even all serious problems - that people face every day all over the world."

Sessions' statement set the standard for immigration judges facing a massive surge in cases of undocumented immigrants. More than 7,800 asylum applications were filed in March alone. And immigration courts overall face a backlog of about 700,000 cases of all types.

Steve Vladeck, a University of Texas law professor, said a key point in Sessions' ruling was that applicants needed to demonstrate that "the government condoned the private actions or demonstrated an inability to protect the victim". "That's quite a high burden," he said on Twitter.

Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal attacked the decision as "shameful", closing the door on women fleeing violence, LGBT refugees, and others. "Today's decision will send untold numbers of refugees to their deaths," he said. — AFP

## Trump's top advisor suffers heart attack

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's top economic advisor Larry Kudlow has suffered a "very mild" heart attack and is being treated at a military hospital just outside Washington, the president and the White House said late Monday. The heart attack comes just days after Kudlow raised eyebrows by claiming Justin Trudeau "stabbed us in the back" after a G7 summit hosted by the Canadian leader ended in acrimony. "Our Great Larry Kudlow, who has been working so hard on trade and the economy, has just suffered a heart attack. He is now in Walter Reed Medical Center," Trump wrote on Twitter, just minutes before a historic summit meeting with North Korean

leader Kim Jong Un. In a subsequent statement, the White House described the event as a "very mild" heart attack. "Larry is currently in good condition at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and his doctors expect he will make a full and speedy recovery," spokeswoman Sarah Sanders added. A longtime TV personality, Kudlow, 70, succeeded former Goldman Sachs president Gary Cohn, who quit Trump's team in March in protest at the decision to impose steep US tariffs on imported steel and aluminum.

As a commentator, Kudlow had strongly backed Trump's moves to cut taxes and reduce business regulations but was openly critical toward the president's tariffs moves. But since joining the Trump administration, he has faithfully executed his boss' agenda - arguing for instance that the European Union must make "concessions" if it wishes to be exempt from tariffs, and signaling the US is prepared to walk away from the two-decade-old North American Free Trade Agreement. — AFP

## Canada rallies to Trudeau after Trump's insult

OTTAWA: Canadian politicians of all stripes rallied round their prime minister on Monday after his cautious and polite defense of free trade rules drew an extraordinary personal rebuke from US President Donald Trump. The United States is Canada's single biggest trade partner, with two-way exchanges of goods and services totalling \$673.9 billion in 2017, and Washington enjoys a \$8.4 billion surplus. Nevertheless, Trump appears determined to up-end the trade relationship, insisting that the US is the loser, and has demanded that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) be renegotiated or abandoned.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government is in talks to save the deal and, in concert with the other major trading powers in the G7 group of nations that met in Quebec over the weekend, pushed back against Trump. And in Ottawa on Monday, International Trade Minister Francois-Phillippe Champagne urged lawmakers to speed ratification of the Trans-Pacific Partnership that might offset losses in US trade by binding Canada closer to Asia, Australia and Latin America. In particular, Canada, Japan and the European G7 powers are outraged by Trump's unilateral - or illegal, in their eyes - imposition of tariffs on imported steel and aluminum in the name of preserving US industry on national security grounds.

**'Circus thug'**

Trump skipped the end of the G7 summit on Saturday and was in the air en route to his historic nuclear summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un when Trudeau dubbed the national security justification "insulting". And the young Canadian leader, who has attempted to maintain a public facade of friendship with the US leader, confirmed that he would regretfully impose retaliatory tariffs on US goods from next month to offset the steel levy. Trump was infuriated by the news conference and abruptly withdrew US support for the summit's relatively anodyne closing statement, a boilerplate invocation of the importance of multilateral trade rules.

He also insulted Trudeau personally, dubbing him "very dishonest and weak" and excoriated Canada's managed dairy market, which is a tiny part of total exchanges but is protected by a huge 270 percent tariff. He also suggested he is again studying possible tariffs on automobiles imported from Canada, a move which would have a much more substantial hit on both economies.

The venom of the exchange sent shockwaves through foreign policy circles and rattled markets, as another sign of the weakness of the Western alliance and of the threat NAFTA will collapse. As might be expected, Trudeau's foreign minister Chrystia Freeland took his side. "Canada does not conduct its diplomacy through ad hominem attacks, we don't think that it's a useful or productive way to do business and perhaps we refrain particularly from ad hominem attacks when it comes to our relationship with our allies," she declared.

And the Canadian left, no friend of the American right, was quick to attack Trump's outburst. "This is a small-minded man not fit for public office. Canada will not be pushed around by his circus thug bluster," said Charlie Angus of the New Democratic Party. But even conservative and populist figures on the right of Canadian politics, some of them admirers of Trump's brand of politics when it stays south of the border, rallied to their liberal premier. "We will stand shoulder to shoulder with the prime minister and the people of Canada," said Doug Ford, the newly-elected anti-tax premier of Ontario and brother to the late crack-smoking mayor of Toronto, Rob Ford.

**Trade 'obsession'**

Trump's favorite US network Fox News invited Canada's outspoken former conservative prime minister Stephen Harper, usually a reliable Trudeau critic, to discuss the crisis. But even he was nonplussed by Trump's line of attack. "I don't understand the obsession with trade relations with Canada," he sighed. Despite his own US Trade Representative's office confirming the trade surplus falls more than \$8 billion in Washington's favor Trump has repeatedly insisted that US workers are getting ripped off by NAFTA.

Behind his claim lies a difference in how the countries' calculate the trade figures. According to the USTR, America counts Canadian goods that are shipped to regional trading hubs within the United States and then re-exported back to Canada or Mexico as US exports. If these goods that originate in Canada and are eventually sold there without have been substantially worked upon in the United States are taken into account then Ottawa comes out the winner. Using this metric, the USTR reports, Canada can claim a \$90 billion annual surplus in goods trade, although the US still has a large advantage in services. This seems to have been what Trump was referring to when he tweeted: "Fair Trade is now to be called Fool Trade if it is not Reciprocal. According to a Canada release, they make almost 100 Billion Dollars in Trade with US (guess they were bragging and got caught!). Minimum is 17B."

Wherever Trump is getting his figures from, his aggressive personal attacks and determination to torpedo a prestigious world summit on Canadian soil have done nothing to head of the threat of trade war. "I'm in complete agreement with the prime minister's statement," said Jason Kenney, leader of the Conservative Party in oil-exporting Alberta Province and a Harper ally. "A reasonable, balanced and firm assertion that Canada will not be bullied, and that we will retaliate if the US Administration does not end its attack on our steel exports." — AFP

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## Business

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018

**13** Asian and European stocks up after historic N Korea summit**14** HSBC Entrepreneurs in Middle East are the most active angel investors**15** Vietnam lawmakers approve cyber law clamping down on tech firms, dissent

PYONGYANG: A general view shows the Ryugyong hotel and city skyline in Pyongyang. — AFP

# Chinese businesses still wary on N Korea

## Stories of tough bargaining with North Korean buyers

**DANDONG:** Property speculators in China may be betting that yesterday's US-North Korea summit is poised to unlock riches across the border but Chinese construction machinery dealer Wang Chenglin is far from convinced. Like many business owners in Dandong, through which most of North Korea's trade flows, Wang's hopes have been dashed before. In particular, he remembers supplying three excavators for the construction of the New Yalu River Bridge, a project that was meant to represent a new era of economic ties but was abandoned after Pyongyang reversed a decision to engage with China. Wang also tells of tough bargaining with North Korean buyers: they sought discounts of as much as 20 percent, and sometimes put up a deposit and then vanished.

### 'Many flip-flops'

Before United Nations sanctions on the North last August halted his cross-border trade entirely, Wang said he was selling between five and 10 machines a year to North Korean buyers, accounting for roughly 20 percent of his business. He has run his company, Dandong Shouyu Machinery, for over a decade. North Koreans have started turning up again to look at his machinery since the nation's

leader Kim Jong Un visited China in March on his first trip abroad since assuming power.

That is just one of a number of recent signs that cross-border business may be about to pick up. Investors have also been snapping up real estate in this city, which is opposite the Yalu River from North Korea. Yet Wang preaches caution about hopes that the North could open its economy after decades of isolation. "We've experienced many flip-flops ... and I don't entirely believe him," he said of Kim's apparent willingness to end North Korea's isolation by doing a deal with the United States.

Kim is set to meet US President Donald Trump in Singapore on Tuesday at a historic summit to discuss dismantling of the North's nuclear weapons program. Still, if the summit leads to economic opening, Wang said he would look to bring in additional cheaper models that would appeal to North Korean buyers. In that case, he also expected competition from the likes of South Korean and American firms. "Thankfully China's market is big enough," he said.

### Abandoned bridge, broken windows

Construction on the 2.2 billion yuan (\$344 million) New



Hopes have been dashed before

Yalu River Bridge started in 2012 and symbolized China's efforts to coax its Cold War-era ally into export-oriented reforms. Wang, whose dealership represents local brands such as Jinggong and XCMG Construction Machinery, recalled a grand opening ceremony for the bridge and surrounding planned free trade zones. Kim's powerful uncle, Jang Song Thaek, was in attendance.

That led businesses including Wang's to flock to the Dandong New Zone, and Wang provided three excavators to the North Korean side of the river to help ready the ground for the Chinese-funded project. Things didn't go

well. Wang said North Korean border guards even broke the windows on his excavators to steal bread and bottled drinks his workers had left inside when he left the machines on the North Korean riverside at night, forcing him to pay 1,800 yuan per machine for repairs.

Meanwhile, progress on the bridge faltered after Jang, a key liaison between Pyongyang and Beijing, was executed in late 2013 after a North Korean military tribunal found him guilty of treason. The dual-carriageway bridge currently lies unused, while the gates to the free trade zone are deserted and locked. Another equipment distributor, Han Xiaoning, a sales manager for Luyu machinery, said she had done some business with North Korea in the past and was also wary.

"If I relied on North Korea I would starve to death," Han said. Not everyone is so cautious. Fu Hong, a dealer for Lonking machinery, said the brand was popular in North Korea and she was excited about the opportunity if the summit was successful. She said the dealership had taken over another firm that had left the business in January after it was squeezed by the sanctions, and is bullish about prospects across the river. "We feel that this market has the greatest potential." — Reuters

Exclusive Editorial

## EOR: Old Challenge, Fresh Eyes

By Abd Malik Jaffar



Quandary lingers in Middle Eastern oil companies' boardrooms. Extracting black gold is becoming more challenging yet energy demand, populations and political momentum for low-carbon policies are all rising. How to master this tightrope to ensure energy security? Take enhanced oil recovery (EOR) up a notch.

For nearly a century, EOR technologies have been interwoven into upstream operators' strategies. Thermal recovery, solar-powered, steam injection, miscible gas injection, chemical recovery and CO<sub>2</sub> injection are all today on the 'menu' of popular options. But as the pressure points collide, EOR must enter a new chapter of growth and innovation. Transparency Market Research expects the valuation of the global EOR market to soar from \$38.1 billion in 2012 to \$516.7 billion by 2023. PETRONAS alone has identified more than 1 billion barrels of oil from 14 fields for EOR projects and spear-headed TAPIS, the first large-scale EOR project in Southeast Asia.

EOR is also integral to the Middle East keeping a firm grip on its crown as the epicenter of the world's oil market. It is no longer considered an optional aid but an essential tool that marries ambitious production forecasts with barrels above the ground. The handling of the

region's fields - some of the world's most mature and challenging - must evolve for BP Outlook's forecast to ring true. The energy major expects the Middle East to be the largest oil producer by 2040, accounting for over 34% of global liquids production. Maintaining a sharp competitive edge is especially paramount as international competition mounts, notably from the US' shale revolution.

EOR takes place after primary and secondary oil recoveries. Oil extracted via primary recovery accounts for 5% to 15% of the total reservoir while secondary recovery can extract about 20% to 35% of the total oil present in the reservoir, according to Future Market Insights. But installing EOR technology means another 25%-35% of oil can be extracted. Consider that each percentage point can translate into millions of US dollars on the trading floor; EOR technologies literally pay their way.

A handful of innovative EOR projects that support the green obligations of the Paris Agreement offer a template for the growing market. EOR 2.0 is gaining traction. One such project is Miraah - meaning 'mirror' in Arabic. A groundbreaking collaboration between state-owned Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) and Glass Point to create one of the world's largest solar plants. The generation of 1,021 MW of peak thermal energy will mean 6,000 tons of steam a day is directed towards EOR efforts at the sultanate's Amal field. This is not the height of Oman's ambitions: PDO aims for 25% of its oil production to be supported by EOR by 2025.

Continued on Page 12

## India to miss key target for Japan bullet train project

**PALGHAR/TOKYO:** India is set to miss a December deadline to acquire land for a Japan-backed \$17 billion bullet train project following protests by fruit growers, government officials said, likely delaying one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's most ambitious projects. Modi's office is now monitoring the project week-to-week, as Indian officials seek to reassure Tokyo that the hurdles can be overcome through intense negotiations with sapota and mango growers in the western state of Maharashtra. Protests, backed by local politicians, have flared up in recent months against attempts to secure sections of a 108-km stretch, which is around one-fifth of the entire bullet train corridor connecting Mumbai with Ahmedabad, the largest commercial city in Modi's home state of Gujarat. "I've worked hard for three decades to develop this plantation, and they are asking me to hand over this land," sapota farmer Dashrat Purav, 62, said as he showed his orchard in the town of Palghar, a three-hour-drive north of Mumbai. "I haven't worked hard to surrender land for the project. I did that for my children."

Purav said he would sell his land only if at least one of his two unemployed sons was promised a government job. Protests against land acquisitions are common in India, where tens of millions of farmers till small holdings. A planned \$44 billion refinery to be run by a consortium including Saudi Aramco, the world's biggest oil producer, is also struggling to secure land in Maharashtra.

