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20 killed as car explodes outside hospital in Cairo

Amir strongly denounces terrorist attack

CAIRO: Twenty people were killed and 47 injured when a car packed with explosives intended for a militant attack blew up outside Cairo's main cancer hospital yesterday, the interior ministry said. Officials initially said the explosion was caused when a car driving against the traffic collided with three other cars. The front of the hospital suffered extensive damage, with an entrance wrecked and rubble strewn over the pavement. Victims' belongings were scattered among the debris.

President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi described the blast as a "terrorist incident". In a social media post, he offered his condolences to the victims' families and the Egyptian people. HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of condolences to Sisi expressing condolences. The Amir expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation of this blatant terrorist action, denounced by all tenets and humanitarian values; an attack that targeted innocent lives, security and stability of the brotherly country. He expressed Kuwait's rejection of all forms of terrorism, affirming that it stands alongside the brotherly country and supports all measures aimed at preserving its security and stability.

HH the Amir prayed Almighty Allah bestow mercy upon the souls of those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack and wished quick recovery for the injured. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the Egyptian president.

The interior ministry said the car involved in the incident had been stolen a few months ago. "The initial technical examination also showed that the car contained explosives, and the collision led to their detonation," a ministry statement said. "It is estimated that the car was being transported to a location for use in the execution of a terrorist operation," the ministry added. It said the Hasm militant group was responsible for rigging up the car. Egypt accuses Hasm, which emerged in 2016 and has claimed several attacks, of being a wing of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. Egypt's oldest Islamist movement denies this and says it seeks change through peaceful means only.

The explosion caused a blaze that forced the partial evacuation of the National Cancer Institute, the health ministry said. One resident, who gave her name as Salwa, said bodies had been fused together by the explosion. "There was a sound of an extremely loud blast. It was no way two cars crashing. The car must have been rigged with explosives," she told Reuters Television. Another witness, who declined to give his name, said the car's driver ran away before it exploded.

Later in the morning, investigators scoured the scene amid a heavy police presence. Egypt's public prosecutor is investigating the incident, sources told Reuters. President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi expressed his condolences to the Egyptian people and the families of the victims. He pledged to eradicate "this brutal terrorism".

Continued on Page 24



CAIRO: Onlookers gather around a charred car just before midnight on Sunday outside the National Cancer Institute in the Egyptian capital. — AFP

News in brief

Court issues big divorce bill

KUWAIT: A court issued a final ruling to commit a Kuwaiti to pay KD 1,000 per month to his divorced wife and children, KD 1,500 to hire two maids, KD 160 per month for the two maids' salaries, KD 5,000 for a car, KD 500 to hire a driver, and KD 100 per month for the driver's salary. — By Meshaal Al-Enezi

Iran quake felt in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Residents of some Kuwaiti areas felt Sunday night a 5.2-magnitude earthquake which struck western Iran, the Kuwait National Seismic Network said. "At 10.15 pm, residents of Kuwait's coastal areas felt the quake which hit Iran," director of the National Seismic Network Abdullah Al-Enezi told KUNA. He said the center of the quake was 10 km deep and at a distance of 300 km from Kuwait City. — KUNA

Uproar as India scraps Kashmir's special status

NEW DELHI: The Indian government yesterday stripped Kashmir of the special autonomy it has had for seven decades, prompting a furious response from nuclear-armed rival Pakistan and raising fears of further violence in the Muslim-majority Himalayan region. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist party rushed through a presidential decree to scrap from the constitution the Indian-ruled part of the disputed territory's special status. It also moved a bill proposing the Indian-administered part of Kashmir be divided into two regions directly ruled by New Delhi.

Ahead of the announcements, tens of thousands of extra Indian troops were deployed in the territory, and a security lockdown was imposed overnight

Sunday with all telecommunications there cut. Home Minister Amit Shah, a close ally of Modi, told parliament the president had issued a decree abolishing Article 370 of the constitution, which gives special autonomy to the Himalayan region. The decree said the measure came into force "at once".

Pakistan's foreign ministry condemned the move as "illegal". "As the party to this international dispute, Pakistan will exercise all possible options to counter the illegal steps," it said in a statement. A senior Pakistani security source said that a meeting of the Pakistani military's top commanders had been called for today. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since their independence in 1947.

For three decades the Indian-administered part has been in the grip of an insurgency that has left tens of thousands dead. Armed Kashmiri rebels and many residents have fought for the region's independence or to join neighbor Pakistan.

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NEW DELHI: Activists and supporters of Indian leftwing parties shout slogans during a demonstration to protest against the presidential decree abolishing Article 370 yesterday. — AFP

Trump condemns white supremacy after shootings

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump yesterday told a nation mourning the death of 31 people in two weekend mass shootings that he rejected racism and white supremacist ideology, moving to blunt criticism that his anti-immigrant rhetoric fuels violence. As flags flew at half mast at the White House and across the country and the death toll edged up by one, Trump made an unusually direct condemnation of racists as he took on the role of consoler in chief.

But as the country tried to digest weekend

shootings that left 22 dead at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas and another nine outside a bar in Dayton, Ohio, Trump offered little in the way of new ideas for a country awash with guns and painfully accustomed to mass shootings. "Our nation must condemn racism, bigotry, and white supremacy," Trump said. He stressed that mental illness was the main culprit fueling mass shootings in America, as opposed to the ready availability of firearms or extremist thinking, as argued by gun control advocates.

At the sites of America's latest massacres - numbers 250 and 251 so far this year - people came to honor the dead. Makeshift memorials with candles, flowers, heart-shaped balloons and posters with messages of condolence sprang up outside the Walmart in Texas and the Dayton bar. "You are loved," read an inscription on a small yellow cardboard heart placed outside the

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WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump speaks alongside Vice President Mike Pence about the mass shootings from the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House yesterday. — AFP

UK joins US in Gulf mission after Iran taunts



TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif speaks during a press conference yesterday. — AFP

LONDON: Britain said yesterday it will join forces with the United States to protect merchant vessels in the Gulf amid heightened tensions with Iran, after Tehran taunted Washington that its allies were too "ashamed" to join the mission. Britain's decision to form the joint maritime taskforce with the United States marks a departure in policy under new Prime Minister Boris Johnson, after efforts under his predecessor Theresa May to form a European-led grouping.

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July hottest month ever; 2019 to be among warmest

PARIS: July was the hottest month across the globe ever measured, and 2019 is on track to be one of the warmest years, according to data released yesterday by the European Union's Earth observation network. Searing heatwaves saw records tumble across Europe last month, with unusually high temperatures around

the Arctic Circle as well. Wildfires unprecedented in scope and intensity burned in Siberia and Alaska, releasing more than 100 million tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere across June and July.

At the same time, Greenland's ice sheet shed massive amounts of melted ice daily, totalling nearly 200 billion tonnes in July alone, according to the Danish Meteorological Institute. "While July is usually the warmest month of the year for the globe, according to our data it also was the warmest month recorded globally, by a very small margin," Jean-Noel Thepaut, head of the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service, said in a statement. "With continued greenhouse gas emissions and the resulting impact on global temperatures,

records will continue to be broken in the future."

Compared with the 1981-2010 period, average July temperatures this year rose highest in Alaska, Greenland, Siberia, central Asia, Iran and large swathes of Antarctica. Africa and Australia were also well above average. Globally, July 2019 was marginally warmer - by 0.04 degrees Celsius - than the previous record-hot month, July 2016.

The new record is all the more notable because the 2016 record followed a strong El Nino, which boosts average global temperatures beyond the impact of global warming alone. El Ninos are naturally occurring weather events triggered by periodic warming - every

Continued on Page 24

Local

Kuwaiti man found dead in rain drainage pipes in Ahmadi

Multiple arrests in crackdowns on Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh makeshift markets

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti man was found dead in rain drainage pipes in the Ahmadi stables area. The citizen, born in 1973, was reported missing since Aug 1. Forensics were called and the prosecution was informed. An investigation was opened.

Fatal crash

The body of an unidentified person was recovered by the coroner for identification following a collision between three vehicles that led to his death. The accident took place on Seventh Ring Road. Paramedics told policemen that the deceased's body was found on the ground when they arrived on the scene.

Work mishap

An Asian man's body was recovered by the coroner after falling from a building under construction on Salmi Road. Police responded to a call from workers at the site, who said their colleague fell from the building.

Jleeb crackdown

Farwaniya Public Security Sector carried out a

surprise campaign against street markets and roaming vendors in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh in cooperation with Kuwait Municipality. The campaign resulted in arresting several vendors and violators of residency law, who were sent to Jleeb police station. Large quantities of foodstuff were destroyed for being unfit for human consumption. Separately, Farwaniya municipality violations removal department inspected violating properties in Riggae and Khaitan and took legal action as per ministerial law 206/2009.

Social media activist wanted for blasphemy

Blasphemy charges
The juvenile prosecution decided to detain an Iranian activist on social media for

appearing in pictures with an actress while in hospital. Lawyer Bashar Al-Nasser complained against the activist for making blasphemous remarks, when he appeared to tell the actress, "Please if you go to Heaven, ask Allah to admit me there."

Fires tackled

Fire broke out in a makeshift room behind Sabah Hospital. Industrial Shuwaikh firemen put it out, and no injuries were reported. An investigation was



KUWAIT: A makeshift room behind Sabah Hospital heavily damaged by a fire reported there recently.

opened to reveal the cause of the fire. Meanwhile, firemen dealt with two fires, one in a store for traffic signs at the Capital traffic department, and the second, a limited one, in a store for cleaning material in

Sabah health zone. No injuries were reported. — (Some of the information featured in this report was translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa)

News in brief

Ministry to hire nurses from India, Philippines

KUWAIT: The health ministry is preparing to sign contracts with 800 nurses from India and Philippines directly and not through intermediaries, informed sources said. The ministry is getting ready to open hospitals and new health centers that need outstanding medical workers, and wants to sign contracts with nurses without middlemen, after problems erupted between companies and nurses contracted with them because their salaries were delayed, the sources explained. — By A Saleh

Degree required for scientific titles

KUWAIT: A person can only refer to himself as a doctor or use any other scientific title in media as long as they have their scientific university degree attested at the Ministry of Higher Education, according to a new law published in the national gazette 'Kuwait Al-Yaum' on Sunday. Law No. 78 for 2019 stipulates that scientific titles are not to be used in any media, including social media, or advertised in any publication by any person until after they are approved by the higher education ministry equivalent department, with up to six months imprisonment and/or KD 1,000 fine for violators. This is to help address reported cases in which people identifying themselves as doctors sell prescriptions and supplements on social media, without necessarily having the proper qualifications to do so.

Kuwaitis in US safe

WASHINGTON: Kuwait's embassy in Washington has affirmed that the Kuwaiti visitors and students in the United States are safe after the two mass shootings in Dayton, Ohio and El Paso, Texas. In a statement to the press on Sunday, the embassy urged all Kuwaitis in the US to keep in touch with it or with any of the Kuwaiti consulates in Los Angeles and New York. In case of any emergency, the embassy advised nationals in the US to seek help through the following phone numbers: the Kuwaiti embassy in Washington's emergency number (+12022620758), the Kuwaiti General Consulate in Los Angeles' emergency number (+13102793644), the General Consulate in New York emergency number (+19172426688), and the Washington Cultural Office emergency number (+12023642104). — KUNA

Kuwait welcomes Sudan declaration

KUWAIT: An official source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry stated that Kuwait welcomes the Military Transitional Council (MTC) of Sudan and the Forces of Freedom and Change's (FFC) initialing of a constitutional declaration. The source hailed the declaration as a cornerstone for establishing security, stability and peace as well as creating a brighter future for Sudanese people. The source also lauded the efforts exerted by all parties and their eagerness to prioritize the higher interests of their nation to agree on this pivotal and crucial document. Kuwait stands firmly in support of Sudan to restore security and stability, the source concluded. — KUNA

Banks to close Saturday marking Arafat day

KUWAIT: Banks will close as of Saturday, August 10, 2019 coinciding with pilgrims' standing on Mount Arafat and will remain shut till Wednesday throughout Eid Al-Adha holiday, Secretary General of the Union of Kuwaiti Banks Dr Hamad Al-Hasawi said yesterday. Dr Hasawi affirmed in a press release that Eid Al-Adha would be observed on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, adding that August 14 (Wednesday) would be a normal work day, in line with a circular issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in this respect.

Separately, the Central Bank of Kuwait announced yesterday the issuance of a total of KD 240 million (\$792 million). The issuance has a three-month term and a return rate of three percent, the CBK said in a statement. The CBK's last issue of bonds was on July 29th at a total value of KD 200 million (\$660 million). In other news, the Central Bank of Kuwait will hold the inaugural CBK International Banking Conference on September 23, the CBK said in a statement yesterday. It will be organized under patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Titled 'Shaping the Future,' the event's speakers will include key policymakers, C-level banking industry executives, banking experts and FinTech entrepreneurs from across the globe.

Its agenda will address economic and social challenges facing the banking sector and the opportunities and threats posed by technological innovation, laying out a vision for how the industry can thrive and better sup-

port sustainable economic development. The CBK International Banking Conference will welcome an audience of top-level delegates involved in the global financial services sector such as government ministers, regulatory chiefs, banking CEOs, and academics.

In this respect, CBK Governor Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel stated that, "The banking and finance industry is today at an inflection point due to numerous challenges, mainly the state of today's global economy; where economic uncertainty is exasperated by monetary policy changes, market developments, the geopolitical landscape and resultant trade disputes."

"Meanwhile, modern technology is disrupting the financial and banking sector, all the while social transformations and changing customer expectations mean that banks will no longer be able to draw on their classical banking operating models. It is thus indispensable to evolve new ways of banking in order to meet the expectations of clients, and remain relevant in the future," he added. Through four focused panel discussions and keynote presentations, the conference will provide a detailed, nuanced framework of what the future will hold for the global banking sector as we head into the 2020s. The conference will discuss how banks should respond to ongoing transformational changes, especially as millennials, who are fast becoming the dominant consumer group, see little distinction between longstanding banks and their digital-only rivals.

This is blurring the lines between financial services and other industries and posing challenges to regulators who must strike a balance between nurturing innovation and mitigating risk. Moreover, the conference will seek to answer how the banking sector can prosper, delivering returns to shareholders while also supporting sustainable economic development at a time of rapid change within the industry itself. —KUNA

Expats banned from fish auctions to 'regulate' prices

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Expatriates are not allowed to enter fish auctions unless authorized, according to a circular the Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued recently in an attempt to curb fish prices. The ministry hopes that the new regulation would help prevent 'manipulation of prices' after it received many complaints that auctioneers, who are mostly expatriates, allegedly raise the prices to increase their profits. The ministry said the new circular organizes markets and activates

the governance of fish auctions to guarantee stability of prices and regulate the auction process, as well as effectiveness of supervision to prevent manipulation of the process.

The circular stipulated an auction cannot start unless a commerce ministry inspector is present and complies with all his instructions at a time he designates in coordination with the market's management. They said other items stressed that IDs be carried by all licensed owners, brokers and their assistants. The circular commits all vendors to display signs with prices and types of fish, and keeping auction invoices and presenting them when asked by ministry inspectors. The circular decided the shares of bidders and organized them as follows: Companies and restaurants 35 percent, vendors 35 percent, and consumers 30 percent, provided brokers put up signs showing this distribution.

Kuwait asks Iraq for info on 'fake' bedoons

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Informed sources said Kuwait's communications with Iraq resulted in adopting a preliminary agreement to have Iraq provide official information about persons in Kuwait who claim to be bedoons, but who Kuwait believes are Iraqis hiding their documents in order to be naturalized. The sources said the information expected from Iraq affects some bedoons included in the 1965 census along with others, which means this information will be solid proof that they or their ancestors forged their status and hid their data, and must adjust their legal status because they will not be considered bedoons registered at the central department for illegal residents.

The sources said a law dealing with bedoons is expected to be ready before the start of the parliamentary term and can be passed during an emergency session as said by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, although expectations point to passing the law in November and not earlier. Sources said the awaited information from the Iraqi side will be an important factor in dealing with the bedoons, because the issue is related to holders of the 1965 census.

"For Kuwait to receive official information from Iraq about those bedoons means at least 30,000 forgers will be exposed among the 38,000 persons who have 1965 census documents," the source said, adding that the department dealing with the bedoons confirms that those who deserve naturalization among those registered with them are no more than 5,000.



