

Friday Times

ISSUE NO: 17569

SHAWWAL 15, 1439 AH | FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2018

8 Amir visits Defense Minister in Germany



11 Britain's Prince William visits Al-Aqsa mosque



47 Colombia book last 16 as Senegal crash out



5 die; Plane plunges into building site in Mumbai

See Page 16

Local

Is Kuwait cheap?



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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According to a recent poll on the most affordable cities for expatriates around the world, Kuwait ranked the lowest (or best in this case) in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The cost of living survey by Mercer Company, a human resources agency, focused on comparative costs of living. Kuwait is the cheapest city in the GCC and 121st in the list of the most expensive cities in terms of the living cost for expatriates. Dubai in the Emirates ranked 26th in the world, while Beirut occupied fourth place in the Arab and 65th globally.

Is Kuwait really an affordable city and how was this evaluation made? I wonder if there are other worries for expats in terms of expenses and accommodation. Mercer uses New York City as a benchmark for its classification, and records the movements of local currencies against the dollar.

This list of the company survey included more than 200 cities on five continents and the cost of more than 200 items per city, including housing, transportation, food and clothing.

Hong Kong led the list of the world's most expensive cities in terms of cost of living for expatriates followed by Tokyo and Zurich. The report pointed out that currency fluctuations were the main reason for the Asian cities to lead the list.

I was glad to see Kuwait score so well on this list. Some may not totally agree, but there are many considerations that must be taken into account. First, there is no income tax system and the standard of living is flexible that single or married people can adapt in a way that suits their income and family condition. I think the cost of living in Kuwait for expatriates is somewhat acceptable. It is not very expensive, but nor is very cheap at the same time.

I guess there are many reasons that makes Kuwait attractive to expatriates. The issue of security has become an important element in light of tensions and fighting in many countries in the Arab world. Also, the availability of job opportunities as well as the actual difference in the value of currency compared to the Kuwaiti dinar is a key incentive. After all an expat would want to save money for his family.

Kuwait is open to all without taxes or overpriced customs and this encourages expatriate traders to succeed easily, despite the existence of problems like the kafala system, wasta, corruption and discrimination against expats.

As for accommodation, the fall in rental prices is normal because there is a problem in the expectations of landlords about the capacity of rooms and services accompanying modern buildings. Many apartment buildings have rooms that are way too small, lack basic services like parking and maintenance and are way over priced for the realities of the market.

Also growing costs of living, inflation, high school fees, reduction in employment of expats in the government sector and growing xenophobia have also led more expats to leave or to at least send their families back home to live.

This reality definitely negatively impacted the investment property and occupancy rates after the increase in supply compared to the decline in demand. I think this issue need a serious consideration and study.

Still I think that the expatriates will continue to live in Kuwait even if the price rises because the matter for the expatriate is linked to the availability of jobs and access to have regular income.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



A silhouette of Kuwait City seen at sunset. — Photo by Hatem Alsheikh / KUNA

Growing up as an expat in Kuwait

By Janeen Reyna Lucban

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When my friends in the Philippines ask me where I am from or where my home is, it's hard to answer that question because it usually involves a lengthy explanation.

I am a Filipino and Philippines is my home country, but I have never been there before. I was born and raised in Kuwait. I was only 16 years old, when my parents sent me to the Philippines to attend college. Adjusting was hard at first and making friends was not easy. But since you are far away from home and your family, you have no choice but to become independent.

Life in the Philippines is indeed very different from where I grew up. And when I get lonely at times, I start reminiscing about my life in Kuwait.

Growing up in Kuwait, one of my favorite things was sandstorms. This may seem odd but if you are a student you will understand. Sandstorms mean school will be cancelled.

I also remember cherishing the rain in Kuwait because it only rains once a year. But in the Philippines, school usually gets cancelled if there's a heavy rain or typhoons. Since it is a tropical area, rain is always expected in the daily lives of the Filipinos. Not to mention, the heavy traffic! I experienced commuting by jeep or motorcycle, and it was really hard to travel. Everyone knows that you should leave home extra early because the Philippines has the busiest street. But in Kuwait, my father would pick me up and drop me off, and the journey wasn't a hassle. Also

when commuting, the bus fare does not apply to students as it was free. You wouldn't be deemed as "rich" when you ride in taxis because taxis are used in Kuwait every day unlike in the Philippines.

Living in Kuwait, we all know that weekends are Friday and Saturday. But in the Philippines, weekends are Saturday and Sunday and this takes time to adjust to. Once I didn't go to school on Friday, thinking it was the weekend. I went to school on Sunday instead, and when I got there, I was the only student in our university!

Speaking of school, my long days at high school in Kuwait would have been impossible without our favorite KDD ice cream vendor, selling outside our school during dismissals. I would always save money so I could buy my favorite treat. Also, Ramadan is my favorite time of the month because you get out of school early, but not to mention, everything is closed and you can't eat outside until sunset.

Don't get me wrong, I love the Philippines it's where I belong because I am a Filipino. But there are so many experiences that I haven't had growing up somewhere else. When my friends in the Philippines ask me where I am from, I don't get confused anymore. Home is where the heart is, it's where you spent your childhood or where you lived during an important life event. It's where you feel safe, it's where you grew up. When you live abroad, you realize that you are two distinct people and you will always be an expat. Kuwait is also my home.

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Thousands of Kuwaiti students attend university in the United States and each year hundreds of parents make the journey to see them graduate. In this photo, Kuwaiti youth Khaled Abu-Ghazaleh graduates from Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. — Photos by Yousef Abu-Ghazaleh

THE DAY MY SON GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITY

By Ghadah Alkandari

This was it, the moment both his father and I had been waiting for, his name being called out at commencement: KHALEED A-BOO Gha-ZAY-lay! Shoot! We knew they'd get it wrong, but not this wrong! We were so taken aback by the pronunciation that our cheer was lackluster at best, despite a significant number of our son's family in attendance. Still, we were bursting with pride.



Khaled Abu-Ghazaleh

My son Khaled Abu-Ghazaleh's graduation was on May 19, 2018 at 9 am, the same day and time as the royal wedding in the UK. It was pouring outside and all I wanted to do was stay in my hotel room and watch Harry and Meghan exchange their I Dos. Not that I wasn't excited about my son's graduation, but he did have another one the next day. See, my very clever boy graduated with both a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science degree from Quinnipiac University in Connecticut.

From the age of three, Khaled showed a great propensity for computer game creativity and skill: he was modifying existing programs, creating his own music on GarageBand, and perfecting his whimsical characters. And he always marched to his own drum. We never bought him a packaged PC; his was a composite of components he'd either find at specialized stores or order online. So of course he would, after

much research, settle on an obscure university called Quinnipiac, in Connecticut.

It was a mouthful at first, but four years was ample time to finally have it roll off our tongues without a twist. A cute aside here: my mother had the toughest time with it, "Tell me again, what's the state?" "KUN-NETIKUT, you don't pronounce the second 'c'". "And the school again?" "KINNIPIAK". This was happening throughout the four years of my son's education in the United States.

The first challenge: A US visit visa

Khaled went off to college in 2014. That same year I applied for a US visa so I could visit, and my application was rejected. I was crushed (and a little traumatized, because I'm one of those people who makes a mountain out of a molehill, and the lady at the window was quite laconic and stern about it).

Local

Leaving the embassy in tears, all I could think of were her words, "Change your situation. Change your situation." What did she want me to change, my life? It took me four years to figure out that I simply hadn't provided enough evidence to support my case. I needed to prove I had strong ties to my country, Kuwait.

So four years later my situation was changed. And this time I allowed no room for error. I was going to my US visa interview prepared. Armed with my sacred, blue, plastic folder filled with every paper that represented my life, I marched into the US Embassy with a cautious confidence. I had every conceivable document I could think of translated, photocopied (sorry, Earth!), tabbed with special post-it notes I bought from Muji. Everything including the kitchen sink and a photocopy of the kitchen sink. At long last, I got my US visa.

Four years later

On May 13, I began my journey to the States. I was heading to Philly via London, to attend my nephew Mahmoud's graduation from the University of Pennsylvania. I missed the graduation (it was on the 12th, misunderstanding!), but it was great to see the family there, including Khaled.

A few days later he, his dad and I drove to Hamden. I was in and out of sleep the whole way and only woke as we arrived at Khaled's campus. There it was: Quinnipiac University. People use the term "dream come true" all the time. This was it for me. I had been dreaming about this moment for four years. To me, Quinnipiac was a concept, a vivid feature in my everyday imagination. Now here it was: solid, brick, cement, grass, trees, lake, driveways, arena, resident halls, my son's home and caretaker



Khaled laughing with his classmates during the graduation ceremony.

for the past four years. If I weren't still so jetlagged I would've cried.

My son Yousef arrived from London May 17th, two days prior to Graduation Number One. We enjoyed our mini-family reunion (we were missing our daughter Zainab, who was still at school). We trekked through Wallingford's lush forests, and lamented some of the damage to the trees caused by a small tornado two days before. We looked for Amish country, but ended up in Hellertown. We listened to Khaled's music in the car.

Graduation took place in the arena (Go, Bobcats!). I couldn't help feeling a great sense of reverence, and that my son was the only one, out of 7 billion people in the world, graduating that day. We were seated facing the entrance. And there he was, through the glass doors, I spotted him! And he spotted me (quite regrettably for him I'm sure), and I started waving like the Queen (we tell ourselves as children that we'd never grow up to embarrass our kids, but we invariably do). Anyway. It was a wet day and it was about to get wetter as the band played Pomp and Circumstance. The graduating class of 2018 marched in and the waterworks switched on. I just could not cry.

After the ceremony I met some of Khaled's friends and professors. Gradually I started putting faces to names that I'd become familiar with over the past few years. It felt like a Quinnipiac crash course: Ryan, Paige, Nathan, Drew, Jibril. I even met parents who'd taken Khaled in for Thanksgiving. Finally.

Graduation Number Two was a lot smaller, and we all had a been-there-done-that attitude about it. There were less of us too. I didn't even hear Khaled's name being called out. But the sun was shining that day and I did end up crying again. I just can't help myself.

On May 22, we helped Khaled pack his things. I couldn't help feeling sad for him about it, even though he was ready to start his life as a working man. He was the last of his roommates to leave the suite. It felt strange to see his sheets, pillow and comforter on his bed, because every Christmas he'd bring those back home to be laundered. By me. The building itself looked lonely and desolate. It was raining outside.

That one week at Quinnipiac was an emotional one for me as a mother. I had a feeling which was hard to describe but one that I'm sure millions could relate to: after eighteen years of having your child at home with you, this was the place that would propel them into the world. This was my child's home for four years.

If I could hug Quinnipiac, I would. Instead, I bought a Bobcats t-shirt to remind me of the place that for four years took such good care of my son.



Family portrait. Kuwaiti artist Ghadah Alkandari, graduate Khaled Abu-Ghazaleh, Yousef Abu-Ghazaleh and Waleed Abu-Ghazaleh at Khaled's graduation in the United States.



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Amir praises parliament's achievements, cooperation at end of legislative session

Assembly passed 14 laws, approved 21 pacts in second session



The National Assembly.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem on Wednesday after the end of the parliament's second legislative session, in its fifteenth term. His Highness the Amir praised the parliament's achievements during the term, namely the laws and regulations aimed at the public and ushering forward reform and development in the nation.

He commended the chief lawmaker's efforts in administering the parliament's sessions and cooperating with other lawmakers amid the common goal of making these achievements a reality. He also hailed the fruitful cooperation between the legislative and executive branches, expressing confidence this would continue under later sessions in the spirit of democratic practice.

His Highness the Amir sent a similar cable to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, in which he praised the fruitful cooperation between the legislative and executive branches during the term, and the laws and regulations issued as a result in the service of the public and ushering forward the nation's reform and development.

He commended the prime minister's cooperation with fellow ministers and lawmakers amid the common goal of making these achievements a reality. He also expressed confidence this cooperation would continue under later sessions in the spirit of democratic practice.

14 laws passed

The second session of the fifteenth term of the National Assembly, which started on 24 October, 2017, witnessed the adoption of 14 laws, endorsement of 21 agreements and Memoranda of Understanding. The lawmakers also presented, during the session, seven grilling motions against His Highness the Premier and several cabinet ministers.

Among the main laws that were adopted by the parliament during the session were: the new sports law which paved the way for FIFA's lifting of Kuwait's suspension from international events; law on the recruitment of non-Kuwaitis in the Kuwaiti army; the law on the conflict of interests and the early retirement law. The lawmakers gave their thumbs up to 21 agreements, memoranda of understanding and protocols for cooperation between Kuwait and other countries and international or regional organizations.

At the forefront of the ratified pacts were: the Paris Agreement on climate change; an MoU for security cooperation with Iraq; an agreement with NATO to set up and operate a regional center in Kuwait; an agreement with Japan for tech-

nical cooperation; and a MoU for cyber security cooperation with the UK government. Moreover, lawmakers brought His Highness the Prime Minister and several members of his government to the podium for grilling several times. Out of seven grilling motions submitted during the session, two were against His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and two others against Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh.

Notably, former minister of state for cabinet affairs and acting minister of information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah rendered his resignation after a grilling motion against him ended with a request from 10 MPs for a non-confidence vote.

In a speech at the closing the session read out on his behalf by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime stated that government's cooperation to overcome all obstacles and provide all what is needed for a successful parliamentary work is a confirmation of sincere intentions to serve public interest. He noted that these construc-

tive efforts have resulted in great achievements, the passage of much needed legislations push forward reforms and achieve prosperity and development for Kuwait. He added that parliament sessions were keen on the proper parliamentary practices and discussions that took place in a friendly atmosphere and a constructive substantive dialogue.

Great responsibilities

Meanwhile, Ghanem affirmed the assembly's vital role and many responsibilities in protecting the security and stability of the country on different levels, namely the political, economical and social ones. "The assembly has a great responsibility on its shoulders, in order to move forward with development, to cope with all circumstances and in sending a clear message inside and out," Ghanem said in his speech at the closing session.

Ghanem stressed importance on the necessity of both the executive and Legislative branches in reflecting on His Highness the Amir's concerns and remarks on the region. "His Highness the Amir's latest warnings were mentioned in his speech in the last ten days of the holy month of Ramadan, when he clearly stressed the importance of being aware of the latest developments in the region and standing together as one to deal with such events," Ghanem added. —KUNA

Sports law helped lift FIFA ban



Local

Amir visits Defense Minister in Germany

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah paid a visit yesterday to First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in Germany. His Highness the Amir visited Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah in the hospital, where he recently underwent a lung surgery, to reassure about his health condition and congratulated him on success of the surgery. His Highness prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the defense minister a speedy recovery, perpetual good health and wellness, and a safe return home to resume his benevolent efforts in serving his country.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

The successful surgery was conducted in order to remove a lung tumor. Meanwhile, the government has been assured about the health of Minister of Defense following the surgery. This was announced by Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh in a statement. Minister Al-Saleh implored His Almighty to bestow upon minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Ahmad good health and wellness so he may pursue his services for the homeland. — Agencies

FM receives letter from Brazilian counterpart



KUWAIT: Director of the Office of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah receives the Brazilian Undersecretary General for Africa and the Middle East Ambassador Fernando Jose Marroni de Abreu. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday a letter from Brazil's Minister of Foreign Affairs Aloysio Nunes. In his letter, Nunes addressed aspects of the Brazilian-Kuwaiti relationship and ways to boost their bilateral cooperation in all fields and on various levels.

The letter was handed to Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled by Director of the Office of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Am-

bassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah. Sheikh Dr Nasser Al-Mohammad received the letter while meeting with Brazilian Undersecretary General for Africa and the Middle East Ambassador Fernando Jose Marroni de Abreu at the ministry earlier. During their meeting, the two sides stressed the importance of boosting their bilateral ties in all fields, and exchanged views on latest updates on regional and international issues of mutual interest. —KUNA

Banking summit in Paris addresses Arab-Mediterranean cooperation

PARIS: The 2018 Arab Banking Summit kicked off yesterday in the French capital with conferees holding talks for two days on relations among financial and banking institutions in Arab, European and Mediterranean countries. Discussions have already been held among the attending leaders from the banking and financial sectors, addressing prospected initiatives by the public and private sectors to bolster these bonds and open new channels for cooperation, bilateral trade and investments.

Some participants have noted that dramatic events worldwide have hampered cooperation and investments, aggravated jitters in the region, thus the necessity has emerged for close cooperation in the face of the challenges. Moreover, they underlined need for investing human resources, particularly through educating the new generations about mutual economic ties.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Sami Al-Suleiman said in a statement that the top-level gathering aims at establishing an Arab-Mediterranean region for financial and banking cooperation. Suleiman said Kuwait's participation in the top-level event, themed 'Medium Banking Dialogues,' reflects Kuwaiti banks' keenness on boosting cooperation with foreign banks.

The conferees examined relations among banks and commercial institutions in Arab, European and Mediterranean countries and means for sustainable growth and prosperity in the regional states. Relations among banks in the Mediterranean countries were addressed in seminars, held within the summit framework.

The gathering involves financial ministers, banks' governors in-



PARIS: (From left) Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Sami Al-Suleiman, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel, and Chairman of the Kuwaiti Borgan Bank Majed Al-Ajeel. —KUNA

cluding Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel, plus representatives of public and private banks. Majed Al-Ajeel, Chairman of the Kuwaiti Borgan Bank was among the participants. The summit, organized by the Union of Arab Banks, is patronized by French President Emmanuel Macron. — KUNA

Undersecretary visits supporting services department

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Essam Al-Nahham conducted a field tour yesterday at the supporting services department to oversee the process of work there. Senior officials at the department briefed Nahham about the work mechanism in terms of providing equipment and service to other ministry departments.



Local

Kuwait Airways among cheapest airlines worldwide, study says

KU education costs KD 8,897 per student

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A French study specialized in aviation recently published a list of airlines with the lowest cost in the world, which included Kuwait Airways amongst the top fifty cheapest airlines. According to Rio2Go website, the research compared 200 major airlines by the average price per kilometer on international flight searches. It also showed that 24 of the 30 cheapest airlines are based in either Asia or the Middle East.

Further, the report shows that the Australian TigerAir is on top of the list with a low cost of \$0.06 per kilometer, while the cost onboard the Malaysian AirAsia is \$0.07 per kilometer, followed by AirIndia Express with \$0.08 and the Indonesian AirAsia with \$0.09. Ten European airlines were also included in the list including the Norwegian Primera Air, RyanAir of Ireland, and WOW Air of Island with an average of \$0.10 per kilometer. Concerning Kuwait, the report ranks Kuwait Airways amongst the world's cheapest airlines with an average cost of \$0.11 per kilometer, followed by Saudi Airline with \$0.13 per kilometer.

KD 8,897 per student

Kuwait University (KU) financial auditors reported that 36,000 students were registered at KU's various faculties and colleges for this academic year with a cost of KD 8,897 per student,

which is KD 1,138 higher compared to the per-student cost last year. The report added that by taking the cost of Sabah Al-Salem University project of KD 2 billion into consideration, the per-student cost would jump to over KD 11,000 a year.

The report also called for increasing the number of teaching staff members according to actual needs of various departments to match the growing number of students. It also called for setting a four-year strategic plan for scholarships and staff recruitment to cover the growing need for staff members for the Sabah Al-Salem University.

Kuwaiti teachers

Ministry of Education's (MOE) Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari announced that the procedures needed to recruit new Kuwaiti teachers for the 2018-2019 school year would start on Sunday, July 29, 2018, while recruiting locally contracted non-Kuwaiti teachers would start on August 5, 2018. Further, Athari explained that the procedures of appointing expat teachers from abroad would start on August 14, 2018 before newly hired teachers start a seven-day training course on August 28, 2018.

Bedoons' hajj

Undersecretary of the ministry of Awqaf, Fareed Emadi urged owners of hajj convoys to respect Saudi authorities' regulations during the



hajj season, noting that strict measures would be taken against violators. Commenting on Bedoon hajj, Emadi stressed that priority would be given for those who had never performed hajj before, followed by the elderly and families, then unac-

companied men. He also stressed that the cost of hajj for a bedoon pilgrim would be less than KD 1,000, as instructed by the minister. Further, Emadi said that online registration for bedoon pilgrims would start on July 1, 2018.

New roads to serve Sabah Al-Ahmad, Wafra residents

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport yesterday issued a statement in which it refuted online reports claiming that a project to build some roads and bridges along the road between Abdullah Port and Wafra had started in 2011. The authority stressed that construction in said project actually commenced on June 5th, 2017 and is expected to be concluded on November 9th, 2019.

The authority also noted that 41 percent of the project has been completed so far, adding construction is going according to schedule. Once finished, the road would facilitate traffic flow for Sabah Al-Ahmad and Wafra cities' residents.

The project consists of three phases, the authority said, adding that the first phase is due to finish during the third quarter of 2018, the second during the second quarter of 2019 and the third during the third quarter of 2019.

Food allowances

Ministry of Electricity and Water's (MEW) assistant undersecretary for power and water distillation plants' affairs Fuad Al-Oun urged various power plant managers to prepare lists of employees who are entitled to food allowances; those who had to be at work during iftar and suhoor times during Ramadan.

Bad weather halts sea navigation: KPA

KUWAIT: Sea navigation to and from Kuwait's three major ports has been halted due to bad weather conditions caused by dust storms and heavy winds, Kuwait Port Authority (KPA) announced yesterday. Marine operation traffic to and from Al-Shuwaikh, Al-Shuaiba, and Al-Doha ports stopped at 12:00 pm upon field notes by the directors of sea operations, KPA stated. A dust storm that blew across Kuwait yesterday has brought down visibility to below 500 meters and caused instability in the weather, according to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The speed of wind hit 60 km/h, bringing down visibility to almost nil in some open areas, and stirring waves in the sea up to over seven feet, DGCA said in a statement.

KPA had announced earlier yesterday that Kuwait's three ports of Shuwaikh, Shuaiba and Doha were back in operation at 7:00 am yesterday after weather conditions improved across the country. Navigation operations had been suspended at the ports on Wednesday as a result of the deteriorating weather conditions.

A dust storm also hit Kuwait on Wednesday, as the bad weather conditions are caused by the Indian seasonal low pressure, said official at Kuwait Metrological Center Abdu-

laziz Al-Qarawi. The low pressure is causing active north-western winds loaded with dust coming from abroad and within the country. Strong wind and dust are predicted to continue through the weekend. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Vehicles drive through a dust storm at a high way in Kuwait yesterday. —KUNA



Five dead as plane plunges into Mumbai building site

Page 16

Mexicans hope for 'historic' change in Obrador's hometown

Page 15



DOHA: In this file photo taken on September 11, 2006 a Qatar Airways Airbus A340-600 is parked on the tarmac at Doha airport. — AFP

UN: Qatar must stop supporting terror

'The ball is in Qatar's court to end the crisis'

THE HAGUE: Abu Dhabi called Doha yesterday to stop "supporting terrorist groups and individuals" and strongly denied human rights abuses against Qatari citizens before the UN's top court. The bitter Gulf crisis pitting Doha against its neighbors including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain moved to the international courts Wednesday, with Qatar accusing the UAE of fostering an "environment of hate" against its citizens.

But Abu Dhabi's representatives yesterday fired back, saying relations were cut with Qatar "because of its support for terrorism, its interference with the affairs of its neighbors and its dissemination of hate speech." "Our government has asked Qatar time-and-again to cease this conduct," the UAE's ambassador to the Netherlands, Saeed Alnowais, told the International Court of Justice. "Although Qatar repeatedly committed to do so, it has failed to live up to its commitments," Alnowais said at the Hague-based ICJ. At the start of the crisis last June, Qatar, a gas-rich peninsula nation, found its only land border closed, its state-owned airline barred from using its neighbors'

airspace, and Qatari residents expelled from the boycotting countries.

'Discrimination'

Doha earlier this month dragged the emirates before the Hague-based body—which rules in disputes between countries—accusing it of racism and human rights abuses against its citizens. The legal moves at the ICJ come after Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt severed all ties with Doha on June 5 last year accusing it of supporting terrorism and Iran. Doha denies the allegations and its lawyers Wednesday told a 16-judge bench that Abu Dhabi has implemented a "series of broad discriminatory measures" against Qataris including expelling them, stopping their access to health care and criminalizing any statements that express sympathy with Qatar.

Basing its claim on the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Qatar also accuses the UAE of shutting down its media networks including Al Jazeera. Both Doha and

Abu Dhabi are signatories to the convention. Doha is demanding the ICJ urgently intervene and hand down provisional measures to stop further prejudice as well as, over the longer term, order "full reparation, including compensation for the harm suffered as a result of the UAE's actions in violation of the CERD."

UAE representative Alnowais however said his country "completely rejects the allegations, all of which are without any merit or basis." "Qatar has put forward no credible evidence to substantiate any of these claims," he said, adding it consisted "only of anecdotal and unverified statements," he said. "The UAE's measures against the Qatari government are carefully measured to have the least possible impact on ordinary people," Alnowais added.

'Shattered alliances'

Diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis have so far proved fruitless in what was previously one of the most stable regions in the Arab world. The wrangling has shattered old alliances and rendered the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council practically obsolete,

pushing Qatar towards Turkey and Iran. Qatar maintains the dispute is an attack on its sovereignty and punishment for pursuing an independent foreign policy.

Experts say it could now take the ICJ's judges weeks or even months to hand down a decision. Meanwhile in a surprise tit-for-tat move, Saudi Arabia, the UAE announced in state media Wednesday they too planned to file their own case at the UN's top court against Doha, accusing it of violating their airspace. The UAE has filed two complaints with the ICAO over what Qatar's rivals say are airspace violations that threaten civil aviation.

The UAE accuses Qatar of sending fighter jets to intercept passenger flights and a civilian helicopter in Bahraini airspace. These accusations have been denied by Doha. Doha's neighbors say the ball is in Qatar's court to end the crisis. It has been handed a list of 13 demands by its Gulf neighbors, including closing Al Jazeera, removing Turkish troops from the country and scaling back its cooperation with Iran, with which it shares the world's largest gas field. It has not met any of them.—AFP

International

Friday, June 29, 2018

Prince William visits Jerusalem mosque

Wraps up a landmark Middle East tour

JERUSALEM: Prince William visited Jerusalem's super-sensitive Al-Aqsa mosque compound yesterday as he wrapped up a landmark Middle East tour during which he has tiptoed through the region's diplomatic minefield. His visit to Islam's third holiest site was followed by visits to the city's Jewish and Christian holy places.

William wandered through the Al-Aqsa compound accompanied by a large Israeli security detail and members of the Jordanian-run religious trust that administers it. British officials said it was the first time a member of the royal family had ever visited the compound, which houses the Al-Aqsa mosque and the iconic golden-topped Dome of the Rock.

The second-in-line to the British throne also visited the adjacent Western Wall, the holiest place at which Jews are allowed to pray, accompanied by its director general and by Britain's chief rabbi Ephraim Mirvis. Since Israel occupied Arab east Jerusalem in the Six-Day War of 1967, hardline Jewish activists have campaigned for the right to pray inside the mosque compound, the most inflammatory single issue of the Middle East conflict. Both the second Palestinian uprising that erupted in 2000 and a new wave of deadly violence that broke out last year had their roots in Palestinian fears for the longstanding status quo at the compound.

'God of Peace'

Donning a dark Jewish skullcap for his visit

to the Western Wall, William placed a note in a crack between the ancient stones before laying his hand on them and closing his eyes for a few moments. It is customary to place written prayers or requests in the stones that Jews believe were the support wall of their ancient temple.

The prince then signed the visitors' book, with the Western Wall administration saying his dedication read: "May the God of peace bless this region and all the world with peace." From the Western Wall, the prince walked through the narrow alleyways of Jerusalem's walled Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which most Christians believe is the site where Jesus was crucified and buried.