### 'So much resistance'

"Land acquisition for any project is complex in India," said Dhananjay Kumar, spokesman for the National High

Speed Rail Corp Ltd (NHSRCL) that is overseeing the project. "Here also we are facing difficulty because of so much resistance." Failure to procure the bullet train land by the deadline would delay disbursement of soft-loans by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a government development body, which is reviewing the project next month, said two senior officials with the state-run Indian Railways, declining to be named.

A JICA spokeswoman said that India must create relocation plans for local residents and make them public in order to enter into a loan agreement covering the main part of the bullet train project. "It is possible that it takes time to sign a contract as India takes proper and careful measures in line with JICA's guidelines for environmental and social considerations," she said.

NHSRCL's Kumar, said in a statement on late Tuesday that the sanction of the loan by JICA was not linked to the land acquisition. To assuage Japan's concerns, Indian officials have sought a meeting this month with transport ministry officials in Tokyo, one of the Indian officials said. India wants the project's completion target to be advanced by a year to 2022, the 75th year of India's independence. NHSRCL said in its statement that no such meeting has been requested by India.

A Japanese transport ministry official who deals with the bullet train project said that Indian officials had told them that "they can manage" the land acquisition. "We will continue to work together with the Indian government to bring this project forward with an aim to start operation in 2023," the official said. Japan is majority-funding the train project through a 50-year loan. Japanese companies such as Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal Corp, JFE Holdings, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Toshiba Corp and Hitachi are likely to supply at least 70 percent of the core components of the rail line, sources told Reuters in January. NHSRCL, a joint venture between the Ministry of Railways and states involved in the project, said at the time that procurement from Japan would be only 18 percent of the total project cost. — Reuters



Business

# Asian and European stocks up after historic N Korea summit

## Investors look ahead to key policy meetings at the Federal Reserve

**HONG KONG:** Major markets in Asia and Europe rose yesterday after Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un held a historic summit, while investors look ahead to key policy meetings at the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank this week. Trump said he had formed a "special bond" with the North Korean leader, who reaffirmed his commitment to "complete denuclearization of Korean Peninsula" in a joint agreement signed by the two.

While the meeting was not expected to see any immediate results, it has provided hope for peace on the Korean peninsula. However, investors remain concerned about a possible global trade war after the weekend's Group of Seven summit in Canada ended with Trump withdrawing support for a joint communique and accusing host Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of being dishonest.

That came just after he had hit Canada, Mexico and the European Union with steel and aluminum tariffs, sparking threats of retaliation that some fear could escalate. For most of the day eyes were on Singapore, where Trump and Kim became the first sitting leaders of their countries to meet. The pair signed what Trump called a "pretty comprehensive" and "very important" document, which spoke of "new US-DPRK relations" and committed

Washington to "security guarantees". Kim said the two Cold War foes had vowed to "leave the past behind" and promised "the world will see a major change".

**'Air of optimism'**

Stocks fluctuated through the day but by the end of trade Tokyo was up 0.3 percent and Shanghai closed 0.9 percent higher.

**" The world will see a major change "**

Hong Kong was 0.1 percent higher. However, Seoul dipped 0.1 percent, while the Korean won eased 0.2 percent. Singapore was slightly lower, as were Wellington, Kuala Lumpur and Taipei.

In early trade London and Paris each rose 0.3 percent, while Frankfurt gained 0.8 percent. "After quickly shrugging off the G7 fight

club in Quebec, investors latched on to the air of optimism circulating from the Singapore summit," said Stephen Innes, head of Asia-Pacific trading at OANDA.

"And with pro-euro signals emanating from the newly formed Italian government placating investors anxiety about the future of the eurozone, the global risk was in the happy zone Monday." However, Gooheon Kwon, co-head of Korea research and senior Asia economist at Goldman Sachs, told Bloomberg Television ahead of the signing that markets had already factored in a lower risk of conflict on the Korean peninsula.

He added that the "follow through, execution, implementation" of any agreements was most crucial. While the Trump-Kim summit was the big news story, traders are keenly awaiting the Fed and ECB policy meetings. The US bank is expected to lift interest rates Wednesday but its post-meeting statement will be closely watched for a clue about its plans for future hikes.

Then on Thursday, European bank officials will likely debate for the first time cutting back on their crisis-era stimulus program. The euro extended gains after rallying Monday on the back of comments from new Italian Finance Minister Giovanni Tria ruling out Rome's exit



TOKYO: A pedestrian walks past an electronics stock indicator at the window of a security company in Tokyo, displaying the closing rate of Tokyo Stock Exchange. — AFP

from the single currency. That eased concerns about his populist, Eurosceptic government's intentions regarding the currency bloc. The pound was also under pressure as British MPs

prepare to vote on a string of amendments to key Brexit legislation that could force Prime Minister Theresa May's hand in talks with the European Union. — AFP

## Czech central bank caps mortgage loans

**PRAGUE:** The Czech central bank said yesterday it would cap mortgage loans at nine times borrowers' salaries, addressing concerns a buildup of debt could destabilize the financial system in the event of an economic downturn. A sustained economic upswing along with close to rock-bottom interest rates and record low unemployment have driven sharp gains in property prices, especially in Prague, while supply is being throttled by bottlenecks in construction permits.

Until now, there have been no income-related restrictions on the amounts banks can lend to applicants for housing credit. "We are ... interested mainly in what will happen to loan servicing when the good times end," central bank Governor Jiri Rusnok said in a statement announcing the cap. "Although this may not come soon, it will happen one day. As soon as interest rates or unemployment start to rise, a large subset of households could run into loan service problems, which in turn would negatively affect the condition of banks."

The central bank said it estimated residential property was on average 14 percent overvalued at the end of last year. The new nine times debt-to-income limit for mortgages will take effect in October. An additional debt servicing-to-income rule says borrowers cannot take loans if monthly repayments would exceed 45 percent of their net income.

The new restrictions come on top of a

loan-to-value (LTV) cap of 80 percent introduced last year on most mortgages. Banks can allow LTV of up to 90 percent on 15 percent of their loans. Since those regulations, the number of provided mortgages has dipped, but the central bank said when refinancing was excluded, new housing loans still grew by 8.8 percent in February. House lending makes up 60 percent of all bank credit in the EU member country. The central bank also on Tuesday raised the capital buffer banks must hold against economic downturns by 25 basis points to 1.5 percent of risk-weighted assets from July 2019.

**Prague leads region**

Apartment prices in Prague, helped by investment purchases and buying for short-term rentals to tourists, lead central Europe. They rose 8.1 percent year-on-year in the first quarter to 75,600 crowns (\$3,480) per square metre, according to Deloitte's Real Index. Countrywide, prices are up 47 percent since 2014 at 56,200 crowns. A survey by developers put the year-on-year price rise of new dwellings in Prague at 23 percent to 88,552 crowns (\$4,070.23) per square metre in the first quarter.

Comparative prices in Warsaw were \$2,221-\$2,454, according to transaction data from Cenatorium. In Budapest, the average price per square metre was \$1,523 last year, according to Hungary's statistics office.

The Czech central bank said less than 10 percent of loans provided last year would be disqualified by the new measures, and some of those could be covered by an exception allowing banks to exceed the limits in 5 percent of cases. But lender Ceska Sportitelna said the impact could be bigger. — Reuters

## India farmers sow Monsanto cotton seeds, risking arrest

**MUMBAI:** Many Indian farmers are openly sowing an unapproved variety of genetically modified (GM) cotton seeds developed by Monsanto, as the government sits on the sidelines for fear of antagonizing a big voting bloc ahead of an election next year. India approved the first GM cotton seed trait in 2002 and an upgraded variety in 2006, helping transform the country into the world's top producer and second-largest exporter of the fiber. But newer traits are not available after Monsanto in 2016 withdrew an application seeking approval for the latest variety due to a royalty dispute with the government.

The herbicide-tolerant variety, lab-altered to help farmers save costs on weed management, has, however, seeped into the country's farms since then. Authorities say they are still investigating how that happened. "I will only use these seeds or nothing at all," said Rambhau Shinde, a farmer who has been cultivating cotton for nearly four decades in the western state of Maharashtra.

The federal environment ministry said last year planting the seeds violated the Environment Protection Act, and farmers who did so were risking potential jail terms. But many farmers are desperate to boost their incomes after poor yields over the past few years and are willing to ignore the warnings. A government official in New Delhi, who deals with matters related to GM crops, said it was difficult to keep farmers away from something that they saw benefit in.

"If you don't allow them to plant legally, illegal planting will happen," the official said,

requesting anonymity, adding that Monsanto had yet to reapply for an approval to sell its latest variety of GM cotton in India. A Monsanto India spokesman said the company was confident that the government would prosecute those involved in the illegal trade of the unapproved seeds.

**'Fighting the enemy'**

Except for GM cotton, India has not approved any other transgenic crop on concerns over their safety, and large foreign companies have been increasingly unhappy at what they say is the infringement of their intellectual property by widespread planting of unapproved seeds. Farmers say they prefer Monsanto's herbicide-tolerant Roundup Ready Flex (RRF) strain of cotton seeds as they can cut input costs by as much as 10,000 rupees (\$150) an acre compared with other varieties.

Cotton growers are also getting support from farmers' unions, who are already at loggerheads with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government amid a fall in prices of many agricultural commodities. Without new varieties of seeds, they fear being outplayed by other major cotton producers and exporters such as the United States, Brazil and Australia, said Anil Ghanwat, the president of a farmers' organisation in Maharashtra.

"The government is asking us to carry a sword to fight the enemy with AK-56 rifles," said Ghanwat, who has urged farmers to sow the unapproved GM seed. "We

will protect them if government authorities try to destroy the crop or harass them with legal cases." Last year, just before cotton harvesting, authorities found plantations of unapproved seeds in key producing states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat in the west and Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the south.

In February, authorities in Telangana told two local companies that cotton seeds they sold to farmers may have contained traces of Monsanto's RRF strain, though the companies denied that. This year various states have formed inspection teams to curb the sale of such seeds, though farmers have built a parallel network to distribute them without getting caught, said M.S. Gholap, director at Maharashtra's agriculture department.

The seeds were being produced secretly, mainly in Gujarat and Telangana, and then smuggled to other states, Gholap said. Maharashtra has seized unapproved seeds worth 12 million rupees (\$178,000) in the past two months, enough to cultivate 10,000 hectares, said Gholap. Farmers are paying as much as a 30 percent premium for the unapproved seeds in Maharashtra and Gujarat compared with seeds of older strains.

The proliferation of unapproved seeds could force the government to grant approval to the new seed technology, as happened in 2002 when New Delhi legalized planting of the Bt Cotton GM strain, said C D Mayee, head of South Asia Biotechnology Centre, a New Delhi-based non-profit organization. The strong demand for the illegal seeds has alarmed some federal government officials. "Once farmers realise laws are toothless, then they could cultivate GM soybean, corn and other crops," said one official, who asked not to be identified. "It would have serious impact on our biodiversity." — AFP

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## Business

# HSBC Entrepreneurs in the Middle East are the most active angel investors across the globe

## Giving back to their entrepreneurial community and prioritizing social impact

**KUWAIT:** Middle Eastern entrepreneurs are leading the way when it comes to angel investing, according to HSBC Private Banking Essence of Enterprise report. Two-thirds of entrepreneurs in the Middle East (66%) are angel investors, funneling both capital and expertise back to the entrepreneurial community, with the USA (54%) and Asia Pacific (45%) next in line. The report, which researched the views of over 3,700 successful entrepreneurs across eleven countries globally, also found that differences exist between the generations in how they perceive and approach angel investing.

Over half of younger Middle Eastern entrepreneurs (57%) view angel investing as a way to connect and collaborate with peers, staying up to date with industry progress. In comparison, over half (52%) of an older generation of Middle Eastern entrepreneurs, view angel investing as a way to diversify and grow their investment portfolio. When it comes to sourcing new investment opportunities, over half (53%) of Middle Eastern entrepreneurs source these through their friends, rather than using a financial advisor (38%). They also perceive their role to be supportive, cultivating business development and leadership skills.

Sobhi Tabbara, HSBC's Global Market Head of Private Banking, Middle East said: "Middle Eastern entrepreneurs are well and truly at the forefront of angel investing in comparison to their counterparts in the USA and Asia. They not only understand the positive impact it can have on their business activity but also recognize the opportunity it provides them to collaborate and learn from their peers."

"With nearly a quarter Middle Eastern entrepreneurs viewing social impact as their top business priority, it is clear to see that this group of entrepreneurs are also one that want to give back to society, understanding the benefits that doing good can have in helping to grow their business."

### Social impact as a priority

Nearly a quarter (24%) of Middle Eastern entrepreneurs consider social responsibility, being active in the community, or environmental responsibility as their top priority as a business owner, compared to the global average of 21%. The research also suggests a strong relationship between an emphasis on social impact and entrepreneurial ambition in the Middle East. Half of Middle Eastern entrepreneurs projecting high growth ambitions state that they started their ventures with the intention of creating positive social impact, compared to 35% of those projecting the lowest growth. This suggests social impact should be seen as an integral part of the recipe of entrepreneurial success in the Middle East, and not separate from it.

Those entrepreneurs who project high growth ambitions are also more likely to have a mentor. In the Middle East (89%) of entrepreneurs have a mentor relationship, viewed as a highly effective tactic for learning and development, in comparison to Europe (59%) where it seems that entrepreneurs are yet to be convinced of the value of mentorship.



## Turkish Airlines reaches highest load factor in first five months

**KUWAIT:** Turkish Airlines, who has recently announced the results of passenger and cargo traffic in May, achieved the highest first five-month load factor (LF) in its history with 80.7%. The national flag carrier maintains its position on the global aviation agenda with the high LF performances it has reached especially in recent periods.