KUWAIT: This picture shows shrimp baskets prepared for auction on the first day of this year's shrimping season on August 1, 2019. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh



KUWAIT: Vendors wait for customers at a livestock market in Kuwait yesterday, ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid Al-Adha which marks the end of the annual pilgrimage or Hajj to the Saudi holy city of Makkah and is celebrated in remembrance of Abraham's readiness to sacrifice his son to God. Known as the "big" festival, Eid Al-Adha is celebrated each year by Muslims sacrificing various animals according to religious traditions, including cows, camels, goats and sheep. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Local

Government tasks Ministry of Finance to pay for rain damage

Cabinet meets, congratulates Amir on Eid Al-Adha

KUWAIT: The Cabinet instructed the Ministry of Finance to disburse financial allocations for those who deserve compensation for damages resulting from the heavy rains that hit Kuwait in November 2018. Ministers had yesterday examined a recommendation from the committee of economic affairs for compensating those who suffered losses due to the heavy rain crisis and flash floods. Kuwait witnessed heavy rains in the past winter, swamping streets, houses and properties and causing extensive damage. Allotments for the compensations are to be deducted from the budget of the Ministry of Finance (2019-2020 fiscal year), Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said after the session.

The Cabinet held its regular weekly session yesterday at Seif Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Following the session, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled stated that the session kicked off with the ministers addressing congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the people of Kuwait and the residents of the dear homeland on forthcoming advent of Eid Al-Adha.



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



Ministers attend the meeting.

The session proceeded with an address by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah about the recent visit to the country by the Iraqi Interior Minister Yassin Al-Yaseri. The ministers examined the discussions that had been held with the Iraqi official that addressed coordination between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi security apparatuses on observing land and maritime borders, combating terrorism and organized crime. — KUNA

Kuwaiti Interior Minister meets UK Advisor

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and the UK's Defense Senior Advisor for the Middle East Sir John Lorimer discussed in a meeting yesterday security issues and topics of mutual interest. Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah underlined the strong Kuwaiti-British ties and cooperation on all levels, said the ministry's Public Relations and Security Media Department in a statement. It added that the meeting also discussed sharing experience and information between the two sides, as well as organizing joint training. Meanwhile, Sir Lorimer hailed Kuwait's prominent role in enhancing security and stability in the region. The UK Ambassador to Kuwait

Michael Davenport and a number of officials attended the meeting.

Later yesterday, Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met with Sir Lorimer, and both sides discussed ways of enhancing military cooperation by holding various training courses on crisis management and coping with emergencies. Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah stressed the importance of these discussions in light of the "essential and exceptional" relationship that ties Kuwait with the UK. In the meantime, the British official expressed his happiness after the talks with KNG, saying, "Such cooperation with such good relations between Kuwait and UK would lead to achieving our goals."

Sir Lorimer also met with Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mohammad Al-Khudhr, and the two sides discussed topics of mutual interest, mainly those concerned with the military fields, the Defense Ministry's Moral Guidance Department said in a statement. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with the UK's Defense Senior Advisor for the Middle East Sir John Lorimer.



Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with the UK's Defense Senior Advisor for the Middle East Sir John Lorimer.



Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mohammad Al-Khudhr meets with the UK's Defense Senior Advisor for the Middle East Sir John Lorimer.



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Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Islamic calligraphy and interior designs inside the main prayer hall of Kuwait's Grand Mosque. — Photo by Nourah Edhbayah (KUNA)

Zain shares hajj season with pilgrims at Terminal 4

In collaboration with MOH's Annual National Hajj Awareness Campaign



KUWAIT: Officials from Zain and the Ministry of Health's Annual National Hajj Awareness Campaign at Kuwait International Airport's fourth terminal (T4).

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For inquiries : 66221212

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, contributed in sharing the Hajj season with pilgrims traveling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj through Kuwait International Airport's fourth terminal (T4). The company's team distributed traveling accessories as well as introduced travelers to its recently-launched free Hajj Internet roaming offer in collaboration with the Ministry of Health's Annual National Hajj Awareness Campaign, entitled 'Towards a Safe Hajj'.

Every year, Zain is keen on collaborating with the Annual National Hajj Awareness Campaign to make this initiative a success. The company aspires to be closer to its customers every year by sharing this special spiritual occasion with them through such initiatives.

Zain's team was present at Terminal 4 along

with the Ministry of Health's team, where some necessary traveling accessories and praying mats were distributed to the traveling pilgrims. The company's team also introduced the pilgrims to the recently-launched free Hajj Internet roaming offer, which comes annually as a contribution to keep customers who travel to the Sacred House connected to each other and to their loved ones for free during Hajj season without any additional charges from their part.

The offer allows postpaid customers to use their existing local Internet capacity while roaming for free, while prepaid (eeZee) customers will get 2 GBs of Internet roaming capacity for free. When customers exceed the limit of their Internet roaming capacity, they will receive a free renewal at no additional charges. The offer is valid at Hajj ritual

locations in Makkah and Madinah during Hajj season. Upon arrival to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, customers can simply manually select Zain KSA as their preferred network and then send DATA ON to 99990 to enjoy the Hajj Internet roaming offer. The limited time offer starts from 1 August and continues until 15 August.

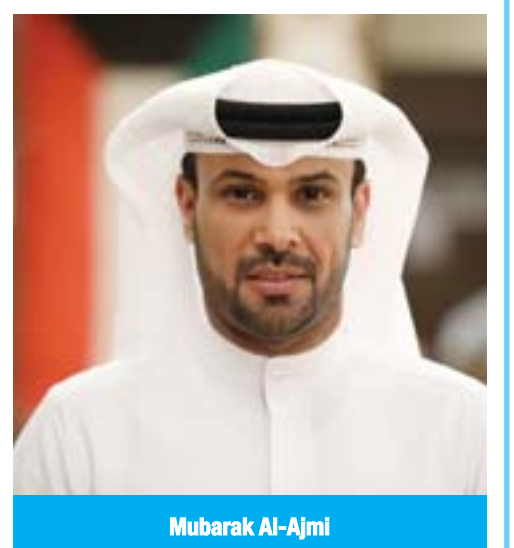
Zain continuously offers services that are tailored to match its customers' expectations and needs during their travels, and to keep them connected to their loved ones and businesses with more convenience and around the clock. By launching this exciting offer, Zain continues to reinforce its leadership position and its pledge in offering the best services and offers to meet customers' professional and personal telecommunications needs.

Health team in Kuwaiti mission ready for hajj

KUWAIT: Head of the medical team at Kuwait's Hajj mission Mubarak Al-Ajmi said yesterday that the Hajj season was the most important annual events that require a strong government effort to guarantee the best services Kuwaiti pilgrims. The Ministry of Health is devoting all efforts to provide both preventive and curative healthcare for pilgrims especially for the elderly and those with chronic diseases, Ajmi said in a press statement. Preventive measures taken by the Ministry of Health

includes vaccinations provided at health-care centers in all governorates, distribution of health card to pilgrims, organizing awareness campaigns, and safety guidance, he explained.

Upon arrival to Makkah, health service teams in the Hajj mission start coordination with Saudi Health Ministry to establish medical clinics that meet the latest and essential requirements to serve the Kuwaiti pilgrims, he clarified. On his part, Assistant of Team Director Mughair Al-Shammari said that the mission had formed inspecting teams to check the readiness of the Kuwaiti Hajj groups and their commitment to previous pledges made to the supervisory committee before going to Makkah. He stressed the mission's keenness to ensure that the Hajj groups abide by health requirements.— KUNA



Mubarak Al-Ajmi

Local

Eidiya, a centuries-old tradition that changed greatly with time

‘Families today spend more than KD 600 on eidiya’

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Millions of Muslims worldwide are preparing for Eid Al-Adha, the “festival of sacrifice”. The four-day festival is one of the two main religious celebrations in Islam. Eid is a social event that has always been associated with the joy of children, where eidiya (a gift of money to younger relatives) is the main concern for them on Eid.

The origin of eidiya goes back to the Fatimid Caliphate. The term “eidiya” is an Arabic word, which means to give. The tradition dates back to the Mamluk era. On Eid, the Mamluk sultanate paid an extra amount of gold or silver coins to his soldiers, princes and those who worked with him as a gift, which was called “jamekia”.

In the Ottoman era, eidiya took other forms, like offering money and gifts to children. This tradition has continued to the modern ages, but has undergone a major change. Kuwait Times spoke with old and young people to learn more.

Ghada Ali, 49, said as a child, she received KD 1 in eidiya. “One dinar was considered a big amount of money at that time. When I got older, it increased to KD 2.5, which was something huge. We badly waited for Eid, and when it passed, we eagerly waited for the next one,” she said. Ali used to sleep next to her new clothes, preparing herself mentally to go to places that people only visit on Eid. “The new generation nowadays does not do that anymore. They have new clothes all the time, going to all the places whenever they want. This made them lose the pleasure of experiencing the joy of waiting and preparing for Eid,” she said.

She added families today are spending



more than KD 600 on eidiya, noting: “We prepared for Eid before to see the joy of children. But it is extreme now - children receive a big amount of money and you cannot give them KD 2, which is the price of a meal.”

For Abdulwahab Hussam, 15, eidiya is

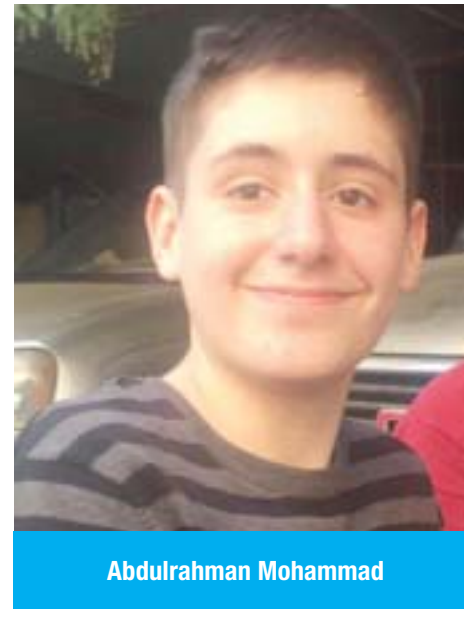


KD 1 was considered a big amount in the past

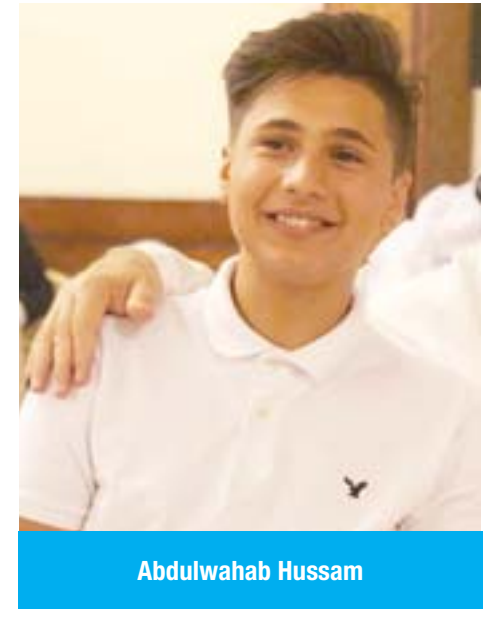
money given as a reward by elder people to children to encourage them to do good deeds. “My eidiya is KD 20. My expecta-

tion is that hopefully it will reach KD 30 this Eid. My eidiya increased after ninth grade from KD 10 to 20.” He added that the amount of money given affects his relationship with his relatives. “It is obvious - if my uncle gives me more money than others, I will love him more. Eidiya is always different from one person to another. More love, more money.”

Manal Adel Safoor, 48, went back in her mind to the good old days. “Back in time in Syria, Eid was more interesting than here. We used to go out the day before Eid with neighboring girls to clean our street and prepare for Eid all night. The new generation makes zero effort to prepare for Eid. “Our eidiya was toys that cost less than a half dinar, and if we got money, we always give it to our mothers and only got our daily allowance. Eidiya is important - if there is no eidiya, it means there is no Eid,” she said.



Abdulrahman Mohammad



Abdulwahab Hussam



Abdulrahman Mohammad, 16, revealed that he receives KD 30 as eidiya, hoping it reaches KD 90. “The eidiya is a part of

our Islamic tradition of Eid. The amount of eidiya does not affect my relationship with my relatives,” he said.

Festival remembers martyrs’ great role during Iraqi invasion

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Al-Zumurruda Hall hosted the ‘Memory of People and Nation 2’ festival on Sunday to commemorate the great role of the martyrs during the Iraqi invasion in 1990. Twenty-seven volunteer groups and some individuals participated in this event. Artists presented their works translating their ideas and feelings of the invasion and describing their love for Kuwait. Other artists presented artworks on sand.

Some poets addressed poems about Kuwait and the martyrs. Former prisoner of war Khaled Al-Adwani narrated his sad experience during the invasion. This was followed by a video presentation on different periods of Kuwait’s history and photos of different places in Kuwait from the 19th century. Children also participated in the event, presenting four different musical operettas with traditional Kuwaiti dances. This was followed by a play by the Kuwait Volunteer Team. The Fekra team held a competition for children.

The event also included speeches and lectures presented by popular speakers such as researcher in Kuwaiti history Khaled Al-Khalaf, human development trainer Faleh Al-Mayaah, doctor MUSAED Al-Anezi and Waleed Al-Nabhan. Popular TV presenter Yousef Mustafa spoke about the experiences of journalists during the invasion. The program concluded by awarding the participating volunteering teams, speakers and some actors.



KUWAIT: Pictures taken from the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

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Man in the plastic mask: Disguised inmate busted

Land of bachelors? No water means no wife in parched central India

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TAJOURA, Libya: Libyan men bury the bodies of migrants who died in a shipwreck off the coasts of Khoms, at a communal cemetery in the capital Tripoli's suburb of Tajoura. Libyan authorities buried the bodies of 46 migrants after they were plucked from the sea following one of deadliest shipwrecks in the Mediterranean so far this year. — AFP

Air strike kills 42 in south Libya

Libya airliner narrowly avoids airport bombing

TRIPOLI: At least 42 people were killed and dozens wounded in an air strike targeting a town hall meeting in southern Libya, a local official and the UN-recognized government said yesterday, accusing forces of military strongman Khalifa Haftar. The Government of National Accord (GNA) said Sunday's raid struck the residential district of Qalaa in the town of Murzuq.

The air raid left "42 dead and more than 60 injured, 30 of them critically," municipal council official Ibrahim Omar said. He said a government building at which more than 200 local dignitaries were gathered "to settle social differences" was targeted three times. "No armed or wanted people were among them... Haftar bombed unarmed civilians," he said, calling for humanitarian aid since the local hospital could not cope with the high number of casualties.

The GNA condemned the attack on its Facebook page, also blaming it on Haftar's forces. Haftar, who

seized swathes of southern Libya earlier in the year, has been battling since April to oust pro-GNA forces from the capital Tripoli. The GNA urged the UN's Libya mission and international community "to carry out an investigation into the crimes committed by Haftar's militias in Murzuq". There was no immediate comment on the raid from Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA).

With its 50,000 inhabitants, mostly from the Toubou ethnic group, and its ancient fortress, the oasis town is located almost 900 kilometers by road south of Tripoli. The Toubou have remained at odds with rival Arab tribes which have rallied with Haftar's forces who took control of the region in January in an operation to "purge it of terrorists and criminals". With fighting for Tripoli stalled on the ground after initial advances by Haftar's forces, the two sides have increasingly taken their fight to the skies with warplanes and drones.

Narrow escape at airport

Aviation officials said yesterday that a Libyan passenger plane had narrowly escaped being hit by incoming fire as it landed at Tripoli's sole functioning airport. "The crew on the flight from Benghazi, which was carrying 124 passengers, avoided being hit by bombing on Mitiga International Airport" on Sunday, the airport's management wrote on Facebook. The incident forced the airport to close to air traffic and re-route flights to Misrata, some 200 kilometers further east, until late Sunday night. The origin of the bombs was not clear, and no side has yet claimed responsibility. UN envoy Ghassan Salame last week warned the Security Council of "the increasing frequency of attacks" on Mitiga airport, controlled by pro-GNA forces. "Several of these attacks have come perilously close to hitting civilian aircraft with passengers on board," he said.

On Sunday, his office condemned the "repeated indis-

criminate shelling" of Mitiga, "the only indispensable functioning airport available for use by millions of civilians" and aid deliveries. Mitiga has closed several times since the start of the assault by Haftar, who has accused pro-GNA forces of using it for military purposes including as a launch site for Turkish attack drones.