There he was greeted by representatives of the sometimes feuding Christian denominations which administer the church before touring its vast multi-levelled interior. He then re-entered the Old City's narrow streets for the short walk to Jaffa Gate, where he rejoined his motorcade, capping off his three-day tour.

On Wednesday, William found himself on diplomatic thin ice during a visit to the Israeli-occupied West Bank when he called the Palestinian territories a "country". At a meeting with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas in Ramallah, the prince appeared to fall foul of the complex language surrounding the Middle East conflict. "I am very glad that our two countries work so closely together and have had success



JERUSALEM: Britain's Prince William (C) accompanied by a group including Sheikh Azzam Al-Khatib, director of the Islamic Waqf (R) in Jerusalem visits the Al-Aqsa mosque. —AFP

stories with education and relief work in the past," he told Abbas, speaking without notes.

Western governments typically refrain from referring to the Palestinian territories as a country or state, instead supporting the Palestinian demand for sovereignty in the future. The right-wing Likud party of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who the prince met in Jerusalem on Tuesday, rejects Palestinian statehood and supports Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank.

Flowers at Alice's grave

Yesterday, William also laid flowers on the grave of his great-grandmother Alice, who is buried at the Church of St Magdalene in the city. He was following in the footsteps of his grandfather Prince Philip, who visited his mother's grave in 1994. Princess Alice was honored as among the "Righteous among the Nations" by Israel's Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem, in 1993 for sheltering Jews in Greece from the Nazis during World War II. —AFP



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International

Hundreds of Syrian refugees in Lebanon return to Syria

Tiny Lebanon struggling with around 1 million refugees

ARSAL: Nearly 400 refugees began leaving the Lebanese border town of Arsal to cross into Syria yesterday, a rare case of returns which Lebanon's government wants to encourage. The convoy made up a very small fraction of the one million registered Syrian war refugees across Lebanon – about a quarter of its population – and of the 50,000 which local officials estimate live in Arsal.

People gathered in minivans and tractors in the morning, loading them with mattresses, water tanks and furniture. Lebanese security personnel recorded the names of Syrians as they passed through a checkpoint on the way out of Arsal. The refugees were headed for Qalamoun across the border, a region cleared of insurgents by Syrian army offensives in which Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement played a leading role.

Those leaving said they had submitted their names to Lebanese authorities, who in turn sent the names to Syria for approval from the state. Syrian state TV said hundreds of people arrived past a border crossing in the Damascus countryside. Many said they were happy to be returning to Syria, and while some said their houses were fit to live in, others had heard their homes were destroyed.

"We have been planning to go back for a long time; we are glad things have calmed down," said Ali Abdullah, 34, leaving with his wife and two young sons. One of the boys was born in Lebanon and had never been to Syria. "I want to take him back because that is your country, your (home is) not a tent," Abdullah told his son. He spoke from the same truck he said he drove across the border in four years ago.

Abdullah told Reuters he had heard from relatives in Syria that his house there was fine. But Murshid Darwish, 55, said she had decided to stay in her tent in Arsal instead of leaving for Syria with her cousin. "The house needs work, there are no windows, no doors...We cannot live there," she said. "I cannot carry rocks...Once my room is fixed, I will go back." The UN refugee agency UNHCR said it was not involved in organizing the returns, and its team in Syria had so far not been able to access the villages where people were headed.

'First phase'

About 140 people received polio vaccines, and the Lebanese Red Cross diagnosed 43 people who received medication for acute cases, it said. Major General Abbas Ibrahim, head of Lebanon's General Security agency, has said Beirut is working with the Syrian state for the return of thousands of refugees who want to go home.

Ibrahim told Reuters Thursday's return marked the "first phase out of thousands...We have not received any guarantee that they will not serve in the Syrian army. We have nothing to do with this." As Syrian troops and allied forces retake more territory, Lebanese officials have stepped up calls for refugees to go back to parts of Syria where violence has died down.

UN officials and foreign donor states have said it is not yet safe for refugees to go back to Syria, where a political deal to end the multi-sided war remains elusive. The seven-year conflict has driven 11 million Syrians from their homes. More than 1 million have fled to Lebanon, the UN refugee agency UNHCR says. The



Lebanese security forces check identity and papers of Syrian refugees getting ready to cross into Syria from the eastern Lebanese border town of Arsal. —AFP

Lebanese government puts the number at 1.5 million, a quarter of the population.

They are scattered across Lebanon, often in makeshift camps and severe poverty, facing the risk of arrest because of restrictions on legal residence and work. Lebanese Foreign minister Gebran Bassil visited Arsal this month to press for more returns. He froze residency visa applications for UNHCR staff, accusing the agency of preventing Syrian refugees from going back.

UNHCR denies this, saying it supports return

when it is safe, and major international donors have voiced dismay at what they called "false accusations". "We are working in various ways for the gradual removal of the obstacles that refugees see to their return, including through advocating with the concerned authorities inside Syria," UNHCR spokeswoman Lisa Abou Khaled told Reuters by email yesterday. "We fully respect individual decisions to return when a refugee decides that the time is ripe for him or her." — Reuters

French youth braces for national service

PARIS: The army general in charge of bringing back national service in France said yesterday he would try to make it appealing for youngsters amid signs of resistance to a pet project of President Emmanuel Macron. After months of consultations the government unveiled Wednesday the "universal national service" promised by Macron while campaigning for the presidency last year.

Contrary to his initial proposal it will not be an initiation to military life but a civic service for boys and girls aged around 16 that aims to foster patriotism and a culture of volunteering. Despite being watered down since it was first floated, 15 youth organisations have opposed the service, saying young people should be free to choose how they contribute to the greater good and not be press-ganged into service. Acknowledging their objections, General Daniel

Menaouine, appointed by Macron to head the project taskforce, told Europe 1 radio on Thursday: "My challenge is not the obligatory nature but its appeal. "Young people must want to come."

Seeking cohesion

France's last conscripts were demobilised in 2001, ending nearly a century of military service which saw millions of men put through their paces. While some look back fondly on their stint in the army, saying it helped create a sense of fraternity, there was widespread relief when former president Jacques Chirac scrapped it.

The new two-part service, which will be written into the constitution, will be rolled out over seven years starting with a trial phase in 2019. Around 750,000 youngsters will take part each year, creating a huge logistical challenge for the state. An initial two-week "integration phase" will take place during the school holidays and be conducted in state-run summer camps and boarding schools across the country, where youngsters will be taught first aid, orienteering and other basic skills.

The second phase involves work on a "collective project", such as volunteering with a charity or local government. —AFP

Bloodiest day yet in S Syria offensive

BEIRUT: A barrage of Russian strikes on rebel-held towns in southern Syria killed 22 civilians yesterday, the bloodiest day yet of the government's offensive in the strategic region. With Moscow's help, Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's army has battered the south for more than a week with air strikes, rocket fire and crude barrel bombs. The bombardment has forced more than 45,000 to flee their homes in search of safety, according to the United Nations, while others huddle in their basements to wait out the raids.

Yesterday, air strikes identified as Russian killed 22 civilians, a monitoring group said, most of them in a single town. "At least 35

Russian air strikes hit the town of Al-Mseifra," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

"One of them hit a basement where people were taking shelter, killing 17 civilians, including five children," the Britain-based monitor said. The hospital in Al-Mseifra had been put out of service by Russian strikes on Tuesday night, the Observatory and relief organisations said. The Observatory says it determines who carried out particular strikes based on the type of aircraft and munitions used, the locations and the flight patterns.

Another five civilians were killed in other rebel-controlled areas of Daraa, the main province in southern Syria. "This is the highest toll since the escalation began on June 19," said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman, adding that it brought the overall civilian toll since then to 93.

A doctor in a rural area in the west of Daraa province said his staff was preparing for an influx of critically wounded from Al-Mseifra. —AFP

International

Italy threatens to throw EU migration summit into chaos

‘Italy does not need more words, but concrete actions’

BRUSSELS: Italy's hardline new premier threatened yesterday to block a joint EU statement on migration at a summit that embattled German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned could decide the bloc's fate. Rome has recently refused to let several migrant rescue boats dock at Italian ports, reviving fresh tensions despite the fact that numbers of arrivals have dipped sharply since the height of Europe's migration crisis in 2015.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, who heads Italy's month-old populist and anti-immigration government, said he would refuse to endorse the conclusions of the meeting in Brussels if fellow leaders fail to do more to help Italy. "Italy does not need more words, but concrete actions," Conte told reporters as he arrived at the summit. "It's a possibility I hope not to consider, but if we reach that point, on my behalf we will not have shared conclusions."

Italy comes to the European Union gathering emboldened by the announcement that Conte will on July 30 visit US President Donald Trump, who has hailed Rome's tough stance, and who himself blocked the conclusions of a recent G7 leaders meeting on trade. The EU summit is taking place amid warnings that authoritarian and "anti-European" movements will profit from any failure by the 28 leaders to deal with a flare-up of tensions over migrants that has put Merkel's political future in the balance.

"Europe has many challenges but migration could end up determining Europe's destiny," Merkel told German lawmakers hours ahead of

the summit. The bloc can decide to "overcome the challenge in a way that people in Africa or elsewhere believe that we are guided by our values," she said. Or, she added, in a manner where "no one will believe in our value system that has made us so strong."

'Really tough guys'

Merkel, for years Europe's most powerful leader, now risks seeing her fragile coalition collapse if she cannot reach migrant deals with other countries including Italy. After allowing more than one million asylum seekers into Germany since 2015, Merkel faces an end-of-the-month deadline from her own interior minister to seal pacts that would let Germany turn back asylum seekers already registered in other EU states.

EU President Donald Tusk meanwhile issued a fresh warning on the need for action on migration to stave off rising populism and authoritarianism. "Some may think I am too tough in my proposals on migration, but trust me, if we don't agree on them, then you'll see some really tough proposals from some really tough guys," the former Polish premier added.

The leaders hope at the summit to approve work on migrant "disembarkation platforms" in countries outside Europe, most likely in Africa, according to a draft prepared by Tusk. In a bone to Merkel, the leaders will also agree to "closely cooperate" on stopping secondary movements of migrants, according to draft summit conclusions,



MILAN: A small paper boats are pictured in front of piazza della Scala in Milan on June 27, 2018 during a flashmob organized simultaneously in many European cities, asking the EU states to do their part, to change the Dublin Regulation in the direction already indicated by the European Parliament and to open legal and safe access routes for immigrants and refugee in all EU countries. — AFP

although the language may be weaker than she would have hoped. Tusk warned on the eve of the summit that "the stakes are very high and time is short." A "mini-summit" of 16 leaders in Brussels on Sunday failed to make much headway.

'Mother of all summits'

But there is no chance of agreement on a plan for mandatory "burden sharing" by moving

refugees from frontline Mediterranean states like Italy and Greece to other countries. The plan is strongly opposed by eastern European countries, particularly the authoritarian governments of Hungary and Poland. The EU is rapidly moving to the right on migration, a stance that is likely to strengthen when Austria under youthful conservative Prime Minister Sebastian Kurz assumes the bloc's presidency on July 1. —AFP

Small Dutch village eagerly awaits mega-church

YERSEKE: Standing in a green field surrounded by black-and-white cows, Dutch politician Jaap Sinke surveyed the plot where construction of a new mega-church with space for more than 2,000 people will soon begin. It will be the climax of a 15-year battle for a new building to house his village's rapidly expanding congregation, the likes of which many church leaders can only pray for. And it will become the largest church in the Netherlands.

Sinke is the local councillor for the orthodox Calvinist Reformed Political Party (SGP) in the small parish of Yerseke, population 7,000, nestling on the shores of the sea in southwest Zeeland province. Known for its aquaculture and fishing, the village will soon become home to the new mega-church, entirely financed by the religious community, with construction due to start next year.

A church in central Opheusden will still have more seats at 2,850, but the overall surface area of the building in Yerseke will be larger. It's a situation bucking the trend not just in the Netherlands but across Europe, where hundreds of former churches are now being turned into accommodation, event halls or put to other uses as people turn away from religion in droves. Except in Zeeland, where in a part of the country dubbed the Bible Belt thanks to its high concentration of Protestants and Catholics, churches are being extended, buildings restored and new places of worship sought out.

Bursting at the seams

Every Sunday, twice a day more than 1,400 worshippers gather

in Yerseke's small church. "We can't go on like this. For years now we've been adding chairs and benches to try to fit everyone in. The first row is glued up against the pulpit," said Sinke. And indeed, many others prefer to stay home and watch the proceedings on the television, knowing there won't be enough places to sit.

"Over the past half a century, Catholic congregations in the Netherlands have radically fallen. Many places of worship have closed and parishes have been merged," said University of Nijmegen theology professor Peter Nissen. But the story is completely the reverse among Protestants. About 20 percent of Protestants still regularly attend church, compared with just six percent of Catholics.

Among the orthodox communities of the reformed church there are record attendances in places like Yerseke, where religion still represents "strong social ties," said Nissen. The Protestant community "counts more than 100,000 people in the Netherlands and is growing every year by a few hundred". Indeed Yerseke's congregation has never stopped growing, and counts about 2,300 people today. Since it was built in the 1960s, the original church building in the centre of the village, squeezed between neighboring houses and gardens, has been added onto several times. An increasing local population is helping to drive congregation numbers, but education and tradition also play a role. Children begin to accompany their parents to church at the age of three or four, and when they grow up do the same with their own children, Sinke said. For an orthodox community living according to the Bible, church attendance is also a given, he added.

Now after 15 years of delay, partly as the right spot was hard to find, the local council voted in 2017 to approve the construction of the mega-church on a parcel of land, which the farmer agreed to sell. There'll even be parking for some 350 cars, and an underground space to accommodate 700 bikes, said the bespectacled Sinke proudly. But there is one last obstacle to overcome—opposition from about a dozen villagers who have taken their case to the country's highest court, the Council of State. —AFP

Migration could decide EU's 'destiny': Merkel

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned yesterday that the migration challenge could determine Europe's fate, hours ahead of a Brussels summit where EU leaders are expected to clash over the way forward. "Europe has many challenges but migration could end up determining Europe's destiny," she told German lawmakers.

The path the EU chooses could decide if the bloc is viewed by others as a credible defender of the values it espouses, she said. Europe can decide to "overcome the challenge in a way that people in Africa or elsewhere believe that we are guided by our values, and that we take a multilateral rather than a unilateral approach," Merkel added.

The alternative would result in a situation where "no one will believe in our value system that has made us so strong." "That's why the stakes are high," said the German leader, who is also battling a domestic rebellion over her decision in 2015 to open Germany's borders to asylum seekers fleeing war and misery in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere.

If a deal cannot be reached between all 28 of the bloc, Merkel said that a compromise must be found among "a coalition of the willing". But the guiding principle of any accord must be multilateral and must not put disproportionate weight on frontline countries, she stressed. "Certainly that's not a perfect solution, but it's a start toward better control and order" of the migration problem, she said. —AFP

International

Trump gets historic chance to shift Supreme Court to right

A brutal battle over Kennedy's succession to begin

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Wednesday secured a historic chance to shift the US Supreme Court decisively to the right as Justice Anthony Kennedy, the tie-breaking vote between the bench's liberal and conservative judges, announced he is to retire. Kennedy's departure at the end of July will give Trump the opportunity to appoint his second justice to the nine-seat bench, which exerts a deep and far-reaching influence on American life.

"It has been the greatest honor and privilege to serve our nation in the federal judiciary for 43 years, 30 of those on the Supreme Court," Kennedy was quoted as saying in announcing his decision. Nominated by president Ronald Reagan, the 81-year-old Kennedy took his oath of office in 1988. He said he was stepping aside to spend more time with his family. Paying tribute to Kennedy as "a great justice of the Supreme Court," Trump told reporters the replacement process will "begin immediately."

"Hopefully we will pick someone who is just as outstanding," he told reporters in the Oval Office. He said Kennedy's successor—who like all Supreme Court justices will be appointed for life—would be selected from among a list of 25 possible candidates, 20 identified during his presidential campaign, and five added since. "We have a very excellent list of great, talented, highly intelligent, hopefully tremendous people," he said. At a rally in North Dakota later on Wednesday, Trump de-

scribed Kennedy as a "great man" who trusted him to pick his successor. "I'm very honored that he chose to do it during my term in office, because he felt confident in me to make the right choice and carry on his great legacy, that's why he did it," Trump said of Kennedy's decision to retire.

Nomination battle

Kennedy's departure sets the stage for a brutal battle over his succession, a blueprint for which was established by Republican lawmakers in 2016 when they denied then-president Barack Obama the opportunity to fill the seat left vacant following the death of conservative justice Antonin Scalia. Now, Democrats argue that Trump's pick should not be put to a vote until after new legislators are elected in midterm polls this fall.

"Millions of people are just months away from determining the senators who should vote to confirm or reject the president's nominee, and their voices deserve to be heard," said Chuck Schumer, the top Democrat in the US Senate. "Anything but that would be the absolute height of hypocrisy." But Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell indicated he was opposed to waiting, saying that "we will vote to confirm Justice Kennedy's successor this fall." Kennedy's vote, positioned at the very center of the court, gave him a place of special prominence among the nine justices. He has cast the deciding vote in a number of

historic cases, including the high court's groundbreaking decision in 2015 legalizing gay marriage, a five-to-four decision for which he wrote the opinion. Infuriated liberals, exasperated conservatives — for years, Kennedy infuriated conservatives with decisions striking down prayer at public school graduations and upholding abortion rights — and exasperated liberals with decisions on affirmative action and campaign finance laws.

His departure gives Trump his second Supreme Court pick since arriving at the White House, following the nomination of Neil Gorsuch, and could spell a decisive shift to the right for the top judicial body. Gorsuch was sworn in in April last year to fill a more than year-long vacancy left by the death of Scalia, a delay orchestrated by McConnell to deny Obama the nomination.

Democrats were enraged, but with Republicans controlling both the Senate and the House, they have limited leverage to push back over Trump's second pick for the court, the final arbiter on such divisive issues as gun rights or abortion. Control over Supreme Court nominations has become a hot-button issue for the US electorate, with 70 percent of respondents in a 2016 CNN poll saying it was an important factor in their vote. November's midterm elections are expected to produce a bitter struggle for control of Congress in a deeply polarized country, especially if a court seat is still in play. —AFP



FARGO: US President Donald Trump speaks to supporters during a campaign rally at Scheels Arena. — AFP

Pentagon chief seeks to reassure S Korea on North

SEOUL: US Defense Secretary James Mattis told South Korea yesterday that their alliance remained "ironclad", as he sought to reassure key East Asian allies following Donald Trump's unilateral suspension of military exercises with Seoul. Concern has mounted in the region over the stance of the US president, who has lauded North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as a "talented guy" as he seeks to persuade Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons. But Mattis told his counterpart in Seoul: "The US commitment to the Republic of Korea remains ironclad," adding that included "maintaining the current US force levels on the Korean peninsula". Mattis was flying to Tokyo later Thursday night for a day of meetings with senior Japanese officials.

Both South Korea and Japan have security alliances with the US guaranteed by treaty, but have been thrown off-balance by Trump's quick moves on negotiations with Kim. Most striking of all, at a press conference after the two men's summit in Singapore earlier this month, Trump announced he would suspend joint military exercises with the South—with Seoul indicating that it was not informed beforehand. US and South Korean forces have trained together for decades, and always characterized the drills as defensive in nature, while Pyongyang condemned them as rehearsals for invasion and often responded with provocations of its own. Trump lamented the exercises' cost and adopted the North's description to call them "provocative", adding that at some point, "I want to bring our soldiers back home." —AFP

New York City bids farewell to Junior

NEW YORK: It was the brutal murder that horrified New York. A 15-year-old teenager hacked to death by machete after being dragged out of a shop by presumed gang members in a case of mistaken identity. Leandro Guzman-Feliz dreamt of becoming a police officer when he grew up. But while his school friends embarked on their summer vacation, he lay dead in a casket, his grief-stricken family holding his funeral on Wednesday. The June 20 attack, captured on video, sparked outrage about the scourge of gang violence in the Bronx, unfair stereotyping of young Hispanic men, distrust in police and why seemingly no one helped him.

It devastated his parents and those who knew him, rocked the community to the core and prompted celebrities such as superstar Rihanna and rapper Cardi B to join the calls of justice for the boy widely known as Junior. He was stabbed in the neck a minute from his apartment, before being forced to run-alone to St Barnabas Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Police have cast blame on the Trinitarios, a Dominican gang based in New York, who were purportedly looking for a man who made a sex tape with one of their relatives, mistaking that man for Leandro. "We will leave literally no stone unturned," Chief of Detectives Dermot Shea has promised. "We will not tolerate thugs on the streets of the Bronx."

'Distraught'

The particularly brutal murder of a boy known for his wide smile, friendly manner and politeness provoked an avalanche of tips that led to the arrest and charging of eight men with murder, manslaughter and assault. But a week after Leandro's killing, the bodega where he tried to hide remains shuttered, the sidewalk outside a shrine to Leandro with a sea of candles, balloons, teddy bears and messages mourning the "Bronx angel". There dozens

of local activists and residents still stand, fingers pointed in the air shouting in English and Spanish "Justice for Junior" and "Forever 15." "I need justice for my son. That's my junior, my little baby and that not happen anymore with any other kid," Leandro's mother, Leandra Feliz, told reporters two days before his funeral.

"My heart is broken," said his father Leandro Guzman, who has tattooed a picture of his son's face onto the back of his hand as a permanent memorial. Hundreds of mourners packed into Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church for his funeral, including officials, police and youth from the department's Explorer program, to which Leandro belonged hoping to one day become a full-time cop. "Everyone's distraught," Manny Oquendo, Leandro's music teacher, told AFP. He blamed the murder on "senseless violence, people not understanding how to go about things, anger and mistaken identity." "I'm sure they were afraid of the repercussion, but they should have done something," Oquendo told AFP of the people in the bodega.

'Shame in America'

"I think there's an awareness now that I hope builds up," said Oquendo. "But I don't see any lasting or any permanent change coming out of this." At his funeral, a priest decried the "evil" behind his death and urged people to "say no to violence which is just a fake substitute for purpose and meaning."

Outside, hundreds broke into chants of "Justice for Junior" as pallbearers dressed in Yankees jerseys brought out his coffin. Dozens of mourners wore white T-shirts embossed with pictures of Leandro. "It was horrific," says father of seven and restaurant manager Joe, 36, declining to give his second name. "Everyone just stayed there and watched him get dragged out," he added. "From a parent to a parent I can't even imagine what the family's going through." A Go Fund Me page has raised more than \$287,000. The charter school where Leandro was a student, said it was "heartbroken" by the loss of a "kind, sweet, respectful young man, always smiling, who had so much potential." "It's an abuse, what they did to this kid," school worker Blanca Maldonado, 54, told AFP as the coffin was placed in the hearse. — AFP

International

Mexicans hope for 'historic' change in Lopez Obrador's hometown

TEPETITAN: In the village of Tepetitán, in southern Mexico, people still remember Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the outgoing boy who liked to play baseball and swim in the river—and who could become the country's next president Sunday. Now 64 years old, the leftist candidate has a more than 20-point lead in the polls heading into Mexico's election, and is promising to bring a "radical transformation" to a country governed by the same two parties for almost a century.

Back in Tepetitán, the village of 1,400 people that he left more than 50 years ago, residents of a certain age still remember him, and speak of him in almost mythical tones. "It would be a big source of pride to be able to say that a humble village boy who was born here became president of our country through sheer tenacity and struggle," says Herminio Camara, 61, a childhood friend.

Camara fondly recalls playing marbles with Lopez Obrador, who used to challenge him to swimming races in the Tulija river. He was with "AMLO" in his early days in politics, too, joining him in the 1990s for a march from their native Tabasco state to Mexico City—some 900 kilometers (550 miles) away—to protest alleged fraud in local elections.

Camara is thrilled his old friend, who went on to be Mexico City mayor, has become the man to beat in his third presidential bid, after twice finishing as runner-up. But "we know he doesn't have a magic wand" to end poverty, corruption and violent crime, says Camara, a retired worker for state oil company Pemex.

Poverty, unemployment

Maria Cruz Dominguez, a 59-year-old doctor, lives on the street where Lopez Obrador's parents and grandparents lived. She is proud the "very healthy" local boy appears poised to become the first-ever president from Mexico's southwest, a tropical region where jobs are scarce and poverty is rife. She shows off her collection of newspaper clippings on the politician—some 500 pages covering his entire career.

People in Tabasco have pinned their hopes on Lopez Obrador and his coalition, led by the party he launched six years ago, Morena. A recent poll by the newspaper *El Financiero* found that the coalition's candidates for governor and Congress have more than 60 percent of the vote here. "We're the worst state in terms of employment," says Roberto Villalpando, who is running for mayor of Macuspana, the municipality where Tepetitán is located. Eighty percent of the jobs that do exist in the area are with Pemex. One of Lopez Obrador's key campaign pledges is to reconsider the landmark energy reform implemented by outgoing President Enrique Peña Nieto, which privatized the oil sector and subjected Pemex to fierce competition from private companies. "Andres Manuel is actually thinking about how to reactivate Pemex. And that is going to do a lot of good in Macuspana, bring a lot of jobs," says Villalpando.

'La Chingada' ranch

Lopez Obrador is so popular here that street vendors in the state capital, Villahermosa, have rolled out myriad products bearing his name and image. They include devotional candles of the



TEPETITAN: Children play football on a field where Mexican presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador played baseball in his childhood, in his hometown of Tepetitán. — AFP

kind Mexicans usually use to pray to saints. "He's not a saint," says vendor Gloria Ruiz, 47. "They're to give him positive energy, mystical help."

Dangerous ground, perhaps, for a candidate whose critics deride him as a would-be "tropical messiah." But in this region there are few Lopez Obrador critics to be found. Other fans have made a Lopez Obrador wine, whose label carries a not-so-subtle political message: "AMLO: 2018-2024"—the years he would govern if he wins. At this point, it would be a surprise if he did not. But should he lose the race, Lopez

Obrador has vowed to "go to Hell"—a rough translation of the name of his ranch in neighboring Chiapas state, "La Chingada."

Located in Palenque, the ranch sits behind a modest black door just off the main road. "There's nothing ostentatious about the house. Very simple furniture. If he becomes president maybe he should try to fix it up a bit," says Luz Rodriguez, 73, who has been Lopez Obrador's neighbor for 25 years. She would love to see him more often, she says. But she is pretty sure he won't be packing his bags for La Chingada anytime soon. — AFP

Australia: Immigration blueprint or stained reputational blot?

SYDNEY: As populists in the United States and Europe embrace increasingly hardline immigration policies, Australia is touting its own uncompromising stance, a controversial yet effective campaign that has largely stopped boatpeople reaching its shores. Canberra has courted both praise and outrage in the last five years after its conservative government adopted tough tactics to halt the flood of arrivals.

Faced with boatloads of desperate people from war-torn Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and the Middle East setting sail from Indonesia and arriving almost daily on its northern shores—with some 1,200 drowned at sea — the government opted for zero tolerance. Vessels filled with asylum-seekers were turned back, strict secrecy blanketed operations on the high seas, and those who made it to Australia were promptly shipped off to remote camps in Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

The policy worked with boat arrivals plummeting—even if it did provoke a visceral division among the Australian public and hurt the country's reputation internationally. Rights groups, including the UN, castigated the wealthy nation for turning its back on vulnerable people as reports of abuse, suicide and despondency filtered out of the Pacific processing camps.

But in Europe and the United States, a new generation of right-wing populists took note, seeing Australia as a blueprint they might one day follow. British insurgent nationalist Nigel

Farage, France's far-right leader Marine Le Pen and Italy's recently elected hardline interior minister Matteo Salvini all touted Australia's refugee crackdown as worthy of emulation.