### According to the May 2018 Traffic Results

- Upon the double-digit passenger increases in the first four months of 2018, total number of passengers carried went up by 4% reaching 6.1 million passengers, and Load Factor stood at %78.6 in May.

- In May 2018, Total Load Factor improved by 1 point, with an increase of 3.6% in capacity (Available Seat Kilometer), while international LF increased by 1.7 points to 78% and domestic Load Factor stood at 83%.

- In May, cargo/mail volume continued the double digit growth trend and increased by 22%, compared to May 2017. Main contributors to the growth in cargo/mail volume, are domestic lines with 35% increase, Middle East with 31% increase, N. America with 29% increase, Europe with 24% increase and Africa with 22% increase.



- In May, N. America, Africa and Far East showed load factor growth of 5 points, 3 points and 1 point, respectively.

### According to the January-May 2018 Traffic Results

- During January-May, increase in demand and total number of passengers was 17% and 19%, respectively, over the same period of last year. Total number of passengers reached to 29.3 million.

- During January-May, total

Load Factor improved by approximately 5 points up to 80.7%, recording the highest load factor in Turkish Airlines history for the first five months. While international Load Factor increased by 5 points up to 80%, domestic load factor went up by 2 points to 85%.

- Cargo/mail carried during the first five months increased by 30% and reached 545 thousand tons, thanks to strong pick up in cargo/mail volume in May of 2018.

## Jazeera Airways to commence three weekly flights to Lahore

**KUWAIT:** Extending its reach further for the upcoming Summer season, Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low cost airline, operating regionally and internationally, has announced the launch of its three weekly flights into Lahore starting June 26, 2018.

"We are pleased to be offering a new service to connect the Pakistani communities here in Kuwait and other GCC countries to Lahore. This is our first destination into Pakistan and the service will facilitate direct connections

for the 150,000 Pakistanis living in Kuwait with their friends and relatives," said Rohit Ramachandran, CEO Jazeera Airways.

Flights will run three weekly flights with departures from Kuwait scheduled on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 18.35pm from Kuwait, arriving at 00.10am in Lahore with return flights on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 01.00am arriving 02.55am back in Kuwait. One way fares start from KD45 and return from KD84.

Hailed as the commercial capital of Pakistan, Lahore is the country's second largest economic hub with the largest IT Park and historic cultural center backed by a vibrant lifestyle. Lahore is home to several landmarks of architectural importance such as Grand Jamia, Wazir Khan and Badshahi mosques, Gurudwara Dera Sahib Fort and Shalamar gardens to name a few. To book the flights to Lahore or learn more about Jazeera Airways services, offers, promotions and destinations, customers can visit the airline's website at [jazeeraairways.com](http://jazeeraairways.com), use the Jazeera app, call 177 or contact their travel agent.



## GBK introduces new WhatsApp service

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank announces the introduction of a new WhatsApp service, which attends to customer's expectations of excellent services from the Bank as it provides instantaneous communication and represents the bank's pursuit of customer convenience and use of modern technology. The number 65805805.

WhatsApp is a dedicated enterprise solution that will facilitate easier and faster communication with its customers anywhere and at any time throughout the world through the app. The service, considers several aspects of privacy, security and transparency, wherein WhatsApp files can be shared, providing an easy way for customers to privately and securely reach Gulf Bank representatives handled by the Community Engagement team. This will allow different ways for customers to contact Gulf Bank service representatives, to make inquiries without an active card. No personal or confidential information will be displayed and the platform will serve as a reliable tool both domestically and when travelling abroad.

Ahmed Al Ameer, Assistant General Manager for External Communications at Gulf Bank commented: "As a modern organization, Gulf Bank is constantly looking to evolve to better serve our customers, especially using modern technology, to facilitate ease in our customers' experience and expand the company's footprint in the fast-evolving smart financial solutions landscape. This service comes as one of many in providing an on-the-go convenience social banking services to make general banking solutions more accessible and seamless."



Ahmed Al-Ameer

Apart from being able to communicate about general inquiries with a bank representative via WhatsApp, the most widely-used chat application in Kuwait, the new engagement system offers an array of additional benefits. The service will be available 24/7, including during official bank holidays from anywhere in the world. Customers facing transaction issues will be able to communicate using our WhatsApp service. Customers will not always have to physically go to a branch to inquire about various products, such as loans and credit cards and representatives will be able to share branch locations through GPS providing customers with exact locations allowing them to go to the nearest bank for convenience when needed.

## AUB gives customers chance to win 100% cash-back

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank launched its new 'Win and redeem the value of your purchases campaign', which is designed to reward the Bank's customers with 100% cash-back on their purchases made using their AUB Credit Cards. The maximum cash-back is limited to KD 1,000 for each winner. To be eligible, the AUB Credit Cardholder only has to spend KD 100 or above through his/her AUB Credit Card during the campaign period.

This new campaign will run for three months, from 1st June until the end of August 2018. The campaign offers 15 prizes through three draws, each with five prizes. The first draw will take place on 9th July 2018 and the second draw will be on 9th August 2018. The third and final draw will take place on 9th September 2018.

In a press statement, the Bank said "We are delighted to launch our new campaign, which further enhances the value proposition for AUB cardholders. All customers using the Bank's Credit Cards are eligible to enter the draw and win valuable prizes. This campaign reflects AUB's ongoing commitment towards our customers, and our underlying efforts to reward them consistently through innovative and attractive offers." Customers will receive one chance to enter the draw for every KD 10 being spent locally in Kuwait, and will receive three chances to enter the



draw for every KD 10 spent abroad. In addition to this exciting cash-back campaign, customers who spend using AUB credit cards will also automatically benefit from the Pearls reward program as well as AUB's instant discount program.

These offers provide customers a real added value that rewards the AUB Credit Card and ATM card holders through unique discounts at major well-known companies and retail outlets in Kuwait, as well as points to be redeemed for air tickets on Kuwait Airways, Gulf Air and Qatar Airways."

## Enjoy the ultimate offer on infiniti Q50

**KUWAIT:** Abdulsalim Abdullaziz Al Babbain Co (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait, is pleased to announce its limited time offer on Infiniti Q50. Ensuring added benefits when purchasing a new Infiniti Q50 vehicle, customers are also guaranteed KD 500 cash back. Built with a consistent, daring and engineering design that speaks to the new generation of adventurous customers, the INFINITI Q50 is a luxury model that comes with a powerful engine.

Expressing signature Infiniti design, the double arch grille is prominently placed front and center. The arc of the bottom, like a natural reflection to that of the top, gives the front fascia a distinctive appearance



while the upper and lower body of the Q50 directs air to flow over, around and under the Q50, turning it into effective down force. The Infiniti Q50 2018 begins from KD 9,999 accompanied with KD 500 cash

back. Infiniti Al Babbain invites its customers to explore INFINITI Q50 by visiting the Infiniti showroom located in Al Rai area, which is open every day except Fridays and benefit from the limited time offer now!



# How to stay healthy as a family this Ramadan

**A** Q&A with specialist paediatric dietician Sarah Khweir on her views on healthy eating during Ramadan. 'Eat like a rainbow!' Sarah Khweir tells us. "Make sure you get as much colour and variety into your diet and eat plenty of fruit and vegetable to ensure you have lots of vitamins and minerals in your diet."

**Kuwait Times: What is healthy eating?**

**Sarah Khweir:** Healthy eating is eating a balance of:

- Fruit and vegetables to increase your vitamins, minerals and fibre intake. You should aim for 5 portions per day.

- Carbohydrates at each meal to provide slow release energy. This could include cereal, bread, pitta, wrap, cous-cous, quinoa, rice, pastas, potatoes and sweet potatoes. Also try to choose wholegrain more often for children above 5 years old.

- Protein, at least twice a day, for building and repairing tissues. This could include chicken, fish, meat and pulses like lentils, chickpeas and beans/egg/tofu. You can also try meat substitutes like soya or tofu.

- Milk and dairy for maintenance of strong bones and teeth. Aim to have 3 portions per day (e.g. 150ml milk, small pot yoghurt and a small matchbox of cheese).

- Limiting high fat and highly sugar foods to occasional consumption.

- Drinking water and milk and having these as the go-to drinks for children. Avoid fizzy drinks and sugary juices as these increase the risk of tooth decay. Offer a maximum of 150ml fruit juice per day.

**KT: Why is healthy eating important, especially for children?**

**Khweir:** There are increasing concerns regarding the increased prevalence of obesity in children which can lead to a cluster of conditions including high blood

pressure, increased fat tissue around the waist and high cholesterol. These are collectively known as metabolic syndrome which has been shown to increase risk of type 2 diabetes, stroke and heart disease later in life. The earlier a child implements healthy eating into their lifestyle the better the outcome for their long-term health. It can also be much more difficult to implement change once you are older and have been used to having your diet a certain way.

**KT: Are there any benefits to fasting during Ramadan?**

**Khweir:** Studies have shown the body uses fat tissue for energy in the fasting period, helping to preserve muscle mass. This is particularly good for overweight people as this could result in weight loss. It is particularly important for overweight people to try not to revert to their usual eating practices after Ramadan as they will regain the fat tissue that they had previously lost.

**KT: How can parents implement healthy eating into their family's food regime?**

**Khweir:** A little planning is all that is required. Doing shopping in the evening, either in supermarket or online when you have broken your fast and not hungry, means you are less likely to choose from more indulgent foods! Try stocking up on frozen vegetables and always fill half the plate with mixed vegetables! Aim to add as little salt as possible, choosing from lemon, garlic, herbs and spices instead and use oil sparingly - ideally olive oil or rapeseed oil.

**KT: What makes it hard for families to try and eat healthily?**

**Khweir:** Constantly being on the go can make it hard for families to make healthy informed choices about what to eat. Often, foods that are high in fat and sugar are in convenient packaging and can be easily picked up from the super-



market aisle.

I recommend going for the healthier foods are also readily available but may not seem the convenient option. A piece of fresh fruit requires no preparation and dried fruit in a packet is readily available now and also requires no preparation. Often vegetable sticks can be found in prepared packets so little effort is required with these either.

**KT: What sort of food should be avoided as they are 'unhealthy' for families?**

**Khweir:** Try to avoid:

- Fried foods such as fried chicken and chips
- Foods that are high in sugar and fat, such as cake, baklava or ghulab jamun
- Greasy foods such as oily curries and pastries.

Here are Sarah Khweir's top tips for healthy eating during Ramadan

1. First and foremost, make sure you are keeping well hydrated! Aim to drink 6-8 cups of fluid within the time you are able to!

2. Have lots of fruit and vegetables to ensure a good fibre intake as people are prone to constipation with a limited diet in Ramadan.

3. Dried fruit including the popular dates are a great way of getting vitamins, minerals and fibre in!

4. Try to include wholegrain varieties of food at Sahoor (sehri) such as porridge with apricots/raisins etc or whole-grain toast with peanut butter/cheese and fruit to provide a slow release of energy to keep you going throughout the day.

5. At Iftar, try to incorporate a protein source (from examples mentioned above) as well carbohydrates and salad/vegetables.

## Germany recalls Dutch eggs over fipronil fears

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** German authorities have pulled some 73,000 Dutch eggs from supermarket shelves after they were found to be contaminated with fipronil, the same insecticide that sparked a huge food scare last year. The agriculture ministry of Lower Saxony said the batch of tainted eggs had come from an organic farm in the Netherlands, but insisted there was currently no danger to human health.

The amount of fipronil detected was above the legal limits set by the European Union but remains "far below a level that would constitute a health risk", the ministry said in a statement late Monday. The tainted eggs were discovered in routine testing at a packing center in the Lower Saxony town of Vechta, it said, adding that Dutch authorities had been notified. Six German states are affected by the recall. The scare revived memories of last year's fipronil scandal, when millions of eggs contaminated with the insecticide had to be destroyed in 45 countries around the world.

The eggs mainly originated from farms in Belgium and the Netherlands. The discovery sparked a row between the two countries and other neighbors over how long officials knew about the problem before sounding the alarm. Commonly used to get rid of fleas, lice and ticks from animals, fipronil is banned by the EU from use in the food industry. When eaten in large quantities fipronil can harm people's kidneys, liver and thyroid glands, according to the World Health Organization.—AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

## Global Medical Center Welcomes Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader

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What's On

# Embassy honors Palestinian graduates during ghabqa



Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub and other diplomats pose with the graduates for a group photo. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



A general view of people in attendance.

By Faten Omar

The Palestinian Embassy held a Ramadan ghabqa in honor of Palestinian high school graduates of the 2017-2018 academic year on Monday at JW Marriot in Kuwait City. During his opening speech, Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-

Sabah for all what Kuwait is doing for Palestine, its cause and its people.

"We meet today, as always, to honor a new constellation of young girls and boys from the Palestinian community who will be responsible for moving forward in the process of building the Palestinian people and homeland. The occupied state of Palestine is a great country with its human resources and minds of its young men and women.

Any occupation force - no matter how powerful it is - will not be able to occupy these minds and thoughts," he said.

Tahboub noted that Palestinians top the list of Arabs in terms of education relative to population, and one of the top people in the world educationally and culturally. "The world witnesses this through scientists of Palestinian origin living in the world's most advanced countries and their contributions to the world in the fields of medicine, science,

astronomy, literature and many other fields," he said.

Tahboub congratulated the students, saying: "Your responsibility is to maintain your superiority when you go to your universities and to maintain your path of excellence, because Palestine is waiting to keep its flag elevated at the highest level and pave the path for the future generations of our people, who gave martyrs, wounded and prisoners to redeem the freedom and independence of our people."



Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub delivers his speech.



Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub honors the graduates.



Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub welcomes Rev Emmanuel Gharib, Chairman of the National Evangelical Church of Kuwait.



Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub welcomes the Chinese Ambassador Wang Di.



## Eid Celebration at TIES

Stop by the TIES Center to congratulate friends for the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr. Enjoy a variety of refreshments and games, with special activities for children. The event will be held on Monday, June 18, 2018 at 5-8 pm. Address: Villa No 67, Street 413, Block 4, Shuhada Area, Kuwait. Phone: +(965) 25231015. Email: info@tiescenter.net.



The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) distributed gifts to worshippers at mosques after the Friday Prayer, as part of its activities during the holy month of Ramadan.

## ACK Shooting Team wins 'Second Position' at Al-Kandari Ramadan Shooting Tournament

The Shooting Team of the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) won the second position at Al-Kandari 10th Ramadan Tournament, with the participation of a group of sportsmen, ministers, media specialists and those interested in this distinctive sport. ACK's shooting team competed with other teams, representing private universities in Kuwait, with the attendance of the Secretary General of Private Universities, Professor Habeeb Taher Abul.

In a statement on this occasion, Basel Dana, Manager of Student Life at ACK, said: "This participation represents the first experience of ACK students team, who showed outstanding performance in this distinctive sport. They expressed their willingness to participate in such tournaments to be held in Kuwait in the future."

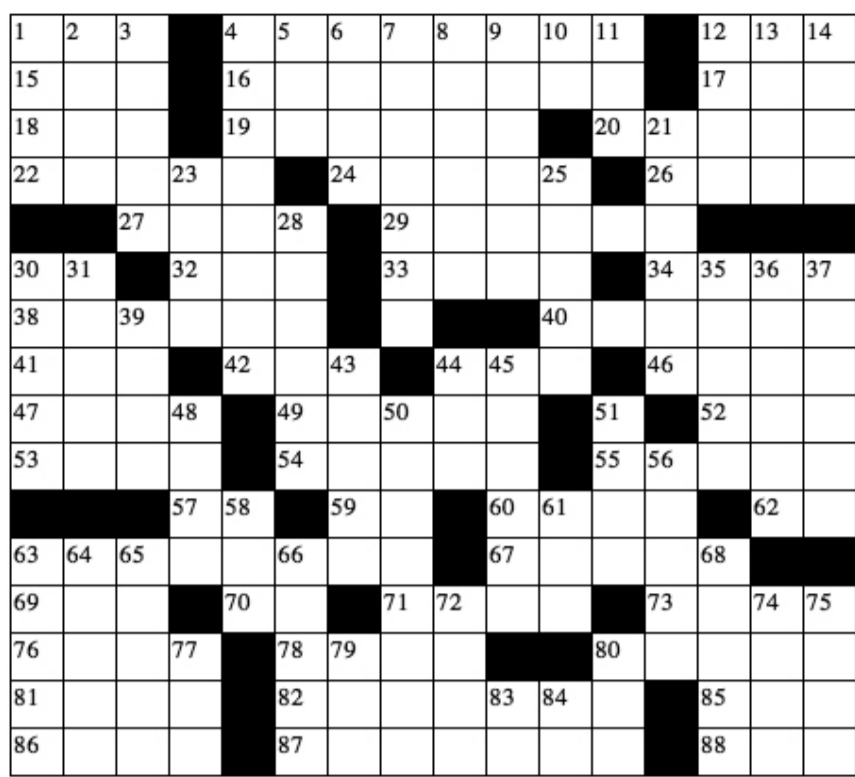
ACK shooting team consisted of: Mishari Waleed Al-Mutairi, Dawood Sulaiman Al-Fodari, Zeinab Mohammad Mohammad, Duajj Naser Al-Dhafeeri, Khaled Saami Al-Surai, Israa Abdulla Dashti, Kawthar Mohammad Al-Atiya, Duaa Hasan Al-Duwailchi and Reem Majed Al-Shimmari.



El Habib Mounir Younes recently graduated with honors from ASK, and celebrated his graduation with family and friends.

Stars

CROSSWORD 1934



ACROSS

1. (Roman mythology) Goddess of abundance and fertility.
4. Kindly endorsement and guidance.
12. The central part of a car wheel (or fan or propeller etc) through which the shaft or axle passes.
15. Seed of a pea plant.
16. Sometimes placed in genus Scilla.
17. A reptile genus of Iguanidae.
18. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
19. Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
20. Enthusiastic approval.
22. An assertion of a right (as to money or property).
24. Or of relating to or caused by tides.
26. A Loloish language.
27. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
29. Pitching dangerously to one side.
30. Unknown god.
32. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
33. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
34. Capital of Vanuatu.
38. A member of the Semitic speaking people of northern Ethiopia.
40. Of or relating to a directionless magnitude.
41. The cry made by sheep.
42. (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.
46. Perennial of wet and marshy places in the northern hemisphere.
47. Of or relating to near the ear.
49. Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
52. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
53. A digestive juice secreted by the liver and stored in the gallbladder.
54. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
55. Having help.
57. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
59. Being five more than one hundred.
60. A software system that facilitates the creation and maintenance and use of an electronic database.
62. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
63. A woman's headscarf folded into a triangle and tied under the chin.
67. A brief description given for purposes of identification.
69. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
70. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
71. A condition requiring relief.
73. A loud bombastic declamation expressed with strong emotion.
76. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
78. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
81. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
82. Diuretic (trade name Edocrin) used to treat edema.
85. An accountant certified by the state.
86. British artist and writer of nonsense verse (1812-1888).
87. Someone who has red hair.
88. Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).

DOWN

1. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
2. A deep prolonged sound (as of thunder or large bells).
3. Any of various thermoplastic resins used to make things.
4. A unit of current equal to 10 amperes.
5. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and skis.
6. (law) A comprehensive term for any proceeding in a court of law whereby an individual seeks a legal remedy.
7. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
8. A large Yoruba city in southwestern Nigeria.
9. Consisting of or made of cedar.
10. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
11. An inflammatory disease of connective tissue with variable features including fever and weakness and fatigability and joint pains and skin lesions on the face or neck or arms.
12. A very large person.
13. A state in the western United States.
14. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
21. Heavy closely woven fabric (used for clothing or chairs or sails or tents).
23. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
25. Property that is leased or rented out or let.
28. Any of various spiny trees or shrubs of the genus Acacia.
31. Italian violin maker in Cremona.
35. A Greek epic poem (attributed to Homer) describing the siege of Troy.
36. Any of various aromatic trees of the laurel family.
37. A large fleet.
39. Precipitation of ice pellets when there are strong rising air currents.
43. The sound made by a hen (as in calling her chicks).
44. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
45. A seat for the rider of a horse.
48. An important seaport on the Island of Cebu in the Philippines.
50. Farther along in physical or mental development.
51. A metrical unit with unstressed-stressed syllables.
56. A river in southeastern France.
58. The residue that remains when something is burned.
61. Having undesirable or negative qualities.
64. Lower in esteem.
65. An oil port in southern Iraq.
66. A person who hopes.
68. Wood of a larch tree.
72. (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
74. Monotypic genus of palms of Australasia.
75. A cooperative unit.
77. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
79. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
80. Either extremity of something that has length.
83. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
84. A state in midwestern United States.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may feel as if the weight of the world is on your shoulders and your emotions are being worn on your sleeve. Today is the day to listen to your gut instinct. You may be able to satisfy your needs with a sense of clarification. Today is also a great day to help those around you that come seeking your advice and guidance. You may find that simply by helping those in need around you that you will find great peace and satisfaction and solutions to your own problems. Aries, look beyond any turmoil in your world today and enjoy the beauty surrounding you. Today could be a great day to step back and look at the big picture. Sometimes living in the moment can be overwhelming.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are driven and led to follow your gut instinct at this time. You are feeling as if you have no room in your life for trivial matters. Once again you are finding yourself with a goal in mind and willing to do whatever it takes to accomplish this. You are focused solely on you and yours and only the issues that affect you personally. You will let nothing stand in your way. This becomes a very emotionally charged venture where you may find yourself stepping out of your comfort zone to solve these problems. Keep your calm and rationally think through all your decisions as your emotions are being worn on your sleeve at this time.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You know exactly what you want and today finds you in the mood you are determined to go for it. You are a force to be reckoned with today. You have a desire to try something new. Maybe a new hairstyle is in order. You are able to express yourself very clearly. You are high energy and assertive today. Your focus seems to be centered solely on you and yours and have no time nor concern for that which is going on in the outside world. Gemini, now is a great time to spend with family and enjoy some time at home.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Variety is the spice of life. This seems to be your motto at this time. You may find yourself drawn in different directions or drawn to new experiences. You can't seem to sit still. You are finding you are happiest when on the go. You have a desire for knowledge and you are gathering it from all new experiences. You may find others being drawn to you and expressing admiration toward your desire for knowledge and for the wisdom you possess. This day could bring a variety of emotions as well. You may go from feeling on top of the world to feeling misunderstood. Remember, Cancer, this day is about your pursuit knowledge and it is ok to do just what makes you happy.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are entering a phase where you focus is solely on you and yours. You want to know the why's and how's of all around you. You are hungry for knowledge and highly emotional. You want to get to the root of all that affects your world. Family is your focus. You follow your instincts and speak your mind. Your actions take into consideration no one other than yourself. You may find that some close to you may find this offensive. Your concern is not of others but your own and everyone may not agree with this new you and your new way of thinking and handling situations. Step with caution, your new attitude could lead to conflict with those around you. Leo, you may find yourself at odds with others and the pressure may be bit too much for you to handle.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You desire the facts and only the facts. All the "what ifs" and "maybes" have no place in your world. You are in a very serious mood and find yourself focused and determined. The big picture is of no concern to you at this time. You are living in the here and now and that is the driving force behind your lack of emotion you are experiencing. You are so focused you may let a great opportunity pass you by. Virgo, you may want to reconsider your mindset and take a chance today. This could bring great reward in the future even if you are unable to recognize the benefit now.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You find that your thoughts are staying about two steps ahead of your actions today. Your mind is in overdrive. You are quick and on your toes. There is no doubt you are extremely intelligent, and others are attracted to this quality. You may find that you can be of great counsel to others today. Your opinions matter to those close to you. You may find yourself seeking knowledge and wanting to surround yourself with others that have the same desire. Education is extremely important to you and you may find yourself led to continue yours in some form, whether it be additional training in your field of work or enrolling in new courses.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may see things only in black and white today. There is no room for any grey areas in your world. Your mindset is more self-centered focusing only on the matters that have a direct effect on you and yours. This is a very analytical mood you find yourself in. Even though relaxing may be just what you would love to be doing today, your focus is strong and determined. You may find this day will be very productive.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your mind is sharp, and your wit is quick. No one will get one over on you today. You are focused and organized and mentally your mind is in high gear. You will leave no stone unturned. You also start to turn your focus to your health and diet. This decision will pay off with great reward. Today would be a great day to join the gym, start working on meal planning, or get out and take a walk to jumpstart your plan. You feel drawn to others today and are especially sensitive to their needs. You find joy in helping others, Sagittarius, and others greatly admire this about you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

As for as your performance in the workplace today you are second to none. It seems as if everything is lining up in your favor. Don't think your hard work and determination are going unnoticed. You may be in line for some sort of promotion or recognition today for your accomplishments. Today is one of those days you feel as if everyone is easily picking up what you are laying down.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may feel a little torn today between emotions. You may not feel passionate about either aspect and feel you are ready for a bit of change. Keep on the move and remember variety is the spice of life. Today is also a great day to have a special time with a love on. Always follow your gut feeling today. You may find that your heart and mind are in agreement leading you in the same direction. Aquarius, you may be so in touch, mind, body, and spirit that you will yearn to broaden your horizons.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

As you find yourself exiting a dreamlike state. You are unable to completely come back to reality. You find yourself thinking in a realistic manner but enjoy the way it feels when your mind takes a break from the ordinary. Maybe you feel as you are caught in between two worlds. You do not totally agree with either of these ways of thinking and long to find a happy medium. You are torn between your spiritual beliefs and your analytical way of thinking. Others may be caught off guard by the changes in you and this could cause conflict or a bit of drama in your world. Now would be a good time to sit back with a book and escape your own thoughts for a while.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Physics 2

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 58 letters spell a Bruce Feirstein quotation.