Located east of Tripoli, Mitiga is a former military airbase that has been used by civilian traffic since Tripoli's international airport suffered severe damage during fighting in 2014. The World Health Organization says the battle for Tripoli has left nearly 1,100 people dead and wounded more than 5,750, and forced more than 100,000 civilians to flee their homes. Libya has been wracked by chaos since the 2011 uprising that killed president Muammar Gaddafi. Rival administrations and militias are vying for power, with the GNA that holds Libya's west at odds with a parallel administration based in the east and backed by Haftar. — AFP

Things to know about Kashmir's changed status

NEW DELHI: The Indian government yesterday issued a presidential order to scrap the constitutionally mandated special status of Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority region. Here are five things to know about the unprecedented move:

What is Article 370?

Article 370 gave Jammu and Kashmir state a special position in India's union. The provision gave Kashmir's assembly the power to vet national laws passed by New Delhi. It also gave the state a separate constitution and a flag. Under the provision, Indians outside the state were blocked from permanently settling, buying land, holding local government jobs and securing education scholarships. Under the changed status, the region will now be governed by the laws applicable to other Indian citizens.

Why now?

The Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi enjoys a sizeable majority in parliament after dominating the polls in the April-May elections. Modi's right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) can now push through Parliament its key policy goals. This includes the BJP's long-held promise to scrap Article 370, which it argues is necessary to integrate Kashmir with the rest of the country. Critics say the BJP's latest move is a part of its agenda to please core supporters and win more votes by stoking Hindu nationalist fervor. The move is in line with its muscular approach towards Kashmir and Pakistan, which also claims the Himalayan kingdom.

Significance

The special status, which has been in place since May 14, 1954, has helped Kashmiri Muslims and other communities preserve their strong sense of culture. The ditching of the status has highlighted long-running fears that the local way of life and customs could be lost amid migration



LAHORE: Pakistani students chant slogans during an anti-Indian protest rally in Lahore yesterday as they denounce the ongoing unrest situation in Indian administered Kashmir. — AFP

from other parts of the country. Analysts say the Indian government wants to change the region's demographics by allowing non-Kashmiris, mostly Hindus, to buy land and settle there permanently. It is also likely to worsen the simmering and bloody rebellion in Kashmir, where an insurgency over the past three decades has left more than 70,000 dead, mainly civilians.

International ramifications

The decision has a direct impact on relations between nuclear rivals India and Pakistan. Kashmir has been divided between the neighboring countries since 1947 and they have fought two out of three wars over the region. In February the countries were on the brink of war after India launched air raids on Pakistan over a deadly bombing in Kashmir that killed 40 paramilitary troops. Pakistan launched counter air strikes with the retaliations on both sides sending tensions to yet another high amid threats of a nuclear war. India is meanwhile engaged in a protracted dialogue with China over the territory, which Beijing controls a part of.

The move could also affect the United States' move to

exit Afghanistan after an 18-year war, launched following the 2001 terror attacks. Pakistan has been a key facilitator in direct talks between Washington and the Taliban in Afghanistan over the exit plans. If the Americans do not support Islamabad's interests in Kashmir following India's move, it could jeopardize the talks. US President Donald Trump recently offered to mediate between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, but New Delhi has long insisted the issue can only be resolved bilaterally.

What's next?

Up next is a bill proposing splitting the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir division, and Ladakh. This means the entire region would lose its autonomous status and come under the direct rule of New Delhi. The Jammu and Kashmir division will have its own assembly and elections but the national government will have control of local laws, including the maintenance of public order. The tinderbox region was placed under a massive security lockdown and communications were cut ahead of the announcement, on fears it would trigger fresh unrest. — AFP

English? Non merci, French minister tells fellow citizens

PARIS: France's culture minister has urged people to cut down on their increasing use of English, in the latest effort to protect the French language, even though President Emmanuel Macron himself often slips English idioms into his speech. France has long been proud of its culture and language, and has constantly sought to defend it against the encroachment of the English language and the habits of the United States, which are often dismissively referred to as "Les Anglo-Saxons".

Culture Minister Franck Riester made his plea to stick to French in a Twitter post published late on Sunday and marking the 25th anniversary of a law governing the use of French on television and radio. Critics rounded on his patriotic views on Monday, pointing out that Macron regularly uses English idioms, such as the phrase "Start-Up Nation" to promote French innovation and technology, as do many of France's top businesses.

"Macron himself uses Anglophone slogans!" said Didier VanStaevel, replying on Twitter to Riester, while others pointed to Macron having referred once to democracy as being a "bottom-up" system. Cinema executive Christophe Courtois pointed out that top French companies regularly use English slogans rather than French, such as Renault's adverts titled "Never Too Much" and Air France's "France Is In The Air" posters.

The 1994 Toubon law made the use of French mandatory in all TV broadcasts, meaning all foreign-language programs are dubbed, while radio stations must play at least 40 percent of French music for most of the day. "The Loi Toubon is 25 years old! It's the interpretation of article 2 of our Constitution - 'The Language of the Republic is French.'" — Reuters

International

Double shootings heighten fears of 'white terrorism'

Violence from far right claims more victims in US than jihadist attacks

WASHINGTON: Armed with assault rifles and clad in combat gear, two white men methodically gunned down nearly 30 people over the weekend, underscoring fears that "white terrorism" is now the main threat in the United States. Amid rising grief and a clamor for action after the shootings in Texas and Ohio, and earlier in several other cities, politicians of both parties called for the federal government to take that threat more seriously, with some Democrats accusing President Donald Trump of dangerously fanning racial tensions.

"It is very clear that the loss of American life in Charleston, in San Diego, in Pittsburgh and by all appearances now in El Paso, too, is symptomatic of the effects of white nationalist terrorism," Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg said Sunday, naming the scenes of mass shootings that targeted blacks, Jews and, apparently, Hispanics.

In El Paso, situated on the border with Mexico, more than eight in 10 residents are of Hispanic descent. The accused shooter, a 21-year-old white man identified in media reports as Patrick Crusius, had come from far away Dallas with the apparent intent of inflicting mass carnage. Armed with an assault rifle, the shooter killed 20 people and wounded 26 before surrendering to police.

An online manifesto, attributed to the assailant, railed against a "Hispanic invasion" and referred approvingly to

the March 15 massacre by a white supremacist at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand that killed 51 people. Six of the 20 people killed in the shooting were Mexican nationals, the country's president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, said Sunday.

Thirteen hours after the El Paso attack, another white man is accused of spreading terror in the Midwestern city of Dayton, Ohio, killing nine people including his sister, authorities said. Police named him as Connor Betts, 24. While police say the motive is still unclear, six of the nine people killed in Dayton were black.

'Diaboliical'

"What you have here is two things coming together," Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, said on "Fox News Sunday." "One, the weak gun safety policies of this country. And two, the rise of domestic terrorism inspired by white nationalists... we (have) got to do something about it." Trump, in denouncing the El Paso shooting on Twitter as "an act of cowardice," said nothing about the suspect's possible motives. He later stated that "hate has no place in our country," but also blamed mental illness for the violence.

El Paso's Republican mayor, Dee Margo, seemed to discount any race angle, reducing the tragedy there to the "pure evil" act of a "deranged" man. Even some

Republicans, however, saw that sort of explanation as inadequate. "I believe fighting terrorism remains a national priority, and that should include standing firm against white terrorism," tweeted George P. Bush, a high-ranking Texas official who is the nephew of former president George W. Bush. "This is a real and present threat."

Republican Senator Ted Cruz of Texas tweeted that "what we saw yesterday was a heinous act of terrorism and white supremacy. There is no place for this... anywhere across our nation." Even Trump's daughter Ivanka, a White House adviser, tweeted about the problem, saying, "White supremacy, like all other forms of terrorism, is an evil that must be destroyed."

White identity

For years, some analysts have warned that the huge shifting of intelligence and security assets toward fending off foreign threats after the 9/11 attacks had come at the expense of needed attention to domestic dangers. But administration officials say they have taken the threat seriously. FBI Director Christopher Wray testified last month in Congress that a majority of the domestic terrorism cases the bureau had investigated in the previous nine months were motivated by some version of "white supremacist violence." He said his agency was "aggressively" investigating such crimes.

In 2017 and 2018, according to the New America analysis center, violence from the far right claimed more victims in the United States than jihadist attacks. But Robert McKenzie, an analyst with New America, wrote earlier this year that "even during the Obama administration, intelligence agencies often ignored rightwing threats for political reasons".

One thing that did change after Trump's election in 2016 was the tone of the public debate. The president has often denounced an "invasion" of migrants, he refused to explicitly condemn the far-right demonstrators at the violent 2017 protest in Charlottesville, Virginia, and he recently called for four young members of Congress, all women of color, to "go back" to their countries of origin.

"We need to call out white nationalism for what it is - domestic terrorism," tweeted Elizabeth Warren, a leading Democratic presidential candidate. "We need to call out the president himself for advancing racism and white supremacy." Another Democratic candidate, Beto O'Rourke, whose former congressional district includes El Paso, went further. "The president is encouraging greater racism, and not just the racist rhetoric but the violence that so often follows," O'Rourke said on CNN. "It's not just President Trump, but he's certainly the person in the position of greatest public trust... most responsible for it." —AFP

In post-war areas of Syria, landmines upend civilian lives

DAMASCUS: After the fighting, Syrian farmer Abu Thaer returned to his farm to work. But he stepped on a landmine left behind by jihadists, changing his life for good. At a medical charity in Damascus, the 46-year-old from the southern province of Daraa lifts up his black track pants to reveal a prosthetic leg. "I was clearing out dead weeds and starting to plough when a landmine exploded," said the farmer, sitting upright on his bed.

"My life was turned upside down," said the agricultural worker, who asked for a pseudonym for fear of reprisal, his tanned face wrinkled beyond his years. Abu Thaer is one of thousands of civilians wounded by explosives left behind in fields, by roads or even in buildings by all sides in Syria's eight-year war. Hundreds more have been killed by the explosives, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says.

In July alone, 15 children were among 30 civilians killed by landmines, explosives or grenades in various parts of the country, it says. This year, truffle digging saw many people, including women and children, lose their lives in the country's centre, northeast and east, state media has said. Abu Thaer used to plant wheat and tomatoes in his village in the west of Daraa, before the area was overrun by jihadists affiliated to the Islamic State (IS) group. Regime forces expelled the extremists from the area last summer after weeks of battle, but Abu Thaer says losing his leg has left him severely debilitated. "I used to plough and cultivate the land, but now I'm no longer strong enough," Abu Thaer. "I only do simple tasks."

'Big challenge'

Across Syria, more than 10 million people live in areas contaminated by explosive hazards, the United Nations says. In areas it has retaken from rebels and jihadists with Russian backing since 2015, Syria's regime is working to clear explosives. On a near daily basis, the defense ministry announces the detonation of large quantities of explosives left behind by anti-regime forces in areas recaptured by the government.

In the Eastern Ghouta region just outside Damascus, soldiers have been sweeping a hamlet and surrounding fields for hidden explosives, more than a year after rebels were ousted. After uncovering them with metal detectors and long sticks, they moved mortars, ammunition stockpiles and rusty landmines into a deep pit. A loud bang resonated and a thick



DAMASCUS: Syrian soldiers from the engineering corps take part in a demining training near the Syrian capital on June 27, 2019. —AFP

cloud of black smoke rose overhead, after they detonated the stockpile remotely using a long blue fuse, according to an AFP team present at the site.

"It's a big challenge," said a commander with the Syrian army's engineering corps overseeing the mine clearing in Al-Muleha district. The official, who also asked not to be named, said demining was especially difficult as "there are no maps of the landmines". As a result, sweeping operations could take "decades", he added. He accused rebels of having planted landmines in residential buildings, agricultural fields and state institutions before withdrawing. "This has led to heavy losses," the commander told AFP, warning they pose a long-term threat.

'140 tons'

Mayas Mahmud Issa, an army general who presides over clearing operations in Eastern Ghouta, said his teams have swept 21 towns and villages since the April 2018 recapture of the ex-rebel bastion. "We have detonated 140 tons of

ammunition and explosives of different shapes, sizes and weights, both made locally and abroad," he told AFP.

But authorities still have a long way to go to mitigate the threat. In July 2018, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) signed a memorandum of understanding with the government to establish a permanent representation in Damascus. The United Nations has trained 70 people and deployed them to areas in Damascus and Hama to raise awareness about explosive hazards, UN spokeswoman Fadwa Abedrabou Baroud said.

It is also planning similar awareness campaigns for Syria's southern provinces, including Daraa, Baroud added. In recent weeks, Syrians have been receiving text messages on their phones warning them of the dangers of unexploded ordnance. "Explosive remnants are dangerous. Do not touch... Immediately alert the nearest authority," reads one such message. But for Abu Thaer, the landmine threat is still a real one. One year after his leg was amputated, he says he fears more mine explosions. —AFP

Outrage in Gambia over claims former president ordered killings

BANJUL: Baba Hyndara was in his car, listening to the radio, when he heard a former hitman of ex-president Yahya Jammeh coldly describe how his dad was murdered. Baba's father, Deyda Hyndara, co-founder of The Point newspaper and AFP's correspondent in The Gambia for 30 years, was revered among journalists in this small west African country. Baba Hyndara, 42, has fought for years for his father's murderers and those who ordered them to be brought to book.

Now the wall of silence around Jammeh's 22-year reign of fear is starting to crack, and information — if not yet justice — is starting to flow. The iron-fisted ruler, today aged 54, flew to Equatorial Guinea after being forced out in 2017 following an election defeat. His henchman are giving testimony to a Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) tasked with shedding light on one of the grimmest episodes in West African history.

Like the post-apartheid truth commission in South Africa that it emulates, the panel is gripping the public with its graphic evidence. "It brought back memories, something we've been through like almost 15 years ago - it was very hard for the whole family," Baba Hyndara told AFP, describing his feelings as he listened to the testimony of one of the killers, Malik Jatta.

As a member of the "Junglers", as Jammeh's hit squad was called, Jatta admitted to being a member of a team that riddled Deyda Hyndara with bullets on the evening of December 16, 2004. "How it was planned, how he explained it, it's like they did their homework. They studied. They really did research on how and where to hit him... it was very premeditated," Baba Hyndara said. —AFP

Austria highest court ends row over Hitler birth house

VIENNA: Austria's highest court has put an end to a row over the house where Adolf Hitler was born, rejecting the amount the former owner had demanded in compensation, the interior ministry said yesterday. Gerlinde Pommer's family owned the yellow corner house in the northern town of Braunau on the border with Germany for nearly a century.

The government took control of the dilapidated building in December 2016 after years of legal wrangling with Pommer. Austrian authorities have been keen to prevent the premises, where Hitler was born on April 20, 1889, from becoming a neo-Nazi shrine. Although he only spent a short time at the property, it continues to draw Nazi sympathizers from around the world.

In January, a regional court ruled that the state should pay Pommer 1.5 million euros (\$1.7 million) in compensation, much more than the 310,000 euros she had been originally offered. But another tribunal overturned this verdict in April, finding that the current market price - set by a court-appointed expert at 810,000 euros excluding any rental income - would constitute an appropriate amount of compensation. Austria's highest court has now upheld the April ruling, meaning Pommer will receive less compensation than she sought but still more than she had been originally offered.

"After the court's decision on compensation, a use for Hitler's birth house can now be found within the framework of the law to prevent any sort of Nazi-related activity," Interior Minister Wolfgang Peschorn said in a statement. Authorities will invite submissions from architects about the future of the site, the statement said without giving further details. Pommer had been renting the 800-square-metre property - which also has several garages and parking spaces located behind the main building - to the interior ministry since the 1970s. —AFP

Directorate General of Civil Aviation
Incheon International Airport Corporation - South Korea

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is delighted to announce the Tender (Tender No.28-T4-2018/2019) of **'Advertisement Business at Kuwait International Airport Terminal 4'**

It's upon the request of - Directorate General of Civil Aviation - Tender documents can be purchased from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation – Financial Affairs Department, Tenders and Contracts Section at Kuwait International Airport , please refer to the information detailed below;

Announcement Date	Closing Date	Price of Tender Documents	The Preliminary meeting will be held on
4/8/2019	19/9/2019	500 K.D	Wednesday , August 28, 2019 at 10 AM (Location: Directorate General of Civil Aviation - Financial Affairs Department)

- ⇒ The above amount should be paid by K-Net.
- ⇒ The Bank Guarantee (Bid Bond) should not be less than (150,000 KD, one hundred and fifty thousand Kuwaiti Dinar only) in the form of certified Cheque or a Letter of Guarantee issued by one of the banks accredited in the State of Kuwait.
- ⇒ The documents should be filled and returned in an envelope sealed with red wax and the location of submission is the Directorate General of Civil Aviation – Financial Affairs Department – Tenders and Contracts Section.
- ⇒ The deadline (closing date) of submission is on, Thursday , September 19, 2019 at 1 PM, at the premises of Directorate General of Civil Aviation – Financial Affairs Department – Tenders and Contracts Section.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation
Incheon International Airport Corporation - South Korea

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is delighted to announce the Tender (Tender No.22 -T4-2018/2019) of **'Valet Service Business at Kuwait International Airport Terminal 4'**.