'Worse than I am'

Shortly after his inauguration, US President Donald Trump shared a notoriously tetchy phone call with his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull. But on immigration the two leaders found common cause. "That is a good idea. We should do that too. You are worse than I am," Trump reportedly told Turnbull on Australia's pushback against the boats. "We are like a dumping ground for the rest of the world," Trump added in a leaked transcript of the conversation published by the Washington Post.

Analysts caution that while Australia's policy has cut illegal arrivals, it is not easily replicated. Unlike most countries, Australia is a vast island nation surrounded by treacherous waters and boasts an often inhospitable interior. "There is a very big difference—Europe and the United States have land borders and it is much harder to prevent people coming," Stephen Castles, an international migration expert at Sydney University, told AFP.

"No doubt Australia is held up as an example by the United States and some European leaders. But Australia effectively is violating its human rights obligations as a signatory to UN conventions (to resettle refugees)," he added. "It's not a model that should necessarily be followed."

'Undone overnight'

In return for its hardline stance, Australia has had to face down international condemnation. The United Nations has blasted its "punitive approach" towards migrants who arrive by boat as "eroding their human rights". One camp in Papua New Guinea is now closed after being declared unconstitutional by a court in the Pacific nation with some 600 de-

tainees sent to three transition centers. Currently, there are 255 people still held on Nauru, mostly families including 22 children, according to the most recent data. But many have been resettled elsewhere—ironically in the US under a deal struck with the former Obama administration—and the issue is now off the front pages. The Australian government has long argued that its zero tolerance to boatpeople allows it to be more compassionate towards those who arrive seeking asylum through legitimate channels.

Last week Turnbull emphasized that while Australia has secured its borders, it also maintains generous refugee and humanitarian programs. "The reason we can do that is because we decide, the Australian government decides, representing the Australian people, who comes to Australia; not people-smugglers," he said. But Australia's generosity is disputed.

The Refugee Council of Australia says Canberra does not do enough and only assisted 0.65 percent of those who were successfully resettled globally last year. Other countries like Canada, Norway and Sweden have statistically more generous resettlement and refugee programs. Nonetheless, there is little appetite among Australia's conservatives for change. Immigration Minister Peter Dutton made clear last weekend there would be no let up, with people-smugglers still active in Indonesia and an estimated 14,000 people waiting there for a boat.

"It's essential that people realise that the hard-won success of the last few years could be undone overnight by a single act of compassion in bringing 20 people from Manus (in PNG) to Australia," he warned in an interview with *The Australian*. "The boats are there, we are scuttling boats, we are returning people and we are turning around boats where it is safe to do so. The boats haven't gone away and if there is a success defined by an arrival of a boat in Australia then the word will spread like wildfire." — AFP

International

Five dead as plane plunges into Mumbai building site

Their bodies were completely charred due to the fire

MUMBAI: A small plane crashed into a construction site in a densely populated part of India's financial capital Mumbai yesterday, killing five people including one on the ground, officials said. Images broadcast on Indian news channels showed flames and black smoke billowing from the area, which sits right next to several high-rise residential towers. There were four people on the 12-seater aircraft, disaster management officials said, with witnesses reporting hearing a loud blast as it smashed into a half-built structure.

"There was a huge explosion and the adjacent tree caught fire and the fire spilled on the streets," a man was quoted as saying on the NDTV news channel. "Initially we assumed an electric box in the under-construction building must have caught fire but when we checked out the spot, we found the charred body of a man who apparently was on bike when the plane crashed," he added. A woman, who was also not named, reported hearing three loud explosions and described seeing a "major fire". Video footage posted online showed bright orange flames licking the side of a building next to a construction site.

Other images shot after the fire was put out showed firemen sifting through the twisted wreckage of the twin-prop plane as crowds looked on. The white tailfin seemed to be the only recognizable part of the aircraft not consumed in the blaze. India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the plane was a

turbo-prop King Air C-90 and had been on a test flight from the nearby Juhu airstrip. "There were two pilots and two aircraft maintenance engineers on board. All on board (the) aircraft along with one person on ground are dead," the DGCA statement read.

'Completely charred'

A medical officer at Rajawadi hospital, where the victims were taken, said the dead included three men and two women. "Their bodies were completely charred due to the fire," she told AFP, adding that two injured had also been admitted and were in a stable condition. It was not raining at the time of the accident and weather did not appear to have been a factor in the crash. DGCA said it was sending a team to investigate the cause, adding that the aircraft was owned by a private operator who had purchased it from the Uttar Pradesh state government.

P Rahangdale, Mumbai's chief fire officer, said several fire engines had rushed to the spot. India's National Disaster Response Force said it was also sending a team to make sure no there were no injured trapped under any rubble at the crash site. Former Indian Aviation Minister Praful Patel tweeted his condolences and praised the pilot for the guiding the plane into an open area. "Salute to the pilot who showed presence of mind to avoid a big mishap, saving many lives at the cost of her own life," he wrote.

There have been several crashes involving



MUMBAI: Indian rescue workers and firemen gather around the wreckage of a small plane that crashed into a construction site killing five people. —AFP

small planes in India in recent years. In 2015 a light aircraft belonging to India's paramilitary border force crashed after taking off from New Delhi airport, killing 10 people on board. Ten people were killed in 2011 after an air ambulance crashed into a residential area in Faridabad, near the capital. Seven people on board

and three on the ground were killed. The last deadly air crash involving a commercial plane happened in 2010 when an Air India Boeing 737-800 over shot the runway while landing at Mangalore airport in southern India. At least 158 passengers were killed and nearly a dozen others survived the crash. —AFP

Top Bangladeshi extremist killed

DHAKA: Bangladeshi police said that a top Islamist extremist in police custody was killed yesterday, the latest in a string of what activists suspect are extra-judicial killings. Abdur Rahman was a regional military chief of a group blamed for a 2016 attack on a Dhaka cafe that killed 22 hostages including 18 foreigners, police said. Held since July 24 over the murder of a secular publisher, Rahman died on yesterday morning in an ambush by extremists as he accompanied officers on a search operation in the central town of Sirajdikhan, they said. "He was shot dead during a gunfight with the extremists," district police chief Zaidul Alam said. Two policemen were also injured, police said.

Over the past two years, security forces have shot dead more than 80 alleged militants. Hundreds of suspected Islamists have also been arrested and scores sentenced to death. The murder on June 11 of Shahzahan Bachchu, 60, a publisher and a former Communist Party official, reawakened worries over a renewal of extremist attacks in the

Muslim-majority country. Police said Rahman had admitted that his group was behind the murder. Police were initially slow to finger Islamists as it was the first such killing in more than two years, but counter-terrorism officers later told local media that they thought extremists were indeed to blame. Rahman was the "Dhaka regional military wing chief" of Jamayetul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), Alam said.

JMB, founded by Bangladeshi jihadists who took part in the Afghan civil war in the 1990s, regrouped after the execution of its founder and top leadership in 2007, attacking the Holey Artisan Bakery in July 2016. The subsequent crackdown has raised concerns among activists and rights groups. "We have said from the very beginning there are questions about these crossfire or gun battle deaths," Nur Khan Liton, a prominent activist and formerly the head of rights group Ain o Salish Kendra said. "There are reasons to believe that these suspected extremists were in fact victims of extra-judicial killings," he said. "Had he been alive, police would have the opportunities to get key information about his network and the murder of the publisher." —AFP

Pakistan takes radical Sunni off terrorist watchlist

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has removed the leader of one of the country's largest Islamist extremist groups from its terrorist watchlist while the Election Commission considers whether his group can field candidates in a general election next month, an official said yesterday. Muhammad Ahmed Ludhianvi is head of Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ), a radical Sunni group that has incited violence against Pakistan's minority Shiite Muslims. ASWJ shares roots with the more violent Lashkar-e-Jhangvi militant group based in central Punjab province, which had strong ties to Al Qaeda and has waged a deadly campaign against Shiites for more than two decades.

Who authorized the removal of Ludhianvi from the terrorist list is unclear, as a caretaker government is running Pakistan during the two months of campaigning ahead of the July 25 general election. The ASWJ has registered dozens of candidates to stand in poll, using another name for their party, but their candidacy has been challenged because of the group's inclusion on the terrorist watchlist. An order from the National Counter Terrorism Authority dated June 14 that was obtained by Reuters specifies that Ludhianvi be taken off the "schedule four" list of people with links to terrorism and his bank accounts unfrozen.

However, a senior official with NACTA said the body was acting on recommendations from the Punjab

government. "We got a recommendation from Punjab government that Ludhianvi was no more on fourth schedule and wasn't required on watchlist, and we just removed him," a NACTA official said. But, Hasan Askari Rizvi, the caretaker chief minister of Punjab province, indicated that the decision came from the federal government.

"Punjab Government is implementing decisions of Election Commission and the federal government in this regard," Rizvi told Reuters. He said Ludhianvi's assets would be unfrozen and he would be free to travel. "The election commission will decide today in a meeting whether his group can contest the election."

Going mainstream

The election pits the former ruling party of ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif - who was disqualified from office last year by the Supreme Court - against opposition figure Imran Khan's party as well as the Pakistan People's Party led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardar, the son of assassinated leader Benazir Bhutto. Islamist parties have seldom had a major impact at elections, though they have created a high profile and possess a solid vote bank and have at times, according to analysts, enjoyed covert support from Pakistan's intelligence agencies.

Ludhianvi has made forays into politics before. The Sunni cleric is best known for fomenting hatred against the country's minority Shiites, but he has recently shown signs of seeking to rehabilitate his group's image. Earlier this year, he was one of more than 1,800 Pakistani Muslim clerics who signed an Islamic directive, or fatwa, forbidding suicide bombings, in a book unveiled by the government. —Reuters

International

Nigerian villagers bury their dead after attacks, then flee

BARAKIN LADI: In the fields of Nghar, 79 people lie under a vast mound of earth—victims of a wider massacre that killed more than 200 in villages across Plateau state, central Nigeria. Thorny branches covering the freshly turned earth ward off scavengers from the final resting place. Last weekend, Nghar was one about a dozen villages in Plateau that was attacked by hordes of assailants armed with automatic weapons and machetes.

Locals say the death toll announced by the state governor could even be an underestimate. Hundreds of men dressed in black, some of them with their faces covered, surrounded the villages and began shooting from nearby hills, the villagers said in accounts confirmed by police. It unleashed hell on a countryside of breathtaking beauty, a place where domes of rock rise out of lush agricultural land and cattle roam peacefully.

Mafwak Mature, 68, burst into tears in front of the mass grave where his neighbors are buried. “Those who attacked us burnt everything,” he said. “My house has been razed, they looted all the valuable items, the motorbikes, the fertilizers I used for my farm, even the television. “All I have left are the clothes I am wearing now,” he added, pointing to his worn grey suit.

Burnt alive

When the first shots rang out around the remote village on Saturday at about 3:00 pm, many people in Nghar instinctively shut themselves away and prayed to God to save them. Thirteen people from the same family were trapped and burnt alive when the gunmen set

their house on fire. Their blackened bodies were taken away the next day on what was left of the corrugated roofs. Those who tried to flee were brutally cut down.

In Nghar and other villages, residents blame nomadic ethnic Fulani Muslim herders of carrying out the attacks against “indigenous” mainly Christian farming communities. The attacks were the latest in a seemingly endless cycle of tit-for-tat violence that has gained in intensity in central Nigeria in recent months.

Access to land and water is the main driver of the long-running conflict. But it has taken a dangerous turn and become part of Nigeria’s divisive identity politics in a country where population growth is putting scarce resources under pressure. Plateau has historically been a hotbed of violence between Christians and Muslims, which make up roughly half of Nigeria’s more than 180 million people. But unlike in other central states such as Benue or Taraba, which have also seen bloody communal clashes since January, there has been a fragile peace in recent years.

Reconciliation efforts have been brokered by the authorities and non-governmental organizations. With a resurgence in tensions, some settled Fulani who have lived and traded alongside the local ethnic Berom majority for generations, fear being lumped in with the troublemakers. “Those who came here are foreigners, we don’t know anything about them,” said the head of the Fulani community in Nghar, Chiroma Yacu. “I was born here and my father died here. We have been living in peace together for a long time.”

It is a priority. It’s something that needed to happen. It’s important,” she said.

No new dates have been announced. The meeting was originally planned for April but had to be put off because Trump fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson the previous month and Pompeo went through confirmation hearings before the US Congress. Among the issues on the agenda for next week’s talks were arms sales including the transfer of Sea Guardian surveillance drones to the Indian navy, the first such sale of unmanned aircraft.

‘Major priority’

Haley said the ministers would discuss how Washington can continue to support India “as a provider of regional security, particularly in and around the Indian Ocean.” “These discussions will undoubtedly involve issues like joint exercises and military hardware and technology. But the strategic partnership we hope to build is bigger and more durable than that,” Haley told the India Observer Research Foundation think-tank in New Delhi.

Indian officials also planned to discuss the issue of sweeping US sanctions on Russia under which any country engaged with its defense and intelligence sectors could face secondary US sanctions. The US move has threatened a proposed \$6 billion air defense missile deal that India is negotiating with Russia to help it counter the ballistic missiles and stealth aircraft that China is developing.—Reuters



A man stands by his possessions as Christian villagers evacuate the Gamaropp village in the Barikin Ladi area near Jos. —AFP

On the move

Now there is suspicion. By gutted homes and still-smoldering burnt-out cars, Christians point bitterly at Muslim areas which were mostly spared from the wave of violence. In the village of Gamaropp, where 35 people were killed on Saturday, “people who fled to the mosque were lucky”, said Pam Nuhu. “We were eating our evening meal when the shootings started around 5:30,” the 54-year-old father of seven children recalled calmly.

“I asked my family to run for their life and to go to the church. My first son was shot dead in the forehead. He was 19 years old and had just

finished secondary school.” Nuhu and others like him who lost everything are now on the move. Mattresses, televisions, plastic bowls and sacks of rice are loaded onto the roofs of old cars or rented goods lorry.

One after the other, in deathly silence, heavily armed soldiers and police escort families as they drive to more secure nearby towns. “I’m leaving to Mangu because I’m afraid, I’m really afraid,” said Paulina Auta, as she carried huge bags from her house to a grey people-carrier. “I don’t know what I can do now, I have to start again from scratch, but if I live in this town they will come and do it again.” —AFP

US says India talks a ‘priority’

NEW DELHI: US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said yesterday that a top-level strategic dialogue with India will take place as soon as possible, after Washington put off the meeting for a second time in months. The talks were expected to cover issues including US sanctions against Russia and Iran, arms sales and trade.

India and the United States have built close political and defense ties and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis were due to hold joint talks with their Indian counterparts in Washington on July 6. But Pompeo called Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj on Wednesday night to say that the United States had to postpone the meeting because of unavoidable reasons, the Indian foreign ministry said.

The so-called two-plus-two talks are the highest level of dialogue between the United States and India and were agreed by U.S. President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year. Haley, who is on a visit to New Delhi, told Reuters that the talks were a priority and would happen soon. “It’s not just that it’s going to happen, they are now willing to come here if they need to, or travel to make sure the two plus two happens.

Indian court orders compensation for trafficking victims

MUMBAI: An Indian court has ordered the government to pay compensation to a child trafficking survivor even though her case has yet to be tried, a ruling aid workers said could help hundreds of other victims get the money they need to move on with their lives. The Calcutta High Court said it would be “gross inhumanity” to delay compensation further in a country where cases can take years to come to trial, as it ordered state authorities to pay up within 10 days.

“Denial of compensation to such (a) victim would continue such violation and perpetrate gross inhumanity on the victim in question,” said the court in its ruling on Monday. The victim was just 14 when she was sold to a brothel in the western Indian city of Pune, about 1,200 miles from her home in West Bengal state, in 2013. She applied under a government scheme for 500,000 Indian rupees (about \$7,000) in compensation for the physical

injuries and mental agony she suffered, but was turned down because the trial of her case had not begun.

Earlier appeals to local judicial bodies were also turned down for the same reason. Campaigners said the high court’s ruling would help win compensation for more rescued victims. “We rescue 200 to 250 trafficked girls every year who are from West Bengal. We will now file applications for all the rescued victims,” Ravi Kant, founder of anti-trafficking charity Shakti Vahini, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“In the absence of any state-sponsored rehabilitation, which is the right of the victim, this compensation can help them move ahead in life.” Most of the more than 8,000 human trafficking cases recorded in India in 2016 involved victims from West Bengal, according to India’s National Crime Records Bureau. Girls are lured with the promise of jobs in the city only to be sold into domestic servitude or sexual slavery. “The judgment is significant as the trial has not begun,” said lawyer Kaushik Gupta, who represented the survivor. “The police have arrested two people, but are still looking out for two more people, including the main trafficker.” —Reuters

Underwater rescue halted for children trapped in a Thai cave

Drones were dispatched to find other openings

MAE SAI: The underwater search for 12 children and their football coach trapped in a flooded cave in Thailand was halted as water levels rose amid relentless rainfall yesterday. But search teams, including three British diving experts and US military personnel, continued work above ground despite the setback, scouring the area for entry points to the cave where the team has been stuck since Saturday.

Officials prepared a massive industrial drill to create a new tunnel into the cave close to where the boys are believed to be trapped while drones were dispatched to find other openings. Heavy rains overnight flooded a second chamber of the 10 kilometer- (six mile-) long Tham Luang cave that is notoriously difficult to navigate, even among the most skilled divers.

"Under the current situation it's not possible to dive into the cave, they have to wait until the water recedes," Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda told reporters yesterday. "We are preparing to continue pumping the water out so the team can enter the cave," he added.

A team of American military personnel from the US Pacific Command, including pararescue and survival specialists, arrived at the site overnight to help rescue operations, according to embassy spokeswoman Jillian Bonnardeaux. "Operators are trained in personnel recovery tactics and techniques and procedures," she

said. "Essentially what they are looking at is assessing with the Thai authorities the potential courses of action and complementing the efforts underway."

British experts

Three British cave divers arrived at the site late Wednesday and tried to go into the cave but had to turn back because of heavy flooding. They surveyed the site yesterday as officials said three other chimneys discovered earlier this week were shallower than hoped and did not lead to the cave's interior. The young footballers, aged between 11 and 16, went into the cave with their 25-year-old coach and were trapped when heavy rains clogged the main entrance.

Around 1,000 Thai Navy SEAL divers, police, soldiers, border guards and officials have been mobilised for the around-the-clock rescue in a remote and mountainous part of Chiang Rai province near the Laos and Myanmar borders. Tham Luang is one of the longest caves in Thailand and frequently floods during Thailand's monsoon season between July and November, rendering some of its narrow passages difficult to pass through.

There are several air pockets within the complex and the kids are believed to be in a large chamber in the middle of the cave. But fast-running and murky flood waters have prevented



A Thai military officer (2nd-R) briefs US military personnel at a command outpost in Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park near Than Luang cave in Chiang Rai province. — AFP

rescue divers from reaching them and heavy rains continued to seep into the cave through narrow openings on the sides and through the main entrance. "The water is like cafe latte, you can't see anything, and there's a very strong flow which doesn't make it easy," Ben Reymenants, owner of Blue Label Diving in Thailand, told AFP from Chiang Rai where he was assisting with the search. As water pumps were set up in a scram-

ble to drain the tunnels, experts assessed the scene for a possible location to drill a hole without collapsing the cave's walls-but said it would be a tricky task. "It's difficult to drill vertically, if you go up the mountain and drill down there are high risks so we might drill from the side to improve our chances of success," Suttisak Sorralump, a geotechnical expert from Kasetsart University, told AFP. —AFP

Jong Nam murder not a prank: Prosecutors

SHAH ALAM: The assassination of the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader was not a prank, Malaysian state prosecutors said yesterday, insisting it was a "carefully planned and executed" murder using a UN-banned poison. Prosecutors dismissed the defense case that the two women defendants were recruited to take part in what they thought were prank TV shows but were instead tricked into becoming inadvertent assassins, in an elaborate plot by a group of North Korean agents.

Indonesian Siti Aisyah and Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong are accused of killing Kim Jong Nam by smearing the toxic nerve agent VX on his face at Kuala Lumpur airport last year in a Cold War-style hit that shocked the world. VX is so deadly that it is classified as a weapon of mass destruction by the United Nations. Kim died within minutes.

"It is an assassination, where the murder was carefully planned and executed," pros-

ecutors said in a written submission, adding that the women had been "trained" to ensure success. They said the women "used criminal force" to attack Kim. "The element of aggressiveness was present and this alone should have negated the existence of a prank," they said.

They noted pranks involve the "element of humor" but the video evidence showed the accused were not laughing during and after the attack. Prosecutors added "it was not a prank and they knew what they were doing". The women, in their 20s, deny murdering Kim. They face death by hanging if found guilty. The trial, which began last year, resumed Wednesday after a break since early April, with lawyers from both sides making their final submissions.

'Denied fair trial'

Aisyah's lawyer Gooi Soon Seng in his submission told the Shah Alam High Court, outside Kuala Lumpur, that the investigation into the assassination "was not only shoddy but was lopsided". He added that the charge was "vague" and the prosecution "has failed to make out a prima facie case against" his client.

Gooi also said it was unusual that Aisyah did not suffer any symptoms from contact with VX. Doan's lawyer Hisyam Teh Pok Teik in his separate submission said his client did not intend to cause the death of Kim and did not know that the liquid she applied to his face was dangerous. —AFP

Islamists fail to sway Indonesian elections

JAKARTA: A resounding win by an Indonesian mayor targeted by some hardline Muslims over the construction of a church highlighted a broader failure by Islamists to influence regional and local elections in the world's biggest Muslim-majority country. Rahmat Effendi, the mayor of Bekasi, a city of 2.7 million on the fringes of the capital Jakarta, is on course to be re-elected after winning about 68 per cent of the vote in Wednesday's elections based on unofficial quick counts.

Effendi, a Muslim, faced sustained criticism from hardliners for approving the building of the Santa Clara church in the staunchly Muslim city after 17 years of rebuffs by local authorities. Tensions boiled over last year when riot police used tear gas to subdue protesters attacking the site where the church was being built. The mayor was also lambasted by prominent clerics and pilloried in social media posts falsely claiming he planned to allow hundreds more churches.

His victory, and exit polling of voters, showed that the religious and ethnic divisions that characterised last year's race for Jakarta governor were largely absent in elections for 171 city mayors, regents and provincial governors, said pollster Djayadi Hanan. "There was an effort to use identity politics, especially Islamism, as an issue

in this election. It didn't work," said Djayadi, executive director of Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting (SMRC).

Earlier this year, senior government officials warned of a "black campaign" to stoke sectarianism in Indonesia's most populous province, West Java, amid a spate of mysterious attacks on clerics, mosques and schools. The incidents were inflamed by a co-ordinated social media campaign depicting Islam as under attack and blaming the moderate President Joko Widodo and his political allies. Ridwan Kamil, a moderate Muslim and US-trained architect perceived as sympathetic to Widodo, said in an interview ahead of the polls that rivals had accused him of not being "Islamic enough". He still prevailed in the contest for West Java governor according to quick counts, albeit by a slender margin.

Policy trumps religion

A common denominator of the unrest in Bekasi and West Java was the involvement of the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI), the Islamist group that spearheaded the ouster of former Jakarta governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama last year.

Known as 212, the movement led by the FPI mobilised hundreds of thousands on to the streets of Indonesia's capital amid accusations the ethnic Chinese, Christian Purnama had insulted Islam. Purnama, previously hugely popular, was defeated and later jailed. FPI members participated in the riots in Bekasi, according to media reports. Reuters revealed in March that FPI cadres concocted a viral video falsely accusing a vagrant of attacking an Islamic boarding school in West Java. —Reuters

Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2018

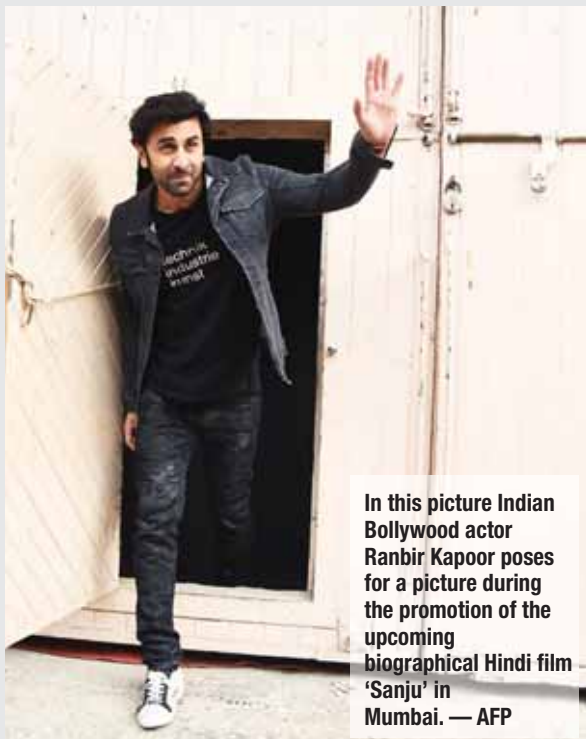
www.kuwaittimes.net

A gallery assistant poses next to an artwork entitled 'P.Y.T.' by British artist Appau Jnr Boakye-Yiadom, on display during a photocall to promote the exhibition: 'Michael Jackson: On The Wall' at the National Portrait Gallery in central London.—AFP

Michael Jackson's artistic legacy explored in London show

See Page 22

BIOPIC SPOTLIGHTS TROUBLED LIFE OF BOLLYWOOD'S 'DEADLY DUTT'



In this picture Indian Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor poses for a picture during the promotion of the upcoming biographical Hindi film 'Sanju' in Mumbai. — AFP

Indian biopic out this week charts the troubled life of Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt, including his battles with drug addiction and jail time for keeping illegal weapons. The Hindi-language actor, nicknamed "Deadly Dutt", served over four years in prison for possessing guns supplied by gangsters behind a series of bombings in Mumbai in 1993, India's deadliest to date.

"Sanju", which hits screens on Friday, covers the period from just before Dutt's Bollywood debut with "Rocky"—nothing to do with the 1976 Sylvester Stallone classic of the same name—in 1981 to his release from jail in 2016. Director Rajkumar Hirani and co-writer Abhijat Joshi interviewed Dutt, played by Ranbir Kapoor, extensively to try to understand the motivation behind some of his actions. "I was interested in exploring why he did it," Hirani told AFP, insisting that the film is not a hagiographical account of the 58-year-old's life. "The story is told as seen from our point of view. Let people decide who he was," he added.

Dutt shot to fame in the mid-1980s in a string of action movies in which he performed his own stunts, earning him the nickname "Deadly Dutt". But the star was also struggling with substance abuse, including heroin and cocaine, that is said to have been sparked by the pain of losing his mother, Indian screen icon Nargis Dutt, to cancer. Dutt took some time out before returning with a string of hits in the late 80s, including "Jeete Hain Shaan Se" and "Kanoon Apna Apna". His success at the box office continued into the early 1990s with "Saajan" and "Khal Nayak".

Bombay bomb blasts

But his life took a dramatic turn when he was arrested following the orchestrated bombings in Mumbai, then called Bombay, in March 1993 that killed 257 people. Dutt was eventually convicted in 2006 of holding guns supplied by mafia bosses who carried out the blasts. The attacks were believed to have been staged by Muslim underworld figures in retaliation for religious riots in which mainly Muslims died, following the razing of an ancient mosque in north India.

Dutt insisted the two guns were only meant to protect his family in the tense atmosphere in Mumbai following the mosque's destruction. He was originally given a six-year term and spent 18 months in prison before being released on bail in 2007, pending an appeal. In March 2013, the Supreme Court upheld his conviction but cut his prison term to five years, sending Dutt back to jail to serve the remaining three-and-a-half years of his sentence. Dutt was freed eight months early in February 2016. His last film appearance came in action thriller "Bhoomi", which released in September 2017. — AFP

'SICARIO 2' STAR JOSH BROLIN ON 'CALLOUS' US BORDER SEPARATIONS

Relevance is often nothing more than good timing and movies are lucky if they can capture the public imagination, spotlighting urgent stories just as they are leading global news bulletins. "Sicario: Day of the Soldado," with its gut-punching focus on the immiseration of refugees trying to cross into the US from Mexico, often unaccompanied children, is one such film. The sequel to Denis Villeneuve's "Sicario" (2015) comes out in the



Actor Josh Brolin attends the premiere of Columbia Pictures' "Sicario: Day Of The Soldado" at Regency Village Theatre.