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

- ABSOLUTE ZERO
- ADHESION
- AERODYNAMICS
- AIR MASS
- AMPLIFIER
- BIG BANG
- BOILING POINT
- CENTRIFUGAL
- CHAIN REACTION
- DECIBEL
- DIFFRACTION
- DISTANCE
- DRAG
- ELASTICITY
- ELECTRONICS
- ENTROPY
- FARADAY
- FORCE
- FRICTION
- FUNCTION
- GALILEO
- HALF LIFE
- HEAT
- INERTIA
- IONIZATION
- JOULE
- KINETICS
- LIGHT
- MATTER
- MOLECULE
- MOTION
- NEUTRON
- NIELS BOHR
- PARTICLE
- PHOTON
- PRESSURE
- PROTON
- PULLEY
- REFLECTION
- SCIENCE
- SPEED
- TEMPERATURE
- TORQUE
- VACUUM
- VELOCITY
- VOLUME
- WAVELENGTH
- WEIGHT

Yesterday's Solution

Physics 1

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

- ACCELERATION
- ACOUSTICS
- AMPLITUDE
- ATOM
- BLACK HOLE
- BUOYANCY
- CENTRIPETAL
- COLD FUSION
- CONVECTION
- DENSITY
- DISPLACEMENT
- DOPPLER
- EINSTEIN
- ELECTRON
- ENERGY
- ENTROPY
- EXPERIMENT
- FARADAY
- FREZZING POINT
- FULCRUM
- GRAVITY
- HAWKING
- IMPEDANCE
- ISOTOPE
- KELVIN
- LAWS
- LENGH
- LEVER
- MASS
- MECHANICS
- MOMENTUM
- NEWTON
- PASCAL
- OPTICS
- HAWKING
- IMPEDANCE
- ISOTOPE
- KELVIN
- QUARK
- REFRACTION
- SOUND
- STRING THEORY
- TESLA
- THERMOMETER
- TRAJECTORY
- VECTOR
- VISCOSITY
- PENDULUM
- POWER
- WEDGE
- WORK

The hidden message is: YOU NEVER FAIL UNTIL YOU STOP TRYING

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

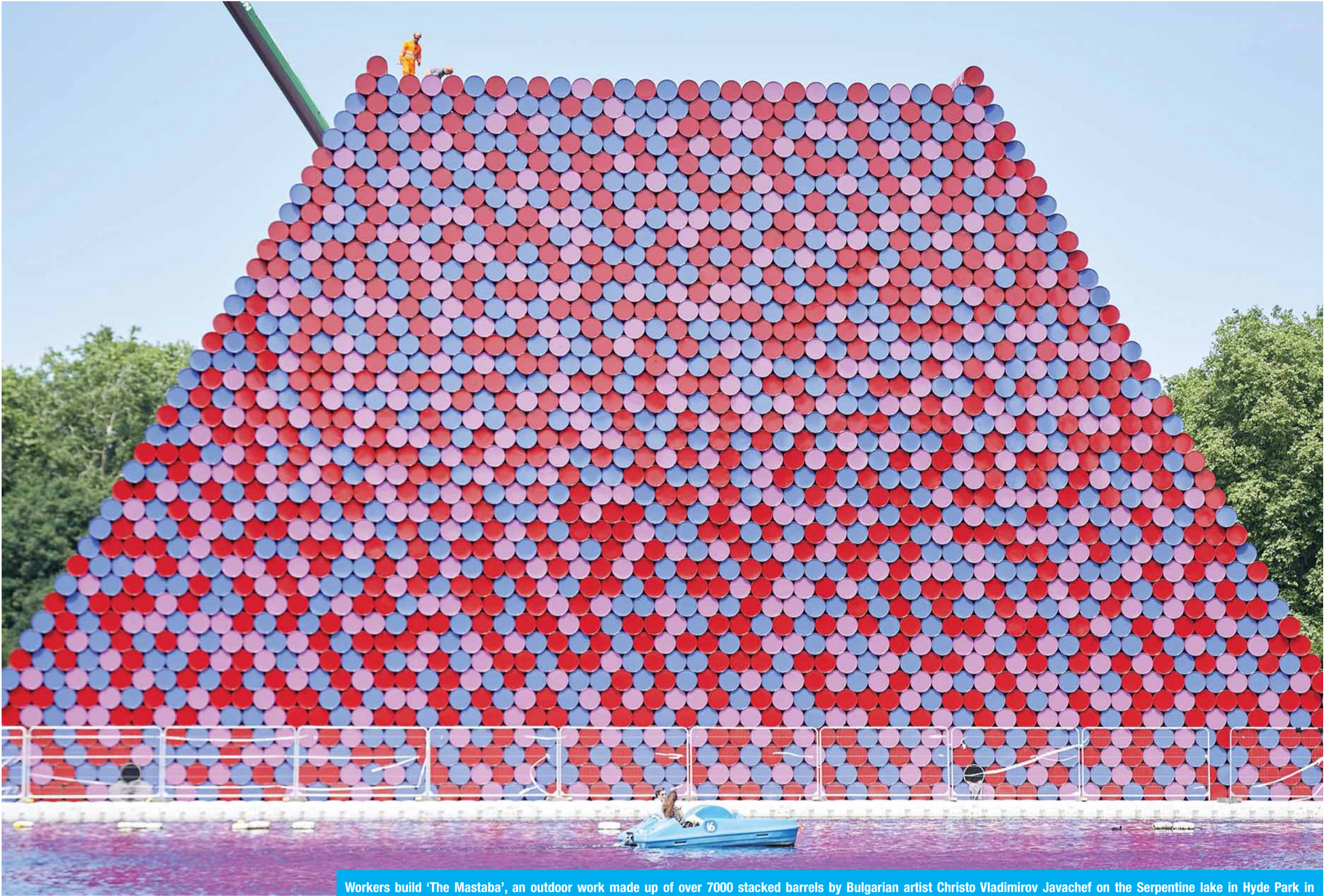
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	4				5
8	3		1		
1	6		2	3	7
2		1	5		6
3		7	8		1 2
			5		9 8
	1				2
		8		2	4

Yesterday's Solution

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

# Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018



Workers build 'The Mastaba', an outdoor work made up of over 7000 stacked barrels by Bulgarian artist Christo Vladimirov Javachef on the Serpentine lake in Hyde Park in London. — AFP

## Chinese vase found in attic sells for 16.2 million euros

An 18th-century Chinese vase forgotten for decades in a shoe box in a French attic sold for 16.2 million euros (\$19 million) at Sotheby's in Paris yesterday—more than 30 times the estimate.

Experts at the auction house said the exquisite porcelain vessel was made for the Qing dynasty Emperor Qianlong and had set a guide price of a much more modest 500,000 euros. "This is a major work of art, it is as if we had just discovered a Caravaggio," Olivier Valmier, the Asian arts expert at the auction house, told reporters before the sale. The vase, which was in perfect condition, "is the only known example in the world bearing such detail," he added.

Rare porcelain from the Qian period has been going for astronomical prices recently. A bowl made for Qianlong's grandfather sold last April by Sotheby's in Hong Kong went for \$30.4 million dollars. The vase—which is decorated with idealized images of deer and cranes from the imperial summer hunting grounds at Mulan

in northern China—was found by chance among dozens of other pieces of Chinoiserie in the attic of a house in France earlier this year.

### 'We didn't like it much'

The family—from near Paris—had acquired it at the end of the 19th century but it lay unloved in a shoe box in the attic for decades. "We didn't like the vase too much, and my grandparents didn't like it either," said the owner of the piece, who only got in touch with Sotheby's in March. It was still in the shoe box when it was presented to Sotheby's experts for authentication. The staggering price paid by a young Chinese collector, who was at the auction himself, is the highest ever recorded by the auction house in Paris. The man, who was wearing a jogging top, beat off bids from other Chinese collectors, mostly over the phone. The collector, who has not been named, also did the bidding himself at this level of auction.

The polychrome vase with its idyllic land-

scape of mist-topped mountains and pine trees also carries a six-character "reign mark" on its base. The only other "yancai ruyi" vase that has so far come to light is in the Guimet museum of Asiatic arts in Paris, though it does not have the cranes.

### 'Exceedingly rare'

Only four similar pieces have been documented as coming from the imperial workshops in Jingdezhen, the southern Chinese city known as the "Porcelain Capital". In 1765 a pair were made for the Buddha pavilions in the Emperor Qianlong's private apartments. Four years later, two more were ordered as a present for his birthday. The Qing dynasty, China's last imperial family, reached its apogee under Qianlong and originally came from Manchuria, the region depicted on the vase. "Such elaborate and challenging designs are exceedingly rare on Qing imperial porcelain," said Sotheby's.

Experts believe that the vase was bought in France because it was found with a Japanese perfume burner which still had its receipt from the Exposition Universelle world fair in Paris in 1867. The animals and plants on the vase are all highly symbolic. The deer is a marker of happiness and prosperity, cranes represent age, the pines eternal life, and the lingzhi mushroom immortality.

However, the Qing masterpieces also show much Western influence with their makers having taken on methods and colors—particularly the pinks—learned from the Dutch and from Jesuit missionaries. An imperial stamp used by Qianlong set a new world record when it was sold for 21 million euros in Paris in 2016. — AFP



File photo shows a rare Imperial Qianlong porcelain vase (18th century) is displayed at Sotheby's auction company in Paris. — AFP

## Avicii laid to rest in private funeral

Swedish superstar DJ Avicii has been buried in a private ceremony with just his family and close friends present, his agent said yesterday. The musician, whose real name was Tim Bergling, "was buried Friday at the Skogskyrkogarden cemetery in Stockholm", Ebba Lindqvist told AFP. "Only his family and closest friends were present." Avicii was found dead on April 20 in Muscat, the capital of the Gulf sultanate Oman, where he had been on holiday with friends.

In an open letter published several days after his death, his family said he "wanted peace" and "could not go on any longer". "He really struggled with thoughts about Meaning, Life, Happiness," they wrote in the letter, seen by AFP. Contacted by AFP, a spokesman for Avicii refused to confirm the cause of his death, amid media reports he committed suicide. Avicii

had made no secret of his health problems, including pancreatitis, triggered in part by excessive drinking linked to his party lifestyle. In 2016, he stunned fans by announcing his retirement when he was just 26, saying that he wanted to leave the high-flying electronic music lifestyle.

Avicii, who collaborated with stars like Madonna and Coldplay, was among the first DJs to break through into the mainstream with his hit songs "Wake Me Up" and "Levels" as electronic dance music grew over the past decade from nightclubs to Top 40 radio. Located in southern Stockholm, Skogskyrkogarden, or "Woodland Cemetery", is a UNESCO world heritage site that blends vegetation and architectural elements. Swedish actress Greta Garbo is buried there. — AFP



A man passes by an artwork by Nedko Solakov titled "I miss socialism, maybe..." yesterday during the preview day of Art Basel, world's largest contemporary art fair in Basel which will take place between June 14 and 17, 2018. — AFP

## Lifestyle | Features



Models present creations by Chinese designer Xander Zhou on the third day of the Spring/Summer 2019 London Fashion Week Men's fashion event in London. — AFP photos



## PREGNANT MAN AND FLOWER POWER AT LONDON MEN'S FASHION WEEK

An imagined male pregnancy, flower necklaces and melting ice caps were some of the more striking images at London Men's Fashion Week, which wrapped up on Monday. Here are some of the highlights from the catwalks:

### Future man?

Chinese designer Xander Zhou's collection featured a male model with a fake bump on show, wearing jeans and a white t-shirt reading "New World Baby". "We're prepared to welcome a future of male pregnancy," the designer said in an Instagram post. Zhou's show also featured one of the more improbable-looking designs of all the collections—an elaborate raincoat with six sleeves arranged in a star formation. The spring-summer 2019 collection was, perhaps unsurprisingly, entitled "Supernatural, Extraterrestrial & Co".

### NASA and mythology

Edward Crutchley's collection was inspired by "contemporary mythology" featuring prints by French artist Lucien Murat of a post-apocalyptic world of deformed creatures. The collection also had a strong Japanese theme, including a partnership with a kimono printing company from Kyoto. Christopher Raeburn, a specialist in environmentally conscious fashion, used NASA images showing melting ice caps to create a modern and socially engaged collection entitled "REACT NOW".

Liam Hodges took his inspiration from the natural world with designs carrying vegetable and leopard-skin motifs. Perhaps his most striking work was a black t-shirt bearing the image of a Roman breastplate worn by a model in a Praetorian Guard helmet.

### Eulogy to gender fluid

The highly-anticipated show by "Man"—a kind of fashion incubator which has helped many of the current generation of British designers—presented a gender-fluid collection. Male models wearing evening dresses, mini-skirts or opting to go bare-chested featured heavily. A heavily-applauded design saw transsexual model Munroe

Bergdorf strut the catwalk dressed only in a pair of black boots and a long, torn t-shirt with the words "High concept character".



### British chic

What would London Men's Fashion Week, which is particularly oriented towards streetwear, be without a bit of old-school British chic—the refined elegance of a City gent? That came courtesy of Oliver Spencer, whose collection featured linens and organic cottons, mineral colors and a touch of hippie sensibility—jackets worn with shorts and flower chains. — AFP



## Buttons fly in Brazilian tabletop football game

The ball goes right over the defenders and into the corner of the net. Goal for Zidane! Well, at least a goal for a little plastic disk with the French football legend's name on it. Welcome to the wacky world of button football. Brazil is just as much a powerhouse in this form of the beautiful game as the regular kind played on a field. Players stand at a special table, each with a team of 11 plastic disks about the size of poker chips. Competitors then take turns to use a separate piece, shaped like a guitar pick, to flick their players, which then strike a small ball around the field. The result can be engrossing, involving tactics, luck and no doubt a few stars.

Alexandre Cerqueira Gil, who was playing "Zinedine Zidane," goes every Saturday morning to meet fellow button football aficionados for pick-up games in Rio de Janeiro's atmospheric Sao Salvador square. "We manage to recreate most of the situations you get in football," said Gil, a 54-year-old lawyer. The game is played all over Brazil, as well as in a handful of other countries, but regional variations are common, meaning it can be surprisingly tricky to master. In Rio, for example, players stick to what they call the 9x3 rule. Games last 14 minutes in two halves and the players take

turns to flick the ball nine times, but only three times in a row with the same "player."

### Technique matters

Guarding the goal is a keeper in the form of a rectangular block, taking up about two thirds of the area of the net. Scoring isn't easy. "Tactically, it's different to real football, because there are limited numbers of touches of the ball," said engineer Luiz Carlos Pires, 54, who also plays on the Sao Salvador square. "But the quality of your technique makes all the difference, just like in football, as well as the preparation." Button football is believed to have been played in Brazil as far back as 1920, but the accepted father of the game is the artist Geraldo Decourt, who published the rules in 1930 in Rio.

In 2001, Sao Paulo state's governor Geraldo Alckmin even decreed Decourt's birth date, February 14, as the official "button football players' day." Originally, buttons taken from clothing were used for the players. But the tokens have evolved into specially made pieces decorated with the colors of football clubs from all over the world. Often they also carry the names or numbers of players, allowing enthusiasts to recreate legendary teams,

or put stars from different eras side by side. Some will enjoy having Neymar alongside Pele, for example, but purists say that a real button football team should be based on actual teams. A complete game set costs around 180 reais (\$48).