It's upon the request of - Directorate General of Civil Aviation - Tender documents can be purchased from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation – Financial Affairs Department, Tenders and Contracts Section at Kuwait International Airport , please refer to the information detailed below;

Announcement Date	Closing Date	Price of Tender Documents	The Preliminary meeting will be held on
4/8/2019	12/9/2019	500 K.D	Monday , August 19, 2019 at 10 AM (Location: Directorate General of Civil Aviation - Financial Affairs Department)

- ⇒ The above amount should be paid by K-Net.
- ⇒ The Bank Guarantee (Bid Bond) should not be less than (50,000 KD, fifty thousand Kuwaiti Dinar only) in the form of certified Cheque or a Letter of Guarantee issued by one of the banks accredited in the State of Kuwait.
- ⇒ The documents should be filled and returned in an envelope sealed with red wax and the location of submission is the Directorate General of Civil Aviation – Financial Affairs Department – Tenders and Contracts Section.
- ⇒ The deadline (closing date) of submission is on, Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 1 PM, at the premises of Directorate General of Civil Aviation – Financial Affairs Department – Tenders and Contracts Section.

International

Myanmar army's 'business empire' fueling atrocities

UN urges international community to sever links with armed forces' holdings

JAKARTA: Tougher sanctions are needed against Myanmar's wealthy and powerful military as its web of economic interests has generated a fortune that helps fund atrocities, UN investigators said yesterday. They urged the international community to sever links with the armed forces' dizzying economic holdings - that they said dwarf those of any other civilian company in Myanmar.

Cutting ties will "impair (the army's) ability to carry out military operations without oversight and thus reduce violations of human rights", said Marzuki Darusman, chair of the fact-finding mission, ahead of the launch of the report in Jakarta. The team last year called for Myanmar's senior generals to be prosecuted for genocide after a 2017 crackdown forced some 740,000 Rohingya Muslims into Bangladesh.

In addition to extensive local partnerships, at least 15 foreign firms have joint ventures with the military, according to the UN report, while 44 others have some form of commercial ties. "These numbers really are the tip of the iceberg," investigator Christopher Sidoti said. Two main military-owned conglomerates - Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL) and Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC) - as well as numerous subsidiaries and "crony companies" have interests in everything from jade and ruby mining to real estate and tourism.

The military also controls two large banks. But the compa-

nies do not release full financial results to the public, shielding themselves from public scrutiny. The UN probe argued the army's "business empire" allows it to evade accountability and oversight. The 111-page report also detailed how dozens of private companies donated more than \$10 million to the military amid operations against the Rohingya. They later helped finance development projects, assisting the military to "erase evidence of Rohingya belonging to Myanmar".

Sidoti said he found it shocking that so many firms contributed. "It's not as though businesses didn't know what was going on. They did," he said. The report demanded criminal investigations into these companies and urged for a complete ban on arms sales to Myanmar. Watchdog Global Witness called the report a rallying cry. "Global governments and companies who find themselves connected to a military company can therefore no longer plead ignorance," said campaign leader Paul Donowitz.

A spokesman for Myanmar's military said he was unable to comment. The report comes after the US announced a travel ban on Myanmar's army chief last month, the strongest censure yet from a Western power since the Rohingya crisis. The military remains politically powerful in the country despite a transition to democratic rule launched in 2011. It still controls a quarter of parliament and three key ministries, including defense. —AFP



YANGON: A man on bicycle rides past Myawaddy Bank yesterday. —AFP

Man in plastic mask: Inmate busted in brazen jailbreak

RIO DE JANEIRO: A masked Rio de Janeiro inmate dressed as a woman tried to break out of a Brazilian jail this weekend, in a surreal act of deriding-do, only to be thwarted on the cusp of freedom by state prison authorities. Clauvino da Silva, a drug dealer from the city of Angra dos Reis, was caught by prison guards at the Bangu jail complex in Rio state on Saturday, as he tried to exit via the front door after visiting hours.

The Rio state prison authority said his plan was to leave his daughter inside the prison in his place. In a video released by prison authorities, he is seen wearing an eerie plastic mask, a long black wig, glasses and women's clothes, including a bra. As prison officials make him take off his elaborate disguise, he eventually appears in the flesh, wearing a sullen expression.

Rio's prison authority said his daughter and seven other people were arrested on suspicion of having tried to help him escape. Silva, meanwhile, was moved to the LaÉrcio da Costa Pellegrino jail unit, and will face punishment, it added. Brazil's prisons have become a major headache for new President Jair Bolsonaro, who has vowed to crack down on years of growing crime and violence. Last week, at least 57 people died after a prison riot broke out in the northern state of Para. More than a dozen were decapitated.

Brazil's incarcerated population has surged eight-fold in three decades to around 750,000 inmates, the world's third-highest tally. Prison gangs originally formed to protect inmates and advocate for better conditions, but have come to wield vast power that reaches far beyond prison walls. The gangs have been linked to bank heists, drug trafficking and gun-running, with jailed kingpins presiding over criminal empires via smuggled cellphones. —Reuters

Nigerian police break up revolution protest

LAGOS: Nigerian security forces yesterday fired tear gas as they broke up a protest calling for "revolution" against misrule in the country after arresting the high-profile organizer. Several dozen demonstrators gathered in the face of a heavy security deployment near the national stadium in the economic capital Lagos chanting for the release of former presidential candidate Omoyele Sowore, video broadcast live by local media showed.

The footage showed security forces firing tear gas to disperse the peaceful protest. A protester told AFP that officers made several arrests and fired live ammunition to disperse the crowd, wounding at least two people. "Police officers and soldiers were shooting indiscriminately, we have at least two people I saw who were shot in the leg," Femi Adeyeye, an activist at the demonstration said. A spokesman for Lagos police told AFP he did not have details on the unrest or detention of any protesters.

Sowore, a fierce critic of President Muhammadu Buhari, was arrested over the weekend after announcing the "#RevolutionNow" protests across the country. Nigeria's security services said Sowore had "crossed the line" and was threatening public safety. "We cannot allow any person or group to foment chaos or fan the embers of revolution," spokesman Peter Afunaya said on Sunday. Former military ruler Buhari, who won a second four-year term in February, faces challenges including an Islamist insurgency, a fragile economy and rife corruption.

Sowore, who runs a news website Sahara Reporters that highlights alleged graft, came a distant tenth at the polls but managed to stir interest in his anti-establishment message. A number of prominent Nigerians, including Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, condemned his arrest. Soyinka in a statement carried by local media described the move as a "travesty and violation of the fundamental rights of citizens" reminiscent of the iron-fisted rule of military dictator Sani Abacha in the 1990s. —AFP

Nigerian Shiite leader Zakzaky granted bail

LAGOS: A Nigerian court yesterday granted bail to a detained Shiite leader and his wife to fly to India for medical care, in a move that could defuse tensions after his group was banned following a spate of bloody protests. Ibrahim Zakzaky, the founder of the pro-Iranian Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), has been in custody along with his wife Zeenah Ibrahim since their arrest in December 2015.

The judge in the northern city of Kaduna "ordered that Zakzaky be flown to India for proper medical attention", lawyer Femi Falana said. Another member of the defense team said his wife was also allowed abroad for treatment. The government late last month outlawed the IMN on "terrorism" grounds after protests demanding Zakzaky's release descended into bloodshed. Zakzaky's daughter Suhailah said the ruling was "good news" but said she was still waiting to find out the conditions of his bail.

The authorities have previously ignored a court order to release the IMN leader. Prosecutors said officials were studying the latest decision to see whether to appeal. One of Zakzaky's lawyers Haruna Magashi said the court had ruled the cleric, believed to be in his mid-sixties, could fly for treatment under government supervision. His legal team were confident the decision would not be overturned and the couple could leave Nigeria "as early as this week", Magashi said.

'Too sick'

Zakzaky was arrested in 2015 after violence that rights groups say saw the army kill some 350 of his followers and bury many in mass graves. Supporters have been holding almost daily protests in the capital Abuja pushing for his release amid fears over his deteriorating health. At least eight people, including

500 years ago, Europeans set off to explore the world

PARIS: The expedition that circumnavigated the globe via the oceans for the first time 500 years ago is among the major journeys of discovery by European explorers in the 15th and 16th centuries.

1488: Dias rounds Africa

With the mighty Ottoman Empire holding a monopoly on trade with the Indian subcontinent in the 15th century, Portugal's Prince Henry the Navigator launches a quest to conquer the seas via Africa. At the time the length of the continent's coastline was unknown. Less than 30 years after Henry's death, Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias leads the expedition that rounds the southern tip of Africa for the first time in 1488, opening a new sea route from Europe to Asia. He calls it the Cape of Storms but Portugal's King John II renames it the Cape of Good Hope. Dias continues his eastward journey but his exhausted crew eventually forces him to turn back.

1492: Columbus discovers Americas

Italian Christopher Columbus, determined to reach the East via a western route, makes four voyages across the Atlantic between 1492 and 1504, sailing for the Spanish crown. During the first, he disembarks from his flagship, the Santa Maria, in the Bahamas in October 1492 and then moves on to today's Haiti, which he names Hispaniola. In another expedition he sets foot on the American mainland for the first time in present-day Venezuela, but is convinced he is in the East Indies. It is only later that Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci realizes that the landmass that Columbus discovered is a new continent. It is named America in his honor in 1507.

1498: Da Gama reaches India

Vasco da Gama from Portugal becomes the first European to reach India via Africa, rounding the Cape of Good Hope discovered by Dias just a decade before. He leaves Lisbon in 1497 and sails around the tip of the con-



ABUJA: Members of Islamic Movement in Nigeria take part in a demonstration against the detention of their leader Ibrahim Zakzaky (poster) in Abuja. —AFP

tinental to reach the coasts of India in 1498. During his second expedition, Da Gama establishes the first Portuguese trading post in Asia at Cochin in eastern India.

1500: Cabral discovers Brazil

Portuguese navigator Pedro Alvares Cabral and his fleet of 13 caravels depart from Lisbon in 1500, on a southwest course to benefit from the trade winds, to discover what he calls "Island of the True Cross" and later becomes Brazil. He then reaches the Indian subcontinent via the Cape of Good Hope, returning to Portugal laden with spices but having lost half of his fleet. It is believed that Spaniard Vicente Yanez Pinzon may have arrived in Brazil shortly before Cabral but had not claimed the discovery.

1522: Globe circumnavigated

In 1519 Ferdinand Magellan launches the sea journey

that will become the first to round the world, leaving Seville with five ships and 237 men. They cross the South American strait that will later take Magellan's name and reach calmer waters in an ocean that he names the Pacific. The fleet pushes on to Philippines, where Magellan is killed by a local's arrow in 1521. Spaniard Juan Sebastian de Elcano takes over command and completes the circumnavigation. He returns to Spain in 1522 with the last ship, the Victoria, and around 20 survivors.

In the wake of the ban the country's police chief last week labeled anyone associated with the group an "enemy of the state" and called on the public to help track down its members. Human Rights Watch called on the authorities to reverse the decision and warned that it could "portend an even worse security force crackdown". Shiites make up a small minority in predominantly Sunni Muslim northern Nigeria, but estimates still put their numbers at around four million. —AFP



SEVILLE: In this file photo, a replica model of Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan's 16th century carrack Victoria leaves Seville. Ferdinand Magellan set sail from Spain 500 years ago on an epoch-making voyage to sail all the way around the globe for the first time. —AFP

1500: Cabral discovers Brazil

Portuguese navigator Pedro Alvares Cabral and his fleet of 13 caravels depart from Lisbon in 1500, on a southwest course to benefit from the trade winds, to discover what he calls "Island of the True Cross" and later becomes Brazil. He then reaches the Indian subcontinent via the Cape of Good Hope, returning to Portugal laden with spices but having lost half of his fleet. It is believed that Spaniard Vicente Yanez Pinzon may have arrived in Brazil shortly before Cabral but had not claimed the discovery.

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1534: French reach Canada

In 1534 Frenchman Jacques Cartier sets off on a mission under King Francis I to find a western passage to Asia. Just weeks later he reaches the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and explores the surrounding territory that he calls Canada, after "kanata", which means village in the local language. Cartier claims Canada for France and makes two more journeys there, the last in 1542. —AFP

International

In parched central India, no water means no wife

Land of bachelors? Drought, water scarcity keep possible brides at bay

JHANSI: Ram Hetu was sure his 16th proposal would finally secure him a wife, but it didn't - just like all his other attempts to find a partner in central India's Bundelkhand region, where years of drought and water scarcity are keeping possible brides at bay. Wells have run dry across the semi-arid region, with scant rains forcing some villagers to walk miles for water and pushing others to migrate to cities in search of work, as harvests fall.

But the drought also has more pernicious consequences. In towns and villages across sparsely populated Bundelkhand, home to 20 million people, parents of would-be brides are dismissing the overtures of hopeful suitors, fearing a betrothal could land them in financial ruin. "The parents usually tell me 'no water, no daughter'," said Hetu, 42, a farm laborer who earns 4,000 rupees (\$58) a month. "In January, one father said 'maybe' and immediately I started daydreaming about my wedding."

But calls to his would-be father-in-law went unanswered. "Parents fear their girls will spend the rest of their days fetching water," Hetu said in his village of Baragaon, known for growing wheat, barley and chickpea. His story is echoed by other men from Bundelkhand who said that years of drought had ruined their crops and trapped them in bachelorhood. It is just one of many social impacts linked to climate change in a country increasingly hit by extreme heat, rising sea levels, frequent floods and powerful cyclones.

"The effects of climate change are dangerous," said Sanjay Singh, secretary of Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan, a group working to empower rural communities. "If efforts aren't made while we still have time, then existing problems of unemployment, starvation (and) malnutrition will only become more severe," he added. India's northern areas were lashed by monsoon rains and fatal floods in

recent weeks but dry spells have gripped other parts, including the city of Chennai which was plunged into crisis in June when its four main water reservoirs ran dry.

Normally Bundelkhand, blighted by 13 episodes of drought in the last two decades, receives 52 days of rainfall a year. But the number of days has more than halved



Wells run dry in semi-arid region

since 2014, according to Skymet Weather, a private weather forecasting agency. "Water is everything. It is a currency. If you have it, you have everything, including a wife. If not, you have nothing," said Dhaniram Aherwal, head of Bargaon village's water council.

Urban migration

Small, rain-dependent farms growing wheat, millet and pulses are the mainstay of Bundelkhand's cash-based economy. When rains fail and crops perish, incomes and marriage prospects suffer, prompting waves of migration to nearby cities. Two in five people in rural Bundelkhand have become urban migrants over the last decade, accord-

ing to Keshav Singh, an environmentalist at the India Water Portal website. Bad water management and poor policies are to blame, said Singh, who is also part of the Bundelkhand Water Forum, a coalition of local organizations. "If things continue this way, Bundelkhand will be known as a land of bachelors," he said. Empty homes with metal locks on front doors are a common sight. At least 100 people have left Baragaon - Hetu's village of about 8,000 people - so far this year, said Ramadhar Nishad, a local administrative chief. Villagers said nearly 200 pack up and leave each year, either temporarily or permanently. "There have been no weddings here for at least two years," said Nishad, standing outside a derelict wedding hall strewn with cow dung.

Traffickers

Not everyone heads to the city. Farmer suicides over failed crops and crippling debt have left "drought orphans" and widows, who often fall prey to traffickers looking to push them into prostitution, said Singh. And with so many men desperately seeking wives, traffickers find opportunities to lure prospective brides into the region from other states, he and other activists said. In water-scarce Chhatrapur district, scores of men have married women from nearby Odisha state.