US on Friday, with the White House struggling to contain a border crisis that has seen more than 2,000 migrant children detained separately from their parents, often long distances away and in cages.

Its star Josh Brolin told AFP he'd found it a "visceral experience" to watch the unfolding crisis, caused by a policy enacted by President Donald Trump that has shocked and angered the majority of Americans polled on the issue. "You look at it and you see the citizens come out and start to say, 'Wait a second. Where is the empathy here? Where is the fact that we're talking about people, about kids screaming in terror?,'" he said. Brolin, 50, is not against "zero tolerance"—and even ventures that "right now it feels like Trump has done something good"—but making children suffer, he believes, is beyond the pale. "What are you going to do with the 2,000 kids that are separated? Just the whole thing seems so fucking callous to me," he says. Directed by Stefano Sollima, "Sicario: Day of the Soldado" opens with the US government beginning to suspect that cartels have started trafficking jihadists across the US border.

Baby joy

Brolin reprises CIA agent Matt Graver, enlisting the mysterious Alejandro (Benicio Del Toro) to escalate the war by kidnapping a cartel kingpin's daughter (Isabella Moner). An intense action thriller like its predecessor, the sequel ventures deep into the merciless border world of drug dealing, human trafficking and American foreign policy. The issue of child separations is all the more emotive for Brolin since he will soon be welcoming a daughter of his own with his third wife, the 30-year-old actress



Actor Benicio del Toro, Isabella Moner, Josh Brolin and director Stefano Sollima attend the premiere of Columbia Pictures' "Sicario: Day Of The Soldado" at Regency Village Theatre on June 26, 2018 in Westwood, California. — AFP photos

Kathryn Boyd, in the fall. It has been a long time since he had to change a nappy—his son and daughter with first wife Alice Adair are 30 and 25 respectively—but he says he's raring to go. "I love children, I love being around children. So the idea of this is just wonderful," he says. Born on February 12, 1968, in Santa Monica, California, Brolin is the son of actor James Brolin, who has been married for 20 years to Barbra Streisand. The younger Brolin showed little interest in his father's profession and his youth as a Hollywood brat in Santa Barbara—with episodes of stealing cars and heroin use—has been well rehearsed over the years. The acting bug eventually hit and success came early as Brolin scored the role of Brand, the older brother, in cult classic "The Goonies" (1985) when he was just 16.

'Summer of Brolin'

Brolin struggled financially for years in small roles but joined the A-list with the Coen brothers' surprise hit "No Country for Old Men" (2007), and earned an Oscar nomination for Gus van Sant's "Milk" (2008). He has proved his consistency and versatility in a string well-received movies, working with greats like Guillermo del Toro, Ridley Scott and Oliver Stone. By

the early 2010s he was successful enough to be able to turn down a starring part in Alejandro G. Inarritu's "Birdman" in favor of visiting his son in Thailand—a decision he admits causes him the occasional "what if?" pang. In the last eight months he's had leading roles in firefighting drama "Only the Brave" and two of the year's biggest films, superhero juggernauts "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Deadpool 2." This spasm of globe-conquering success has prompted film writers to enthuse about the "Summer of Brolin," although the actor himself is scornful of the hype. "What's next, the Fall of Brolin?" he laughs. "It's going to go up and down, and that's okay, that's to be expected."

Next up for Brolin, alongside the inevitable "Deadpool" and "Avengers" sequels, is "Untitled Josh Brolin Project" a "Curb Your Enthusiasm"-style self-parody comedy show he has created for Hulu. As for another "Sicario," the actor remains steadfastly noncommittal, warming to the idea of teaming up for a third time with Del Toro but not wanting to "do it just to do it." "We'll see, man. I mean that really depends. I go back and forth in my head," he says. "Part of me goes, 'Yeah, that sounds like a great idea,' and part of me goes, 'I don't know.'" — AFP

ROBERTS JOINS INSTAGRAM, MAKES FIRST SOCIAL MEDIA POST



Julia Roberts attends the 2017 amfAR Inspiration Gala Los Angeles in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP

Julia Roberts is getting social. The "Pretty Woman" star has joined Instagram and made her first ever social media post. It's a photo of her sitting in grass wearing denim shorts and a black top that says "love." She captioned the photo, "Hello." The 50-year-old Oscar winner does not have a Twitter or Facebook account. — AP

Saudi woman designs abayas for freer lifestyles

When Saudi Arabia's ban on women driving ended on Sunday, fashion designer Eman Joharjy and her friends drove to Jeddah's seafont where they exchanged their car for bicycles. The colorful, embroidered jumpsuit abayas they donned stood out among the sea of women wearing similar loose-fitting full-length robes but in the traditional black. Yet no one stopped them. Women in this deeply conservative Muslim kingdom are rapidly gaining more freedoms under a reform agenda spearheaded by young Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who wants to transform the economy of the world's top oil exporter and open up its cloistered society. The government recently allowed women to join the security forces and no longer requires them to have a male relative's consent to open a business. And while now

they can drive, they still need permission to get married and travel abroad.

Prince Mohammed laid the ground two years for many social changes, including the return of cinemas and public concerts, two years ago by curbing the powers of the religious police, who used to stop women on the streets and tell them to cover up. These days at sunset, as the Arabian heat eases, women do sports along the promenade. "Women feel encouraged by the government support. They are telling them, 'You can go run and play sports,'" said Joharjy. "But let's change from a sedentary society to a more active one."

In 2007, frustrated by a lack of abayas made for running or cycling, Joharjy designed one for herself. She began making them for friends and selling what she

dubbed the "sporty abaya". Colorful racks display designs for different activities like the driving abaya, which features a hoodie, tight elbows to prevent the sleeves from catching on the steering wheel, and shorter lengths to make switching pedals easier. Most importantly for Joharjy, there is no trace of black.

"They reflect freedom and the willingness to embrace life and make it easy for the modern woman," she said. "Besides, women love color." She is optimistic that Saudi Arabia's strict social rules will ease further. But she still believes that many women will continue to wear the abaya in one form or another. For her, the robe is like the Indian sari, a symbol of cultural heritage rather than religion. "It is protection," she said. "It protects us from the sun and naughty guys." — Reuters

PRO - STYLE KITCHENS FOR THE HOME COOK

Avid home cooks often want to outfit their kitchens with the kind of high-end appliances and gear used by professional chefs. There's that aspirational notion that somehow having the right equipment will lead to better food. So what's in a pro kitchen that works well in a home kitchen? Chicago-based kitchen designer Mick De Giulio is a firm believer in buying high-quality gear. "Appliances sustain a lot of hard use," he says. "They're expensive at any level and people expect them to last." From an aesthetic standpoint, De Giulio says, commercial-looking models impart a sense of strength to the kitchen design. And their ramped-up features can also be attractive. "Pro ranges have higher BTUs on burners, but also finely tuned settings to maintain lower temperatures for simmering," he says.

Big Chill has a 48-inch range equipped with eight powerful burners and a large-capacity oven with a rapid preheat feature. It's available in tasty hues like green, orange, red and yellow. Keeping food warm before serving it is a prime concern in restaurant kitchens. At home, we're inclined to just put a microwave lid on a late-comer's plate. But to retain just-prepared flavor and moistness, consider a warming drawer like the pros use. Wolf has one with several stainless-steel compartments, and the drawer can be set for various temperatures. Use it to warm plates and bowls, too, or to proof bread.

While pro kitchens tend to be gas-powered, not all homes are equipped for that. BlueStar has introduced a suite of electric appliances with professional features: heavy-duty steel construction and fast, powerful heating controls, for example. The oven is roomy, and the fridge and freezer can hold extra-large sheet pans, perfect for hosting large parties. Celebrity chef and James Beard Award winner Wylie Dufresne, who last year opened Du's Donuts in Brooklyn, just re-did his New York City home kitchen.

Intimacy and proximity

"So much about functionality of a kitchen is tied to movement within it," he says, noting that in a home setting, there may be multiple cooks, kids or guests in the space. Isolating

task zones is a good idea. He installed a True Refrigeration ice-making appliance, since those in conventional freezers can contribute unwanted moisture to frozen foods. His fridge is equipped with noise-dampening insulation and a hygienic, odor-resistant stainless interior.

Michelin-starred chef and restaurateur Thomas Keller recently partnered with global design firm Snohetta to renovate his Yountville, California, restaurant, The French Laundry, incorporating elements that he says are just as important in residential kitchens. Think smarter, not bigger, when doing a renovation, he advises. "Size doesn't always yield improved functional-



Photo provided by Orion Creamer of Big Chill shows Big Chill's pro style range, which has 8 professional level burners and a large-capacity oven with a rapid preheat. — AP photos



Photo provided by Sub-Zero and Wolf shows Wolf's steamer module, which cooks proteins, vegetables and grains keeping nutrients and flavors intact.

ity. Our new kitchen is designed around intimacy and proximity - to one another and the tools we need," he says. "Additional steps slow you down. The same lesson rings true for a kitchen layout at home."

Durable surfacing is worth every penny, Keller says: "Zero maintenance can be a benefit to both professional and residential kitchens." He chose Dekton, a brand of solid surfacing material made of resin and natural minerals that resists spills, heat and wear. Corian's another big brand. Quartz, a durable composite of resin and hard stone or glass materials, is also popular; brands include Silestone, Cambria and Caesarstone. No room for snazzy, full-size appliances? Consider Wolf's multi-function



Photo provided by Cosentino shows Dekton counter surface, a brand of solid surfacing material made of resin and natural minerals that's impervious to spills, heat and wear - a boon to families and keen home cooks.

countertop cooker. The versatile appliance lets you slow-cook, saute, sear, sous-vide and make rice via a range of programmable controls. A removable steel vessel also works on any cooktop, including induction.

IKEA's new Kungsfors rail system was developed in consultation with Swedish chef Maximilian Lundin. It includes stainless-steel grids, hooks, open shelves, containers and clips. American Standard's new Beale MeasureFill faucet can be preset to deliver a half cup to up to 5 cups, eliminating the need for measuring cups. But equipment and appliances aside, a well-organized kitchen may be the true mark of a pro-style kitchen. "In terms of tools, don't clutter your drawers with things you don't need," says Keller. "Take stock and eliminate the gadgets or one-purpose tools." The multiple James Beard Award winner ticks off his go-to gear: "A good-quality cutting board, scale, plating spoons, sauce whisk, timer, kitchen shears. Quality paring, utility and serrated bread knives." And one more thing: a good attitude. "Remember, cooking should be fun," Keller says. "It's rewarding, and it gives us the opportunity to nurture others." — AP



Photo provided by Sub-Zero and Wolf shows Wolf's M series convection steam oven, which combines the two methods in one.

MICHAEL JACKSON'S ARTISTIC LEGACY EXPLORED IN LONDON SHOW



A gallery assistant poses next to an artwork entitled 'The King of Pop' by US artist Mark Ryden, on display during a photocall to promote the exhibition: 'Michael Jackson: On The Wall' at the National Portrait Gallery in central London. — AFP photos



A gallery assistant poses next to an artwork entitled 'Michael Jackson' by US artist Andy Warhol.



A gallery assistant poses next to an artwork entitled 'The King of Pop' by US artist Mark Ryden.

Michael Jackson's legacy as a pop-culture and artistic icon is explored in a new exhibition at London's National Portrait Gallery opening yesterday. "Michael Jackson: On the Wall"—a play on the title of classic 1979 album "Off the Wall"—follows the king of pop, who still captivates artists nine years after his death, through his multi-million selling career. The exhibition features paintings, photographs and sculptures from artists such as pop-art pioneer Andy Warhol, German sculptor Isa Genzken and US photographer David LaChapelle.

The man with the best-selling album in history, "Thriller", continues to shape modern culture through his body of work. Each of the exhibition's 14 rooms explores a facet of the singer's life, which ended in June 2009.

In the "American Jesus" room, the visitor is met by four giant LaChapelle pictures, each surrealist, kitsch, colorful and full of religious symbolism. One shows Jackson with angel wings on his back, praying and trampling on a red satan. The exhibition also showcases the star's final commissioned portrait "Equestrian Portrait of King Philippe II" by US artist Kehinde Wiley, in which the singer sits on horseback, while two angels—one white, one black—wrestle above his head.

"We wanted interesting portraits of Michael Jackson," said Nicholas Cullinan, director of the National Portrait Gallery. "It was not about the fame of the artist or their age," he said. Other pieces include evening jackets worn by the singer, his black moccasins, magazine covers dedicated to him and some of the objects that adorned his bedside table. "The exhibition is not a biography of Michael Jackson," said the director. "We are just looking at him through the prism of contemporary art," he said, adding that Jackson meant "different things to all types of people".

The gallery chief believes the world will never again see such a cultural phenomenon. "There will never be another Michael Jackson," he said. "Some say that Beyonce is the new Michael Jackson, but even though she is great and I have a lot of respect for her, it is not comparable: he is unique". The exhibition will run in London until October 21, before heading to Paris, Bonn and Finland. — AFP



A visitor poses for a picture with an artwork entitled 'The only here is where I am' 2016 by British artist Isaac Lythgoe.



US singer Michael Jackson's 'Dinner Jacket' designed by his costumer designer Michael Lee Bush, on display.



A gallery assistant poses next to an artwork entitled 'Green Grey Symmetrical Michael Jackson' by US artist Paul McCarthy.



A gallery assistant poses next to an artwork entitled 'Equestrian Portrait of King Phillip II (Michael Jackson)' by US artist Kehinde Wiley.



A visitor walks past an artwork entitled 'Archangel Michael: And No Message Could Have Been Any Clearer' by US artist David LaChapelle.

In this file photo Michael Jackson's children pose with family and guests during the Michael Jackson Immortalized event in Hollywood, California. —AFP photos



Jackson 5 patriarch Joe Jackson dead at 89

Joe Jackson, the father of Michael Jackson who created the Jackson 5 music family with iron will, died Wednesday, family members said. He was 89. La Toya Jackson, one of his 11 children and also a pop singer, mourned her father and said she was "extremely appreciative" of him. "I will always love you! You gave us strength, you made us one of the most famous families in the world," she wrote on Twitter as she posted a segment on Oprah Winfrey's television network in which she is having lunch with her father.



Grandson Randy Jackson Jr tweeted, "RIP to the king that made everything possible!!! I love you grandpa." Family representatives did not return requests for detail on his death. But entertainment sites TMZ and ET said Jackson died Wednesday morning in Los Angeles after a battle with cancer. Jackson himself hinted at his impending death in a tweet two days ago. "I have seen more sunsets than I have left to see. The sun rises when the time comes and whether you like it or not the sun sets when the time comes," he wrote.

A strict disciplinarian father of 11 children, the steel worker in Gary, Indiana turned into one of music history's most unlikely but most successful managers as he created The Jackson 5 from his family. His most famous child, King of Pop Michael Jackson, would later break down in tears even as an adult when recalling his father beating him with his belt and, while publicly forgiving him, wrote him out of his will. — AP



In this file photo taken on March 8, 2005 singer Michael Jackson (right) gestures as he and his father, Joseph Jackson, depart the Santa Maria Superior Court during the second week of Michael's child molestation trial in Santa Maria, California.

In this file photo taken on March 8, 2005 singer Michael Jackson (left) gestures as he arrives with his father, Joseph Jackson (right), at the Santa Maria Superior Court during the second week of Michael's child molestation trial in Santa Maria, California.



Benicio Del Toro's

seven best reviewed films

With this weekend's 'Sicario: Day of the Soldado, Benicio Del Toro' returns to the role of CIA spook Alejandro Gillick for another round of grim and gritty action south of the border - and adds another entry to a filmography that's gone in any number of exciting directions since he notched his first big-screen credit as Duke, the Dog-Faced Boy in Big Top Pee-wee 30 years ago. There's clearly no time like the present to take a fond look back at some of his Oscar-winning thespian's brightest critical highlights.



1. SICARIO (2015)

Some pretty powerful films have been made about the international drug trade - look no further than *Traffic*, right next door to this entry, for proof - and at this point, if you're going to throw your cinematic hat in the ring, you'd better be prepared to add a singular statement to the genre. Director Denis Villeneuve managed to pull it off with 2015's *Sicario*, starring Emily Blunt as an FBI agent who teams up with a pair of CIA operatives (Josh Brolin and Benicio Del Toro) to bring down a Mexican cartel. In terms of plot outline, it's boilerplate stuff - but in Villeneuve and screenwriter Taylor Sheridan's hands, and through the stellar efforts of the well-chosen cast, the end results are elevated considerably. "Far from being just another crime story," wrote the St. Louis Post-Dispatch's Calvin Wilson, "*Sicario* is cinema at its most ambitious."

2. TRAFFIC (2000)

One of the more darkly ambitious films to make its way through the studio system over the 20 years, Steven Soderbergh's *Traffic* looks at the human cost of the drug trade by following seemingly unconnected stories that slowly converge. In Mexico, a police officer (Benicio Del Toro, who won an Oscar for his work) becomes the unwitting employee of a drug lord; in San Diego, a major dealer (Miguel Ferrer) is targeted by a pair of DEA agents (Don Cheadle and Luis Guzman); and in the Midwest, a crusading judge (Michael Douglas) finds his black-and-white views on drugs challenged when his teenage daughter (Erika Christensen) develops a cocaine addiction. In condensing the six-part BBC series *Traffik*, Soderbergh had to trim some of the original's heft, but *Traffic* was still a four-time Academy Award winner (including Best Director) as well as one of the best-reviewed films of the year, thanks to critics like Andrew Sarris of the New York Observer, who proclaimed, "The promise of *Sex, Lies, and Videotape* has been fulfilled."



3. GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY (2014)

Over the course of his career, Benicio del Toro has yanked the spotlight from numerous above-the-title stars in all sorts of ways, from the flashy to the subtle - and although his tenure as the Collector in the Marvel Cinematic Universe hasn't allowed him to (ahem) collect much screentime with appearances in *Thor: The Dark World*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, and, most prominently, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, it's definitely one of his more memorably outlandish roles. As his name suggests, he's known for gathering stuff, including a number of priceless and powerful artifacts - including an Infinity Stone, which puts him in the path of the homicidal Thanos on the Mad Titan's quest to restore order to the universe by wiping out half of all life. His brief (and apparently illusory) appearance in 2018's *Infinity War* might have briefly convinced audiences he was done for, but if it seems unlikely we'll see the Collector again, Del Toro can at least point to his pivotal role in *GotG* as a high note. "If you're old enough to remember when sci-fi and comic books were fun," wrote Joe Williams of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "*Guardians of the Galaxy* will be your new favorite movie. If you're not, it will set a standard for everything you see."

Lifestyle | Movie

4. THE USUAL SUSPECTS (1995)

Over the course of his career, Benicio del Toro has yanked the spotlight from numerous above-the-title stars in all sorts of ways, from the flashy to the subtle - and although his tenure as the Collector in the Marvel Cinematic Universe hasn't allowed him to (ahem) collect much screentime with appearances in *Thor: The Dark World*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, and, most prominently, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, it's definitely one of his more memorably outlandish roles. As his name suggests, he's known for gathering stuff, including a number of priceless and powerful artifacts - including an Infinity Stone, which puts him in the path of the homicidal Thanos on the Mad

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5. FEARLESS (1993)

Cheating death sounds like an incredible gift - but what do you do after you've accepted you're about to die and walked away from the experience? As Peter Weir's *Fearless* powerfully argues, that second lease on life can sometimes be harder to come to grips with than we might imagine - especially if you're like protagonist Max Klein (Jeff Bridges), who survives a plane crash that ends up killing almost everyone on board and embarks on a quest that includes reaching out to a fellow passenger (Rosie Perez) who's coping with survivor's guilt without assistance from her boyfriend (Benicio Del Toro). The type of thought-provoking adult drama that seems all but extinct in the modern studio system, *Fearless* didn't make much of a dent at the box office after its 1993 release, but many critics rightly ap-



plauded it as a refreshing change of pace. Calling it "the rare commercial movie that raises more questions than it answers," *Newsweek*'s David Ansen wrote, "You leave it in an altered state yourself - moved, not quite satisfied, but certain you've seen something out of the ordinary."

6. 21 GRAMS (2003)

The second installment in writer-director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Trilogy of Death," *21 Grams* wrings some outstanding performances (not to mention plenty of tears) out of an outstanding cast in service of a gripping - albeit harrowing - tale. Using a handful of seemingly disparate plot threads, Inarritu plunged viewers into the darkness pooling out of a tragedy unintentionally wrought by an ex-con (Benicio Del Toro) whose irrevocable mistake has a profound impact on a dying math professor (Sean Penn) and a woman with a complicated past (Naomi Watts) - all of whom are drawn irrevocably together by the final act. Watts and Del Toro both earned Oscar nominations for their work, and neither could be accused of holding anything back; as Moira MacDonald wrote for the *Seattle Times*, "Watching it is a wrenching experience; the



usual layers of distance between actors and audience are stripped away, and we not only watch their anguish, but become part of it."

7. SWIMMING WITH SHARKS (1995)

One of two critically acclaimed releases that saw Benicio Del Toro sharing screentime with Kevin Spacey in 1995, *Swimming with Sharks* revolves around Spacey's Buddy Ackerman, a bottomlessly self-ish studio executive haranguing the naive film-school graduate (Frank Whaley) who unwittingly agrees to enter a waking nightmare when he signs on to become Ackerman's new assistant. Del Toro, playing Whaley's predecessor, isn't seen for long - *Sharks* is dominated by Spacey's volcanic performance - but he was already well on his way to "that guy" status, and

this is another early example of why. Little-seen during its initial release, writer-director George Huang's black comedy was a hit with critics like MaryAnn Johanson of *Flick Filosopher*, who deemed it "As fine a 'revenge on the boss from hell' movie as the wickedly vindictive *9 to 5* (and as outrageous a satire on Hollywood as *The Player*)."



8. THE PLEDGE (2001)

Few who watched Sean Penn's timeless turn as the affably bewildered stoner Jeff Spicoli in *Fast Times at Ridgmont High* could have guessed he'd grow up to favor dark dramas - or that when he eventually started directing features of his own, they'd include the sort of harrowing descent into the darkest depths of human nature plumbed by 2001's *The Pledge*. The story begins with an alcoholic police detective (Jack Nicholson) whose retirement party is interrupted by the news of a young girl's murder; pledged to solve the case by the victim's mother, he doggedly persists in hunting down the killer even after it's officially closed

by the confession - and subsequent suicide - of a local man with a learning disability. Del Toro's relatively brief (and somewhat controversial) appearance as the suspect is just one of several disquieting things about the film, which was destined for the commercial margins even as it drew applause from critics like Sean Burns of the *Philadelphia Weekly*, who wrote, "Steeped in an almost unbearable sadness, dense with moral ambiguity, it stubbornly withholds comfort at every startling turn." (www.rottentomatoes.com)





Gliding peacefully through the delta in a mokoro is the quintessential Okavango experience.

Botswana’s mighty Okavango Delta, which expands annually up to a size of almost 20,000 sq km, is one of Africa’s greatest and most pristine wildernesses. To take in its beauty, and all the iconic wildlife that call it home, there are six enthralling activities available, but none so entrancing as a trip in a traditional mokoro (narrow dugout canoe). A poler stands at the back of a mokoro (dugout canoe) with his pole raised vertically to the sky. His outline is crisp against a pinkish blue sky at sunset. To his left are a bed of reeds at the edge of the channel. Everything is reflected in the still water of the delta (c) Matt Phillips / Lonely Planet



Boat safaris can take visitors further afield than mokoro trips, thus raising the possibility of wildlife encounters.

The ultimate Okovango activity: The mokoro

There is no experience more connected to Botswana’s Okavango Delta than a journey through its reed-lined channels in a mokoro. Propelled with poles by expert locals, these traditionally-styled craft (now fashioned from fibreglass instead of wood for environmental purposes) glide you through the wilds with your eyes just above water level. From this reclined vantage point, the scale of everything becomes more grand - trees tower upwards into the blue African sky, reeds arch overhead and animal encounters feel all the more dramatic. The polers, who stand at the back behind the two passengers, use their wider view to

watch for animals large and small. While you can get up close and personal with the likes of Africa’s smallest frog, your guide will ensure that a safe distance is kept between you and larger species such as hippos. That said, being told that an elephant is about to cross your path 100m ahead is still transfixing. With no engine noise, and just the occasional birdsong, the sound of each watery footstep radiates to you as if it was just a few feet away. And then, when you think it can’t get any more exciting, the wet, glistening body appears before you, tusks, trunk and all. Even with large animal sightings, the biggest joy of a mokoro trip is simply taking in the delta’s surreal surroundings in the most peaceful way possible.

Lifestyle | Travel



Driving into the depths of the Okavango's waters is all part of the adventure (your feet may get wet).

Making a mokoro trip happen

Most lodges in the delta organise mokoro trips, though some land-based camps on larger islands do not. The lodge-based trips tend to be late afternoon affairs, ending with sundowner drinks at a suitably scenic location, either in the mokoro itself or on one of the islands. These trips are almost always included in the accommodation fee.

It's also possible to organise independent mokoro trips - without the huge lodge bill - from the safari hub town of Maun. There, the Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust act as an umbrella association for all polers, with whom you can organise mokoro trips into the Eastern Okavango. These can be as short as a day (including a two to three-hour return drive in a 4WD to the point of embarkation), or last as long as several days with camping done on the islands (you'll need to organise your own tent, cooking equipment and other kit). Most trips also involve some nature walks in the delta, where wildlife can also be seen. Overnight trips can be catered or self-catered, depending on your budget.

The best time to venture out in a mokoro is July to October, when water levels are high and the skies are almost permanently blue. Yes, in a quirk of the natural world, the delta is at its wettest during the height of its dry weather season. This is due to the floodwaters originating not from Botswana, but rather from the highlands in Angola more than a thousand kilometres away (the water then takes several months to arrive).

Boat safaris: Speed and distance equals unrivaled wildlife

Although a little less serene than mokoro (plural for mokoro), power boats offer you the chance to cover more distance, thus enabling you to delve further into the Okavango. This also increases the chances of viewing more wildlife, both in the water and on the islands themselves. Much like on mokoro trips, these power boat adventures tend to include the option for short walking safaris along the way.

Most water-based lodges in the delta include this activity on their menu of all-inclusive options, with some camps even using these boats to ferry you between their airstrip (your arrival and

departure point) and camp. At the heart of the delta, within the Moremi Game Reserve, there are a few boat stations with jetties from where standalone boat safaris depart. Prices start at P650 (US\$70) per hour for an eight-seat boat.

Wildlife drives: The classic safari dream

Climbing up into an open-sided 4WD and trundling across grassy plains in pursuit of iconic African wildlife is a safari dream for many. And drives in the Okavango do not disappoint. With the recent re-introduction of rhino, it's now possible to view all of the Big Five (leopard, lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino). No less interesting are packs of hunting wild dogs (Moremi Game Reserve is home to almost a third of the world's population), pods of hippos bobbing and yawing, and cackles of whooping hyenas. Antelope numbers are healthy, including the water-adapted red lechwe. Last but not least, there is a phenomenal variety of birdlife that fills the air. And in this watery world, you'll also have the exciting novelty of fording stream after stream in true adventurous style.



A wildlife documentary turned to life: Flying over a herd of leaping red lechwe.

Land-based lodges on larger islands, such as Chief's Island, include extensive wildlife drives year round in their packages, while water based camps only do so in the off season (November to May) when water levels have dropped significantly. If you are self-driving with a 4WD, you can explore areas of the Moremi Game Reserve on your own wildlife drive during dry season (July to October). The reserve's campsites must be booked months in advance.