### Friendly rivalry

A true aficionado, Gil said he has collected disks for around 80 teams. "I have buttons made of acrylic but also some made from coconut or the old tokens that we used to have on buses," he said. When competing, he favors his real-life favorite team, Rio club Flamengo, with the player representing his idol Zico in a prominent position. He sometimes uses Real Madrid with Zidane during his playing days. At the game in Sao Salvador square, Real Madrid scored two goals against Inter Milan, prompting a friend to joke to Gil: "Careful or you'll have to take a doping test!"

"I've played since I was four. My father taught me. When I was small, all I thought about was winning, but what I like better here is seeing my friends," Gil said. Joao Carlos da Silva Nunes, 59, is an experienced player who was chosen to play a button version of the World Cup in a Rio shopping center. Just like the real World Cup in Russia, the



tournament will start June 14 and end July 15. Da Silva Nunes will be playing the "Senegal" team. Unlike in real football, though, the button version won't come down to the usual suspects like Brazil and Germany in the semi-finals. At the last contest, held in 2014, real-world footballing minnows Honduras came out on top. — AFP

A man plays Button Football in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



A trophy sits on the table as a game of 'Button Football', is played in Rio de Janeiro.



View of Button Football plastic disks.



A boy plays Button Football in Rio de Janeiro.— AFP photos

Lifestyle | Fashion



In this photo national soccer team jerseys of France, from left, Belgium, Russia and Sweden are on display at a shop in London.



Croatia team poses for photographers prior to the friendly soccer match between Brazil and Croatia at Anfield Stadium in Liverpool, England.



National soccer team jerseys of Germany, from left, Portugal, Nigeria (away) and Argentina are on display at a shop in London.



In this photo soccer team jerseys of Japan, from left, Mexico, Brazil, England and Spain are on display at a shop in London.

# NIGERIA'S BRIGHT, TRIPPY UNIFORMS A HIT AMONG WORLD CUP UNIS

Spain, your asymmetry is showing. Nigeria, you're so bright I need shades! Croatia, Russia's fresh out of Big Boy restaurants. No worries, though, your party duds will be just the ticket once the World Cup gets underway June 14. Those countries are among several of the more festive standouts in jerseys for the global soccer showcase, with loads of sentimental touches in the designs of the 32 teams. With millions in exposure and retail sales at stake, the World Cup kits of 2018 can be categorized, generally speaking, like this: Team Plain, Team Retro and Team Cool Kid on the Pitch.

"We didn't used to care so much," said Roger Bennett, who is half the wacky British duo of the "Men in Blazers" soccer show on NBC Sports. "What's changed is the fusion of the World Cup and the Premier League and the Champions League and television as a global platform, and advertising, which has essentially transformed them from being just functional garments, nothing to see here, just polyester, everybody move along, to the single-most lucrative billboard in the world," he said. "They may as well be spun from gold in terms of the impact that they have on the sports manufacturing brands that propel them."

### Trippy jagged

Or, in the case of Australia, gold with a riot of jagged lines on shoulders and sleeves of home jerseys. The algae green lines celebrate waves and the country's proximity to various oceans and seas, said Nike football apparel senior design director Pete Hoppins. The away kit is all green with a diagonal slash of yellow and lighter green touches on the front, in tribute to Australia's 2006 jerseys. Soccer fans have been buzzing for weeks about Nigeria's shirts, to the delight of supplier Nike but not so much among folks back home who consider the \$85 price tag out of reach. The away shirts are a screeching bright green, white and black with trippy jagged edging on a chevron pattern that may just be the World Cup's shining Rorschach moment, along with an ode to the country's style and pop culture energy.

The we-have-arrived look is a modern reinvention of Nigeria's 1994 kits, the first time the country qualified for the World Cup. The new shirts sold out in minutes on the first

day of sales in some spots, including Nike's flagship store in London and online. Hoppins said, after stakeholders decided early on to go bold and market the strips in a collection that also includes hats, T-shirts and jackets. "We've never seen anything like this before in terms of excitement, in terms of people queuing around the block," Hoppins said, referring to the crowd that showed up June 1. "It's something that Nike has never really done before, which is going all out and having fun with it. We want Nigeria to be everyone's second team." To Simon Doonan, soccer nut and creative ambassador at large for Barneys New York, when it comes to out-there World Cup shirts, you're either in or you're out.

"The ones you remember are the ones that are crazy, but some leagues are risk averse," said Doonan, author of the new book "Soccer Style: The Magic and Madness." "The World Cup is a carnival. It's not supposed to be a beacon of

restraint and good taste," he said. Doonan's favorites on the flamboyant front: Croatia's red-and-white checkerboard, reminiscent of the country's flag and medieval coat of arms - and, some say, - the Big Boy burger chain (Nike); Colombia's red-and-blue lightning bolts coming out of the armpits against a bright yellow background (Adidas); and Belgium's horizontal dash of red-and-yellow Argyle, like the socks (also Adidas).

### Obsessed with symmetry

Doonan is also a fan of vertical stripes (hello, Argentina in blue and white, just like your flag and your kits from your 1978 World Cup win). There are some jerseys he's not hugely fond of as a matter of personal preference. "I'm very obsessed with symmetry, in life and in my work, so the Spain shirt, even though I'm a big fan of the Spanish team, the

asymmetry of those shirts and that sort of folkloric zigzag only on one side, completely freaks me out," Doonan said of the dash of yellow, blue and red against, well, red. And then there's Nigeria, the social media and retail king heading into the World Cup. "They're fabulous," Doonan said.

Bennett agreed: "You could wear it to a rave in Manchester in the 1990s and fit right in. It's a great way to live a life." As for the upside down Vs in the Nigeria design, Hoppins said it's a nod to eagles - as in the team's Super Eagles nickname. Other nationals also have '90s throwback designs. Germany's black-and-white shirts are an update of the jerseys worn by Der Mannschaft's 1990 champions. "That's a nice bit of nostalgia," Bennett said. Hoppins considers the '90s a heyday in jersey style.

In the clash of sports company titans behind the parade of shirts, Adidas "has the wind behind them," as Bennett said, with 12 countries that include some powerhouse players, followed by Nike with 10, Puma with three and New Balance with two. Brands with one include Errea (Iceland), Hummel (Denmark), Uhlsport (Tunisia), Romai (Senega) and Umbro (Peru), with its iconic red sash against white.

The US didn't qualify, so forget another patriotic jersey iteration on display. Remember 1994, the year Adidas went with a washed-out denim blue-and-star design that some dubbed the worst World Cup shirts in history? While acknowledging the deep pride and symbolism behind Croatia's ever-present checkerboard, Bennett isn't a fan: "I find it fairly terrifying. It's a tablecloth." Among the uniforms on Bennett's not-so-much list: Iceland. "For whatever reason they've decided to clad their footballers in shirts so tight they're like sausage casings," Bennett said. "It's all nipples." He was all praise for the Japan jersey, a rich blue that references the ancient Japanese technique of sashiko hand stitching in a pattern of rows of tracks down the front. "It's utterly captivating and everything that's beautiful about a national football jersey," he said. "That's what we should aspire to." — AP



A customer looks at different national soccer team jerseys that are on display at a shop in London.

## Louboutin wins EU court battle over red-soled shoes

French luxury shoe designer Christian Louboutin won the support of Europe's highest court Tuesday over trademarking his signature red-soled high-heeled shoes. Louboutin took Dutch shoe maker Van Haren to court in the Netherlands after Van Haren sold similar shoes, and the case was then referred to the European Court of Justice. Paris-based Louboutin has marketed the red-bottomed shoes for more than a quarter of a century and the glam footwear was featured on the consumerism-worshipping television series "Sex and the City." "I can confirm that Louboutin won the case. The Dutch company has to respect the trademark," a spokesperson for the European Court of Justice, the bloc's top court, told AFP.



In this file photo a model wears Louboutin shoes during Olympia Le Tan 2015-2016 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP

The French shoemaker hailed the decision as a "victory for the Maison Christian Louboutin." The years-long, arcane legal dispute centered on whether Louboutin's trademark involved a shape or a color under European Union law. Louboutin filed a trademark in 2010 and then took the Dutch company to court when it started selling high-heeled red-soled women's shoes in 2012 at its outlets in the Netherlands. The

Dutch company argued that European regulations say shapes by themselves cannot be registered as trademarks, and the Dutch court referred the issue to the ECJ.

Louboutin argued that the use of a cooler-specifically in this case a red pigment called Pantone 18 1663TP - can be trademarked. It added too that the "shape" in question was just a way of showing where the color is located on the bottom of the shoe.

### 'Clear victory'

Judges in Luxembourg on Tuesday rejected the official advice of their own top lawyer, who said in February that the red soles could not be trademarked. Dutch judges must now make a final decision but the Louboutin company welcomed the decision. "It's a clear victory and a great satisfaction," a Louboutin spokeswoman told AFP. The French shoemaker said that the EU court had "confirmed that the legal regime governing shape trademarks does not apply to Christian Louboutin's 'red sole' mark."

"The red color applied on the sole of a woman's high heel shoe is a position mark, as Maison Christian Louboutin has maintained for many years. Maison Christian Louboutin warmly welcomes this judgment." Louboutin has faced a series of legal battles over its distinctive soles. A Paris appeals court in May ruled against the French shoe company Kesslord after it sold red-bottomed shoes and ordered it to pay 7,500 euros in damages to Louboutin. "The ECJ has, in the same way as the Paris appeals court, ruled that the application of a color in a specific position on a product is a distinct and protected trademark," Vanessa Bouchara, an intellectual property lawyer, told AFP.

In 2012 a US court also said that Louboutin could trademark the red soles, reversing an earlier ruling that would have allowed rival Yves Saint Laurent to paint its outsoles scarlet. But one year before that Louboutin lost a separate case in France against the Spanish clothing chain Zara. — AFP

## Family-run Prada grooming son to take over in future

Prada CEO Patrizio Bertelli said Friday the family-owned Italian fashion group has no intention of selling and that his elder son with co-CEO and creative director Miuccia Prada is being groomed to take over. Bertelli said during the unveiling of a handbag production site near Florence that his 30-year-old son Lorenzo "is preparing so that one day he can become the head of Prada," assuming that once he has learned the ropes he also still has "the desire to do it." Lorenzo started working in the communications department in September while other Italian companies, including fashion brands, have sold when facing generational change, the 72-year-old Bertelli said "I have no intention to sell." Nor is he looking to expand the Prada Group, which also includes the Miu Miu fashion brand, Church's and Car Shoe footwear brands and the Marchesi pastry company, with fresh acquisitions.

He did not say when he or Miuccia, 69, would consider stepping aside. "I think that retirement is tied to the physical and mental state of a person, and if one is efficient," he said, adding: "Retirement is a silly myth of a society that is old in principal." Past examples show that the transition from the founding generation is not always a

successful one, with the creative transition often the toughest. The Gianfranco Ferré brand has virtually disappeared after a period of receivership and then purchase by a Middle Eastern group. Jil Sander, which Prada briefly held, has changed designers several times since Sander gave up control. Roberto Cavalli is on its second designer after the founder turned over control to a private equity firm.

### Outsourcing production

Bertelli unveiled the new site in the Arno Valley where the fashion group develops the sought-after Prada and Miu Miu handbags and leather accessories. The 32,000-square-meter site is integrated with pools of water and blooming jasmine, grapevines, pomegranate trees and other greenery both to improve the experience of its nearly 800 employees and to help the environment by absorbing 20 tons of CO2 a year, the CEO said. It is one of 10 Prada factories in Tuscany. The handbag is key to Prada's success, comprising 60 percent of its revenues, with the rest split largely between ready-to-wear and footwear. Prada is forecasting a return to sales growth this year after several years of profit decline.

Bertelli said the best way for the brand to respond to trends is to completely control production sites. Prada owns 35 percent of its production sites, 80 percent of which are in Italy - bucking what he said was the sector trend of outsourcing production. He would not say how much the Valvigna plant investment cost, only saying that it was less than 70 million euros (\$82 million) — 2 million euros of which were for the greenery. Like other fashion brands, Prada is targeting millennials, the generation born before 2000 and who are up to 35 years old now - encompassing the ages of Bertelli's two sons.

They are responsible for 60 percent of Prada sales, and will inevitably tip the luxury market even more toward China, where there are 400 million millennials, compared with 80 million in the United States, he said. After Gucci - owned by the French conglomerate Kering - unveiled to the investment community this week a video showing a robot making shoes, Bertelli said such production didn't fit his notion of luxury. "To make a luxury product, like a handbag, it is not possible," Bertelli said, while conceding that it could be done for more casual footwear like sneakers. — AP



A view of Prada's new industrial headquarters and production site, in Valvigna, Italy. — AP photos



A woman works at Prada's new industrial headquarters and production site, in Valvigna, Italy.



This picture shows water puppets performing at the Thang Long theatre in Hanoi. — AFP photos



# TOURISM KEEPS VIETNAM'S ANCIENT WATER PUPPETS AFLOAT

In a darkened theatre in central Hanoi, a wooden dragon emerges from a pool to the sound of cymbals crashing in a traditional water puppet show that lures hundreds of tourists daily but is largely shunned by locals. Backstage behind a thin bamboo screen, around 20 puppeteers slosh around waist-deep in rubber overalls wielding the marionettes with long rods. "The puppets are pretty heavy... and the water also creates resistance," said puppeteer Nguyen Thu Hoai, who swapped her galoshes for flip-flops between sold-out shows. "But our years of training and experience helps us control them," added Hoai, who like many of her

colleagues graduated from Hanoi's College of Theatre and Cinema. Some of the puppets weigh as much as 10 kilograms (22 pounds) and the largest ones, like the one-meter-tall (three-foot) fairy, require four people to manipulate.

northern rice paddies as entertainment for farmers. The earliest record of the performances is on a 12th century stele that still stands at a pagoda in northern Ha Nam province, but historians say water puppetry likely originated even earlier. The shows traditionally featured age-old fables and mythical lore, like the famous Hanoi parable about a Vietnamese king's treasured sword that was used to fight off Chinese invaders.