Three women told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that a "tout" found them and promised a perfect match - a man with land and a concrete house with an adequate water supply. "But that wasn't the case. Back home, water came from taps. Here it is all hand pumps. Water tankers don't come ... No one had told me that things were so bad," said Rina Pal, 30, who came to Chauheda village 12 years ago. Child marriage is also rife, according to locals.

Many young girls never go to school because of costly tuition fees, they said. Instead, parents send them to fetch water. Viewed as a financial burden, they are married off as young as 12. Seema Aherwal, a bride at 18, said men failed to understand how unattractive Bundelkhand villages could be for women. "You can't blame women. It's terrible here. Water dictates life - when to eat, sleep, bathe - everything," said Aherwal, now 28 and planning to move her family to Delhi after living in Bargaon for a decade.

Water harvesting

Rocks are one major problem, according to Saurav Kumar Suman, administrative head of Tikamgarh district, who said Bundelkhand's rocky terrain stops rain water from percolating into aquifers and recharging groundwater supplies. Others say humans are at fault. With increasing demand for water, unregulated exploitation has emptied natural reservoirs.

Determined to stem the exodus and repair confidence in the region, civil society groups and government agencies are trying to revive water bodies, de-silt ponds and build dams for irrigation and rainwater harvesting. "Locals now claim that some of the men who had migrated (for work) have started to return because of the availability of water," said Farrukh Rahman Khan, WaterAid India's manager for the northern region. But for Rajendra Litoria, 48, who cares for his elderly parents, moving away was never an option. Instead he has shelled out hundreds of dollars' worth of fees to marriage brokers over the past decade to scout for a bride. "Who will take care of me when I'm old? ... Who will I leave my land to? ... Who will perform my last rites?" he asked. "I worry all the time but I haven't lost hope. I still believe I will get married." — Reuters

US, S Korea defy North's warnings, start joint drills

SEOUL: Seoul and Washington began annual joint military exercises yesterday, defying warnings from Pyongyang that the war games will jeopardize nuclear negotiations between the United States and North Korea. The drills come after Pyongyang tested a series of short-range projectiles in recent days, calling one of them a "solemn warning" to Seoul against pursuing the mainly computer-simulated drills with Washington.

South Korean defense minister Jeong Kyeong-doo told parliament that the joint exercise began yesterday, adding that Seoul was "clearly maintaining its readiness posture against any military action by North Korea". Details about the training have not been disclosed, but a ministry official in Seoul said this year's exercise will include verifying South Korea's abilities to take operational control in wartime. Under the US-South Korea security treaty, an American general will take command of their combined forces in the event of armed conflict, but Seoul has long sought to reverse the position.

Analysts say the military activities by both sides could delay talks on the North's weapons programs—which have seen it subjected to multiple sets of UN Security Council sanctions—until later this year. After a year of mutual threats and mounting tensions, US President Donald Trump and the North's leader Kim Jong Un held a historic meeting in Singapore last year, when Kim signed a vague pledge to work towards "denuclearization of the Korean peninsula".

A second summit in Hanoi in February broke up amid disagreement on sanctions relief and what the North might be willing to give up in return. Trump and Kim agreed to resume nuclear talks during their impromptu June meeting in the Demilitarized Zone that divides the peninsula, but that working-level dialogue has yet to begin. The nuclear-armed North—which attacked its neighbor in 1950, triggering the Korean War—has always been infuriated by military exercises between the US and the South, decrying them as rehearsals for invasion.

After the Singapore summit, Trump made a shock announcement halting joint drills, adopting Pyongyang's own description of them as "provocative" at an extraordinary, freewheeling press conference. War games known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) and scheduled for August last year were subsequently suspended. And the allies' biggest annual drills, Foal Eagle and Key Resolve, which took place



SEOUL: Anti-war activists hold placards reading 'Stop War Exercises,' during a rally against planned South Korea-US annual joint military exercises near the US embassy in Seoul yesterday. — AFP

every spring and involved tens of thousands of troops, were replaced with a shorter "Dong Maeng" or "Alliance" exercise in March.

'Changing stance'

The August drills were scaled down earlier this year, Yonhap news agency reported, and have not been named, with an official from Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) telling AFP that they "cannot comment any further" on their designation. South Korean media have dubbed the

command post exercise "19-2 Dong Maeng", indicating the second Dong Maeng exercise of 2019. Pyongyang warned last week that further nuclear talks could be derailed if Seoul and Washington push ahead with the manoeuvres. And on Friday, North Korea carried out its third weapons test in the space of eight days, firing what it called a new "large calibre multiple launch guided rocket system".

Seoul's presidential office said it was highly likely to be "a new type of short-range ballistic missile". — AFP

Philippines sends ex-rebels on lavish trip abroad

MANILA: The Philippines has sent scores of former communist rebels on an all-expenses paid foreign shopping trip, in an attempt to end one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies, the military said yesterday. President Rodrigo Duterte flew 88 mostly female ex-rebels from the New People's Army (NPA) on a four-day visit to Hong Kong last week, delivering on a pledge he made to former guerrillas in 2018. Duterte has urged the communists to lay down their arms with promises of housing, financial and employment assistance, as well as, in this case, trips abroad.

The novel tactic came almost two years after Manila shelved formal talks with NPA gunmen, saying the Maoists had no interest in making peace. Photos shared by the military showed the former rebels, all but four of them women, smiling and posing in front of the wealthy Chinese city's skyscrapers and holding plastic bags of souvenirs. They also visited Hong Kong's historical sites and shopping centers, using their "substantial amount of allowance" for their purchases, regional military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Ezra Balagtey said.

"It's part of the therapy for them to have a different perspective in life," Balagtey added. At the same time as offering shopping trips to ex-rebels, Duterte has ordered the military to "destroy" the Maoist rebellion that has killed up to 40,000 people, according to official figures. The 4,000-member NPA is one of the deadliest armed groups in the Southeast Asian nation and it finds a fertile ground for recruitment among the rural poor.

Balagtey said the former rebels had mostly been recruited from impoverished villages around Duterte's southern home city of Davao to help wage the now 50-year old communist insurgency. In his latest remarks, Duterte said last week he wants to arm firefighters to join the anti-insurgency push, following the killing of four police officers in a guerrilla attack on the central island of Negros last month. "You are not limited to putting out fires.... You must help kill. Kill the enemy. Because the enemy will kill you," Duterte told the firefighters. — AFP



KOLONIA: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his wife Susan are greeted by women with traditional mwarmwara floral wreaths as they arrive at Pohnpei International Airport in Kolonia, Micronesia yesterday. — AFP

US' Pompeo makes history in Pohnpei, courts Pacific allies

POHNPEI: Mike Pompeo became the first US Secretary of State to visit Micronesia yesterday, as Washington's signalled a renewed interest in its Pacific allies, no matter how small, in the face of regional competition with China. Pompeo touched down on the paradise island of Pohnpei and spent a few hours meeting leaders from Micronesia's Federated States, as well as neighbouring micro-states like Palau and the Marshall Islands.

"Your small islands are big strongholds of freedom," he said, while encouraging American tourists to visit. The diplomatic courtship follows a visit by Pacific Island leaders to the White House earlier this year, part of America's drive for a "free and open" region to counter China's increasingly muscular and expansionist policies. "We want to help nations of the Indo-Pacific to continue their decades long rise and maintain their sovereignty both in the political and economic spheres," he said.

"We know China seeks to engage and to influence this region," Pompeo added, expressing confidence that Pacific islands would understand "other Pacific democracies, are the best partnerships." The President of the Federated States of Micronesia David Panuelo tried to play down concerns, saying "our relation with the US is first and foremost", while adding that the relationship with China was purely "economic and technical cooperation."

Elizabeth Economy of the Council on Foreign Relations

told AFP that over the past year, the US had "worked aggressively" to shore up its position in the Pacific Islands region, considering it "of significant strategic interest". Hugging the equator, the Federated States of Micronesia are scattered along nearly 3,000 kilometers of the Pacific, a significant area given Sino-American disputes over freedom of navigation.

Duelling charm offensives

Washington is no stranger to the Federation - which brings together four island states and more than 600 islands and atolls - thanks to a compact that guarantees US development aid and military protection. Formerly part of the Caroline Islands, which were American trust territories, the federation and other nations signed a Compact of Free Association with the United States on gaining independence more than three decades ago.

Pompeo announced that "the US has begun negotiations on extending our respective compacts of free association with each country". China has launched a regional charm offensive that has alarmed the Trump administration, offering infrastructure loans and seemingly trying to have the Marshall Islands and Palau break off diplomatic relations with Taiwan. "The United States can no longer afford to take the Pacific Islands for granted," said Economy.

At times, the United States has looked to these island states at the United Nations - where their voice is equal to any other state - in looking for support for issues such as recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. But the major point of difference remains climate change, an existential challenge for low-lying nations but a trend that the Trump administration has variously dismissed as a hoax or unimportant. "We did talk about climate change, we talked about the concerns about rising sea level here," Pompeo said, attempting to square the circle following talks. — AFP

Palestinian app helps drivers avoid checkpoint bottlenecks

RAMALLAH: A new locally-developed app helps Palestinian drivers in the occupied West Bank negotiate traffic at Israeli military checkpoints and uncover routes to towns mainstream providers often miss. Launched in June and designed by Palestinians, Dorooob Navigator crowd-sources road closures and traffic data from users. It aims to supplant apps like Google Maps and Waze, which rarely account for Israeli restrictions and struggle to navigate between Palestinian cities.

Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war and cites security concerns in maintaining checkpoints. But the roadblocks limit Palestinian mobility and damage their economy, according to the World Bank. Some checkpoints are long-established at the entrances to villages and cities, but others pop up when tensions rise. Mohammad Abdel Haleem, CEO of Dorooob Technologies, said he knew Palestinians needed a new way to get around after a drive with Google Maps between the West Bank cities of Bethlehem and Ramallah left him lost in a remote valley.

"We had to design our maps completely from scratch. The wall, checkpoints, settlements ... existing mapping software could never account for the complexity here," Abdel Haleem, 39, said before using the app to drive through a checkpoint separating Ramallah from Beit El, a nearby Israeli settlement. The app, which has garnered 22,000 users in two months, is funded by Ideal, a Ramallah-based transportation and automation software company also led by Abdel Haleem. He says he hopes to monetise the app in the future in part via a delivery feature.

'Other apps do not understand'

The West Bank is scattered with Israeli settlements and military bases, and an Israeli barrier snakes through the territory. Israel says the obstacle prevents Palestinian attacks, but Palestinians call it a land grab. Around 3 million Palestinians live in the territory along with some 450,000 settlers, who can generally drive in the area without major restriction using so-called "bypass roads" built to avoid Palestinian towns.

Dorooob Navigator's algorithm combines reports from users with manual inputs by engineering staff to help drivers avoid crippling checkpoint traffic and circuitous settlements, which most Palestinian vehicles cannot enter. "Other apps might say the only way to drive between certain Palestinian cities is to cut through a settlement," Abdel Haleem said. "We're trying to change that." The app is also available in the Palestinian coastal enclave of Gaza, though most active users are in the West Bank, Abdel Haleem says.

Palestinians in the past have relied on Facebook groups and word-of-mouth to anticipate West Bank traffic and closures. Waze is popular with Israelis, but many Palestinians say it directs them to routes they are restricted from driving. "We need applications like this that help us move within Palestine," said Nicolas Harami, 31, who uses the app while driving from his home in East Jerusalem to Ramallah and other West Bank cities. "Other applications do not understand our situation." — Reuters



GAZA: Palestinian men perform fire breathing on the beach as an entertainment for children during the summer vacation in Gaza City. — AFP

Analysis

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Ecological land grab: Food vs fuel vs forests

The overlapping crises of climate change, mass species extinction, and an unsustainable global food system are on a collision course towards what might best be called an ecological land grab. Coping with each of these problems will require a different way of using of Earth's lands, and as experts crunch the numbers it is becoming unnervingly clear that there may not be enough terra firma to go around. A world of narrowing options threatens to pit biofuels, forests and food production against each other. Experts who once touted "win-win" scenarios for the environment now talk about "trade-offs".

This looming clash is front-and-centre in the most comprehensive scientific assessment ever compiled of how global warming and land use interact, to be released by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on Thursday. Proposals to convert areas the size of India and the United States to biofuel crops or CO₂-absorbing trees, for example, "could compromise sustainable development with increased risks - and potentially irreversible consequences - for food security, desertification and land degradation," a draft summary of the 1,000-page report warns.

Meanwhile, the fundamental drivers of Earth's environmental meltdown - CO₂ and methane emissions, nitrogen and plastics pollution, human population, unbridled consumption - continue to expand at record rates, further reducing our margin for maneuver. Case in point: to have at least a 50/50 chance of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius - the temperature guardrail laid down in a landmark IPCC report last year - civilization must be "carbon neutral" within three decades. Earth's surface temperature has already risen one degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels, enough to trigger deadly extreme weather and sea level rise that could swamp coastal megacities by 2100. And yet, 2018 saw a record 41.5 billion tons of planet-warming CO₂ added to the atmosphere, up two percent from the previous record, set the year before.

Harsh reality

At this pace, humanity will exhaust its "carbon budget" for a 1.5 C world before US congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, co-sponsor of the Green New Deal, turns 45 (in 16 years). Slashing carbon pollution remains the surest way to curb climate change, but - absent a sustained crash of the global economy - that can no longer happen quickly enough to single-handedly keep global warming in check. This harsh reality has put a spotlight on two ambitious schemes that would cover millions of square kilometres of land with CO₂-absorbing plants.

Nearly all Paris-compatible climate models slot in a major role for a two-step process that draws down carbon by growing biofuels, and then captures CO₂ released when the plants are burned to generate energy. The amount of "bioenergy with carbon capture and storage", or BECCS, required in coming decades will depend on how quickly we sideline fossil fuels and shrink our carbon footprints.

The new IPCC report, for example, outlines two scenarios based on the reasonable assumption that the world will continue to be dominated by "resource-intensive consumption patterns," as least in the coming decades. Capping global warming at 1.5 C under these circumstances would require converting some 7.6 million sq km - more than double India's land mass - to BECCS. Even if temperatures were allowed to climb twice as high, the report concluded, biofuels would still need to cover some 5 million sq km. A second proposal unveiled last month calls for blanketing an area equivalent to the United States (including Alaska) with new trees, nearly 10 million sq km.

'Moral hazard'

"Forest restoration is the best climate change solution available today," said Tom Crowther, a professor at the university ETH Zurich. "If we act now, this could cut carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by up to 25 percent, to levels last seen almost a century ago." Crowther's "trillion tree" initiative made headlines, but has come in for a drubbing. His calculations, according to several climate scientists, appear to assume that every ton of CO₂ stored in replanted trees would be a ton of CO₂ removed from the atmosphere. In fact, the ratio is 2:1 due to the nature of Earth's carbon cycle, which vastly reduces the scheme's projected benefits.

In addition, it takes decades for trees to reach their maximum CO₂-absorbing potential, as the authors themselves point out. Other critics warn against the "moral hazard" of an apparently simple solution that may dampen resolve to purge fossil fuels from the global economy, a danger underscored, perhaps, by the enthusiasm of oil and gas giants for planting trees. — AFP

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In this file photo taken on September 6, 2016, the Nao Victoria, a perfect replica of the carrack with which Portuguese explorer Magellan made his world tour from 1519 to 1522, arrives at the Saint-Malo harbor Ferdinand Magellan set sail from Spain 500 years ago on an epoch-making voyage to sail all the way around the globe for the first time. — AFP

How Magellan's voyage changed the world

Ferdinand Magellan set off from Spain 500 years ago on an epoch-making voyage to sail all the way around the globe for the first time. The Portuguese explorer was killed by islanders in the Philippines two years into the adventure, leaving Spaniard Juan Sebastian Elcano to complete the three-year trip. But it is Magellan's name that is forever associated with the voyage. "Magellan is still an inspiration 500 years on," said Fabien Cousteau, a French filmmaker and underwater explorer like his grandfather Jacques-Yves Cousteau. "He was a pioneer at a time when explorers who went off into the unknown had a strong habit of not coming back."

Here are five ways in which Magellan's voyage marked human history and continues to inspire scientists and explorers today. Some of them spoke to AFP at a conference in Lisbon to mark the August 10 fifth centenary.