Walking safaris: To follow in the footsteps of greatness

Standing on the same earth as the very creatures you are observing is as enlightening as it is exciting, and in the delta there is much to observe. Following your guide in single file, you will get the chance to learn about the intricacies of the environment, and about many of the smaller creatures that are often overlooked when on wildlife drives. Although not as much ground as covered on foot as is done in 4WDs, you still stand a chance of seeing elephants, antelopes and other wildlife. Guided walking safaris are not permitted in national parks and reserves, but they are offered by lodges within the private conservancies that make up the majority of the Okavango Delta's footprint. Short walks tend to be included with mokoro trips organised out of Maun.

If you're no stranger to riding horses, then you have the option of booking your safari with an operator that focuses on horseback safaris. This old-school form of transport allows closer interaction with various wildlife in general, as you are viewed as just another harmless animal on the scene - as opposed to a more obtrusive attendee in a powered vehicle. Most of the horseback operators run trips year round, with four to six hours per day spent in the saddle.

Scenic flights: Take to the skies for a bird's eye view

From ground level the Okavango Delta is astoundingly beautiful and totally immersive, but from the air you start to understand the greater picture. And what a picture it is: reed channels weave patterns between temporary and permanent islands, illustrating the flow of floodwaters; bleached pans reveal former waterholes, with animal trails migrating outward like rays from the sun; and the relationships between various species and their preferred habitats are laid bare. Looking down to elephants bathing in streams to beat the heat of the day, or seeing red lechwe seeking safety from big cats in the shallows is remarkable. At times you feel like you're actually in a wildlife documentary.

Scenic flights by plane are offered by several operators such as Wilderness Air, Mack Air and Major Blue Air, while helicopter flights are run by Helicopter Horizons - both alternatives are possible to book from Maun, though some camps can also arrange them for you. If you've chosen a fly-in lodge, you will get a taste of this activity en route to camp. Some camps, such as Vumbura Plains Camp also offer hot-air balloon flights over the delta.

Instead of meat kebabs, why not concentrate on some veggies?

By America's Test Kitchen

When it comes to grilled kebabs, vegetables are often an afterthought, typically used as a filler on meat-heavy skewers. But this treatment often leads to mushy, burnt vegetables with no flavor of their own. We wanted to create a recipe that would put the vegetables front and center. We started by choosing the right vegetables. We wanted a good mix of flavors and textures, but we knew that not all veggies would hold up to the high heat of the grill. We started with bell peppers, which sweetened beautifully over the flames, and zucchini, which held its shape nicely and had a satisfying texture. Portobello mushroom caps were the perfect addition to the kebabs; as they released their moisture over the flame, they picked up great char and developed a deep, meaty taste.

Tossing grilled vegetables with a bold dressing can amp up their flavor considerably, but for our vegetable kebabs, we took the idea one step further. We tossed the vegetables with half of the dressing before skewering and grilling them, giving them great flavor from the start. We pumped up the complexity and nuance of the remaining dressing with juice from grilled lemons, and tossed it with the cooked vegetables for a punchy, bright finish. You will need eight 12-inch metal skewers for this recipe.

GRILLED VEGETABLE KEBABS

Ingredients

- Servings: 4
Start to finish: 40 minutes
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary
1 garlic clove, minced
Salt and pepper
6 portobello mushroom caps (4 to 5 inches in diameter), quartered
2 zucchinis, halved lengthwise and sliced 3/4 inch thick
2 red bell peppers, stemmed, seeded, and cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
2 lemons, quartered

Preparation

Whisk oil, mustard, rosemary, garlic, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper together in large bowl. Transfer half of dressing to separate bowl and set aside for serving. Toss mushrooms, zucchini, and bell peppers with remaining dressing, then thread in alternating order onto eight 12-inch metal skewers.

- For a charcoal grill: Open bottom vent completely. Light large chimney starter half filled with charcoal briquettes (3 quarts). When top coals are partially covered with ash, pour evenly over grill. Set cooking grate in place, cover, and open lid vent completely. Heat grill until hot, about 5 minutes.
- For a gas grill: Turn all burners to high, cover, and heat grill until hot, about 15 minutes. Turn all burners to medium.

Clean and oil cooking grate. Place kebabs and lemons on grill. Cook (covered if using gas), turning as needed, until vegetables are tender and well browned, 16 to 18 minutes. Transfer kebabs and lemons to serving platter. Juice 2 lemon quarters into reserved dressing and whisk to combine. Pour dressing over kebabs and serve with remaining lemons.

Nutrition information per serving: 152 calories; 73 calories from fat; 8 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 332 mg sodium; 17 g carbohydrate; 5 g fiber; 10 g sugar; 6 g protein.



How to speed up a slow-cooking barbecued beef brisket

By America's Test Kitchen

In researching recipes for barbecued brisket, we found that cooks could agree on one thing: slow-cooking (for up to 12 hours) to tenderize the meat. We wanted to figure out a way to make cooking this cut of meat less daunting and less time-consuming, and we wanted to trade in a professional smoker for a backyard grill.

We brined the brisket to season it throughout and to make sure the meat remained juicy even after hours on the grill. In our tests, we had trouble figuring out how to maintain a low temperature in the grill without frequently refueling. But then we realized that fire can burn down as well as up. We layered unlit briquettes on the bottom of our grill and added hot coals on top for a fire that burned consistently in the optimal 300 F range for about 3 hours. We then transferred the brisket to the oven to finish cooking.

BARBECUED BEEF BRISKET

Ingredients

Servings: 8-10

Start to finish: 7 hours and 15 minutes, plus 30 minutes to rest brisket

1 (5- to 6-pound) beef brisket, flat cut, untrimmed
 2/3 cup salt
 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
 3 wood chunks, preferably hickory, or 2 cups wood chips (if using gas)
 3 tablespoons kosher salt
 2 tablespoons pepper

Preparation

Lightly score brisket fat cap in 1-inch crosshatch pattern, being careful not to cut into meat. Dissolve salt and 1/2 cup sugar in 4 quarts cold water in large container. Submerge brisket in brine, cover, and refrigerate for 2 hours.

While brisket brines, soak wood chunks in water for at least 1 hour; drain. If using gas, soak wood chips in water for 15 minutes, then drain. Using large piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil, wrap chips in 8 by 4 1/2-inch foil packet. (Make sure chips do not poke holes in sides or bottom of packet.) Cut 2 evenly spaced 2-inch slits in top of packet. Combine remaining 2 tablespoons sugar, kosher salt, and pepper in bowl. Remove brisket from brine and pat dry with paper towels. Transfer to rimmed baking sheet and rub salt mixture over entire brisket and into slits.

- For a charcoal grill: Open bottom vent halfway and place disposable roasting pan on 1 side of grill. Add 2 cups water to pan. Arrange 3 quarts unlit charcoal briquettes banked against other side of grill. Light large chimney starter two-thirds filled with charcoal (4 quarts). When top coals are partially covered with ash, pour on top of unlit charcoal to cover one-third of grill with coals steeply banked against side of grill. Place soaked wood chunks on top of coals. Set cooking grate in place, cover, and open lid vent halfway. Heat grill until hot, about 5 minutes.

- For a gas grill: Remove cooking grate and place wood chip packet directly on primary burner. Place disposable pie plate filled with 2 cups water on other burner(s). Set cooking grate in place, turn all burners to high, cover, and heat grill until hot and wood chips are smoking, about 15 minutes. Turn primary burner to medium and turn off other burner(s). (Adjust primary burner as needed to maintain grill temperature of 250 F to 300 F.)



Clean and oil cooking grate. Place brisket on cooler side of grill, fat side down, as far away from coals and flames as possible with thickest side facing coals and flames. Cover (position lid vent over meat if using charcoal) and cook for 3 hours. During final 20 minutes of grilling, adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 325 F.

Set wire rack in rimmed baking sheet lined with foil and transfer brisket to rack. Roast in oven until tender and meat registers 195 F, about 2 hours. Transfer brisket to carving board, tent with foil, and let rest for 30 minutes. Slice brisket against grain into long, thin slices and serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 451 calories; 260 calories from fat; 29 g fat (10 g saturated; 1 g trans fats); 120 mg cholesterol; 1833 mg sodium; 3 g carbohydrate; 0 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 45 g protein.

COOKING ON DEADLINE:
SALMON CORN CHOWDER

By Katie Workman

Certain foods just need to be made and eaten at least once a summer. Corn chowder (or chowdah, as my in-laws would say) is one. And if you are in a place where the ears of fresh sweet corn are piled high at the market (often for pennies an ear), then you must make it more than once.

There are lots of ways to go - simple, seafood, creamy, chunky. This recipe is loaded with nuggets of baked salmon and qualifies as a main course chowder, if you wish.

If you have other kinds of fish or seafood, you can sub them in. Clams, scallops, cod - all delicious. Just make sure they are in soup-appropriate bite-size pieces. You can saute them as directed in the recipe, but if they are left over from another summer meal, then you can skip that step.

The first time I made this, I served it to the kids with a quiet uncertainty - fish in soups had been met with mixed results. But to my surprise and delight (which could be the motto of cooking for kids), Charlie loved this. There is great pleasure in watching your kid eat something that doesn't fall neatly into the bucket of "kid-friendly foods," and if I had to pick a winner for this kind of parent thrill, fish soup would be right up there.



SALMON CORN CHOWDER

Ingredients

Servings: 8
Start to finish: 40 minutes
2 pounds skinless salmon fillets
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/3 cup minced shallots
6 cups low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
6 Yukon gold potatoes (about 2 pounds), scrubbed and cut into 1/2-inch dice
4 cups corn kernels (from about 8 ears)
1 cup half-and-half
3 tablespoons minced fresh dill
Kosher or coarse salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
For garnish (choose one or both):

Sliced scallions
Minced fresh dill

Preparation

Cut the salmon into 1-inch pieces. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt 1 tablespoon of the butter. Add half the salmon and saute just until the outside turns opaque, about 2 minutes. Remove from the skillet with a slotted spoon, melt the remaining tablespoon of butter, and repeat with the other half of the salmon. Over medium-high heat, heat the olive oil in a stockpot or very large saucepan. Add the shallots and saute until softened, about 3 minutes. Add the broth, increase the heat to high and bring to a simmer. Reduce the heat to medium-high and add the potatoes. Partially cover the pot, keep the broth at a simmer, and cook until the potatoes are tender, 12 to 15 minutes.

In a blender or food processor, combine 1 cup of the corn kernels with the half-and-half. Use a slotted spoon to scoop out about 1/2 cup of cooked potatoes and add those to the blender, and puree until smooth. Add the mixture along with the remaining corn kernels and the dill back into the pot, and return to just barely a simmer. Simmer gently for 2 minutes, add the partially cooked salmon, season with salt and pepper and simmer for another 2 minutes until the salmon is just cooked through. Taste and adjust seasonings as needed and serve hot, with whatever garnishes you like.

Nutrition information per serving: 315 calories; 107 calories from fat; 12 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 53 mg cholesterol; 331 mg sodium; 32 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 5 g sugar; 23 g protein.

Comic

WORD SEARCH

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Find and circle all of the words relating to Macbeth that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a quotation from Macbeth.

Note: MACBETH and LADY MACBETH are hidden separately and do not overlap.

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

- ANGUS
APPARITIONS
BANQUO
BIRNAM WOOD
BLOOD
CAITHNESS
CAPTAIN
CASTLE
CAULDRON
CAWDOR
COLMEKILL
CONSCIENCE
CUMBERLAND
- DAGGER
DOCTOR
DONALBAIN
DUNCAN
DUNSINANE
ENGLAND
FLEANCE
GENTLEWOMAN
GLAMIS
GUILT
HEATH
HECATE
INVERNESS
- IRELAND
LADY MACBETH
LADY MACDUFF
LENNOX
MACBETH
MADNESS
MALCOLM
MENTEITH
MURDERERS
NORWAY
PORTER
PROPHECY
QUEEN
- REGICIDE
ROSS
SCONE
SCOTLAND
SEYTON
SIWARD
SLEEPWALKING
SOLILOQUY
THANE
WEIRD SISTERS

Yesterday's Solution

Shakespeare: Hamlet

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

- AMBASSADORS
BARNARDO
CASTLE
CHALICE
CLAUDIUS
CORNELIUS
DEATH
DENMARK
DUEL
ELSINORE
FORTINBRAS
- FRANCISCO
GERTRUDE
GHOST
GRAVEDIGGERS
GUILDENSTERN
HAMLET
HAUTBOYS
HORATIO
KING
LAERTES
MADNESS
- MARCELLUS
MELANCHOLY
MESSENGER
MURDER
OPHELIA
OSRIC
POISON
POLONIUS
PRIEST
PRINCE
QUEEN
- REGICIDE
REVENGE
REYNALDO
ROSENCRANTZ
SKULL
SWORD
THE PLAYERS
TRAGEDY
VOLTEMAND
WINE
YORICK

Hidden sentence: THE PLAY'S THE THING WHEREIN I'LL CATCH THE CONSCIENCE OF THE KING

CROSSWORD 1946

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

ACROSS

1. (of securities) Not quoted on a stock exchange.
4. Marked by or composed of disconnected parts or sounds.
12. Of a light yellowish-brown color n 1.
15. 10 hao equal 1 dong.
16. Near or relating to the patella or kneecap.
17. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
18. The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.
19. Tropical trees having papery leaves and large fruit.
20. Coarse edible red seaweed.
22. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
24. A cooperative unit.
26. Metal shackles.
29. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
31. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
32. A colorless water-soluble glutinous protein obtained from animal tissues such as bone and skin.
36. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
40. (Babylonian) A goddess of the watery deep and daughter of Ea.
41. A copy of a written work or composition that has been published (printed on pages bound together).
44. Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles.
45. Someone who engages in arbitrage (who purchases securities in one market

- for immediate resale in another in the hope of profiting from the price differential).
46. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
49. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
50. A sock with a separation for the big toe.
52. Moth having nonfunctional mouthparts as adults.
53. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
55. Dragonflies and damselflies.
57. A genus of Lamiidae.
59. A person forced to flee from home or country.
60. The property characteristic of old age.
64. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
68. (used informally) Very small.
69. A historical region of southwestern India on the west coast.
72. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
73. The act of expelling or projecting or ejecting.
76. An inflated feeling of pride in your superiority to others.
77. Any of several small ungulate mammals of Africa and Asia with rodent-like incisors and feet with hooflike toes.
78. Nocturnal burrowing mammal of the grasslands of Africa that feeds on termites.
79. Having any of numerous bright or strong colors reminiscent of the color of blood or cherries or tomatoes or rubies.

DOWN

1. A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
2. Waterproofed canvas.
3. Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
4. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
5. A plan for attaining a particular goal.
6. (Greek mythology) Goddess of wisdom and useful arts and prudent warfare.
7. One of the often brightly colored and branching hornlike structures on the back of the nudibranch (and other related mollusks) that serve as gills.
8. Burrowing marine mollusk living on sand or mud.
9. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
10. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
11. A severe or trying experience.
12. A fine grained mineral having a soft soapy feel and consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate.
13. A domed or vaulted recess or projection on a building especially the east end of a church.
14. French physicist noted for research on magnetism (born in 1904).
21. Showing a high degree of refinement and the assurance that comes from wide social experience.
23. A soft whitish calcite.
25. 100 thebe equal 1 pula.
27. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
28. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
30. Away from the mouth or oral region.

33. A person of exceptional importance and reputation.
34. cause to accept or become hardened to.
35. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
37. A cruel and brutal fellow.
38. A large and hurried swallow.
39. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
42. The universal time coordinated time on board the spacecraft.
43. Sudanese sorghums having white seeds.
47. A river in central Brazil that flows generally northward (with many falls) to join the Tocantins River.
48. A submerged bank of sand near a shore or in a river.
51. Chief god of the Rig-Veda.
54. Type genus of the Canidae.
56. South American cavy.
58. A state in New England.
61. A colorless volatile highly inflammable liquid used as an inhalation anesthetic.
62. Any distinct time period in a sequence of events.
63. A council convened to discuss ecclesiastical business.
65. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
66. Type genus of the Anatidae.
67. A Hindu prince or king in India.
70. A tumor virus transmitted by leafhoppers.
71. An ancient Hebrew unit of capacity equal to 10 baths or 10 ephahs.
74. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
75. Being one hundred more than three hundred.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

TV Listings

Friday, June 29, 2018



ACTION

01:25 The Bodyguard
03:00 Doctor Strange
04:55 The Core
07:10 Starship Troopers: Traitor Of Mars
08:40 The Bodyguard
10:10 Doctor Strange
12:05 The Mask Of Zorro
14:25 The Core
16:40 Street Fighter
18:25 Star Trek Beyond
20:30 Harsh Times
22:25 Chosen



00:45 North Woods Law
01:40 After The Attack
02:35 Dark Days In Monkey City
03:00 Dark Days In Monkey City
03:25 Lone Star Law
04:15 North Woods Law
05:02 Wildest Islands
05:49 Pit Bulls & Parolees
06:36 Orangutan Island
07:00 Orangutan Island
07:25 The Animals' Guide To Survival
08:15 Untamed & Uncut
09:10 Lone Star Law
10:05 North Woods Law
11:00 Wildest Islands
11:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees
12:50 Dark Days In Monkey City
13:18 Dark Days In Monkey City
13:45 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
14:40 North Woods Law
15:35 After The Attack
16:30 The Animals' Guide To Survival
17:25 Untamed & Uncut
18:20 Dark Days In Monkey City
18:48 Dark Days In Monkey City
19:15 The Bronx Zoo
20:10 Life At Vet University
21:05 Deadly Islands
22:00 Dodo Heroes
22:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees
23:50 The Bronx Zoo



00:20 I Want My Wife Back
00:50 Friday Night Dinner
01:15 Death In Paradise
02:10 Holby City
03:10 Friday Night Dinner
03:35 Dickensian
04:20 Dickensian
05:05 Call The Midwife
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Holby City
07:55 Casualty
08:50 Father Brown
09:45 Death In Paradise
10:40 Agatha Raisin
11:30 Casualty
12:25 Holby City
13:20 Agatha Raisin
14:10 Father Brown
15:00 Death In Paradise
16:00 Doctors
16:30 Doctors
17:00 Doctors
17:30 Doctors
18:00 Doctors
18:30 I Want My Wife Back
19:00 Death In Paradise
20:00 Trauma
20:50 Shakespeare And Hathaway: Private Investigators
21:40 Poldark
22:40 Doctors
23:10 Holby City



00:00 Homicide Hunter
01:00 Homicide Hunter
01:55 Evil Up Close

02:50 Evil Up Close
03:45 Homicide Hunter
04:30 Homicide Hunter
05:15 The First 48
06:00 Homicide Hunter
07:00 It Takes A Killer
07:20 The First 48
08:05 Homicide Hunter
08:50 Cold Case Files
09:35 Crimes That Shook Australia
10:30 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
11:25 Motive For Murder
12:20 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
13:15 Evil Up Close
14:10 Homicide Hunter
15:05 It Takes A Killer
16:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
17:00 The First 48
18:00 Jonestown: The Women Behind The Massacre
20:00 Holloway: Women Behind Bars
21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
22:00 The Harvey Weinstein Scandal
23:30 It Takes A Killer



00:05 South Park
00:30 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
00:55 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:20 Nightcap
01:45 Tosh.0
02:10 South Park
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Nightcap
03:50 Nightcap
04:15 I Used To Be Fat
05:05 I Used To Be Fat
05:55 Disaster Date
06:20 Disaster Date
06:50 Disaster Date
07:15 Disaster Date
07:40 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:05 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:30 Bondi Ink.
09:20 Bondi Ink.
10:10 Hillbillies For Hire
10:35 Hillbillies For Hire
11:00 Friendszone
11:25 Friendszone
11:50 Friendszone
12:15 Disaster Date
12:40 Disaster Date
13:05 Ridiculousness
13:30 Ridiculousness
13:55 Ridiculousness
14:20 Impractical Jokers
14:45 Impractical Jokers
15:10 The It Crowd
15:36 The It Crowd
16:02 The It Crowd
16:29 The It Crowd
17:20 Takeshis Castle Thailand
17:45 Takeshis Castle Thailand
18:10 Friends
20:07 Takeshis Castle Thailand
20:30 Graves
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Chris Ramsey Stand Up Central
22:00 Patrice O'Neal: The Elephant In The Room
22:50 Inside Amy Schumer
23:15 Chris Ramsey Stand Up Central
23:40 Russell Simmons Presents: The Ruckus



00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:20 How It's Made
01:45 How It's Made
02:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
03:00 Tanked
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Weather Gone Viral
05:30 Weather Top Tens
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Kids Do The Craziest Things
07:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things

07:50 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Tanked
10:20 Ultimate Survival
11:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
11:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
12:00 How It's Made
12:25 How It's Made
12:50 Don't Blink
13:15 Don't Blink
13:40 The Carbonaro Effect
14:05 The Carbonaro Effect
14:30 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
15:20 How It's Made
15:45 How It's Made
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
17:50 Tanked
18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:30 Don't Blink
19:55 Don't Blink
20:20 The Carbonaro Effect
20:45 The Carbonaro Effect
21:10 How It's Made
21:35 How It's Made
22:00 Ultimate Survival
22:50 Don't Blink
23:15 Don't Blink
23:40 The Carbonaro Effect



00:45 Betrayed
01:40 Blood Relatives
02:35 Murder Calls
03:30 The Detectives Club: New Orleans
04:25 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
05:20 I Almost Got Away With It
06:10 Pandora's Box: Unleashing Evil
07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
07:25 Murder Chose Me
08:15 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
09:10 Pandora's Box: Unleashing Evil
10:05 American Monster
11:00 Disappeared
11:55 Murder Chose Me
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:45 Pandora's Box: Unleashing Evil
14:40 American Monster
15:35 Evil Talks: Chilling Confessions
16:30 Murder Chose Me
17:25 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 Murder Online
20:10 American Monster
21:05 Bride Killa
22:00 Murder Calls
22:55 Murder Calls
23:50 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Liv And Maddie

07:15 Liv And Maddie
07:40 K.C. Undercover
08:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
08:30 Raven's Home
08:55 Elena Of Avalor
09:20 Bunk'd
09:45 Tangled
10:10 Zapped
11:50 K.C. Undercover
12:15 K.C. Undercover
12:40 Bizaardvark
13:05 Bizaardvark
13:30 Stuck In The Middle
13:55 Stuck In The Middle
14:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
14:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
15:10 Raven's Home
15:35 Raven's Home
16:00 Tangled
16:25 Tangled
16:50 Liv And Maddie
17:15 Liv And Maddie
17:40 Hotel Transylvania
18:05 Hotel Transylvania
18:30 K.C. Undercover
18:55 K.C. Undercover
19:20 Descendants Wicked World
19:25 Elena Of Avalor
19:50 Elena Of Avalor
20:15 Bunk'd
20:40 Bunk'd
21:10 Stuck In The Middle
21:35 Stuck In The Middle
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:50 Lolirock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



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

21:00 Trulli Tales
21:30 Sofia The First
22:00 Doc McStuffins
22:30 Puppy Dog Pals
22:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
23:00 Miles From Tomorrow
23:30 PJ Masks



00:15 Deadliest Catch
01:05 Darkness
01:50 Dark Woods Justice
02:35 Homestead Rescue
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Alaska: The Last Frontier
04:50 Kindig Customs
05:35 Storage Hunters UK
06:00 Backroad Bounty
06:45 Storage Hunters UK
07:10 How Do They Do It?
07:35 Alaska: The Last Frontier
08:20 Backroad Bounty
09:10 Kindig Customs
09:55 Alaska: The Last Frontier
10:45 Kindig Customs
11:30 Deadliest Catch
12:20 Backroad Bounty
13:05 Storage Hunters UK
13:30 How Do They Do It?
13:55 Kindig Customs
14:40 Deadliest Catch
15:30 Darkness
16:15 Dark Woods Justice
17:05 Homestead Rescue
17:50 Bushcraft Build-Off
18:40 The Wheel
19:25 Deadliest Catch
20:15 Fast N' Loud
21:00 Sticker Shock
21:50 American Chopper
22:40 Twin Turbos
23:30 Jungle Gold



06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
06:25 Lab Rats
06:50 Phineas And Ferb
07:05 DuckTales
07:32 Big City Greens
07:45 Furiki Wheels
08:00 Phineas And Ferb
08:25 Phineas And Ferb
08:50 Lab Rats
09:15 Lab Rats
09:40 Milo Murphy's Law
10:05 Milo Murphy's Law
10:30 Gravity Falls
10:55 Gravity Falls
11:20 Lab Rats
11:45 Lab Rats
12:10 Phineas And Ferb
13:00 Big City Greens
15:05 Marvel Super Heroes Black Panther: Trouble In
15:32 Supa Strikas
16:00 DuckTales
16:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:32 Big Hero 6 The Series
16:55 Big Hero 6 The Series: Shorts
17:00 Big City Greens
17:10 Big City Greens
17:25 DuckTales
17:32 Furiki Wheels
18:00 Lab Rats
18:25 Lab Rats
18:50 Phineas And Ferb
19:00 Disney11
19:30 Walk The Prank
19:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
20:00 DuckTales
20:25 Two More Eggs
20:32 Big Hero 6 The Series
21:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
21:25 Star Wars Rebels
21:50 Phineas And Ferb
22:05 Furiki Wheels
22:20 Big City Greens
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



00:05 WAGS LA
00:55 WAGS LA
01:50 E! News
02:50 Botched

03:40 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Botched
06:55 E! News Middle East
07:10 Botched
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Botched
12:00 E! News Middle East
12:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
13:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
14:05 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
15:00 E! News Middle East
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 Botched
19:00 E! News
20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
23:00 E! News Middle East
23:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian



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



00:00 Cities Of The Underworld
01:00 Decoding The Past
02:00 In Search Of Aliens
02:50 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
03:40 Search For The Lost Giants
04:30 Clash Of Warriors
05:20 UFO Files
06:10 UFO Files
07:00 Cities Of The Underworld
08:00 Decoding The Past
09:00 In Search Of Aliens
10:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
11:00 Search For The Lost Giants
12:00 Clash Of Warriors
13:00 Cities Of The Underworld
14:00 Decoding The Past
15:00 In Search Of Aliens
16:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
17:00 Search For The Lost Giants
18:00 Roanoke: Search For The Lost Colony
20:00 In Search Of Aliens
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 Missing In Alaska
23:00 Clash Of Warriors



00:20 Alone
01:10 Mountain Men
02:00 Swamp People
02:50 The King Who Tricked Hitler
03:40 Hunting Hitler
04:25 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle

Friday, June 29, 2018

TV Listings

05:15 Alone
06:00 Car Nation
07:40 Mountain Men
08:30 Swamp People
09:20 Car Nation
11:00 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle
11:50 Mountain Men
12:40 Swamp People
13:30 Car Nation
15:10 Swamp People
16:00 Forged In Fire
16:50 Mountain Men
17:40 Swamp People
18:30 Car Nation
20:10 Detroit Steel
21:00 Mountain Men
21:50 Swamp People
22:40 Car Nation



00:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
00:45 What's For Sale?
01:10 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
01:40 Dog Whisperer
03:30 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
04:25 Places We Go
04:50 Fish Of The Day
05:20 Fish Tank Kings
06:15 Fearless Chef
07:10 Dog Whisperer
09:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
09:55 Places We Go
10:20 Fish Of The Day
10:50 Fish Tank Kings
11:45 Fearless Chef
12:40 Dog Whisperer
14:30 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
15:25 Places We Go
15:50 Fish Tank Kings
16:45 Fish Of The Day
17:15 Fearless Chef
18:10 Raw Travel
18:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
19:05 Dog Whisperer
20:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
21:00 Places We Go
21:30 Fish Of The Day
22:00 Fish Tank Kings
22:55 Fearless Chef
23:50 Raw Travel