Vietnamese puppeteers teaching children to control water puppets at the Museum of Ethnography in Hanoi.

The shows at Hanoi's Thang Long theatre have become a staple on the well-trodden tourist circuit and draw thousands every week, including many first-time viewers. "I've never seen a puppet show that way with the water," American tourist Caroline Thomoff told AFP after a show. "I could really see people fishing, dancing and all the different performances that happened." Vietnam is the birthplace of the centuries-old art form that emerged in the

adaptation of Stravinsky's opera "The Nightingale", in which the orchestra pit was transformed into a pool of water for singers-come-puppeteers commanding marionettes. For puppetmaker Viem, such innovative approaches may be the secret to reviving the centuries-old tradition among locals. "If the script and the performance don't change, it's impossible to serve the audience in the long-term," he said. — AFP

“ There are new types of entertainment now, electronic devices and the internet ”

### Overseas appeal

The tropes haven't changed much, and neither have the hand-carved wooden figures of animals, boats, farmers or fish painted in brilliant golds, reds and greens, according to Chu Luong, the director of Thang Long theatre. "When our children and later generations see performances they will be just like the original versions," he told AFP. Despite its ancient roots-or perhaps because of them-the shows draw little attention from local Vietnamese viewers, especially millennials. More than half of Vietnam's 93 million people are under 30 and often prefer their entertainment in digital form. "There are new types of entertainment now, electronic devices and the internet, so apart from festivals we can't perform all the time because (local) people don't watch a lot," said Pham Dinh Viem, a third-generation puppet carver from a craft village in Thai Binh province.

Like other puppet craftsmen in the village, Viem doesn't earn enough to support his family making the marionettes so he picks up work on the side as a manual laborer. But he perseveres, hopeful the next generation might pick up a passion he says runs in his blood. Yet as interest wanes at home, there are signs water puppetry may be gaining traction abroad. Canadian Director Robert Lepage returned to Toronto this year with an



Vietnamese craftsmen carving wood to make water puppets at a workshop in Thai Binh province.



Vietnamese puppeteers preparing water puppets backstage before a performance at the Thang Long theatre in Hanoi.



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Arrival Flights on Wednesday 13/6/2018				Departure Flights on Wednesday 13/6/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:10	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:00
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	RBG	554	Dubai	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	176	Dammam	13:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	THY	767	Istanbul	13:40
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:25	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	RJA	645	Amman	14:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	WAN	865	TXZ	14:30
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	FEJ	442	Asyut	14:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	JZR	802	Tbilisi	14:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
AEE	956	ATH	02:25	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	JZR	188	Dubai	15:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	JZR	606	Kochi	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
KAC	796	Madinah	03:45	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	544	Cairo	04:25	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	SVA	505	Madinah	16:55
JZR	1541	Cairo	04:35	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:55
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	SAW	706	Dammam	17:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
KAC	154	Istanbul	05:35	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
WAN	342	Sohag	06:20	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	RJA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
JZR	505	Luxor	06:55	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	KAC	151	Istanbul	19:10
JZR	787	Riyadh	07:50	JZR	266	Beirut	19:15
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	529	Asyut	08:10	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
SAW	703	Damascus	08:30	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
WAN	9338	Alexandria	08:45	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
IRC	6552	ABD	08:50	JZR	552D	Alexandria	20:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:55	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:00
JZR	770	Istanbul	10:20	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	543	Cairo	21:20
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
JZR	529	Asyut	08:10	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
SAW	703	Damascus	08:30	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
WAN	9338	Alexandria	08:45	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
IRC	6552	ABD	08:50	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:25
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	THY	1413	Dubai	22:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	860	Ahmedabad	22:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:55	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
JZR	787	Riyadh	07:50	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	SVA	515	Riyadh	23:30
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	WAN	337	Alexandria	23:40
JZR	903	Baku	11:10	JZR	503	Jeddah	23:45
WAN	134	Doha	11:10	SVA	560	Sohag	23:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45				
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00				
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30				
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30				
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45				
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45				
CLX	792	Luxembourg	12:45				
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
JZR	239	Amman	13:00				
KAC	222	Al Najaf	13:00				
JZR	357	Mashhad	13:05				
RJA	644	Amman	13:20				
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30				

News

# Rules Football seeks new ground in multicultural Australia

**SYDNEY:** Australian Rules Football is breaking new ground in the country's Muslim community, embracing its culture and encouraging hijab-wearing women players to broaden the appeal of the country's biggest spectator sport. When the sun sets during the holy month of Ramadan, the Sydney suburb of Lakemba comes to life with charcoal barbecues and fried flatbread, as hundreds break their fast in one of Australia's largest Muslim communities.

Western Sydney is among the country's fastest growing regions and a battle is brewing there between popular sports for hearts and minds in the largely migrant neighborhoods, as Aussie Rules seeks inroads into what is a traditional rugby league heartland. "The vision is a generational change for young kids who are in primary school at this current moment who have got a Sherrin (Aussie Rules ball) in their hands-taking it home," Ali Faraj from the Australian Football League's newest club, Greater Western Sydney (GWS) Giants said.

"In 10 to 15 years' time they will be knowledgeable about what AFL (Australian Football League) is, who the Giants are and how to access the game." Almost 60 percent of people living in the region were born outside of Australia, with a rich mix of heritage from China, India, African nations and the Middle East. Lebanese represent the largest Muslim group.

The Giants, who put their potential catchment at upwards of 2.5 million people, in 2012 became Sydney's second elite-level Aussie Rules club as the nation's biggest spectator sport-similar to Gaelic football but played with an oval ball-continues its expansion. Backed by a cashed-up AFL, the club has snapped up the country's best young talent. But low match attendances have led to criticism that it is being artificially kept afloat. The league, however, has defended the club's existence as it focuses on a long-term goal of drawing in the region's grassroots.

### A reflection of the community

From school clinics to grooming local-level coaches of varying ethnic backgrounds and hosting an

annual Iftar fast-breaking meal during Ramadan with community leaders, politicians and police-the AFL is targeting a new generation of Australians. Rugby league is already popular in Sydney's west, boosted during the 1990s and 2000s by local Canterbury Bulldogs' legend Hazem El Masri, a champion Muslim player and long-time community ambassador for the sport. Soccer also has a following. "With any football club, or soccer club, or rugby club, the more work you do in the community the more opportunity you get to open up your footy club for a new fan," GWS Giants' coach Leon Cameron said.

"There is no doubt there are a number of new fans that have come from western Sydney to look at our game that have never seen AFL football before." The AFL has been heavily promoting players from a range of backgrounds across the country, with the few Muslim players a prominent feature in western Sydney. "They are the new faces from multicultural backgrounds that young kids can actually see a reflection of themselves in the sport," community manager Faraj said. "By seeing a reflection of yourself in the sport it gives you more hope and aspiration to one day play the sport yourself."

### Challenging stereotypes

Western Sydney has long been cast as being "on the other side of the bridge"-an imagined departure point from Sydney's wealthier eastern suburbs, and communities have struggled to shake off negative stereotypes while far right groups stir anti-Muslim rhetoric. Amna Karra-Hassan had barely even seen an Aussie Rules football before she started a local women's team eight years ago. "For me it was about girls having a run and having the space to play sport and that didn't really exist in any of the (sporting) codes in my region," she said.

Since then, numbers have swelled at the majority-Muslim Auburn Giants, where Karra-Hassan and her Hijab-wearing teammates now compete across multiple divisions, challenging stereotypes. The 29-year-old says that after the 9/11 attacks, when she was in high school, the emergence of Australian TV crime dramas romanticizing Lebanese gangsters fuelled a deep misunderstanding of her community. "I thought everyone was having a conversation about my identity and the politics of my identity," she said. "I feel like footy gives us the space to not speak to it sometimes, just to exist. We can play footy and it is about my talent when I'm on the football field and it makes its statement." — AFP

North's ballistic missiles was "glaring."

"Trading our defense of South Korea for a promise is a lopsided deal that past presidents could have made but passed on," he said. Trump said China, North Korea's main ally, would welcome the progress he and Kim had made. "Making a deal is great thing for the world. It's also a great thing for China," he said. China, which has opposed North Korea's nuclear ambitions, said it hoped North Korea and the United States could reach a basic consensus on denuclearization.

"At the same time, there needs to be a peace mechanism for the peninsula to resolve North Korea's reasonable security concerns," China's top diplomat, state counselor Wang Yi, told reporters in Beijing. If the summit does lead to a lasting detente, it could fundamentally change the security landscape of Northeast Asia, just as former US President Richard Nixon's visit to China in 1972 led to the transformation of China.

But Li Nan, senior researcher at Pangoal, a Beijing-based Chinese public policy think tank, said the meeting had only symbolic significance. "There is no concrete detail on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the provision of security guarantees by the United States," Li said. "It is too early to call it a turning point in North Korea-US relations." World stocks slipped on Tuesday and the dollar retreated from a three-week high after the summit.

### 'Special bond'

Trump said he had formed a "very special bond" with Kim and relations with North Korea would be very different in future. He called Kim "very smart" and a "very worthy, very hard negotiator". Just a few months ago, Kim was an international pariah accused of ordering the killing of his uncle, a half-brother and hundreds of officials suspected of disloyalty. Tens of thousands of North Koreans are imprisoned in labor camps.

Trump said he raised the issue of human rights with Kim, and he believed the North Korean leader wanted to "do the right thing". Trump also said US college student Otto Warmbier did not die in vain, as his death helped initiate the process that led to the summit. Warmbier died last year, days after he returned to the United States in a coma after being released from North Korean custody. During a post-lunch stroll through the gardens of the hotel where the summit was held, Trump said the meeting had gone "better than anybody could have expected".

Kim stood silently alongside, but he had earlier described the summit as "a good prelude to peace". Trump also rolled out what amounted to a promotional video starring the two leaders before the talks, which was watched by the North Korean officials on an iPad. Within North Korea, the summit is likely to go down well. "Signing the joint statement would show North Korean citizens that Kim Jong Un is not a leader just within North Korea but also in international society, especially with his position equivalent to Trump," said Ahn Chan-il, a defector from North Korea who lives in the South.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent two cables of congratulations to US President Donald Trump and North Korea's Leader Kim Jong-un. His Highness the Amir congratulated Trump and Kim on the success of their summit in Singapore, which resulted in their signing a historic joint statement that included foundations of achieving permanent peace between them, securing and peace in the Korean Peninsula.

Such a significant historic step would contribute in removing years long of tensions in that region. His Highness the Amir stressed. His Highness also hoped for not only a complete denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula, but also a nuclear-weapons-free world that contributes to achieving security, peace, and sustainable economic development for all countries and people of the world. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir wished both leaders perpetual good health and happiness. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Trump and Kim. — Agencies



SYDNEY: Girls play Aussie Rules Football known as Australian Football League (AFL) in Lekemba in the western district of Sydney. — AFP

# Terror and hooligan threats cast shadow...

Continued from Page 1

But Putin is not the only one trying to take advantage of the unrivalled platform of a World Cup. Security experts noticed the Islamic State (IS) group threatening to make its presence felt in Russia. The IS propaganda arm began posting social media pictures at the end of last year showing superstars such as Lionel Messi and Neymar dressed in the orange suits used for videotaped executions. The message accompanying the images was explicit: "You will not enjoy security until we live it in Muslim countries."

Analysts said the sheer size of the World Cup would have made it a target even if Russia had not launched a bombing campaign in support of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad in September 2015. But Russia's role in fighting IS and other militant groups in Chechnya and other parts of the mostly Muslim north Caucasus has made it a prime target. In the months leading up to the tournament, Russian state TV regularly broadcast images of combat operations against purported militants that end either with suspects lying in pools of blood or mouthing confessions.

Russia has also witnessed a spate of suicide bombings claimed by Islamists that has killed dozens on public transport over the past eight years. "There have been numerous successful terror attacks or thwarted plots in Russia by terrorists linked to or inspired by the Islamic State," the US Military Academy at West Point wrote in a report prepared by its anti-terrorism centre last

month. "This suggests the group may have the capacity to launch attacks in Russia during the World Cup."

### Hardened hooligans

Hooliganism was a brutally violent but largely overlooked problem in Russia until 150 of the team's supporters-most of them shaven-headed and muscle-bound-pounded on the English in the French port of Marseille during Euro 2016. The bloody scenes that followed shocked Europe and saw the Russian fans claim themselves kings of the football underworld. "It was like winning against Brazil in football," a fan who took part named Andrei said.

"It was our last chance to show ourselves before the World Cup because we knew Putin would crack down hard to make sure nothing like that happens in Russia." Andrei and dozens of others who battled the English have since either spent time in Russian prisons or been forced to sign police promises not to cause any trouble in the weeks to come. Few expect Russian thugs to risk embarrassing Putin with the world watching. Organizers have also tried to keep out undesirable elements by introducing fan ID cards that everyone must acquire along with a ticket.

Russian police conduct background checks with the help of their foreign counterparts and weed out potential troublemakers. Nearly 500 people have already been denied entry. Yet little can keep patriotically minded groups of boozed-up fans from getting into fights with each other or the locals that could get out of control. British football's top police officer may have had that in mind when he warned the 10,000 or so travelling England supporters against displaying the St George flag. "I think people need to be really careful with flags," Mark Roberts said. "It can come across as almost imperialistic." — AFP

# Ramadan fast sparks debate...

Continued from Page 1

football federation sparked controversy earlier this year when it ruled players could abstain from the fast if they applied for a "permit".