Historical

Magellan's voyage was a turning point in history, as unique as the first manned journey into outer space and the later moon landings, said NASA scientist Alan Stern, leader of its New Horizons interplanetary space probe. "When the first one circled the planet, (that) sort of meant

that we now had our arms around the planet for the first time," he said. "That just transformed humanity in my view. I would call it the first planetary event, in the same way that Yuri Gagarin was the first off-planetary event" when the Soviet cosmonaut went into outer space.

Geographical

Magellan's voyage rewrote the maps and geography books. He was the first to discover the strait, which now bears his name, linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans at the tip of South America. "Perhaps his greatest feat, and still considered today one of the greatest feats of the history of navigation, was negotiating this strait, of which there were no maps and whose existence was vaguely rumored," said US historian Laurence Bergreen, author of a biography of Magellan.

Philosophical

The voyage transformed humans' own conception of their place in the world. "It wasn't just geography and anthropology, it showed something philosophical: that it's all one world," said Bergreen. "Before Magellan people didn't really know that.

They didn't know how the world was connected or how big it was."

Astronomical

The voyage contributed to Europeans' knowledge of the universe and has marked the worlds of space exploration and astronomy to this day. While crossing the Magellan Strait, the explorer and his crew observed two galaxies visible to the naked eye from the southern hemisphere, now known as the Magellanic Clouds. Some recently-designated areas of the surface of Mars have been given the same names that Magellan gave to parts of South America, with Bergreen's help. A giant telescope being developed in Chile will also bear the explorer's name.

Inspirational

Magellan's achievement was a landmark in the history of exploration still hailed by his modern-day successors. "In the space program, to prepare for these long duration missions, we say 'the lessons for the future are written in the past'," said Dafydd Williams, a former NASA astronaut, now 65, who went on two space missions. "So many in the space program have read about Magellan." — AFP

Can Indonesia avoid repeat of 2015 haze crisis?

As another outbreak of forest fires in Indonesia sends harmful smoke drifting across parts of Southeast Asia, researchers and environmental activists have urged Jakarta to step up efforts to prevent a repeat of the last major haze crisis in 2015. Emergencies were declared in six Indonesian provinces on Sumatra island and in Kalimantan last week as fires raged, while neighboring Singapore and Malaysia issued health warnings about the air pollution that is heading their way.

Arie Rompas, a Greenpeace Indonesia forest campaigner who is from Kalimantan on Borneo island, said that with no rain since July, peatland fires were intensifying in areas burned in the 2015 disaster. "Our courts have ordered the government to prevent this and commit more resources to extinguishing fires, and to name and prosecute the plantations where fires occurred in the past," Rompas told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Without this, fires will worsen and the situation could be the same as in 2015."

Indonesian farmers burn huge swathes of forest and peatland every year to clear land for agricultural expansion, creating a vast haze that clouds the skies over large parts of the region. With drought affecting many areas of Indonesia as a mild El Nino weather pattern disrupts rainfall, the worry in vulnerable parts of Southeast Asia is that this year's haze will exceed that caused by the devastating fires in 2015.

Between June and October that year, about 2.6 million hectares of land burned in Indonesia, mainly on Sumatra and Borneo islands, said a 2016 World Bank report. A

Harvard University study linked the 2015 haze to more than 100,000 premature deaths in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Facing domestic and regional pressure, Indonesia switched its focus from containing fires to preventing them after the 2015 crisis, which cost the country \$16 billion and caused more than 500,000 people to suffer respiratory ailments.

President Joko Widodo introduced a series of measures and policies that forestry researchers say have helped reduce the number of fires and intensity of the haze in the last two years. Widodo, who visited some of the worst-hit provinces in 2015, renewed the previous government's moratorium on new conversion permits for primary forest and peatlands. Helena Varkkey, a lecturer at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, said banning the use of forest and peatland for new plantations could reduce fires because cleared land is often burned to prepare it for planting.

In 2018, the government went further, halting the issuance of new permits for oil palm plantations and shifting the focus to higher productivity on existing plantations, said Varkkey, who has researched transboundary haze for more than 15 years. Earlier this year, Indonesia's environment minister said the government planned to make the forest clearing moratorium, which has been extended since 2011, permanent. Forestry researchers said Widodo should back this idea and expand its scope to include re-grown forested areas.

Forest people

Widodo has also vowed to return 12.7 million hectares of land to indigenous people following a historic 2013 court ruling to lift state control of customary forests. Last year he signed an agrarian reform decree aimed at issuing titles to the landless and raising farm incomes. Researchers said that plan would help ease poverty, increase communities' sense of ownership over forests, and reduce illegal access to forest areas and banned activities like burning.

Arief Wijaya, forests and climate manager at the

World Resources Institute Indonesia, a think tank, said support for forest-dependent people to produce and sell products not derived from wood was crucial to help Indonesia manage forests better. "For forest-rich provinces like Papua, agroforestry, aquaculture and eco-tourism are feasible options to promote non-timber forest products, and boost local economic development," he said.

Peatland priority

Other policies introduced since 2015 include educating and training communities and farmers in fire prevention and setting up a Peatland Restoration Agency. Ancient peaty soil is particularly flammable when dry, often causing fires to spread beyond their intended areas. "The key to fire and haze prevention in Indonesia centres on the question of how to restore flammable deforested peatlands back to the fire-proof system they once were," said climate scientist David Gaveau.

Given the vast and remote nature of peatland areas, greater local incentives and more funding will be needed for Indonesia to achieve its restoration targets by the end of 2020, he added. Jakarta has also drafted in the military to combat forest fires when needed, built early warning towers, and organized patrols to monitor burning. And closer coordination between local governments, villagers and agribusiness companies has helped reduce fire risks.

But last month, Indonesia's Supreme Court ruled that Widodo and his cabinet ministers must still do more to stem the haze problem. The court ordered the government to name companies that owned land where the 2015 fires broke out, and issue regulations providing guidance on compensation for damage in such cases. "Open palm oil plantation data is important to show who's accountable for the burned areas, as well as to enforce the law," said Varkkey, who also backs a more regional approach. Five years ago, Indonesian lawmakers approved a 2002 pact crafted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to tackle haze pollution at the regional level. — Reuters

US seniors fight depression, fulfill dreams with VR

Nidia Silva had never realized her dream of swimming with dolphins until a Miami NGO gave her a pair of virtual reality glasses as part of an experimental treatment for depression and isolation in senior citizens. "You're in a world you don't know, but it's very beautiful and very important for me to see," 78-year-old Silva said after taking off the virtual reality (VR) goggles. She was sitting in Domino Park in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood. It's a popular spot for Cuban residents - especially older ones - to meet daily and play dominoes.

"I'm very excited," said Silva, who felt like she had been swimming in the water around Cuba, from which she emigrated 19 years ago. Around her, the clacking of dominoes and lively conversations sounded loud in Florida's dense, sticky heat, but she paid it no mind. Less accustomed to the climate was Alexandra Ivanovitch, who offered Silva the chance to try VR goggles. Ivanovitch, who is French, was giving a VR demonstration to Cuban retirees, transporting them to the Malecon in Havana, to outer space, to the ocean floor or the tops of mountains.

Her project, called "VR Genie," is designed to counteract the "loneliness and social isolation" that often affects the elderly, especially those who live alone or in nursing homes where there are few activities. "We use virtual reality to fulfill seniors' wishes," said Ivanovitch,



Nidia Silva samples a virtual reality experience in the Little Havana neighborhood of Miami on July 26, 2019. — AFP

a digital humanities doctor. Through VR, seniors can go places they've never been and check destinations off their bucket lists.

VR Genie, which is run by the nonprofit organization Equality Lab, is funded by Miami-Dade County. The goal is to provide nursing homes with VR helmets as soon as Ivanovitch, 35, compiles a more extensive "dream library". "We are really trying to reconnect them with the world," said Ivanovitch. Many of the seniors she works with are no longer physically or financially able to travel on their own. "Basically, we bring the world to them," she said.

VR for mental health

Recent studies show that virtual reality can help people deal with depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder

and other mental health issues. "We know that things like guided imagery and meditation can be very beneficial for cognition and things of that nature, and we also know that direct behavioral interventions can be very helpful for individuals as well," said Aldrich Chan, a neuropsychologist and research associate at the University of Miami.

According to Chan, VR hits the sweet spot between the two courses of action, making its use for elder care "really interesting research". Chan, who also consults for Equality Lab, is responsible for quantifying the potential effects of VR use in caring for seniors, particularly the effects of virtually granting final wishes. A team from the University of California, Los Angeles, studies the use of VR to treat anhedonia, a symptom of depression that creates an inability to experience pleasure or interest in a range of activities.

Psychiatric researcher Michelle Craske and her team are focused on providing patients with positive experiences, such as those produced by VR, and meditation in order to treat anhedonia and increase well-being. "Most treatments, up until now, have done an OK job at reducing negative (symptoms of depression), but a very poor job at helping patients become more positive," Craske told the scientific journal STAT in April.

According to a study Craske published earlier this year in the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, people who participated in the positive experience treatment reported lower levels of depression, anxiety and stress than those who participated in standard treatment, which focuses on addressing negative symptoms. With her goggles still on, Silva moved her hand gently through the air, caressing non-existent dolphins. "It takes you to another world, it really calms you down," she explained. "It's so wonderful!" — AFP

Business

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12 Turkish Airlines and LOT Polish Airlines expand codeshare network**13** NBK-Bahrain reports net profits of KD 48.283 million for H1 2019**14** Mutawa Alkazi: New BAIC BJ40 Plus now available in Kuwait

LONDON: In this file photo, the HSBC UK headquarters are seen at the Canary Wharf financial district of London. —AFP

HSBC axes CEO Flint in shock move

Bank unveils further share buyback of up to \$1bn, sheds 4,000 jobs

HONG KONG/LONDON: HSBC ousted John Flint as chief executive after just 18 months in a shock move the chairman of Europe's biggest bank said was needed to speed up progress on priority areas such as the turnaround of its US business.

The CEO's exit was a result of differences of opinion with chairman Mark Tucker over Flint's more tentative approach to cutting expenses and setting revenue targets for senior managers to boost profit growth, a person familiar with the matter said. HSBC disclosed the departure of Flint, 51, alongside its half-year results yesterday as it forecast a gloomier outlook for its business, with an escalation of a trade war between China and the United States, an easing monetary policy cycle, unrest in its key Hong Kong market and Brexit.

HSBC's shock ousting of Flint as chief executive was seen by some investors and bank insiders as a risky gambit by Chairman Mark Tucker given the political and economic uncertainties in the bank's core markets.

Only 18 months after presiding over the appointment of HSBC career veteran Flint as CEO, Tucker has now overseen his exit, while insisting the bank's broad strategy will not change. HSBC shareholders mixed apprehension with optimism when 61-year-old Tucker took over at the top of Europe's biggest bank in October 2017 as its first ever external chairman.

Tucker was known before joining HSBC in 2017 as one of Asia's most successful and hands-on executives

for listing insurer AIA and then more than doubling its market value. Flint, 51, was widely seen as a safe pair of hands offering a 'more of the same' strategy at HSBC.

HSBC, which makes more than 80 percent of its profit in Asia, said that its global commercial banking unit head Noel Quinn will be interim chief executive. Shares in HSBC, which fell nearly 14 percent during Flint's tenure, were down 1.7 percent in London at 11:11 GMT, even though it reported a 16 percent rise in profit and a revealed a share buyback of up to \$1 billion.

Flint, who previously ran London-headquartered HSBC's retail and wealth management business, was chosen as CEO in February 2018 in the first major decision by Tucker, who told Reuters:

"It's the right time for change, and doing it clearly and decisively from a position of strength is very important." A key difference with Tucker was over Flint's efforts to turn around HSBC's under-performing US business, the person familiar with the matter said. HSBC declined to comment. Tucker, who became HSBC's first externally appointed chairman when he joined HSBC's board in late 2017, said that the search for a new CEO, which will include both internal and external candidates, could take up to a year.

HSBC will also cut around 2 percent of its workforce or around 4,000 jobs this year as it seeks to reduce costs, Chief Financial Officer Ewen Stevenson said, adding it will pay out a total of around \$650-700 mil-

lion in severance costs and the reductions will be biased towards senior managers. HSBC executives at the time of his appointment saw Flint as a safe pair of hands and a natural successor to mentor and previous CEO Stuart Gulliver. Outlining his strategy in June last year, Flint set out plans to invest \$15-\$17 billion in the next three years in areas including technology.

"We have been uninspired by the 'business as usual' strategy," analyst Ed Firth at broker KBW said. "We suspect that any new CEO is still more likely to be internal, but will need a more dynamic approach to improving underperforming areas of the business," he said.

US Woes

HSBC said it no longer expects to achieve the targeted 6 percent return on tangible equity (ROE) by 2020 in the US, where it has struggled for years to build scale and compete. That missed US goal is still below the overall group aim of getting to more than 11 percent ROE by 2020. HSBC hired Citigroup veteran Michael Roberts in July to head its US business, in a renewed effort to turn it around. The US business is not "getting the proper returns", HSBC's CFO Stevenson told Reuters, adding the unit has also been hit by the change in the monetary policy cycle. HSBC's investment banking business has also struggled in recent years as it lost a string of senior executives and saw US rivals

cash in on booming domestic stock markets. Revenues in HSBC's global banking and markets division fell by 3 percent in the first half compared with the same period last year.

Revenue risk

HSBC's pretax profit for the first six months of 2019 rose to \$12.41 billion from \$10.71 billion in the same period a year earlier, helped by a surge in retail banking and Asia revenues. "Interest rates in the US dollar bloc are now expected to fall rather than rise, and geopolitical issues could impact a significant number of our major markets," HSBC said. Tucker played down the impact of protests in Hong Kong against an extradition bill which have evolved into a broader anti-government backlash and said HSBC remained confident about the future of the Asian financial center. Analysts had been watching closely to see whether the bank would announce a fresh buyback, as a failure to do so would have been read as a sign of mounting caution by HSBC's management. Prior to the latest buyback announcement, HSBC had purchased more than \$6 billion of its own shares since 2016. — Reuters



John Flint

UK biggest retailer Tesco axes 4,500 supermarket jobs

LONDON: Supermarket giant Tesco said yesterday it is to axe about 4,500 jobs across its city-center UK stores to slash costs. Tesco, which is Britain's biggest retailer, will carry out a "reduction of around 4,500 colleagues" as the group experiences "an increasingly competitive and challenging retail environment", it said in a statement.

The job cuts, equivalent to about one percent of Tesco's worldwide workforce, come after the company axed 9,000 roles in January. The latest job cuts will be at Tesco's Metro stores, largely found in city and town centers across the UK. "The changes in our Metro stores will be focused on better tailoring them to how our customers shop," the company said.

"The Metro format was originally designed for larger, weekly shops, but today nearly 70 percent of customers use them as convenience stores, buying food for that day." Tesco—the world's third-biggest supermarket chain after France's Carrefour and global leader Wal-Mart of the United States—has been dogged in recent years by fierce UK competition from German discount chains Aldi and Lidl.

"In a challenging, evolving retail environment, with



increasing cost pressures, we have to continue to review the way we run our stores to ensure we reflect the way our customers are shopping and do so in the most efficient way," Jason Tarry, CEO of Tesco UK and Ireland, said in yesterday's statement.

"We do not take any decision which impacts colleagues lightly, but have to make sure we remain relevant for customers and operate a sustainable business now and in the future." Tesco recently posted subdued sales for the first quarter of its financial year, citing poor consumer sentiment in its Brexit-facing home market. Sales rose 0.4 percent to £14 billion in the three months to May 25 from a year earlier. —AFP

UK services bounce fails to budge recession fears

LONDON: Britain's dominant services sector unexpectedly perked up in July, a major survey showed yesterday, but this did little to shift fears that Brexit risks and U.S.-China trade tensions are pushing the economy close to recession. The IHS Markit/CIPS UK Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to a nine-month high of 51.4 from 50.2 in June, above all forecasts in a Reuters poll of economists that had pointed to an unchanged reading.

Despite the improvement, the services PMI stands well below its long-run average and a composite PMI also including last week's weak manufacturing and construction numbers only just rose above the 50 mark that divides growth from contraction. Services account for about 80 percent of British economic output, though the UK PMI does not cover retailers or public services. A PMI for the euro zone services sector fell short of expectations but still beat its British equivalent.

"We expect growth below trend until Brexit is

resolved, but see a robust labor market and resilient consumer-reflecting in today's modest beat," Morgan Stanley economists Jacob Nell and Bruna Skarica said. The Bank of England expects official data on Friday to show growth in the world's fifth-largest economy slowed to zero in the three months to June, as the boost from premature Brexit preparations in early 2019 fades.