00:10 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
01:00 Nazi Underworld
02:00 Airport Security: Peru
03:00 Mega Factories: Wargaming
04:00 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
05:00 Street Genius
05:30 Street Genius
06:00 Strippers: Cars For Cash
07:00 On Thin Ice: Jade's Polar Dream
08:00 The Great Human Race
09:00 Street Genius
09:30 Street Genius
10:00 Inside
11:00 Airport Security: Peru
12:00 Silk Railroad
12:30 Silk Railroad
13:00 Strippers: Cars For Cash
14:00 The Great Human Race
15:00 The Big Picture With Kal Penn
15:30 Danger Decoded
16:00 Inside Cocaine Wars
17:00 Airport Security: Peru
18:00 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
19:00 Nazi Underworld
20:00 Inside Cocaine Wars
20:50 Airport Security: Peru
21:40 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
22:30 Nazi Underworld
23:20 World's Toughest Fixes



00:20 Man V. Cheetah
01:10 Ultimate Animal Countdown

02:00 Brutal Killers
02:50 Wild 24
03:45 When Crocs Ate Dinosaurs
04:40 Wild Russia
05:35 Brutal Killers
06:30 Wild 24
07:25 When Crocs Ate Dinosaurs
08:20 Wild Russia
09:15 Snakes In The City
10:10 Russia's Wild Sea
11:05 Mission Critical
12:00 Shark Men
12:55 Man V. Lion
13:50 Wild 24
14:45 Mystery Of The Giant Cave Spider
15:40 Wild Russia
16:35 Snakes In The City
17:30 Russia's Wild Sea
18:25 Operation Sumatran Rhino
19:20 Mystery Of The Giant Cave Spider

20:10 Wild Russia
21:00 Snakes In The City
21:50 Russia's Wild Sea
22:40 Operation Sumatran Rhino
23:30 Shark Men

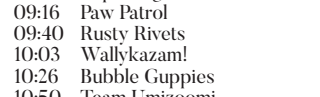


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 Rabbids Invasion
04:12 Rabbids Invasion
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 The Loud House
05:48 Harvey Beaks
06:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Breadwinners
07:24 Welcome To The Wayne
07:48 Sanjay And Craig
08:12 Rabbids Invasion
08:36 The Loud House
09:00 Regal Academy
09:24 Winx Club
09:48 Game Shakers
10:12 School Of Rock
10:36 Henry Danger
11:00 The Thundermans
11:24 Rank The Prank
11:48 Knight Squad
12:12 Knight Squad
12:36 Knight Squad
13:00 Knight Squad
13:24 Knight Squad
13:48 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
14:12 Harvey Beaks
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 The Thundermans
15:24 The Thundermans
15:48 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Harvey Beaks
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Bunsen Is A Beast
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Rabbids Invasion
23:00 The Loud House
23:24 Regal Academy
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:01 Max & Ruby
00:23 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:34 Kiva Can Do!
00:45 The Day Henry Met
00:50 The Day Henry Met
00:55 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines

01:40 Paw Patrol
01:52 Kid-E-Cats
01:57 Kid-E-Cats
02:02 Shimmer And Shine
02:24 Nella The Princess Knight
02:36 Paw Patrol
02:59 Max & Ruby
03:21 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Sunny Day
04:06 Nella The Princess Knight
04:29 Shimmer And Shine
04:52 Wallykazam!
05:16 Zack & Quack
05:26 Top Wing
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Nella The Princess Knight
07:22 Kiva Can Do!
07:33 Kiva Can Do!
07:43 Paw Patrol
07:56 Paw Patrol
08:20 Shimmer And Shine
08:43 Nella The Princess Knight
09:05 Top Wing
09:16 Paw Patrol
09:40 Rusty Rivets
10:03 Wallykazam!
10:26 Bubble Guppies
10:50 Team Umizoomi
11:13 Shimmer And Shine
11:35 Sunny Day
11:57 Max & Ruby
12:20 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:31 Kiva Can Do!
12:41 The Day Henry Met
12:46 The Day Henry Met
12:52 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:37 Paw Patrol
13:48 Kid-E-Cats
13:53 Kid-E-Cats
13:58 Shimmer And Shine
14:21 Nella The Princess Knight
14:32 Paw Patrol
14:56 Max & Ruby
15:18 Dora The Explorer
15:41 Sunny Day
16:03 Nella The Princess Knight
16:25 Shimmer And Shine
16:48 Wallykazam!
17:10 The Day Henry Met
17:16 Zack & Quack
17:27 Top Wing
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:14 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
19:22 Kiva Can Do!
19:33 Kiva Can Do!
19:43 Paw Patrol
19:56 Paw Patrol
20:19 Shimmer And Shine
20:42 Nella The Princess Knight
21:03 Top Wing
21:15 Paw Patrol
21:38 Rusty Rivets
22:02 Wallykazam!
22:25 Bubble Guppies
22:48 Team Umizoomi
23:11 Kid-E-Cats
23:16 Shimmer And Shine
23:39 Sunny Day



00:15 How I Met Your Mother
00:40 How I Met Your Mother
01:05 Suburgatory
01:30 Suburgatory
01:55 Will And Grace 2017
02:20 Community
02:45 LA To Vegas
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
04:50 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
05:40 Community
06:05 Men At Work
06:30 Black-ish
06:55 Life In Pieces
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 The Goldbergs
10:15 The Goldbergs



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00:40 How I Met Your Mother
01:05 Suburgatory
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01:55 Will And Grace 2017
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06:55 Life In Pieces
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 The Goldbergs
10:15 The Goldbergs

10:40 Community
11:05 Men At Work
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 Black-ish
12:45 Life In Pieces
13:10 How I Met Your Mother
13:35 How I Met Your Mother
14:00 Suburgatory
14:25 Suburgatory
14:50 Community
15:15 The Goldbergs
15:40 The Goldbergs
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Black-ish
17:30 Life In Pieces
18:00 How I Met Your Mother
18:30 How I Met Your Mother
19:00 Suburgatory
19:30 Suburgatory
20:00 The Good Place
20:30 American Housewife
21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
22:00 Will And Grace 2017
22:30 Difficult People
23:00 LA To Vegas
23:25 Late Night With Seth Meyer



00:15 The Princess Diaries
02:15 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
04:15 Toy Story
06:15 Planes
08:15 The Princess Diaries
10:15 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
12:15 Toy Story 2
14:15 Finding Dory
16:15 Alice Through The Looking Glass
18:15 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen
20:15 Toy Story 2
22:15 Finding Dory



00:00 This Is Us
01:00 Outlander
02:00 Criminal Minds
02:50 Quantico
03:40 9-1-1
04:30 This Is Us
05:20 Supergirl
06:10 Once Upon A Time
07:00 Good Morning America
09:00 The View
10:00 9-1-1
11:00 Criminal Minds
12:00 Once Upon A Time
13:00 Station 19
14:00 Quantico
15:00 The View
16:00 Live Good Morning America
18:00 Once Upon A Time
19:00 Criminal Minds
20:00 Station 19
21:00 The Amazing Race
22:00 Survivor: Ghost Island
23:00 WWE Experience



01:15 The House Bunny
03:00 Madhouse
04:45 Planes, Trains And Automobiles
06:30 Step Dogs
08:15 Madhouse
10:00 Planes, Trains And Automobiles
11:45 Step Dogs
13:30 A Date With Miss Fortune
15:15 Who Gets The Dog?
17:00 SuperBob
18:30 The Family Fang
20:30 They Came Together
22:00 Puerto Ricans In Paris
23:30 The Love Guru



01:45 Deserted
03:30 Chronically Metropolitan
05:10 The Ticket

07:05 Glena
08:45 Chronically Metropolitan
10:25 The Ticket
12:20 Chronically Metropolitan
14:00 Akeelah And The Bee
16:05 Newsies: The Broadway Musical
18:35 The Salesman
20:50 Frankie And Johnny
23:05 Miami Blues



00:00 Elias And The Royal Yacht
01:25 Emilie Jolie
02:45 The Secret Of Kells
04:20 The Emperor's Secret
06:00 Rainbow Valley Heroes
07:40 Dinofroz The Origin
09:15 The Wish Fish
10:40 The Fairy Tales Tree
12:05 Ivan The Incredible
13:35 Emilie Jolie
14:55 The Secret Of Kells
16:30 A Doggone Adventure
18:05 The Fairy Tales Tree
19:30 Rock Dog
21:05 A Doggone Adventure
22:40 The Wish Fish



01:25 The Guilt Trip
03:05 Goal II: Living The Dream
05:00 Bubble Boy
06:45 Storks
08:15 Sleepless In Seattle
10:05 Around The World In 80 Days
12:10 My All American
14:10 Kung Fu Panda
15:50 Sahara
17:55 Alive
20:05 Tombstone
22:20 Boyz In The Hood



00:05 Food Factory USA
00:30 Mythbusters: The Search
01:20 Man Made Marvels China
02:10 How The Earth Works
03:00 Strangest Weather On Earth
03:48 Dangerman
04:36 Mythbusters: The Search
05:24 How Do They Do It?
05:48 Food Factory USA
06:12 Man Made Marvels China
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Strangest Weather On Earth
08:14 Mythbusters: The Search
09:02 How The Earth Works
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory USA
10:38 Strangest Weather On Earth
11:26 Dangerman
12:14 Mythbusters: The Search
13:02 Man Made Marvels China
13:50 How The Earth Works
14:38 How Do They Do It?
15:02 Food Factory USA
15:26 Strangest Weather On Earth
16:14 Dangerman
17:02 How The Earth Works
17:50 Man Made Marvels China
18:40 How Do They Do It?
19:05 Food Factory USA
19:30 How The Universe Works
20:20 Mythbusters: The Search
21:10 Direct From Pluto: First Encounter
22:00 How The Universe Works
22:50 Dangerman
23:40 How Do They Do It?



00:50 Aiyaary
03:00 Aiyaary
03:55 Koffee With Karan
05:00 Suhagan
07:45 Shaadi No.1
10:15 Hawaizaada
12:40 Indu Sarkar
15:10 Dolly Ki Doli
17:00 Kabaddi Masters Dubai 2018 Pre Show Live

17:20 Kabaddi Masters Dubai 2018 Live
18:40 Kabaddi Masters Dubai 2018 Live
20:00 Shabd
22:30 John Day



01:00 K-Pax
03:00 The Hottie & The Nottie
04:30 America's Sweethearts
06:15 Toast
08:00 What Women Want
10:15 Foxcatcher
12:30 The Caveman's Valentine
14:15 K-Pax
16:30 Ride
18:15 Crooked Arrows
20:00 Crash
22:00 Hard Candy
23:45 Stardust



00:00 Black Box
01:00 Black Box
02:00 Cedar Cove
03:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year
04:00 Project Runway
05:00 Mistresses
06:00 Black Box
07:00 Black Box
08:00 Cedar Cove
09:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year
10:00 Project Runway
11:00 Mistresses
12:00 Black Box
13:00 Black Box
14:00 Cedar Cove
15:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year
16:00 Project Runway
17:00 America's Got Talent
18:00 The Wedding Band
19:00 The Wedding Band
20:00 Project Runway All Stars
21:00 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show 2017
22:00 House Of DVF
23:00 Cedar Cove



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress UK
00:42 Say Yes To The Dress UK
01:05 90 Days To Wed
01:50 Say Yes: Wedding SOS
02:35 90 Days To Wed: Before The 90 Days
03:20 Outdaughters: Busby
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Say Yes To The Dress UK
05:12 Say Yes To The Dress UK
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Outdaughters: Busby
06:45 Outdaughters: Busby
07:30 Outdaughters: Busby
08:15 Say Yes To The Dress UK
08:37 Say Yes To The Dress UK
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Little People, Big World
09:47 Little People, Big World
10:10 Little People, Big World
10:32 Little People, Big World
10:55 Cake Boss
11:17 Cake Boss
11:40 Cake Boss
12:02 Cake Boss
12:25 Cake Boss
12:47 Cake Boss
13:10 Meet The Putmans
13:55 Say Yes To The Dress UK
14:20 Say Yes To The Dress UK
14:45 Cake Boss
15:10 Cake Boss
15:35 Cake Boss
16:00 Cake Boss
16:25 Cake Boss
16:50 Cake Boss
17:15 Little People, Big World
18:05 Sister Wives

Stars

Friday, June 29, 2018



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Others may find you very persuasive today. You will find yourself in your element with great potential to be the center of attention. Conversations with love ones will flow easily. You may feel the need to spread your wings. Today is a day for you to try new things. New experiences will satisfy a sense of boredom you have been feeling. You may experience some high emotions and drama in matters involving travel, politics, or education today. Keep your calm and learn to appreciate and respect the views of others. Don't be surprised to find someone complimenting your taste or possessions today.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself having a level of very high energy today. Ideas or flowing and you have a sense of excitement about you. You want to share your ideas and opinions with everyone near to you and may find the need to tell yourself to slow down and take a breath. You may talk the ears off of those in your presence today. Step outside and take a walk or go for a quick workout. This will help rid yourself of some of this nervous energy. You may feel as if you possess a clarity and an ability to see what is forth coming today. Listen to the voices, open your mind and let this feeling take you at will. Taurus, you are high energy and open to all things new today. Enjoy!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are finally experiencing a love and appreciation of yourself. You have deep desires to spend time surrounded by family and loved ones and a desire for security. Surrounding yourself with those you love fulfill this desire and this is where you find the most peace in your life at this time. This is one of those days you are feeling a deep desire to be needed and loved. Someone may express great levels of respect they have for you and you may discover you hold an importance in the life of this person that you never realized. Gemini, you were needed all along and today the depth of that may be revealed to you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You face a bit of a challenge today. You may experience opposition in the work place or in another aspect of your life. You may want to take a moment to sit back, relax and re-evaluate your outlook. Open your mind to alternative solutions. You may find today a difficult one to express yourself today and this may frustrate you. Today finds you very talkative. Occasionally you find problems are easier worked out when talked out and this is one of those times. Even though you are not one who frequently finds themselves asking for help, today may be a great day to make that phone call, seek advice, and work through what is causing you conflict.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Take some time to have a long talk with someone you love. This may help you organize your thoughts and become more focused. You have a way with words and a way with people. This is a very spiritual time in your life as you long for answers to questions not easily answered. You may find yourself playing counselor to a close friend who is going through a very private matter and reveals the details to you. You may be able to see beneath the surface and get to the root of the evil in the matter and have an instant solution. Leo, you are valued as a friend.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are eager to learn and hungry for knowledge. Ideas are rushing through your mind swiftly. You may find this to be a time where you are able to think quickly and focus on several tasks at once. You find yourself able to communicate with and understand someone you love with ease. You may experience a closeness with this person on a much deeper level than you have felt before and may find much satisfaction from this experience. Today is a happy day for you and very productive. Not only will you learn more through educating yourself book wise, you will learn more about someone who is very dear to you today. Virgo, enjoy your day of knowledge.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may find yourself tense and anxious about a situation you have found yourself in. You may feel under pressure and feel somewhat anxious. This may lead to you mentally checking out. You may use this as a coping mechanism for the stress you are under. An out of body feeling in a dreamy state may be the way your mind chooses to handle this conflict. Others may not be fond of this side of you and this could result in conflict with someone close to you. You will find your way and through your ability to get to the root of your problems, this too will be solved.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may find yourself hungry for knowledge. You may feel as though you long for respect from others for the ideas you share and even the way you present them. Suddenly you may begin to receive great appreciation from your peers for all of your hard work and your ability to accomplish any task you set your mind to. Today may be a great time to get out and about and experience a bit of what the social scene in your area has to offer. Choose your company wisely and spend your time with like-minded friends as to avoid any type of conflict.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may find yourself called upon to stand up and make some very important decisions today. You may find yourself to be the elected voice by your peers. You are respected for being level headed and making clear and correct decisions. You have a great sense of what will be best, not only for you personally, but for the group as a whole. Whether your title is boss, or you are a co-worker to this group, know that you are looked to as their leader. Accept this role and be confident in your choices, Sagittarius. Know others truly look up to you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You desire intimacy. You desire control of all aspects of your life at this time. You could be feeling driven and determined to gain power. You may feel hungry for knowledge. You desire the answers of life's mysteries. You may feel as if you are in touch with everyone and everything around you, Capricorn. Today may leave you feeling much love and support from those around you. Spend time with your special someone. Something as simple as opening up and sharing the details of your day may help you bond.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may be feeling a need to be needed today. You may find thinking, reflecting, learning, and communication are high priorities in your world at this time. You may find yourself longing to do all of the above with style and grace. You may find yourself surrounded by those who exhibit a certain flair of drama. You are drawn to these people, Aquarius, and want to be the center of their attention. You are driven and eager to try new things. You may find this is a very productive time in your life.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Today may find you clear-minded and focused. What a great day to be extremely productive at work! You may find you are turned to for advice from those closest to you quite frequently today. You are a rock among pebbles in your workplace. You may find yourself reflecting today to discover just what experiences in your life led you to the position you are in. Focus on self and life lessons has always proven to be the best way you have found to help others. You may be leading someone to do some soul-searching of their own. Problems are only as large as you allow them to be. Your positive attitude has taken you far.

COUNTRY CODES

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



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Friday, June 29, 2018

Kuwait Times
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DAY: Thursday

28/06/2018

Valid From 7 AM To 7 PM

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Very hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 25 - 50 km/h causing rising dust.

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with moderate to fresh over costal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 45 km/h.

WEATHER WATCH			Fresh wind + dust	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 28/06/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	34 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	47 °C	34 °C		
ABDALY	48 °C	29 °C		
BUBYAN	--- °C	--- °C		
JAHERA	48 °C	32 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	44 °C	29 °C		
SALMIYAH	41 °C	34 °C		
AHMADI	45 °C	34 °C		
NUWAISIB	47 °C	32 °C		
WAFRA	47 °C	31 °C		
SALMY	46 °C	30 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	06/29	Very hot + raising dust over open areas	47 °C	34 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h
Saturday	06/30	Very hot + raising dust over open areas	48 °C	33 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h
Sunday	07/01	Very hot + raising dust	48 °C	33 °C	NW	20 - 50 km/h
Monday	07/02	Very hot + raising dust over open areas	49 °C	34 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:16
Sunrise	04:51
Zuhr	11:51
Asr	15:25
Sunset	18:51
Isha	20:24

All times are local time unless otherwise stated.

UP.0

2018/06/28 02:35 UTC V1.00 T2.4 ق.ت.خ.ع/1-2

PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan	Fahaeel Makka St	23915883
	Abu Halaifa	Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd	23715414
	Danat Al-Sultan	Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1	24575518
	Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 92	24566622
Capital	Ahlam	Fahad Al-Salem St	22436184
	Khaldiya Coop	Khaldiya Coop	24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa	Farwaniya Block 40	24734000
	Ferdous Coop	Ferdous Coop	24881201
	Modern Safwan	Old Kheitan Block 11	24726638
Hawally	Tariq	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25726265

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ali Asger, Passport No: L3856867, Civil ID No: 287012400395, has changed my name to Aliasger Najmuddin Hakimjiwala. (C 5405)
27-6-2018

I Buseneni Kumar S/o Busineni Ramachandraiah, holder of Indian Passport Number L4907858 and Civil ID 281051204453 have changed my name as Busineni Sivaprasad S/o Busineni Ramachandraiah. Hereafter in all my dealings and documents.
(C 5403) 24-6-2018

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RC boy from Trichur working as Accountant in Kuwait, seeking suitable alliances from qualified girls who work in Kuwait, preferably preparing for marriage in July or August. 30 years old, height 5.7, B.Com., MBA. For details E-mail: jkumarath@gmail.com
(C 5404) 26-6-2018

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 - إقامة قابلة للتحويل

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AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2018

Business

38 Apple, Samsung settle lengthy iPhone battle**39** India rupee slumps to an all-time low**41** EU leaders tackle eurozone reform

BEIJING: Photo shows the central business district in Beijing. The looming trade war with the US is clouding an already gloomy Chinese economic environment, leading local stocks to fall down along with the yuan. — AFP

Trade woes drag down stocks

Asian shares hit 9-month lows as trade worries intensify

LONDON: Pressure on world shares from a US-driven trade dispute mounted yesterday, as a fast-charging dollar and a jump in oil prices also cranked up the pain in emerging markets. Europe's bourses inched lower as traders positioned for a potentially fraught meeting of EU leaders, with the mood set overnight by two-year lows for Chinese stocks and a six-month low for the yuan.

They, like Wall Street, had been buffeted again after US President Donald Trump and White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow outlined plans to clamp down on Chinese acquisitions of sensitive American technologies. Asian shares had reached a nine-month trough, while MSCI's emerging market index - which also includes other hard-hit countries including Mexico, Brazil, Turkey and South Africa - dropped to its weakest in almost a year.

MSCI's broadest gauge of the world's stock

markets meanwhile fell to its lowest in almost three months and was on course to post its fourth losing month in the last five. "If the trade war becomes bigger and bigger and bigger the impact will be very strong," said London & Capital's Chief Investment Officer Pau Morilla-Giner. "You could see tech (stocks) taking a lot of impact... and you could see some big negative numbers on the main indexes," though he added he did not expect the situation to escalate to a full-blown crisis at this point.

There were other signs too that markets were getting nervous about the economic impact of the dispute. US Treasury and German Bund yields remained near one-month lows as bond investors sought out the guaranteed returns that stocks cannot offer. The US 2- to 10-year yield curve, whose flattening can be an early warning indicator of recessions, stayed pinned near the 11-year low of 31 basis points it had hit on

Wednesday. A dip in Italian yields ahead of a key bond sale there did though point to some risk appetite returning.

Analysts cited local reports that tax cuts and a citizens' income would not be introduced next year as another factor boosting Italian government bonds. "The general tone from the Italian government has been a little bit more conciliatory, which has given markets some comfort that the budget deficit should stay under control," said DZ Bank analyst Andy Cossor. A European Union summit scheduled to begin later in the day could prove disruptive to markets, though, as embattled German Chancellor Angela Merkel seeks broader agreement on migration.

Hot oil

Two main forces were playing out in the currency markets. The trade tensions pushed the dollar - seen as one of the safest investments es-

pecially if US interest rates keep rising - to test a one-year high against a basket of other top currencies. Though the yen had shown some strength overnight, it remains firmly below a 2018 high of above 111 yen per dollar hit last month. The Swiss franc, another risk barometer, also remains firmly below 1.16 per euro, a level considered too strong for the central bank's comfort.

In emerging markets, clear signs are emerging that traders think higher oil prices will lead to higher inflation in big oil importing economies, hurting their growth levels. The Indian rupee hit an all-time low of 69.09 to the dollar during the Asian session, while Indonesia's rupiah slumped as much as 0.83 percent to touch its weakest since October 2015.

US crude futures had surged 3.16 percent on Wednesday, rising to as much as \$73.06 a barrel, the highest since November 2014, on signs of tight supply. —Reuters

Business

China shuns US' request for talks on airline website row

Beijing demanding Taiwan referred to as Chinese territory

BEIJING: China has rejected US requests for talks over how American airlines and their websites refer to Chinese-claimed Taiwan, according to sources, including a US official, adding to tensions in a relationship already frayed by a major trade dispute. China has demanded that foreign firms, and airlines in particular, begin referring to Taiwan as Chinese territory on their websites, along with Hong Kong and Macau, a move described by the White House in May as "Orwellian nonsense". Numerous non-US carriers, such as Air Canada, Lufthansa and British Airways have already made changes to their websites, according to Reuters checks.

But several US companies, including Delta Air Lines and United Airlines, were among carriers that sought extensions to a May 25 deadline to make the changes. The final deadline is July 25. In late May, the US State Department presented China's Foreign Ministry with a diplomatic note requesting consultations on the matter, but the ministry has since refused it, two sources briefed on the situation said. "This has definitely become a foreign policy issue," one of the sources said on condition of anonymity, noting that the US government did not view it as a technical matter for bilateral aviation cooperation.

The spat had become "another grain of sand in the wound" amid escalating trade tensions, a second source said, referring to US President Donald Trump's threat to impose tariffs on billions of dollars worth of Chinese imports to punish Beijing for intellectual property abuses. An official with the State Department confirmed to

Reuters that China had rejected its request for talks on June 25, adding that it was "disappointed" and had maintained close communication with the airlines but had not told them how to respond to Beijing's demands.



Some US firms given until July 25 to comply

"US airlines should not be forced to comply with this order," the State Department official said. "We have called on China to stop threatening and coercing American companies and citizens." Chinese companies are free to operate their websites without political interference in the United States, the official added. China's rebuff has left the US government weighing its next move. The White House convened a staff-level meeting on the issue on Wednesday, but it is not clear what it plans to do.

'Good plan of action'

Taiwan is China's most sensitive territorial issue. Beijing considers the self-ruled, democratic island a wayward province. Hong Kong and Macau are former European colonies that are now part of China but run largely au-



BEIJING: A Meituan delivery rider negotiates an intersection as he delivers food in Beijing yesterday. Chinese online services giant Meituan-Dianping filed for an initial public offering in Hong Kong on June 25, in what could become one of the biggest IPOs of the year. — AFP

tonomously. Armed by the United States, Taiwan has always been a major source of tension between Beijing and Washington, but it has been an increasingly contentious issue since Trump took office. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang, asked about the rejection of discussing the issue with the United States, reiterated that

Taiwan was an inseparable part of China and that this was the consensus of the international community.

Foreign companies in China must respect China's law and the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, he told a daily news briefing yesterday. —Reuters

Apple, Samsung settle lengthy iPhone battle

SAN FRANCISCO: After seven years of litigation that spanned the globe, Apple and Samsung have definitively ended a patent battle launched after the US company accused its rival of "slavishly" copying the iPhone's groundbreaking design. According to a brief US court filing Wednesday, the world's two biggest smartphone makers finally reached a settlement.

Financial terms were not revealed, and neither company elaborated on the court order by US District Court Judge Lucy Koh which dismissed the litigation "with prejudice"—leaving no option of reopening the case in future. The deal came a month after a federal court jury ordered the South Korean consumer electronics giant to pay Apple some \$539 million for copying patented iPhone features.

That award was seen as a victory for Apple, which had argued in court that design was intrinsic to the iPhone, and so should enjoy protection as a whole against copycats beyond the usual patents afforded to hardware components. The US action was the first of dozens of lawsuits spanning Europe, Asia and Australia. The rival companies went head to head over what constitutes protected design in both the hardware and features of their phones and tablet computers.

'Jihadist'

In the original US lawsuit filed in 2011, Apple said Samsung had "chosen to slavishly copy" the technology, interfaces and product design of the iPhone, which revolutionized mobile te-

lephony when it was launched in 2007. As their tussle escalated worldwide, a lawyer for Samsung in turn accused Apple of behaving like a "jihadist" in its determination to fight on. But Wednesday's court order declares an armistice between the sector leaders, and legal experts said it was the inevitable outcome given the pace of change in smartphones since 2011. "The market has moved on, the designs have changed, so it becomes increasingly more difficult for anybody to validate any (patent) infringement," Ranjit Atwal, personal technology analyst at Gartner, told AFP in Paris.

"There are more interesting battles to follow, and they are not necessarily going to be fought in court," he added. "The smartphone market is saturated—where do they find the next market, how do they move forward?" Apple insisted it was fighting for a core principle that design is so important to its products that it can actually be considered the "article of manufacture" under patent law. The three design patents in the case applied to the shape of the iPhone's black screen with rounded edges and a bezel, and the rows of colorful icons displayed.