The decision angered Saudis, who denounced it on social media. But prominent religious leader Saleh Al-Maghamsi upheld the ruling, saying Saudi players headed to the World Cup had "the right not to fast, if they want, because they will be travelling". Travel is among several conditions that absolve practicing Muslims from the normally obligatory fast.

In Tunisia, players organized their schedule around fasting hours, training just before iftar-the breaking of the fast. "Sport and fasting is a difficult equation, it's also an old debate that will not end," wrote Tunisian French-language newspaper La Presse. "Maybe science will make some progress and we'll come up with new ways for high-level athletes to observe Ramadan without that question arising too often," it wrote. Well aware of the

delicate debate, Morocco's head coach Herve Renard told a press briefing at the end of May that he "did not want to deal with it, deliberately, because it is a sensitive subject". The Higher Council of Ulema, the only religious body in Morocco that can issue fatwas, has also remained silent on the matter.

### 'Balanced diet'

The highest Sunni religious authority in Egypt, Al-Azhar, has taken a measured approach to the topic.

"If athletes have difficulty reaching the limit of their ability to combine fasting and the fulfillment of their duties, they can break their fast," Al-Azhar's International Center for Electronic Fatwa said. But Egyptian sports doctor Sherif Azmy thinks otherwise. He insists that fasting, when well-planned, does not interfere with athletic performance.

"For an athlete, and especially a footballer, it is necessary during Ramadan to maintain a balanced diet," he said. Despite the daily fast, adequate proportions of protein, fat, sugar, carbohydrates and especially water should be consumed in three staggered meals, he said. Azmy said FIFA's guidelines also make room for fasting players. The rules, he said, indicate that "no match should be held until three or four hours after iftar," allowing players enough time to break their fast well ahead of the game. — AFP

# Control your anger...

Continued from Page 1

Face of Allah (His pleasure.) - (Al-Albani rated it as Saheeh in Saheeh Ibn Ma'jah # 3,396.)

You are stronger when you control your anger. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said what can be translated as: "A strong man is not the one who quickly wrestles people; but rather the one who controls himself in a fit of rage." - (Al-Bukhari # 6, 114). Not only did Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) encourage us to control our anger, but he also set examples on controlling anger. Anas bin Malik (RA) narrated thus: "I was walking with the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) who was wearing a Najrani cloak with a very thick border when a Bedouin chanced upon him. He took hold of the side of the Prophet's cloak and pulled it violently. I noticed that the severity of that pulling had bruised the neck of the Messenger of Allah (PBUH). The Bedouin said, "O Muhammad! Give me something from Allah's wealth that you are keeping." The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) turned to him and smiled. He then ordered his companions to give him something. (Al-Bukhari # 7, 378)

Imagine a person of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) caliber, who was revered by all his companions as well as some non-Muslims, and who was then disrespected in front of his companions! Had he ordered his companions to take revenge on his behalf, they would have done it. However, he chose to forgive. Moreover, he gave the Bedouin what he asked for. Who can do that in our world today? Only a few devout pious human-beings can do that. Not only did the Prophet (PBUH) control his anger and forgive the Bedouin, but he also ordered those in charge of the Muslim treasury to give him something. This is an extraordinary lesson that people ought to learn from the Messenger of Allah (PBUH).

Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) companions emulated him in anger management. Abdullah bin Abbas said, "Uyaina bin Hishn came and stayed in Madinah, being hosted by his nephew, Al-Hurr bin Qais bin Hishn, who was one of those whom Umar kept near him among those who memorized the entire Quran by heart. They

were respected in Umar's meetings as his advisors, both the old and young among them. Uyaina said to his nephew, 'O my nephew! Does this chief (alluding to Umar) hold you in high regard? If yes, then please ask him to permit me to see him.' His nephew said, 'I will get the permission for you to see him.'

So he took the permission for Uyaina, and when the latter entered, he said, 'O son of Al-Khattab! By Allah, you neither give us sufficient provisions nor judge among us with justice.' Upon hearing that, Umar became so furious and angry that he intended to harm him in revenge. Al-Hurr, said, 'O leader of the Believers! Allah said to His Messenger, "Hold to forgiveness, command what is good and right, and leave the foolish (ie do not punish them)." - (7: 199).

This person is among the foolish people. By Allah, Umar did not overlook at that verse when Al-Hurr recited it to him, for he was famous for observing the commandments of Allah strictly and putting them into consideration." - (Al-Bukhari 7,286). The following are some techniques for anger management:

(1) Don't hold a grudge: If forgive someone who angered you, you might both learn from the situation and strengthen your relationship.

(2) Practice relaxation skills: Practice deep-breathing exercises, imagine a relaxing scene, or repeat a calming word or phrase, such as "Take it easy."

(3) Know when to seek help: Controlling anger is a challenge for everyone at times. Seek help for anger issues if your anger seems out of control. Finally, regarding controlling anger, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) advised his companions to sit down if they were standing up. If they still felt angry, he would advise them to lie down, if it still didn't vanish, he would then advise them to perform ablation. Moreover, most importantly, he would strongly advise them to seek refuge in Allah (SWT) from the accursed Devil.

*Courtesy of the TIES Center: the TIES Center aims at empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.*

# Trump-Kim historic summit ends...

Continued from Page 1

process to start "very, very quickly" and it would be verified by "having a lot of people in North Korea".

He said Kim had announced that North Korea was destroying a major missile engine-testing site, but sanctions on North Korea would stay in place for now. It was unclear if negotiations would lead to denuclearization, or end with broken promises, as happened in the past, said Anthony Ruggiero, senior fellow at Washington's Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank. "This looks like a restatement of where we left negotiations more than 10 years ago and not a major step forward," he said.

The joint statement, referring to North Korea by the initials of its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, said "President Trump committed to provide security guarantees to the DPRK and Chairman Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula". Kim said after the summit he and Trump had "decided to leave the past behind. The world will see a major change." Trump's meeting with Kim, who he described in warm terms at the news conference, followed days of berating traditional US allies such as Canada and Germany in trade disputes. He left a Group of Seven summit in Canada early last weekend, and described host Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as "very dishonest and weak."

### War games surprise

Trump's announcement that he would stop military exercises with old ally South Korea was a surprise even to the government in Seoul, which has worked over recent months to help bring about the Trump-Kim summit. South Korea's presidential Blue House said it needed "to find out the precise meaning or intentions" of Trump's statement, while adding that it was willing to "explore various measures to help the talks move forward more smoothly". Pentagon officials were not immediately able to provide any details about Trump's remarks about suspending drills, something that the US military has long resisted.

A spokeswoman for US military forces in Korea said it had not received any direction to cease joint military drills. "USFK has received no updated guidance on execution or cessation of training exercises - to include this fall's schedule Ulchi Freedom Guardian," US Forces in Korea spokeswoman Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Lovett said in a statement. "In coordination with our (South Korean) partners, we will continue with our current military posture until we receive updated guidance." Trump and Kim appeared cautious and serious when they arrived for the summit at the Capella hotel on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa.

Body language experts said they both tried to project command as they met, but also displayed signs of nerves. After a handshake, they were soon smiling and holding each other by the arm, before Trump guided Kim to a library where they met with only their interpreters. North Korea has long rejected unilateral nuclear disarmament, instead referring to the denuclearization of the peninsula. That has always been interpreted as a call for the United States to remove its "nuclear umbrella" protecting South Korea and Japan.

### Prisoners of war

The leaders' statement made no mention of the sanctions on North Korea and nor was there any reference to a peace treaty that would formally end the 1950-53 Korean War, which killed millions of people and ended in a truce. But the document did say the two sides had agreed to recover the remains of prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action, so they could be repatriated. Daniel Russel, formerly the State Department's top Asia diplomat under the Obama administration, said the absence of any reference to the









## 25 A Test of nerves for Afghanistan against India



## 26 Former heavyweight champion Hays announces retirement



## 27 Akinfeev out to save host Russia's World Cup blushes



MOSCOW: Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer (front), Germany's goalkeeping coach Andreas Koepke (C) and Germany's head coach Joachim Loew (2nd R) of the German national football team are about to board their plane for Moscow to take part in the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia yesterday at their departure from Frankfurt international airport. — AFP

# Germany set to jet to World Cup

## Belgium downplay Hazard scare

MOSCOW: Reigning champions Germany arrived in Russia yesterday to join the World Cup party as Belgium downplayed an injury scare over star player Eden Hazard in their final warm-up match.

Gareth Southgate's youthful England team are also due to touch down as anticipation mounts ahead of tomorrow's opening fixture in Moscow between host nation Russia and Saudi Arabia.

But before the action on the pitch gets underway, FIFA members have the weighty matter of choosing whether to award the 2026 World Cup to North America or Morocco.

Germany, who beat Argentina in the final in Brazil four years ago, are aiming to join Brazil as five-times winners of the trophy but there are questions over their form coming into the tournament. Joachim Loew's side went five games without a win before labouring to a 2-1 victory over Saudi Arabia in their final warm-up and first-choice goalkeeper Manuel Neuer has hardly played since September.

But the Germans have made at least the semi-finals in each of the past four World Cups and have a habit of finding form when they need it most.

The defending champions open their World Cup against Mexico on June 17 in Moscow. They also play Sweden and South Korea in Group F.

Germany are not flying to Russia to see the sights, "but to win the tournament," said team director Oliver Bierhoff.

England are not among the favourites in Russia but the third-youngest Three Lions squad to head to a World Cup boasts Premier League stars such as Harry Kane, Dele Alli and Raheem Sterling.

"We have a young, hungry team that wants to achieve greatness, we want to bring the country together and achieve something great," said Alli.

England's Group G opponents Belgium showcased their talents in a 4-1 victory against Costa Rica in Brussels on Monday, featuring a powerful brace from Manchester United forward

Romelu Lukaku and a glittering performance from Chelsea's Hazard.

Hazard limped off with 20 minutes to go but coach Roberto Martinez brushed off concerns, saying there was "nothing to worry about".

"He's very strong, he just had a dead leg towards the end of the match," he said.

Brazil and Neymar attracted an army of excited youngsters—including one who managed to break onto the pitch for a selfie—as they held their first training session on Russian soil.

Around 5,000 locals turned out to watch the relaxed session at the Yug-Sport Stadium, next to the Brazilians' hotel in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi.

FIFA members will decide today whether to vote for a joint US-Canadian-Mexican bid or whether the World Cup—which will feature 48 teams for the first time—will return to Africa for only the second time in 2026.

A FIFA evaluation report earlier this month classified the north African nation's stadiums, accommodation and transport as "high risk", leaving the joint US-Canada-Mexico bid as the clear frontrunner.

But the North American bid has been dogged by concerns that the vote could become a referendum on the popularity of US President Donald Trump.

On Monday, bid leader Carlos Cordeiro urged FIFA members to vote on the "merits" of the bid, and not on Trump.

Russia was a disputed choice when it was handed the World Cup in a closely watched 2010 vote that has since been tainted by bribery charges, and the 2018 tournament takes place against a background of international tensions.

Russia and the West have engaged in a major wave of tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions since London accused Moscow of being behind the poisoning of Sergei Skripal in Britain in March.

But as the clock ticks down to the opener in Moscow's imposing 80,000-capacity Luzhnik stadium, the tournament is beginning to catch the public mood.— AFP

## Neymar is star attraction as fans swarm to Brazil training

SOCHI: Brazil attracted an army of excited youngsters—including one who managed to get onto the pitch for a selfie—as they held their first training session on Russian soil ahead of the World Cup yesterday. Around 5,000 locals turned out to watch the relaxed session at the Yug-Sport Stadium, next to the Brazilian squad's hotel in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi.

Yesterday was a national holiday in Russia and many fans opted for vantage points along the road leading to the stadium, while others filled the stand in blazing sunshine.

One young boy broke through security barriers and managed to get close to a group of Brazil players including Neymar, taking a photograph before being led away. However, most fans contented themselves with chanting the name of the world's most expensive player, who arrived with his teammates in Russia in the early hours of Monday fresh from scoring in a 3-0 friendly win over Austria in Vienna.

The 222-million-euro (\$261 million) Paris Saint-Germain forward made his first start in that game since undergoing surgery on a foot fracture at the start of March. He had come off the bench to score in the win over Croatia in Liverpool a week earlier.

"Neymar is doing great, thanks to God. I think the way the whole process has been dealt with was perfect. He has fully recovered," goalkeeper Alisson told reporters.

"It's logical that, at first, when he started kicking the ball again, he felt the need to take extra care of himself. He has had to deal with the fear, which is normal after a serious injury, but step by step he has built up his confidence." Members of the Selecao had a treat in store for Philippe Coutinho at training, marking the Barcelona midfielder's 26th birthday by pinning him to the ground, breaking an egg over his head and covering him in flour. Those

who started the final pre-World Cup warm-up against Austria spent most of yesterday's session apart from the rest of Tite's squad, while Manchester United-bound midfielder Fred was not involved as he continues to nurse an ankle injury.

Eager to put their humiliation on home soil in 2014 firmly behind them, the Brazilians appear confident and at ease in surroundings which in this lush part of Russia are not completely unlike home. "Our first impressions are positive, with the beauty of the city and the beach, and to be able to have lunch with views looking out over the sea," added Alisson.

Brazil play their opening game at the tournament on Sunday, when they take on Switzerland in Rostov-on-Don. They will also come up against Costa Rica and Serbia in Group E.— AFP



SOCHI: Brazil's striker Neymar attends a training session at Sochi Municipal Stadium in Sochi yesterday, ahead of the Russia 2018 World Cup football tournament. — AFP