The start of the third quarter looks little better, with worries mounting that Prime Minister Boris Johnson is seriously considering taking Britain out of the European Union on Oct. 31 without a transition deal, risking major economic disruption. Even without a chaotic Brexit, the BoE sees a one-in-three chance the economy will be shrinking in year-on-year terms by early next year. Car sales fell to their lowest since 2012 in July, adding to woes for a sector that says it will be one of the hardest hit by a no-deal Brexit that would sever pan-European supply chains.

Sterling weakened to its lowest in nearly two years against the euro yesterday, while 10-year British government bond yields fell to an all-time low below 0.5 percent, with little immediate reaction to the data. The low level of bond yields reflects increased trade tensions between the United States and China as much as Brexit, and this adds to challenges for British companies, though IHS Markit said some firms reported help from the weaker currency. — Reuters

Business

NBK-Bahrain reports net profits of KD 48.283 million for H1 2019

Total assets increased 12.8% y-o-y, net profit grew 9% y-o-y



Isam Al-Sager



Ali Fardan

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait-Bahrain (NBK Bahrain), reported net profits of BHD 60 million (equivalent to KD 48.283 million) for the first half of 2019 compared with BHD 55 million (equivalent to KD 44.3 million) for the same period of 2018, a growth of 9 percent year-on-year.

As of end of June 2019, NBK-Bahrain's total assets increased by 12.8 percent y-o-y to BHD 6.824 billion, compared with BHD 6.048 billion for the same period of previous year. While total shareholders' equity increased by 18 percent y-o-y to BHD 758.549 million compared with BHD 642.330 million for the same period of previous year.

Isam Al-Sager, NBK Group Chief Executive Officer said "Once again, NBK Group proves its dominance in the regional market and solidifies its leadership position through the outstanding performance of yet another one of its regional operations, NBK-Bahrain. These solid results come in line with the Group's strategy aimed at strengthening its position throughout MENA region as well as diversifying its revenue streams". Al-Sager also added that the improved profit performance in NBK Bahrain was attributable to increased operating banking revenues despite the challenging operating environment.

Moreover, Al-Sager affirmed that NBK-Group will continue to focus on its international operations and foster external growth in order to complement its domestic market dominance in Kuwait. Ali Fardan, NBK-Bahrain General Manager, said "We continue to build on NBK-Group's clear strategy to focus on our

core banking business to consistently drive solid results. In addition to that, we have a very talented and experienced team that backs our operations year after year. I am confident that we are set to achieve further growth in the remaining part of 2019 and beyond."

NBK has been present in Bahrain since 1977 and enjoys strong and historical relationships with the

- **Al-Sager:** NBK Bahrain's solid H1 2019 results reflect the Group's sound strategy in focusing on strengthening its international operations
- **Fardan:** NBK-Bahrain continues to build on NBK-Group's clear strategy focusing on core banking business to consistently drive solid results

major Bahraini and international companies, Al-Fardan added. NBK retains its position as one of the most stable banks in the MENA region, having consistently achieved high credit ratings and being recognized by Global Finance as one of the world's 50 safest banks.

German economists urge govt to ditch debt pledge, boost investment

BERLIN: Germany's fiscal rules to limit public debt are absurd and hurt national interests in light of record-low borrowing costs and a slowing economy, two of its leading economists said yesterday.

The remarks to Reuters by Marcel Fratzscher, head of the left-leaning DIW economic institute, and Michael Huether, director of the employer-friendly IW economic institute, increase pressure on Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition government to rethink its pledge to refrain from new debt.

"The debt brake is absurd and is harming Germany," Fratzscher said. "It requires the federal government to continue making surpluses in what are now economically difficult times and it prevents it from making any further investments to stabilize the economy and safeguard jobs."

The German economy, Europe's largest, is widely expected to have at best stagnated in the second quarter, and sentiment indicators suggest it could shrink in the third quarter. Fratzscher pointed out that Germany had immense, pent-up investment needs in infrastructure, education and innovation, adding that it would not be wise to stick to the no-new-debt pledge after yields turned negative even for 30-year bonds. This means that investors actually pay the German state a premium to lend it money over a long period. "The current policy comes at the expense of future generations as the German state is living on its reserves and it's damaging the country as a business location," Fratzscher said.

IW director Huether called on Berlin to take on new debt and create a public investment fund worth more than 100 billion euros (\$112 billion) for the next decade.



NEW YORK: BMW vehicles stand in a showroom in Manhattan in New York City. Blaming slowing sales in the US and Europe, BMW announced that its pre-tax profit fell to 2.1 billion euros (\$2.3 billion) from 2.9 billion (\$3.2 billion) in the same period of 2018. — AFP

"The debt brake is no longer effective because the circumstances have changed," Huether said. "The state now even earns money when it's taking on new debt. So if Berlin is not doing this now to finance more public investments, it's simply losing out."

Huether also argued that Berlin's argument that the next generation should not be burdened with more new debt had become invalid in light of the changed financing environment. "If we do not invest now, we will not only burden the present generation, but also leave even higher investment needs for the future generations," Huether said. The money in the proposed investment fund should be used for building and repairing streets and bridges, improving the public railway system and for the nationwide expansion of fifth-generation mobile services (5G).

"This ensures planning security for businesses and entrains second-round investment by the private sector," Huether said. — Reuters

week showed factory activity contracted in July at its fastest rate in six years. That factory malaise is now having a greater effect on services and a PMI for the industry fell to 53.2 from 53.6 the month before and below the flash reading of 53.3.

Breakdown

Italy was alone amongst the bloc's four biggest economies where the PMI rose, offering some hope of a timid recovery there but activity in Germany's private sector hit its weakest level in more than six years, suggesting Europe's largest economy started the third quarter on a weak footing. "The economic weakness in the currency union is still concentrated in Germany and Italy. While Italy's PMI edged up in July it was still very weak and pointing to only a small increase in GDP," Allen-Reynolds said. Growth also slipped in France and Spain. However in Britain, gearing up to split from the European Union, growth unexpectedly accelerated to a nine-month high in July, possibly soothing some worries about whether the country is slipping into recession before Brexit. Forward-looking indicators suggested there won't be a turnaround anytime soon and demand for services in the eurozone waned, hit by falling new export business—which includes trade between member countries in the bloc. The sub-index dropped to 49.2 from 49.4. —Reuters

Eurozone factory sickness infecting services growth

LONDON: Eurozone business growth hit a wall in July as demand crumbled, according to a survey which showed a deepening downturn in manufacturing is increasingly affecting the bloc's dominant services industry. Last month the European Central Bank all but promised to ease policy further as the bloc's growth outlook deteriorates and yesterday's survey will do little to sway market expectations for loosening.

IHS Markit's Euro Zone Composite Final Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), considered a good measure of overall economic health, dropped to 51.5 in July from June's 52.2, moving closer to the 50 mark separating growth from contraction. "They weren't a massive surprise, the composite PMI was left unrevised. There was no worsening in growth but it remains pretty weak," said Jack Allen-Reynolds at Capital Economics.

Those headwinds hurt manufacturers and figures last

NBK announces winner of KD 125,000 prize in Al-Jawhara draw

KUWAIT: Continuing to reward its customers and providing them with the best services, NBK held Al-Jawhara Account monthly draw to win KD 125,000 as well as the second quarterly draw in the "Transfer Your Salary" Campaign. The draws were held live on Kuwait Pulse FM 88.8 and in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and representatives from NBK. Jumanah Mohammad Jassim Ali was announced as the winner in the draw for "Transfer Your Salary" Campaign, winning her salary for a full year. In Al-Jawhara monthly draw, Minor customer Fahad Jaber Soud Al-Fahad was announced as the winner, receiving KD 125,000. Al-Jawhara monthly and quarterly draws are supervised and audited by Deloitte.

NBK offers existing and new salary account customers the opportunity to win their salary for 12 months for a maximum value of KD 12,000 per year. The "Transfer Your Salary" Campaign also enables customers to benefit from advantages such as instant gifts ranging from KD 100 to KD 10,000 or an interest-free loan

drawal or debit transaction occur during the holding period of each draw.

Since 2012, NBK has rewarded loyal customers with prizes worth a total of up to KD 2,200,000 annually through its weekly, monthly and quarterly Al-Jawhara draws. NBK also announced the winners in Al-Jawhara's weekly draws for the month of July who were: Rawah Adnan Jabi, Ahmad Rashed Ahmad Aldawas, Nuha Marzouq Ayed Alotaibi and Ghulam Ahmed Qureshi. In addition to its unique, most innovative and safe products and services, NBK is committed to providing customers with ongoing offers and rewards in line with their needs and lifestyle.



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Business

Mutawa Alkazi: New BAIC BJ40 Plus now available in Kuwait

The 4-wheel drive enjoys proficiency, toughness and unparalleled power



KUWAIT: Now available in its showrooms, Mutawa Alkazi Co, the exclusive and authorized distributor and dealership of BAIC vehicles in Kuwait, revealed the entirely new, powerful and dependable BJ40 Plus. Promoting the success of the Chinese brand, the vehicle offers proficiency driving specifics, high-fuel efficiency engines and superior dynamics on all types of roads, as well as advanced technological features for safety and communication. This confirms the giant company's desire to gain the satisfaction and trust of all drivers, especially those who love adventure.

Mutawa Alkazi offers BAIC BJ40 Plus at favorable prices and promotions, including 11-year warranty, free third-party insurance, free traffic registration, free thermal tinting and other advantages. Added to these is a work team eager to welcome clients, answer their queries and offer appropriate advice on the model that best suits their needs and satisfy their ambitions.

Joyful to drive, the car boasts outstanding capability for driving on rough roads, with extra flexibility in transporting luggage, equipment and freight due to its large trunk space. All this makes BAIC BJ40 Plus a unique vehicle with its additional levels of super driving techniques on rough roads and its ability to deal with all kinds of terrain.

The new vehicle is fitted with leather seats, rear AC vents, fully foldable rear seats, Bluetooth and other smart functions that make for a more enjoyable adventure inside its cabin.

The car features a 7-inch screen with a rear view mirror, automatic door mirrors and elegant over-head speakers. The dashboard provides information about gradient, direction and altitude, while the 4-wheel drive provides exceptional handling of all terrain in Kuwait. BAIC new star boasts an independent body design that

would enhance its stability in difficult road conditions. The engine was designed to save up to 90% of peak torque at low RPM ensuring lot of torque at low speeds.

Great power on all roads, a high-quality AC in all weather conditions and an advanced cabin fitted with the latest technologies and modern laser lights, have combined to reflect BAIC's work team's eagerness to consider all clients' needs, surprise them and boost their confidence that the cars of the brand are built to make them proud of experiencing the highest standards in driving.

- High fuel efficiency on all roads
- Attractive offers and exceptional prices
- Advanced driving techniques on local rugged and fast roads

BJ40 Plus will turn heads on all roads with its overall design and new front and rear lights.

The new generation of 4-wheel drive vehicles confirms the company's success in raising the standards of quality and value in all its models. This latest development sets a new standard of elegance, innovation and technology. It rethinks clients expectations by offering a design that is more exciting and sporty.

When you get the chance to sit inside the cabin you should be able to try the audio system of Bluetooth, the wireless and the voice recognition technology which are meant to provide comfort to driver and passengers.

Mutawa Alkazi invites all to visit its showrooms in Al-Rai or Shuwaikh (Al-Tilal Complex) to see the new vehi-

cle and get a chance of driving it and sampling its technologies. With a view to attracting the largest possible segment of clients in Kuwait, it confirms its eagerness to make the best offers.

Attractive design

The design of the new middle panel and the dashboard fits in with the car's attractive exterior. The sound and AC control keys are designed in the style of piano keys to impart distinctive look and feel. The winged design of the dashboard was inspired by the design of the stealth aircraft, with the visual elements combining to create a sense of flying altitude. The designers sought to increase the feeling of interior spaciousness as in the smart application of modern technology in the new gear shift by wire.

The cabin features a 7-inch color touch screen for the sound system compatible with "Android Auto" and "Apple CarPlay" with a smart phone wireless charging pad as well as a USB port for rear seats passengers.

The core sound, video and navigation system features an exceptional Bose sound system with twelve speakers.

Fuel consumption

The majestic exterior of the vehicle is based on prominent features including the strong body with glossy ornaments and a long and effective hood, with a grille larger and bolder than other models in the market. The transmission systems in BAIC BJ40 Plus provide the best combination of energy and power. The car is equipped with an automatic transmission which includes the technology of parking or running and a new dynamic fuel management technology which enables the engine to run as needed in order to enhance energy and efficiency levels.



VIVA launches Concierge service for elite customers

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched the unique "VIVA Concierge" service for Elite and Al-Diwan customers which offers them an array of special and unique privileges. This exclusive service is designed to cater to the VIVA's Elite customer's distinguished lifestyle with comfort, ease and convenience. Privileges include free airport lounge access at prominent international airports around the world and a personal messenger. Commenting on the partnership, Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, Corporate Communications Director at VIVA said: "We are happy to recognize our Elite and Al-Diwan customers with this valuable package and we will continue offering them world-class customer service round the clock to make their life easier and more convenient."



KFH Ayadi available at all governorates, 24/7



XTM



KFH Go

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) offers the service of withdrawing new banknotes "Ayadi" in various categories and in different locations for customers on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha. The service is available 24/7 and covers all governorates of Kuwait.

KFH provides customers with the service of withdrawing "Ayadi" via branches, ATMs, XTM Interactive devices, smart branches KFH Go in the Co-op society branch of Ishbilyah, Jabriya, Al-Mangaf, Al-Salam and Abu Fatira, as well as KFH Mobi vehicles, which are spread in Dahiya Abdullallah al Salem, AlQaser and Abu Fatira to

meet the requirements of all customers wherever they are present.

He explained that the service is available until the first day of Eid, in all cash categories that include the dinar, KD 5, KD 10 and KD 20. KFH is keen on achieving the highest levels of excellence in customer service according to the highest standards of quality by providing the most competitive advantages that confirm the leadership of KFH in offering advanced banking services, achieving the highest levels of innovation and keeping up with the latest technological developments in the banking industry.

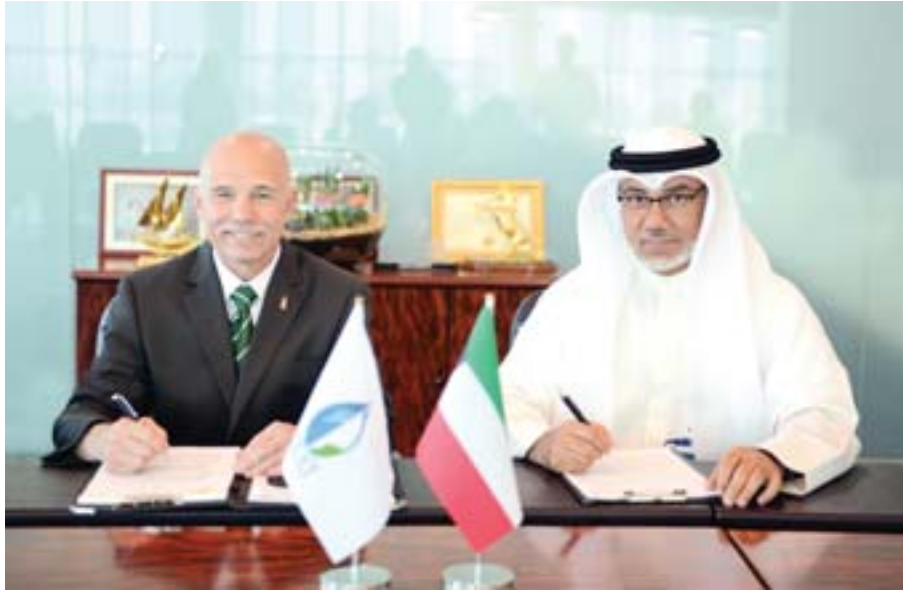
Burgan Bank announces Al-Thuraya draw winner

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, announced yesterday Khaled Ahmad Aloum as the lucky winner of the Al-Thuraya Salary Account monthly draw. The draw

rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan Bank by offering them a chance to win a Nissan Patrol SUV every month. With every KD 10 available in the account, the customer receives one chance to enter the draw.

The Al-Thuraya account holders have the option to hold money in Kuwaiti dinar and other major currencies and can access account-related services such as standing orders, loans and credit cards, and benefit from the discounts and offers throughout the year.