Two utility patents also involved apply to "bounce-back" and "tap-to-zoom" functions. The case had been sent back to the district court following a Supreme Court decision to revisit an earlier \$400 million damage award. The jury had been asked to determine whether the design features were worth all the profit made from Samsung smartphones that copied them—or whether those features were worth just a small fraction because they are components. Apple was supported by big names in fashion and manufacturing, citing precedents such as Coca-Cola's iconic soda bottle. But Samsung won the backing of major Silicon Valley and other IT sector giants, including Google, Facebook, Dell and Hewlett-Packard, claiming a strict ruling on design infringement could lead to a surge in litigation. —AFP

Iran: Saudi plan to boost output ridicules OPEC

LONDON: Iran criticized Saudi Arabia's plan to raise oil output and pressure from the United States on Riyadh to do so, saying this was in breach of OPEC's decision last week and belittled the producer group. OPEC and a group of non-OPEC countries agreed on Saturday that they would return to 100 percent compliance with previously agreed oil output cuts, after months of underproduction by OPEC countries including Venezuela and Angola.

Iran's OPEC governor, Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, was reacting to various news reports on Monday and Tuesday that Saudi Arabia would boost output in July to 10.6 million barrels a day, 10.8 million bpd and 11.0 million bpd, up from its OPEC target of 10.058 million bpd. On Monday, US Energy Secretary Rick Perry said the deal by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries may not be enough to relieve the oil market. "The State Department says it is short and Saudi Arabia says they will produce 11 million bpd in July. I regret to say they both are ridiculing our organization," Kazempour told Reuters.

The comments underline the depth of the disagreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia, longtime rivals in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, over the interpretation of OPEC's deal in Vienna last week. Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said the OPEC deal implied an indirect reallocation of extra production from countries unable to produce more oil to those, such as his own, that are able to do so. Iran strongly disagrees. —Reuters

Business

HK 'haunted apartment' prices levitate with white-hot market

Surging prices make 'haunted flats' more appealing

HONG KONG: Ng Goon-lau pointed at a window inside a dark, tiny bedroom. The window was small and easily sealed, Ng explained, a perfect place for carbon monoxide poisoning. A man once burned charcoal to kill himself there. Another tenant, a policewoman, also hanged herself in the same apartment. "That's why it was so cheap," said Ng, the silver-haired 66-year-old landlord, who bought the tiny 325-square-foot unit after the double suicides for just over HK\$1 million (\$127,400) in 2010, 30 percent less than the then market rate.

Eight years later, the apartment is probably worth around HK\$4.4 million, Ng estimates. Dubbed the "King of Haunted Flats" by local media, Ng has made a name for himself for speculating on such "hongza", or haunted flats - defined here as the places where tragedies, such as suicides and murders, took place. He has been able to buy some of the homes at as much as a 40 percent discount.

But Hong Kong's record-breaking property price surge over the past few years is pushing many to reconsider such inauspicious apartments as bargains too good to pass up, whatever the bad history. The once heavy discount on a haunted apartment's price has narrowed from about 30 percent in 2013, to about 10 percent this year, said Ng, adding the discount dropped at the fastest rate in the past year. "The market is crazy now, there is so much demand," the former shark's fin salesman told Reuters. "Buying an unlucky flat is now a very practical way to own a house, so competition is fierce."

Unaffordable prices

The financial hub's housing prices have been on a record-breaking run for 18 consecutive months, with the city now one of the world's most expensive real estate markets. A skilled service worker would

need to work 20 years to buy a 650-square-foot flat near the city centre, according to a UBS report in September, which also ranks Hong Kong's housing market as the least affordable in a list of 20 world cities.

Only about 20 percent of Hong Kong's 1.85 million taxpayers could afford to buy a medium-priced apartment costing HK\$8 million, property consultancy Knight Frank said this month. Property analysts expect prices to rise even further this year, with five analysts predicting overall gains of between 8 percent and 17 percent. Even Ng, who has bought around two dozen haunted flats since the 1990s and flipped most of them for profit, is spooked by the market surge. A double whammy of high prices and a heavy tax on non-first time buyers means he hasn't bought a haunted flat for six years.

The amateur unicyclist isn't looking to sell either, describing his existing portfolio as "pearls and treasures". Even for public housing, where the average waiting time is five years given limited supply and strong demand in one of the most densely populated cities in the world, many are flocking to a

'Haunted flats' - flats where there have been tragedies

separate "express" queue for less desirable apartments. These include, according to the Housing Authority's website, those "involved in unpleasant incidents." Last September, the government received more than 80,000 applications for 576 such flats.

'Psychological hurdle'

The issue of a haunted flat melds the Hong Kong obsession with property with a Chinese population that tends to be superstitious and pursues ancient traditions, illustrated by the use of feng shui by many property developers to ensure that a building uses surrounding natural forces, such as mountains,



HONG KONG: A general view shows residential and commercial buildings at Kowloon district in Hong Kong. —AFP

wind and water, in a harmonious way.

Not only does a haunted flat drag down the price of all the flats on the same floor, it can also bring down the value of apartments above and below it, according to property agents. It is commonly believed here that the trapped souls of murder victims are especially haunting, as they linger in humankind, mourning their untimely, vicious deaths and yearning to complete what they did not have time to do while they were alive.

A flat a few doors down from the luxury apartment where former British banker Rurik Jutting murdered two women in 2014 was sold last year. The price dropped six percent from its precious transaction in 2011, even though Hong Kong's housing market rose more than 80 percent during the same period. The buyer could not be reached for comment. Jutting's former landlord declined to be interviewed. "We live in a traditional Chinese society," said a property agent who did not want to be named because of the sensitivity of the topic. "For some people it is a psychological hurdle, and they

won't feel comfortable living in an unlucky flat."

Banks are also less willing to provide mortgages for a haunted home due to concerns it could be difficult to resell in the event of a mortgage default, according to the managing director of Centaline Mortgage Broker Limited, Ivy Wong. But while some banks unilaterally rejected "hongza" mortgage applications a decade ago, in recent years this policy has been relaxed. "When more home buyers are willing to accept these flats, it gives the banks more confidence," Wong said.

HSBC provided a mortgage for a buyer last year when she bought one of Hong Kong's most notorious homes - a Tsuen Wan apartment where a man killed his six relatives when he attempted suicide by gas in 1996, according to Land Registry records. There are unofficial websites dedicated to keeping detailed records of the thousands of haunted homes in the city. Similar websites tracking haunted homes exist in Taiwan and Japan, and a Canada-based website lists haunted and murder homes in North America. —Reuters

Indian rupee slumps to an all-time low

MUMBAI: The Indian rupee slumped to an all-time low against the US dollar yesterday as the currency comes under increasing pressure from rising oil prices. The rupee, Asia's worst performing currency according to Bloomberg News, fell to 69.10 against the greenback in early trade before recovering slightly to 68.93 later. India is a massive importer of oil, securing more than two-thirds of its needs from abroad.

A surge in oil prices over the past year to around \$78 a barrel has meant more rupees are needed to purchase crude. This has put pressure on the Indian currency, making it less appealing to investors who are betting less on the emerging markets as a whole. That has contributed to a widening of India's current account deficit when the value of imports exceeds the value of exports. The strong dollar is affecting the value of currencies across Asia. Yesterday, Indonesia's rupiah fell to the lowest level since October 2015. —AFP

Founder of troubled Dubai firm Abraaj risks 3-year jail term

DUBAI: The founder of embattled Dubai-based group Abraaj, the region's largest private equity firm, faces a possible three-year jail term over bounced cheques for millions of dollars, lawyers said yesterday. A court in the UAE city of Sharjah will issue its ruling on July 5 in the case against Arif Naqvi, who did not attend a hearing held yesterday as he was outside the country, said his lawyer Habib Al-Mulla. The UAE public prosecutor has issued a warrant for Naqvi's arrest. Essam Al-Tamimi, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, said the prosecution was seeking a jail term of three years for Naqvi for "dishonoring" three cheques worth a combined

\$300 million. The cheques were signed by Naqvi for a short-term loan provided by the plaintiffs six months ago "without which Abraaj would likely have collapsed," Tamimi said in a statement sent to AFP. The case was sent to court after Naqvi showed "no intention of repaying the debt", Tamimi said. Mulla, the chief executive of law firm Baker McKenzie Habib Al Mulla, argues that his client is willing to repay the loan. The defense lawyer told AFP that Naqvi was surprised that creditors took the case to court while negotiations for a settlement were still ongoing.

Founded in 2002 by Naqvi, a Pakistani financier, the Abraaj Group had nearly \$14 billion of assets under management before being granted a court-supervised restructuring last week in the Cayman Islands, where it is registered, following allegations of the misuse of funds. The Cayman Islands court appointed liquidators to oversee an "orderly restructuring" of the group amid suspicions that the investment giant could collapse. Four key investors in a \$1 billion healthcare fund managed by Abraaj, including Bill and Melinda Gates and a World Bank affiliate, have demanded an inquiry into allegations that money from the fund was used for other operations. —AFP

Business

Italy passes auction test as trade tensions grip markets

Italy sells 6.5 billion euros of bonds, soothing concerns

LONDON: Italy sold 6.5 billion euros of government debt yesterday, battling away concerns that recent political ructions would hamper its ability to borrow money in bond markets. On a day when other euro zone yields dropped on global trade tensions, the euro zone's third largest economy issued three bonds, placing the top targeted amount in a 5-6.5 billion euro range. "The bid-to-cover ratio is a bit below average but the size is at the high end, which I think is very encouraging," said UniCredit fixed income strategist Luca Cazzulani.

"There is a wide range of factors that is helping, including the fact that the discussions (at government level) are moving to a more normal set of topics," he said. In secondary trading, Italian government bond yields gave an early fall—they were down 3-4 bps ahead of the auction—and yields were flat to a touch higher, though analysts said this was normal when new supply hits the market. Italy's 10-year bond yield was up 1.2 basis points at 2.84 percent.

The Italian bond market has been hammered in recent weeks on fears a coalition between anti-establishment parties, the 5-Star Movement and the League, would embark on high-spending policies and hinder euro zone

integration with a hard line on the single currency. But a prominent League eurosceptic senator told Reuters on Wednesday that Italy's new government would do nothing to undermine the euro and investors have no reason to fear its agenda.

"The general tone from the Italian government has been a little bit more conciliatory, which has given markets some comfort that the budget deficit should stay under control," said DZ Bank analyst Andy Cossor. Other euro zone government bond yields were a lower on the day as global trade tensions hit stock markets—the pan-European stock index was lower 0.3 percent—forcing some investors to the safety of high-grade euro zone bonds.

Most euro zone yields lower on trade tensions



Germany's 10-year government bond yield, the benchmark for the region, edged lower to 0.306 percent, only a shade off recent one-month lows. The demand for bonds is particularly noticeable against the backdrop of rising inflation—usually a cue for selling bonds. Italian consumer prices accelerated to 1.5 percent from 1 percent in May, data showed yesterday, while comparable data for Spain and some German states was above the European Central Bank's target of just below 2 percent.

Economists, however, caution that the administration's "America First" policies, which have heightened fears of trade wars, are casting a pall over the economy's prospects. The United States is engaged in tit-for-tat trade tariffs with its major trade partners, including China, Canada, Mexico and the European Union, which analysts fear could disrupt supply chains and undercut business investment and potentially wipe out the fiscal stimulus.

Growth estimates for the second quarter are as high as a 5.3 percent rate. Economists had expected first-quarter GDP growth would be unrevised at a 2.2 percent pace. An alternative measure of economic growth, gross domestic income (GDI), increased at a brisk 3.6 percent rate in the January-March quarter. That was revised up from the 2.8 percent pace reported last month.

The average of GDP and GDI, also referred to as gross domestic output and considered a better measure of economic activity, increased at a 2.8 percent rate in the first quarter, instead of the 2.5 percent pace estimated in May.

The income side of the growth ledger was boosted by after-tax corporate profits, which surged at an 8.7 percent rate last quarter rather than the 5.9 percent pace reported in May. The government slashed the corporate tax rate to 21 percent from 35 percent effective in January.

After-tax profits rose at a 1.7 percent pace in the fourth quarter. —Reuters



BERLIN: A Harley-Davidson motorbike parked in front of the Reichstag building which houses Germany's Bundestag lower house of parliament. President Donald Trump has renewed his attacks on Harley-Davidson, accusing the US motorcycle manufacturer of using the trade war as an 'excuse' to move production for the European market out of the United States. —AFP

They may not be having the same impact they normally do because the European Central Bank set out guidance for monetary policy for the next 18 months in its last meeting. "Given what the ECB said after its last meeting, I think it's unlikely that inflation data today or tomorrow is going to lead to a significant shift in how

policy is going to play out," said Cossor of DZ Bank. A European Union summit scheduled to begin later in the day could prove disruptive to bond markets as German Chancellor Angela Merkel seeks a continent-wide agreement on migration, an issue that is threatening her governing coalition. —Reuters

US first-quarter GDP growth revised down to 2.0 percent

WASHINGTON: The US economy slowed more than previously estimated in the first quarter amid the weakest performance in consumer spending in nearly five years, but growth appears to have since regained momentum on the back of a robust labor market and tax cuts. Gross domestic product increased at a 2.0 percent annual rate in the January-March period, the Commerce Department said yesterday in its third estimate of first-quarter GDP, instead of the 2.2 percent pace it reported last month.

The economy grew at a 2.9 percent rate in the fourth quarter. The downgrade to first-quarter growth reflected weaker consumer spending and a smaller inventory accumulation than the government had estimated last month. A \$1.5 trillion income tax cut package, which came into effect in January, is seen spurring faster economic growth in the second quarter, putting annual GDP growth on track to achieve the Trump administration's 3 percent target.

'Unnecessary rescues' soar in Nepal on profits from insurance payouts

LUKLA: Tourists hiking in Nepal's Himalayan mountains are being pressured into costly helicopter evacuations at the first sight of trouble by guides linked to powerful brokers who are making a fortune on "unnecessary rescues", industry insiders say. Dodgy operators are scamming tens of thousands of dollars from insurance companies by making multiple claims for a single chopper ride or pushing trekkers to accept airlifts for minor illnesses, an investigation by AFP has revealed.

In other cases, trekking guides, promised commission if they get tourists to return by chopper, are offering helicopter rides to tired hikers as a quick way home, but billing them as rescues to insurance companies. The practice is so rampant helicopter pilots are reporting "rescuing" tourists who appear in perfectly fine health.

"It's a racket that's tantamount to fraud, and it's happening on a large scale throughout Nepal," said Jonathan Bancroft of UK-based Traveller Assist, which carries out medical evacuations in Nepal on behalf of global travel insurance companies. Trekking outfits stand to make more in kickbacks from evacuating a hiker by helicopter than the cost

of the trek itself, contributing to an alarming rise in rescues from Nepal's biggest tourist attraction: the fabled Himalayas. Traveller Assist said 2017 was the most expensive year on record for travel insurance companies covering tourists in Nepal due to a startling number of helicopter rescues—though this year is on track to beat it.

There is no centralized dispatch centre for helicopter flights in Nepal making it difficult to know precisely how many evacuations are carried out. But over the past six years the skies of the Everest region have turned into a helicopter highway, with a six-fold increase in the number of choppers in the air, each logging over 1,000 flying hours per year, according to industry data. "We used to see maybe one helicopter in two or three days. Now we are seeing 10 or so in a day," said Thanishwar Bhandari, who works as a small clinic in the Everest region. Meanwhile, one foreign pilot, who requested anonymity, said he rescued trekkers on a near daily basis in April and May this year, peak trekking season. "I think I took three people the whole season who appeared genuinely ill," he told AFP.

Australian trekker Jessica Reeves was urged by her guide to be evacuated by helicopter from near Everest base camp in October 2017 when she complained of a common cold. "He kept telling me to get a helicopter," Reeves told AFP. "They said if I keep going it would be really risky so it was better to leave now instead of risking it." Reeves said nine or 10 hikers in her group ended up returning to Kathmandu on three helicopters but were instructed to say they were alone on the flight back. —AFP

Business

BP bets on electric car switch with Britain's Chargemaster

BP acquires Chargemaster for \$170 million

LONDON: BP is buying Britain's top electric vehicle charging firm Chargemaster and will initially roll out its ultra-fast chargers across its filling station network in the UK before turning its attention to China's rapidly growing market. Oil and gas major Royal Dutch Shell and carmakers Volkswagen and Daimler have also made investments in the electric vehicle (EV) market, whose growth is being driven by a shift from polluting fossil fuels. Like its rivals Shell and France's Total, BP is planning to use its vast global network of filling stations to carve out a position in the EV market, with demand for petrol forecast to peak as early as the end of next decade.

"We want to have a leading position in the UK whatever fuel choice our customers have," Tufan Erginbilgic, head of BP downstream, told Reuters after the company announced

the 130 million pound (\$170 million) acquisition of Chargemaster. BP forecasts that the global EV fleet will soar to more than 300 million by 2040, from just 1 million in 2016, and said it plans to deploy ultra-fast 150 kilowatt chargers able to deliver 100 miles of range in just 10 minutes across its 1,200 petrol stations in Britain over the next 12 months.

Although most EV drivers charge their cars at home or at street charging points, Erginbilgic believes that retail stations will remain essential because only they will offer ultra-fast charging. And as carmakers, battery manufacturers and power providers look for

ways to extend the use of EVs beyond urban areas, charging on highways is seen as vital for extending range. "If EVs will be a mass-market product, the world needs to have fast

and ultra-fast charging," Erginbilgic said. Chargemaster, which will be rebranded BP Chargemaster, operates more than 6,500 EV charging points across Britain and has supplied over 50,000 units across Europe.



BP eyes China, Germany as the next markets

Road to china

London-based BP plans to invest around \$500 million a year in low carbon technology and use its experience in Britain to expand into

other rapidly growing markets, first and foremost Germany and China, Erginbilgic said. "China and Germany will definitely be some of the priority markets given the trends_ with our ultra-fast charging we can actually enable EV scaling up."

BP announced a partnership in May with China's NIO Capital to explore investments in EVs, energy infrastructure and battery technology. This followed a joint venture with Shandong Dongming Petrochemical Group to develop retail sites across China. "BP sees the future EV retail market evolving into a model similar to today's where drivers charge their cars in retail sites," Erginbilgic said. In January, BP invested \$5 million in FreeWire Technologies which manufactures mobile EV rapid charging systems. A month later it linked up with car makers Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi to develop new battery technology. —Reuters

End of the line for ASIMO, Japan's famed robot?

TOKYO: It has played football with former US president Barack Obama and danced for German leader Angela Merkel, but Honda's ASIMO robot may have reached the end of the line. Launched in 2000, the humanoid machine resembling a shrunken spaceman has become arguably Japan's most famous robot, wheeled out to impress visiting politicians over the years.

But Honda said yesterday it may scrap future generations of ASIMO, now on its seventh iteration. "We will still continue research into humanoid robots, but our future robots may not be named ASIMO," Honda spokesman Hajime Kaneko said. The comment came after Japan's public broadcaster NHK reported that the Japanese carmaker had terminated ASIMO and dissolved the team making one of the world's most famous humanoid robots.

NHK suggested increasingly intense competition in the field as a reason, pointing to the example of US-based Boston Dynamics' Atlas robot which can jump on to a high step and even do a backflip. Honda denied that it had dissolved the team working on ASIMO, but the brains behind the bot look likely to shift their expertise to developing robots with specific applications. "We have obtained lots of technologies while developing ASIMO, and how to utilize them is one issue," Kaneko said.

The company is expected to focus on humanoid robots that can help care for elderly and disabled people, NHK said, citing unnamed company sources. Though never sold commercially, ASIMO attracted international attention, playing football with Obama in 2014, dancing for Merkel in 2015, and taking a selfie with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull the same year. There have been no upgrades to the model since its seventh generation, which debuted in 2011 and can listen to and understand three people talking simultaneously. —AFP



TOKYO: Honda Motor's humanoid robot Asimo interacts with visitors at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation in Tokyo. —AFP

EU leaders tackle eurozone reform

BRUSSELS: After months of delay, EU leaders will discuss several proposals today, many watered down, to reform the euro single currency after the bitter battering of the debt crisis. The bloc's 27 leaders meeting without Britain will largely work off proposals set down with great pomp by France and Germany, known as the Meseberg Declaration, after the site of a recent meeting between Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Emmanuel Macron. Europe's twin engines of EU unity, France and Germany make up nearly half of the eurozone

economy. But smaller members, led by the Netherlands, have voiced their irritation at having the EU's future announced from on high by the bloc's biggest powers.

First the bad news for Paris. National governments have for months been haggling over a French idea of creating some sort of budget capacity for the 19-nation single currency bloc which could be used in case of crises or economic shocks. Even if modest, Macron sees a eurozone budget as a symbolic step towards a more centralised and mutually supportive Europe. But austerity-loving hardliners, usually led by Germany, fear an unnecessary transfer union, with disciplined countries in the north propping up over-spenders to the south (think Greece or Italy). —AFP

China to lift ban on imports of beef from UK

LONDON: China has agreed to lift a ban on imports of British beef that was imposed over a BSE crisis in the 1990s, finance minister Philip Hammond said on Wednesday. "Delighted that I have agreed with Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua that China will lift the BSE ban on British beef. This is great news for British farmers," he said on Twitter. Hammond is visiting Beijing this week.

The agreement allows official market access negotiations to begin, said a government statement, adding that the process typically takes around three years. The move comes after Prime Minister Theresa May's trade mission to China in January, when she said China had agreed to lift a ban on British beef exports within the next six months. China is the world's fastest growing beef market, with imports last year of 700,000 tons, worth about \$3.3 billion. Beef imports from Britain have been banned since the 1990s following outbreaks of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), commonly called mad cow disease.

British beef exports to China are expected to be worth £250 million (\$328 million) in the first five years, said the statement. The deal comes as Britain prepares to leave the European Union next year, its biggest market for agricultural products. "Today's announcement is a huge coup for British businesses who want to access global trading opportunities as we leave the EU," said International Trade Secretary Liam Fox in the statement. —Reuters

Sports



Germany arrive home after shock World Cup exit

Plunges football-mad nation into mourning

FRANKFURT: Germany's chastened national team arrived home yesterday after their shock World Cup exit plunged the football-mad nation into mourning and left the future of coach Joachim Loew in the balance.

The four-time champions landed at Frankfurt airport shortly after 3pm (1300 GMT), a day after their humiliating 2-0 defeat against South Korea at Russia's Kazan Arena sent them packing in the first round.

In a mea culpa on their official Twitter account, the German Mannschaft apologised to a country in agony. "Dear fans, we're just as disappointed as you," the tweet read. "We're sorry we didn't play like world champions. That's why we deserved to be eliminated, as bitter as it is."

Defender Mats Hummels had earlier also tweeted out his regrets with a succinct "sorry..." and a crying-face emoji.

German media have given a damning verdict of the titleholders' World Cup campaign, which will be remembered as the first time since 1938 that the country has failed to make it past the first round. "No words!" chided the best-selling Bild daily, over a picture of a despondent-looking Toni Kroos. The headline mirrors the one

used four years ago after Germany's stunning 7-1 victory over Brazil at the last World Cup—but this time the nation has been left speechless out of sheer disbelief.

Anger was mounting too after a weak performance in Russia that has left commentators calling for radical changes in German football.

"Our elimination is fully deserved," Bild wrote, lamenting the "shame" of the defending champions getting knocked out after just 10 days, "reduced to ashes and rubble". Other newspapers, like the Rheinische Post and Berlin's Tagesspiegel, simply went with the headline "Out", while the Stuttgarter Zeitung spoke of a "historic debacle".

Bild said head coach Loew's fate would be decided "in the coming days" following talks with the German football federation (DFB). After 12 years in charge, Loew is now under fire for placing too much faith in former stars past their prime. The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said only Loew's departure could give Germany the "new start" it needed. "That the party ended before it really began is bearable—but only if German football strategists recognise the sign of the times and act accordingly," the conservative



FRANKFURT: Germany's head coach Joachim Loew talks to media as he arrives at Frankfurt International airport yesterday, after flying back from Moscow following the German national football team's defeat in the Russia 2018 football World Cup. —AFP

daily wrote. Sports website Kicker spoke of a "collective failure". "There was no real team in Russia," it wrote, noting Germany's earlier lacklustre performances against Mexico and Sweden in Group F. Alongside criticism of missed chances and the woeful performances of some veteran players, recent off-pitch drama added to

a picture of a team in disarray.

Ilkay Gundogan and Mesut Ozil, both of Turkish origin, sparked a storm of controversy when they posed for pictures with Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in London last month, prompting angry fans to question their loyalty to the national team. —AFP

Tite backs Brazil to grow in WCup's knock-out phase

MOSCOW: Tite insists Brazil can cope with being installed as World Cup favourites, following Germany's shock exit, with the Selecao boss backing his side to grow in the knock-out stages at Russia 2018.

Brazil sealed a 2-0 win over Serbia in Moscow on Wednesday with goals either side of half-time by Paulinho and Thiago Silva to set up a last 16 clash against Mexico on Tuesday in Samara.

With Germany having failing to advanced past the first round for the first time in 80 years, Brazil are now installed with many bookmakers as they favourite to win the World Cup. Tite expects his side to grow in the knock-out stages having finished as Group E winners.

"We can take the pressure, we are a balanced team and we have

replacement who can come in, which is important," said the Brazil's head coach Tite. "For example, Marcelo was injured early on and we were able to replace him.

"For us, this is about getting stronger and growing. "We embrace expectations, but this team has created a high level because they did very well in the qualifications, but then you come to the World Cup - it's a new cycle and a new format.

"We have had three matches and things are on the up." Tite said he suffers from an embarrassment of riches and that one of the hardest parts of his job is deciding who to leave out, having brought on Manchester City star Fernandinho in the second half and left Liverpool's Roberto Firmino on the bench in Moscow.

"It's one of the things which drains me the most as a coach is to leave top quality out," he said. "You have to challenge the athletes to grow, it's a short tournament and you have to have the right athletes for the right games."

However, the victory may have come at a price as left-back Marcelo was forced off in the 10th minute with a back spasm. Visibly struggling, the Real Madrid defender was initially reluctant to leave the pitch, before being replaced by his Atletico Madrid counterpart Filipe Luis. —AFP



BAUTA: Fans of Brazil celebrate after a FIFA World Cup match between Brazil and Serbia in Bauta, Artemisa province, Cuba on Wednesday. —AFP

Sports

Koreas to field joint teams in three sports at Asian Games

Two countries to march together at the opening and closing ceremonies

JAKARTA: North and South Korea will field joint teams in three sports—canoeing, rowing and women's basketball—at the Asian Games, organisers said yesterday, in the latest sign of thawing tensions.

The two countries will also march together at the opening and closing ceremonies for the showpiece event being held in Indonesia from August 18-September 2, they added.

South Korea's national Olympic committee previously told AFP that the country's governing bodies for basketball, judo, canoe, gymnastics, table tennis, rowing and soft tennis had expressed an interest in running combined teams.

Seoul and Pyongyang agreed this month to form unified teams for some sports though the specifics were only confirmed Thursday after a meeting in Jakarta between the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), Games organisers and representatives from the two Koreas.

"We won't add any more (sports)," Games deputy chairman Sjafrudin Sjafrudin told reporters after the meeting yesterday. "We have to be strict with scheduling so there will be no more changes."

The athletes from the Koreas will march under a neutral Korean peninsula flag and under the "Korea" name. Further details about logistics would come later, Sjafrudin added. "The meeting was very friendly and enthusiastic, and was based on a spirit of togetherness of the two countries," Sjafrudin said.

The two Koreas formed their first-ever unified Olympic team—a joint women's ice hockey squad—for February's Winter Games in the South Korean resort of Pyeongchang.

It provoked a backlash in the South, on the grounds that Seoul was depriving its own athletes of the chance to compete on the Olympic stage. Ultimately the sight of North and South Korean skaters wearing the same jersey and passing the puck to each other drew emotive responses from spectators and quickly became an Olympic favourite, despite the team being thrashed in all five of their matches.

Ties between the neighbours have been warming since the Winter Olympics, with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in agreeing at an historic summit in April to jointly participate in international sports events.

greens in recent weeks has prompted Woods to work with an Ardmore mallet putter rather than the Scotty Cameron model he used in 13 major wins and so far in his comeback.

"What changed? I don't know. That has been the frustrating part," Woods said. "I've had to just log in time and putt for hours to try to figure it out. I haven't putted well for about four tournaments now. I've struggled. Former world number one Woods, ranked 82nd this week, tested several kinds Wednesday but didn't guarantee he would use the mallet putter this week. "I put it in early last week. Tried a bunch of different shapes and sizes," Woods said. "I tried and tried to come up with something that I felt I could swing and trust."

Woods hasn't played in his Washington event since 2015 because of back issues, but recalls wondering last year if he might ever play again. "It's basically a gift to be able to play again. There was no guarantee I would ever play golf again, forget the PGA Tour. So to go from that to here, I didn't foresee that happening, I really didn't," Woods said with a laugh. "I'm competing, I'm playing and I'm having just a great time doing it." Woods won the 2009 and 2012 National crowns when the event was played at nearby Congressional Country Club. This will be the first time Woods competes at TPC Potomac.

"It's certainly a lot more difficult than what I had envisioned," Woods said. "They've got the rough up, fairways in, it's like a mini-Open here. "You have to drive it well. You cannot play out of this rough. You have to hit a lot of fairways. The greens are tough to get to if you don't hit fairways." —AFP



JAKARTA: This handout photo taken and released yesterday by the Indonesian Asian Games Organizing Committee (INASGOC) shows North Korean (L and 2nd R) and South Korean (2nd L and R) representatives posing with mascots after a meeting with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in Jakarta. North and South Korea will field joint teams in three sports. —AFP

This month, Kim and US President Donald Trump held a summit in Singapore. The three-team plan comes after the OCA had earlier dismissed the idea of granting extra places for unified Korean teams at an event

which will see about 10,000 athletes compete in 40 sports—the second-biggest multi-sport event behind the Olympics. The Games will be held in Indonesia's capital and Palembang on Sumatra island. —AFP

Tiger eyes new putter in bid to end five-year win drought

POTOMAC: Tiger Woods, bolstered by surprising power in his return from back surgery, has tested new putters while hosting the US PGA Quicken Loans National in hopes of ending a five-year win drought.

The 42-year-old American hasn't done lately, however, is show the sharp putting that saw him share second at the Valspar Championship and fifth at the Arnold Palmer Invitational in March.

"If I have the same putting stroke I had earlier in the year with the ball-striking I've had, that would be where I want to get to," Woods said. "Just got to put both those things together at the same time." Frustration on the

Hamilton on high in Alps as British icons left with mountain to climb

SPIELBERG: Championship leader Lewis Hamilton and his Mercedes team will be hoping for more of the same at this weekend's Austrian Grand Prix. After dominating last Sunday's French Grand Prix to claim his 65th career victory, the four-time champion arrives in the Styrian Alps with a 14-point lead in this year's title chase and a sense of reinvigoration thanks to his updated engine.

On another picturesque circuit with traffic access problems this weekend, where power will again be a major factor, Hamilton and his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas will start as favourites for Sunday's race, albeit reluctantly. After a disappointing performance on one of Hamilton's favourite circuits, at Montreal in Canada, their French triumph came on a day when chief rival and fellow-four-time champion Sebastian Vettel experienced another of his periodic days to forget.

His opening lap collision with Bottas ruined both of their races and ensured Hamilton

had a straightforward afternoon as he regained championship lead. He will do all he can to avoid a repeat.

Both Hamilton and Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff stressed after last Sunday's win that they can take nothing for granted in this yo-yo season, the Englishman saying he intended to stay grounded and to approach each race the same.

Wolff strove to play down any newly-perceived advantage in speed, thanks to the up-graded Mercedes engine. "Do we have the best engine now?" he said. "Very difficult to say because when you look at the data, the quickest car on the straight was Kimi (Raikkonen of Ferrari), but we believe he was maybe running a different aero configuration. He added that both Hamilton and Vettel have enjoyed 17 points leads already this season and forecast that their fortunes would continue to swing on a race by race basis.

"I think what you saw in Montreal in comparison to Le Castellet is that marginal gains matter," he added. "We fell back in Montreal because we couldn't bring the new power unit and we were racing power unit number one for the seventh consecutive race. The others introduced their upgrades... That certainly didn't help." While Mercedes, Ferrari and Red Bull ponder their prospects of big points hauls in Austria, it is a very different story for one-time great teams McLaren and Williams. —AFP

Sports

Rangers' Mike Minor flirts with major perfection in win over Padres

Zach Elfin caps unbeaten June, leads Phillies past Yankees

ARLINGTON: Rangers left-hander Mike Minor retired the first 19 hitters he faced Wednesday and allowed no runs on one hit through seven innings, leading Texas to a 5-2 victory over the San Diego Padres in the rubber match of a three-game series at Arlington, Texas. Eric Hosmer sharply grounded a single to center with one out in the seventh to end Minor's bid for the sixth no-hitter and second perfect game in Rangers history. Kenny Rogers was perfect in Texas' most recent no-hitter on July 28, 1994. Minor (6-4) had five strikeouts and no walks, getting considerable help from his defense in his bid for history. Keone Kela struck out two in a perfect ninth to pick up his 20th save. Padres starter Clayton Richard (7-7) gave up four runs on 10 hits and a walk with three strikeouts in seven innings. The result snapped his personal four-decision winning streak.

ASTROS 7, BLUE JAYS 6

Alex Bregman crushed a walk-off, two-run home run to cap a five-run comeback and send host Houston past Toronto. Bregman, who recorded four extra-base hits in the Astros' win on Tuesday, doubled twice before his 14th home run clinched the rubber match of the series for Houston. Bregman smoked his dinger to left off Blue Jays closer Ryan Tepera (5-3), plating Tony Kemp. The Blue Jays jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first inning against Dallas Keuchel, who allowed six runs on seven hits and three walks with three strikeouts over 5 1/3 innings.

RED SOX 9, ANGELS 6

Rafael Devers knocked a tiebreaking RBI double in the seventh inning and finished 3-for-4 to lead Boston past visiting Los Angeles. J.D. Martinez added a three-run blast for his major-league-leading 25th homer, Sandy Leon hit a two-run blast and had three RBIs, and Eduardo Nunez added a solo shot as Boston won for the fifth time in six games. Martin Maldonado slugged a three-run homer and Ian Kinsler had a solo shot, but the Angels couldn't avoid their season-high-tying fifth straight loss.

GIANTS 1, ROCKIES 0

Brandon Crawford smacked a walk-off home run with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning, ending what began as a brilliant pitchers' duel between Madison Bumgarner and Kyle Freeland in a victory for San Francisco over visiting Colorado. Crawford's ninth homer of the year came on the third pitch of the at-bat from Harrison Musgrave (0-3), giving the Giants a fourth straight victory overall and second in two days over the Rockies. Bumgarner gave up two hits and two walks in his seven innings, striking out eight, including the 1,500th punchout of his career against the first batter he faced. Freeland allowed four hits and one walk in his seven innings, striking out four.

PHILLIES 3, YANKEES 0

Zach Elfin pitched seven shutout innings, Rhys Hoskins hit a three-run homer, and Philadelphia salvaged the final game of the series with a shutout of visiting New York. Elfin (6-2) gave up four hits and two walks while striking out six. Cesar Hernandez and Hoskins contributed two hits for the Phillies, who managed eight overall. Yankees starter Luis Cessa (0-1) lasted only three innings, giving up five hits and three runs. Aaron Hicks had a pair of hits for the Yankees, who played without Aaron Judge (rest) and managed just four hits.

MARINERS 8, ORIOLES 7 (11 INNINGS)

Kyle Seager tied the game with a two-run homer in the ninth inning, and Denard Span delivered a sacrifice fly in the 11th inning as visiting Seattle rallied past Baltimore. Jean Segura started the winning rally with a double off Mychal Givens (0-5) leading off the 11th. Donnie Hart came on for the Orioles with one out and gave up a single to Seager that moved Segura to third. Span then sent a fly ball to medium-deep center field that brought in Segura with the decisive run. Chasen Bradford (5-0) earned the win, and Edwin Diaz got his major-league-leading 30th save-his third in three nights versus Baltimore.

INDIANS 5, CARDINALS 1

Edwin Encarnacion and Lonnie Chisenhall hit back-to-back homers to help Cleveland salvage a three-game set with a victory



ARLINGTON: Kazuhisa Makita #53 of the San Diego Padres throws against the Texas Rangers in the eighth inning at Globe Life Park in Arlington on Wednesday in Arlington, Texas. — AFP

over host St. Louis. Rookie right-hander Shane Bieber (3-0) pitched six strong innings and got his first major league hit. He gave up one run and six hits before exiting, striking out five and walking one. Jose Martinez had two hits and one RBI for St. Louis, which had a four-game winning streak halted.

DIAMONDBACKS 2, MARLINS 1

Robbie Ray allowed just two hits over six scoreless innings in his first major league start in nearly two months, and Daniel Descalso's solo home run in the eighth proved to be the winning run as Arizona won at Miami. The Diamondbacks have won two in a row and six of their past seven games. Arizona is 10-2 in its last 12 road games.

Ray (3-0) issued two walks-back-to-back to open the fourth inning-and struck out six to improve his ERA from 4.88 to 4.01. Brad Boxberger allowed a solo home run to Starlin Castro in the ninth but held on for his 19th save of the season.

REDS 6, BRAVES 5

Adam Duvall's two-run single capped a three-run rally in the seventh inning and lifted Cincinnati to a victory at Atlanta. The Reds mounted the comeback against Sam Freeman (2-4) and scored all three runs with two outs. Scooter Gennett drove in the first run with a single and Duvall, after Dan Winkler replaced Freeman, put Cincinnati ahead with a two-run single to right field. Cincinnati won two of three in the series and has won nine of its last 10 games. The Reds improved to 31-31 since Jim Riggleman became interim manager on April 19.

ROYALS 5, BREWERS 4

Mike Moustakas homered and Danny Duffy threw six strong innings to lead Kansas City to a win at Milwaukee. Brad Miller hit a three-run home run in the ninth inning to get the Brewers within one with no outs. Royals reliever Wily Peralta came in, recorded a strikeout, and after a pinch-hit single by Erik Kratz, got Ryan Braun to ground into a game-ending double play. Duffy (4-7) allowed one run on five hits with seven strikeouts and two walks.

ATHLETICS 3, TIGERS 0

Jed Lowrie continued his rampage against Detroit, Chris Bassitt collected his first win of the season, and Oakland claimed a shutout win at Detroit. Lowrie had a pair of doubles and drove in the first run

of the game. He had the go-ahead hit in each of the previous two games of the four-game series and has seven hits, including two homers, over the past three games. Bassitt (1-3) was recalled from Triple-A Nashville to make the start. He gave up just two hits while overcoming five walks and striking out five. The Tigers have lost eight in a row.

PIRATES 5, METS 3

Pittsburgh scored four runs in the top of the ninth, including David Freese's go-ahead two-run single, for a comeback win at New York. The Mets entered the ninth with a 3-1 lead. Against reliever Jeurys Familia (3-4), Elias Diaz, Corey Dickerson and Gregory Polanco opened with singles, scoring Diaz to make it 3-2. Familia walked Jordy Mercer to load the bases and was lifted. Anthony Swarzak gave up Freese's base hit on his first pitch, giving Pittsburgh a 4-3 lead. After Austin Meadows struck out, Josh Bell followed with a sacrifice fly to make it 5-3.

WHITE SOX 6, TWINS 1

James Shields scattered four hits while pitching seven shutout innings, and Jose Abreu and Avisail Garcia each homered as host Chicago won its third straight game in beating slumping Minnesota. It was just the second win since Opening Day for Shields (3-9). He walked two and struck out five while allowing three earned runs or fewer for the eighth time in his past nine starts. Abreu had two hits, including his 12th homer of the year in the fifth inning, and scored two runs. Leury Garcia, Tim Anderson and Charlie Tilson each added two hits and an RBI for Chicago.

DODGERS 7, CUBS 5

Max Muncy, Joc Pederson and Cody Bellinger hit home runs, and Alex Wood went seven innings for the first time since his season debut as Los Angeles defeated visiting Chicago. The Dodgers increased their major-league-leading home run total in June to 51, the second most in a single month in franchise history and two off the club's all-time high. Pederson has 11 home runs on the season, with 10 of those in June alone. Muncy hit his ninth in the month, and Bellinger hit his eighth. Both have 16 total. Willson Contreras drove in four runs for the Cubs, who saw starter Kyle Hendricks give up six earned runs in a start for the first time since June 19, 2015. — AFP



Socceroos must shed 'inferiority complex', says ex-coach Ange

'We still want to be the underdog'

SYDNEY: Australia must shed their inferiority complex and stop thinking of themselves as the "underdog", former national coach Ange Postecoglou said yesterday after their early World Cup exit.

The Socceroos limped out of the tournament in Russia with a 2-0 defeat to Peru in Sochi on Tuesday, again paying for a lack of a cutting edge in front of goal. Australia have won only two of their 16 World Cup games stretching back to their tournament debut in 1974. They brought in Dutchman Bert van Marwijk after Postecoglou abruptly quit following their qualification for Russia.

Postecoglou, who now coaches Japan's Yokohama F. Marinos, defended his attacking philosophy and said the reigning Asian champions should not fear failure on the world stage. "If our way forward is to rely on our defensive stability and competitiveness, then let that be our blueprint," he wrote on the PlayersVoice website.

"But we must shed our inferiority complex. The problem with always being the underdog is that it is a sign you haven't improved," Postecoglou said. Australia still thought of themselves as underdogs, despite qualifying for the last four World Cups.

"What has happened and transpired since I

left the position shows me my instincts were right," he said. "We still want to be the underdog. We want everyone to know that eight times out of 10 we will be beaten by the very best, but that does not mean we can't knock them off. After all we are Australians and we fear no one.

"We can't fear failure or being exposed. The Socceroo name alone should give us that strength. We should build on the shoulders of those before us, otherwise we have failed in our responsibilities." Despite another World Cup failure, Postecoglou remains optimistic about Australia's future in international football.

"The core of this group have their peak years ahead of them," he said. "They have played under great leaders like Mile Jedinak, Mark Bresciano, Mark Milligan and Matt McKay. They have played with our greatest Socceroo Timmy Cahill.

"The likes of (youngsters) Daniel Arzani and Tommy Rogic give us genuine excitement," Postecoglou also fired a salvo at Didier Deschamps after the France boss criticised his coaching ethos. "Before the France (World Cup) game, Didier Deschamps remarked how the Socceroos now had a better balance between attack and defence," he said.

"He referenced that during my reign we were too offensive and open. Some used it as further



SOCHI: File photo shows Trent Sainsbury #20 of Australia and Pedro Aquino #23 of Peru battle for a corner kick during the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia group C match between Australia and Peru at Fisht Stadium on June 26, 2018 in Sochi. — AFP

evidence of my failings. "I saw it differently. We all try and find meaning, and I can think of no

better five words to define my career than those. His teams were too attacking," — AFP

Swedish debacle leaves bittersweet taste for Mexico

MOSCOW: Mexico coach Juan Carlos Osorio was apologetic, his players were defiant and their critics baffled after they reached the last 16 of the World Cup despite a 3-0 defeat to Sweden. One former Mexico coach, Ricardo La Volpe, suggested that the players were already feeling the weight of the so-called "fifth match"—the elusive quarter-final — as they fell apart against the physical Europeans.

After silencing Osorio's critics with impressive wins over Germany and South Korea, Mexico nearly blew it against Sweden and only progressed because of Germany's incredible defeat to South Korea.

Even so, they finished second in the group and will have to face Brazil next, making them odds-on to go out in the round of 16 for an in-

credible seventh time in a row. Proceeding to the last eight or beyond has become a Sisyphean task for the Mexicans since they last reached the quarter-finals when they hosted the competition in 1986.

La Volpe, whose team were eliminated by Argentina in 2006, said it might be all in the mind. "I think the problem is the famous fifth match," he said, adding that Mexico felt more comfortable as underdogs. "It's a psychological thing and the players still don't know how to play with the burden of being winners." He then suggested that Mexico might be happier facing Brazil than Switzerland, who they would have met if they had won the group. "Mexico know how to play against the big powers," he said.—Reuters

Kolarov, Matic ponder futures as Serbia head home

MOSCOW: Serbia's captain Aleksandar Kolarov and midfielder Nemanja Matic are considering their international futures after a 2-0 defeat by Brazil in Moscow eliminated the national side from the World Cup.

"I will speak with the people from the football federation, whether they see me in the national team," Kolarov, 32, was quoted as saying by Blic newspaper. "If I can't contribute to what the national side needs, I won't be selfish. "It will be hard for me but I will stay away," added the AS Roma and former Manchester City defender.

"First I need a rest," Matic said, noting he had played more than 60 games this season for Manchester United and his country. "I'm drained, both emotionally and physically. We'll see." "If I

feel I cannot give my maximum, I'll pull out," added Matic, who turns 30 in a month.

The Belgrade press largely echoed coach Mladen Krstajic's praise for his team's fighting spirit in being outclassed by the five-times world champions; Blic called them "heroes". The Serbs needed a win to reach the second round from Group E after a last-minute 2-1 defeat by Switzerland last week. However, in pressing hard they left themselves exposed to a goals in either half by Paulinho and Thiago Silva.

"We went out to win against a powerhouse in modern football and we came up short," Krstajic said. "I congratulate my players for their brave efforts. "That's how it goes in football. We have to up our game."

"The players gave their all," added Krstajic, a former international defender who was promoted to coach from assistant when Slavoljub Muslin was sacked last October after leading the side to qualification for Russia.

"We came to the World Cup to show our true colours after eight years of missing out on major tournaments. We can be very satisfied with our performance," he said.—Reuters



SNIPPETS



Uruguay's Godin holds key to locking out Ronaldo

'Godin shows solidarity and that has made him stand out'

ROSTOV-ON-DON: Uruguay captain Diego Godin is the leader of the only defence yet to concede a goal in the World Cup and the Atletico Madrid defender's wealth of experience in facing Cristiano Ronaldo will come in handy in his side's last 16 clash with Portugal. With 27 meetings against Ronaldo in the bruising Spanish capital derby between Atletico and Real Madrid, winning eight times, drawing nine and losing 10, few players are better placed to come up with a strategy to shackle Ronaldo than Godin.

The five-times world player of the year may have filled his boots against Godin on several occasions, including two hat-tricks against Atletico, but the defender has also kept the prolific Portuguese quiet in many games, preventing him from finding the net in 13 of their last 20 meetings.

There has been little love lost when they have met: Ronaldo once punched Godin during a Spanish Super Cup tie, but the defender got his own back in a meeting last year by elbowing the Portuguese in the head. Both players escaped red cards.

Godin, 32, is one of the most senior players in the Uruguay squad, making his debut in 2005 and playing at three World Cups as well as winning the Copa America in 2011. It was thanks to his header that Uruguay beat Italy 1-0 in their decisive group game in Brazil to reach the last 16 of the last World Cup and even though they fell to Colombia in the next round, the memory of the goal lives on. Coach Oscar Tabarez revealed he used a picture of the towering header to inspire his players in his halftime team talk in their first game in this World Cup against Egypt, where they snatched victory with Jose Gimenez's late header from a corner.

Tabarez, who has coached Uruguay since 2006, has never hidden his admiration for his captain. "Godin has always had a very defined personality, he shows solidarity and that has made him stand out the group and it has rubbed off on them too," he said last year. "He earned the captaincy for his achievements and his



NIZHNY NOVGOROD: Uruguay's Diego Godin (C) takes part in a training session in Nizhny Novgorod on Wednesday during the Russia 2018 World Cup football tournament.— AFP

commitment and his example, and in a certain way he represents the very best of a nation like Uruguay." Godin, battle-hardened after years of working under Atletico coach Diego Simeone, has long been unapologetic about his country's uncompromising style. "You can't turn your back on your collective DNA," he said before the tournament, where they won their three games to finish top of Group A. "We've improved in possession thanks to the younger players but we haven't lost that commitment, that fight, the sacrifice and solidarity, the determination to overcome adversity."

Few players embody that determination like the Atletico defender, whose club have so boldly gone toe-to-toe with richer neighbours Real and their world class striker Ronaldo. And if Uruguay can lock out Ronaldo again and send European champions Portugal home, Godin will surely have a lot to do with it. —Reuters

AC Milan banned from Europa League as bidders circle

MILAN: European soccer has banned Italy's AC Milan from next season's Europa League competition because of its uncertain finances, even as sources said a second US sporting tycoon had expressed interest in taking over the club. UEFA announced the ban on Wednesday after an investigation under its Financial Fair Play (FFP) regulations, in particular the break-even requirement. It said AC Milan had not provided sufficient evidence of its financial stability.

The ban further complicates the future of the club, whose Chinese owner Li Yonghong is considering an offer for a majority stake in AC Milan from cable television billionaire Rocco Comisso, sources familiar with the matter said.

Comisso, owner of North American soccer team New York Cosmos, has bid for 70 percent of AC Milan, said a source familiar with

the offer. The source did not disclose the offer price.

Comisso's bid follows a public expression of interest last week from the Ricketts family, owner of Major League baseball team Chicago Cubs. The Ricketts said in a statement it would be long-term investors in AC Milan. As bidders circle, Li is trying to solve his own funding problem so that he can improve his negotiating position in any sale process, the sources said, adding that he was likely to try to solve the funding issue before making any decision on a bid.

Last week, Li failed to make a 32 million euro (\$37 million) payment to AC Milan, the final part of 120 million euros he had committed to pay the club as part of his agreement to buy it from former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi.

After Li failed to make the final payment, US investment fund Elliott, which helped fund his 740 million euro acquisition of the club last year, stepped in and paid it instead. If Li cannot repay Elliott by July 6, the fund manager could gain full ownership of the club which has won what is now the European Champions League seven times, the sources said.

"Comisso made a bid and it's still there but it seems Li is trying to buy time," said a source familiar with the bid. Elliott gave Li a 180 million euro loan last year to complete the purchase of the Serie A club, which is trying to emerge from years of losses with a turnaround plan. Elliott also directly lent AC Milan 128 million euros.—Reuters



Colombia through to last 16 as Senegal suffer yellow peril

Colombia finish as group winners with six points

SAMARA: Colombia's Yerry Mina thumped home a second-half header to secure a dramatic 1-0 victory over Senegal yesterday that catapulted the South Americans into the World Cup last 16 and dumped their African opponents out of tournament.

Senegal had only needed a point in their final Group H game to reach the next round, but defeat saw them miss out to Japan, who edged them out of the runners-up spot by virtue of having a better disciplinary record.

It was the first time in World Cup history that two teams had been separated by the amount of yellow cards they had accrued in the tournament. Both Senegal and Japan, who were beaten 1-0 by Poland on Thursday, finished the group with four points and an identical record in all other respects. Yet the Asian side ended in second position having picked up four yellow cards to Senegal's six.

Colombia, who finished as group winners with six points will face a last-16 match against the runners-up in Group G where England and Belgium battle for supremacy later. Defeat for Senegal eliminated them at the group stage in their first World Cup appearance since 2002, and left Africa without a representative in the knockout stages. Senegal had been heading through until the 74th minute when Mina rose to meet a corner and sent a bullet header into the net. It was a crushing blow to the Senegalese who had been the better side for most of the game and had a penalty award overturned in the first half after a VAR review.

They had looked set to take the lead in the 17th minute when Liverpool forward Sadio Mane went down in the area under a challenge from Davinson Sanchez and



SAMARA: Senegal's goalkeeper Khadim N'Diaye (back) eyes the ball as Colombia's forward Falcao (C) jumps for a header during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group H football match between Senegal and Colombia at the Samara Arena in Samara yesterday.— AFP

referee Milorad Mazic pointed to the spot.

The VAR system has not been universally acclaimed at this tournament, but television replays appeared to show Sanchez get his heel on the ball, before clattering into Mane, and after reviewing his original decision, Mazic agreed.

Colombia had got off to a poor start and suffered a blow early on when playmaker and talisman James Rodriguez was forced off injured.

After his display in their last match against Poland, Colombian hopes had again been pinned on the shoulders of Rodriguez, who had spearheaded their run to the last quarter-finals four years ago.

Those hopes looked forlorn, however,

within minutes of kickoff at the Samara Arena as the forward was hit with one heavy challenge, which clearly took its toll, and he was withdrawn after half an hour having spent much of the intervening period ambling around the pitch.

His exit did little, however, to revive the sluggish South Americans, who had been second best in almost every department. Chances throughout the game were thin on the ground, with Colombia striker Radamel Falcao heading off target in the 25th minute and again in the second half, while substitute Luis Muriel had an effort blocked. Yet Mina ensured Colombia were not made to pay when he headed home in the 74th minute. — Reuters

ference and goals scored. The Samurai Blue, who had needed only a draw to qualify from Group H, went behind in the 59th minute when Poland's Rafal Kurzawa floated a free kick to the far post and an unmarked Jan Bednarek scored from close range.

Until then, Japan had looked content to contain Poland in stifling heat in Volgograd and they left in-form midfielder Takashi Inui on the bench until they were chasing an equaliser.

Poland's star striker Robert Lewandowski missed a good chance to double the lead in the 74th minute, meaning he failed to score in all three matches he played at the World Cup in Russia. The game finished in farcical circumstances with both Japan and Poland happy with the result and content to play keep-ball. —Reuters

Japan survive in World Cup despite loss to Poland

VOLGOGRAD: Japan advanced into the knockout phase of the World Cup yesterday despite losing 1-0 to Poland, progressing from Group H thanks to their lower tally of yellow cards than Senegal. The African side were eliminated after their 1-0 defeat by Colombia despite finishing level with Japan on points, goal dif-

WORLD CUP STANDINGS

		Group A							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
Uruguay	3	3	0	0	5	0	+5	9	
Russia	3	2	0	1	8	4	+4	6	
Saudi Arabia	3	1	0	2	2	7	-5	3	
Egypt	3	0	0	3	2	6	-4	0	
		Group B							
Spain	3	1	2	0	6	5	+1	5	
Portugal	3	1	2	0	5	4	+1	5	
Iran	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4	
Morocco	3	0	1	2	2	4	-2	1	
		Group C							
France	3	2	1	0	3	1	+2	7	
Denmark	3	1	2	0	2	1	+1	5	
Peru	3	1	0	2	2	2	0	3	
Australia	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1	
		Group D							
Croatia	3	3	0	0	7	1	+6	9	
Argentina	3	1	1	1	3	5	-2	4	
Nigeria	3	1	0	2	3	4	-1	3	
Iceland	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1	
		Group E							
Brazil	3	2	1	0	5	1	+4	7	
Switzerland	3	1	2	0	5	4	+1	5	
Serbia	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	3	
Costa Rica	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1	
		Group F							
Sweden	3	2	0	1	5	2	+3	6	
Mexico	3	2	0	1	3	4	-1	6	
Korea Rep	3	1	0	2	3	3	0	3	
Germany	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	3	
		Group G							
England	2	2	0	0	8	2	+6	6	
Belgium	2	2	0	0	8	2	+6	6	
Tunisia	2	0	0	2	3	7	-4	0	
Panama	2	0	0	2	1	9	-8	0	
		Group H							
Colombia	3	2	0	1	5	2	+3	6	
Japan	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4	
Senegal	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4	
Poland	3	1	0	2	2	5	-3	3	

Tomorrow's Matches (All local timings)

France

17:00

Argentina

Uruguay

21:00

Portugal

Sport Times

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2018

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Colombia through to last 16 as Senegal suffer yellow peril

See Page 47

SAMARA: Senegal's forward Sadio Mane (top) falls over Colombia's defender Santiago Arias during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group H football match between Senegal and Colombia at the Samara Arena in Samara. — AFP