What's On



GUST and Algonquin College Kuwait reaffirm partnership

Gulf University of Science and Technology (GUST) and Kuwait's Canadian College - Algonquin College - Kuwait (AC-Kuwait) - have renewed their agreement and created clear pathways for AC-Kuwait graduates to enter and complete degree at GUST. GUST originally signed a general articulation agreement with AC-Kuwait in 2016, and the addendum signed in July this provides clear pathways for students in Accounting, Business and Computer Science to begin their studies at AC-Kuwait, complete a diploma, and then transfer credits towards a degree program at GUST.

Dr Dave McHardy, AC-Kuwait President, said, "We are extremely grateful to President Bouhamra and his

colleagues at GUST for the time and effort they put into reviewing our programs and providing our students with pathways towards degrees. As educators, we are here to provide students with opportunities to learn, become contributing citizens, and achieve the credentials they need to pursue fulfilling careers. In order to do this, we need to provide students with flexible options and multiple pathways to success. And this agreement with GUST allows us to do this."

Professor Walid Bouhamra, GUST President, said, "For some students this will represent a change for students to improve their chances in their future professional lives. By beginning their academic pathway at AC-K and completing a diploma, they would have

proven their ability to study at a higher education level and have gained valuable knowledge and skills that they can now bring to their studies at GUST. Everyone wins in this scenario - the students, Algonquin, GUST and the country as a whole because this helps us have a better-educated population and workforce."

This agreement is an excellent example of how institutions can be both competitive and collaborative. It demonstrates the potential for the private colleges and universities in Kuwait to work as a system for the betterment of students, the local economy and workforce. By combining competitiveness with collaboration, standards remain high, flexibility increases, and the focus remains squarely on the students in Kuwait.



Experience exceptional dining during Eid Al-Adha at Sheraton Kuwait

Sheraton Kuwait, a Luxury Collection Hotel and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait welcomes you for an exceptional Eid Al-Adha celebrations with your loved ones in its vibrant and festive ambience at its variety of cuisines from around the world. For the clientele of Sheraton Kuwait, Al Hambra Restaurant offers you its authentic buffet featuring a wide range of lavish Kuwaiti and International dishes specially prepared for this occasion.

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Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait invites you to La Mamma Pizzeria to celebrate a unique Eid where you can enjoy an assortment of appetizing antipasti, freshly prepared pasta and pizza baked on a wood fired oven to meet your culinary desire. On this occasion Fahed Abushaar - Complex General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait and Mounir Amer - General Manager of Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait, the Executive Committee and all the associates wish the people of Kuwait and all residents a Happy Eid!



Easiest-Ever Grilled Veggie Burgers

Recipe by Chris Morocco

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for greasing
- 1 14-oz. block extra-firm tofu, drained
- 2 14.5-oz. cans black beans, rinsed, drained well
- 1/4 cup almond butter
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 garlic cloves, finely grated
- 4 tsp. chili powder (make sure it's salt-free)
- 4 tsp. salt
- 2 cups cooked quinoa, cooled
- 1/4 cup flaxseed meal
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- Toasted buns, pickled onions, tomato, lettuce, pickles, and chipotle yogurt (for serving)

PREPARATION:

Prepare a grill for medium-high, direct heat. Clean and oil grate. Shred tofu using the large holes of a box grater. Firmly squeeze tofu in between paper towels to drain as much excess liquid as possible.

Heat 2 Tbsp. oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium. Cook tofu and beans, tossing occasionally, until beans look slightly dried out and their skins are darkened, 10-12 minutes.

Meanwhile, whisk almond butter and mayonnaise in a medium bowl until smooth. Whisk in garlic, chili powder, and salt. Add tofu-bean



mixture and cooked quinoa and stir well to combine.

Stir flaxseed and 1/4 cup cold water in a small bowl. Let sit until a thick paste forms, about 1 minute. Add to tofu-bean mixture along with cornstarch and stir well to combine.

Using oiled hands, form mixture into 8-10 patties about 1/2" thick (about a scant 3/4 cup each). Grill until lightly charred around the edges, about 2 minutes. Turn carefully using a metal spatula to cleanly lift off grate and grill until lightly charred on second side and warmed through, about 2 minutes more. Place burgers on bottoms of buns. Pile high with pickled onions, tomato, lettuce, pickles, and chipotle yogurt. Close with top bun and serve.



Grilled Crispy-Skinned Salmon with Whole Lemon-Sesame Sauce

Recipe by Andy Baraghani

INGREDIENTS

- 4 6-oz. skin-on salmon fillets, pin bones removed, patted dry
- 2 Tbsp plus 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for grill
- Kosher salt
- 1 small lemon
- 1 small shallot, finely chopped
- 2 tsp black sesame seeds
- 1 tsp honey
- 1/2 tsp toasted sesame oil
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup torn basil leaves

PREPARATION

Prepare a grill for medium heat. Rub salmon with 2 Tbsp. olive oil; season both sides with salt.

Cut ends off lemon and discard. Place lemon upright and slice off outer lobes in 4 sections, leaving a square-shaped core and seeds behind. Finely chop lobes (flesh, pith, and all) and transfer to a small bowl (you should have about 1/3 cup). Squeeze out juice from core over bowl. Add shallot, sesame seeds, honey, sesame oil, and remaining 1/3 cup olive oil; season with salt and lots of pepper. Toss to combine.

Clean and oil grate, then immediately place salmon on grill skin side down. Cover grill and cook, skin side down the entire time, until skin is lightly charred and fish is opaque, 6-8 minutes. Transfer salmon to a plate and let cool slightly.

Divide salmon among plates. Top with basil. Spoon lemon-sesame sauce over.

Shrimp and Basil Stir-Fry

Recipe by Andy Baraghani

INGREDIENTS

- 3 Fresno chiles, coarsely chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, smashed
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. fish sauce
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 4 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 lb. large shrimp, peeled, deveined
- 2 cups basil leaves
- Lime wedges (for serving)

PREPARATION

Blend chilies, garlic, sugar, fish sauce, salt, and 3 Tbsp. oil in a blender until smooth. Transfer marinade to a medium bowl and add shrimp; toss to coat. Let sit 10 minutes.

Heat remaining 1 Tbsp. oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high. Just when oil begins to smoke and working in batches if needed, add shrimp, leaving marinade behind, and cook, turning once, until lightly charred around the edges, about 1 minute per side. Remove pan from heat. Add basil and toss vigorously until basil is wilted.

Transfer shrimp mixture to a platter. Serve with lime wedges alongside.



In French mountains, bear attacks leave shepherds skittish

Growing bear population leaves farmers pitting against authorities

LARRAU, France: As day breaks over the Pyrenees mountains, hundreds of sheep scuttle up a valley, the clanging of their neck bells echoing around the hills that fringe the French-Spanish border. For generations, shepherds in the region have steered sheep up the mountains in summer to graze on higher pastures, against breathtaking backdrops of sheer precipices and plunging valleys.

But the arrival last year of two more bears—brought over from Slovenia to boost the area's tiny bear population—has made the herdsmen jittery. Clouding the bucolic scenes of sheep grazing in mountain meadows is the fear that the bears, one of whom has already killed several sheep in the region, will strike again. "Before we took the sheep up, there was an uneasy atmosphere in the valley," Nicolas Bengochea, part of a father-and-son shepherd team that keeps watch over a flock of 1,500 sheep, told AFP.

France's growing bear population, like its burgeoning wolf population, is a source of tension in mountainous areas, pitting farmers against the authorities and animal rights activists. The state began reintroducing brown bears from Slovenia about 20 years ago in a bid to increase numbers of the omnivorous mammals, which had been hunted to near extinction.

Bear damage

Last October, two female bears were helicoptered into the western Pyrenees, bringing the total bear population in the French Pyrenees to an estimated 40, up from just five in 1996. Since then, one of the bears has given birth to two cubs. The new arrivals received a hostile reception, with farmers blocking roads and scattering bloody sheep remains in front of a local town hall in protest. "When I saw the bear in that cage in October, I knew that eight months later, it would be on my farm," said Nicolas.

The young shepherd's grim prediction came true when one of the bears, Claverina, killed one of his sheep and sent the rest bolting into the distance on the family's enclosed meadow in April in the border village of Larrau. Local authorities later told Nicolas he had been a victim of "bear damage", with Claverina's GPS collar revealing her to be the culprit. With Claverina having already killed eight sheep on the Spanish side of the border in May, shepherds are sleeping fitfully.

From around 30 huts dotted across the Iraty border area, shepherds take turns watching over the 80,000 sheep and cattle that spend June-September mowing the mountain pastures as part of the summer migration known as the "transhumance". Nicolas and father Jean-Marc's perch are grassy hills at the foot of the Pic d'Orly mountain, 1,300 meters above sea level.

'It would be hell'

While the French government compensates farmers affected by bear attacks and subsidises the pay of extra shepherds, its recommendation to keep sheep locked up in pens overnight would spell the death of transhumance, said Jean-Marc. "Putting 1,500 sheep in enclosures would mean bringing them down (from the mountain) every day. It would be hell," Jean-Marc said. The farmer also voices "strong doubts" about the ability of enclosures to prevent bear attacks.

"It doesn't work in Ariège, so I can't see why it would work here", he said in his sing-song southwestern French accent, referring to a region 280 kilometers east of Larrau which has been the scene of repeated bear attacks. In June, more than 250 sheep plunged off a cliff to their deaths after apparently being chased by a bear. A similar incident last month, in which 61 sheep fell off a cliff, prompted local authorities to declare a low-level bear alert, allowing farmers to use lights and whistles to scare away the creatures.

Farmers can also shoot but not kill bears if local authorities declare a high-level alert. But for Nicolas, protecting flocks from bears is the responsibility of the state rather than farmers. "I'm not going to be the one going out shooting bears. Who knows how it would react!" If the bear population continues to climb, he said he will stop taking sheep up the mountains. "And then I'll no longer be a shepherd," he said. — AFP



LARRAU, France: A ewe flock go out to graze in Iraty, Larrau, in the Pyrenees. — AFP

Indonesian man walks in reverse to save forests

JAKARTA: An Indonesian man is walking 700 kilometers from his home on a volcano in East Java to Jakarta in the hope of drawing attention to the archipelago's quickly shrinking forests—and he is doing it backwards. Medi Bastoni, a 43-year-old father of four, set out on his arduous, in-reverse journey in mid-July, with the goal of reaching the capital by August 16, a day before the Southeast Asian nation's independence day anniversary.

"Of course I'm exhausted, but I'm willing to do this to fight for the next genera-

tion," Bastoni told AFP. "(My home) is losing all of its trees so I have to do something. I can take the pain and fatigue." When he arrives, Bastoni said he hopes to meet with president Joko Widodo and highlight deforestation across the archipelago including at his home on Mt. Wilis, a dormant volcano. Indonesia suffers from one of the high rates of deforestation in the world, according to Greenpeace.

Bastoni walks 20 to 30 kilometers backwards every day under the scorching sun, with a rear-view mirror attached to his backpack to avoid bumping into objects. Along the way, supporters cheer him on, offer him meals or a place to stay overnight. But Bastoni always leaves at dawn to stay on schedule. Walking backwards is meant as a signal to Indonesians to reflect on the past and remember how national heroes fought for the good of the country, he said. — AFP



KENDAL, Indonesia: This handout courtesy of Medi Bastoni taken and released yesterday shows Bastoni as he takes a selfie during a quick stop in Kendal, during his ongoing campaign to draw attention to the issue of deforestation in Indonesia. — AFP

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- Fellow of American College of Surgery
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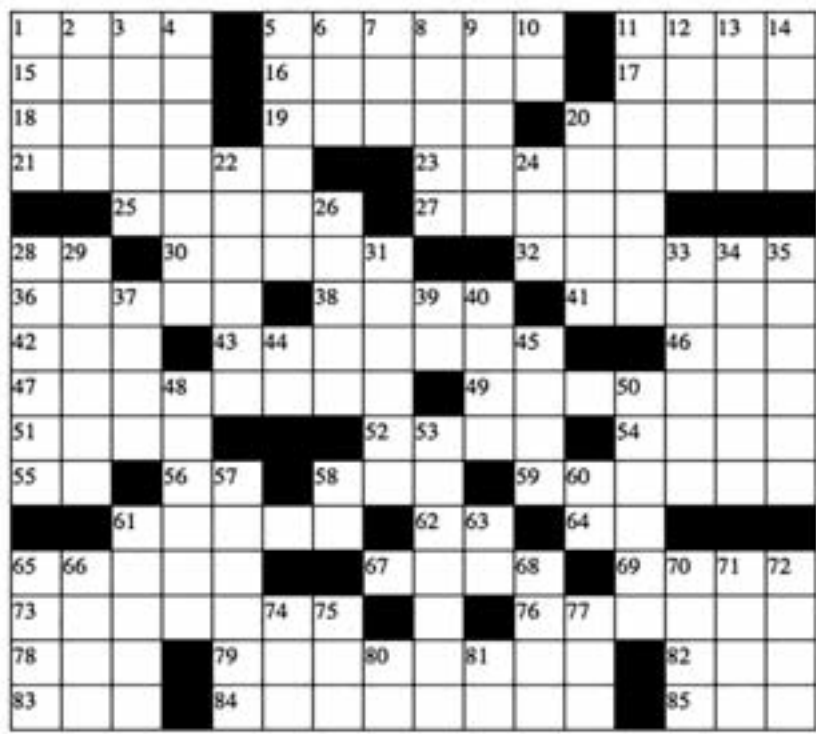
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ACROSS

1. The total spent for goods or services including money and time and labor.
 5. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
 11. (prefix) Coming after.
 15. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
 16. Small genus of dioecious tropical aquatic plants.
 17. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
 18. A game in which numbered balls are drawn and random and players cover the corresponding numbers on their cards.
 19. Relating to the deepest parts of the ocean (below 6000 meters).
 21. Pass by, as of time.
 23. Pygmy marmosets.
 25. Having the leading position or higher score in a contest.
 27. The lofty nest of a bird of prey (such as a hawk or eagle).
 28. A white trivalent metallic element.
 30. A republic in the Asian subcontinent in southern Asia.
 32. Cause to be attached.
 36. A long pointed rod used as a weapon.
 38. Having been read.
 41. Suggestive of the supernatural.
 42. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
 43. The father of your father or mother.
 46. A federal agency that supervises carriers that transport goods and people between states.
 47. The provision of something by issuing it (usually in quantity).
 49. A sailboat with a single mast set far forward.
 51. Any of several large turkey-like game birds of the family Cracidae.
 52. In bed.
 54. The capital and largest city of Norway.
 55. A unit of power equal to 746 watts.
 56. Being one more than one.
 59. Give a certain impression or have a certain outward aspect.
 62. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
 64. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
 65. A fencing sword with a v-shaped blade and a slightly curved handle.
 67. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
 69. (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
 73. Devoid of brightness or appeal.
 76. Leaf fibers of the raffia palm tree.
 78. In favor of (an action or proposal etc.).
 79. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
 82. A unit of pressure.
 83. Take in solid food.
 84. Genus of tropical American timber trees.
 85. Any of numerous hairy-bodied insects including social and solitary species.
- DOWN**
1. A block of solid substance (such as soap or wax).
 2. German industrialist who was the first in Germany to use an assembly line in manufacturing automobiles (1871-1948).
 3. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
 4. Of or relating to nutrition.
 5. Cut the head of.
 6. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
 7. An unabridged dictionary constructed on historical principles.
 8. A support that steadies or strengthens something else.
 9. United States choreographer noted for his use of African elements (born in 1931).
 10. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
 11. The capital of French Polynesia on the northwestern coast of Tahiti.
 12. Using speech rather than writing.
 13. The activity of persuading someone to buy.
 14. The basic unit of money in Western Samoa.
 20. A musical composition of several movements only loosely connected.
 22. Dried root of two plants of the genus Polygala containing an irritating saponin.
 24. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
 26. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
 29. Thick spicy sauce made from tomatoes.
 31. A mythical Greek warrior who was a leader on the Trojan side of the Trojan War.
 33. Having a melody (as distinguished from recitative).
 34. Stout-bodied insect with large membranous wings.
 35. (Greek mythology) A mythical Trojan who was killed by Achilles during the Trojan War.
 37. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
 39. A public promotion of some product or service.
 40. Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
 44. A radioactive gaseous element formed by the disintegration of radium.
 45. An informal term for a father.
 48. An agency of the United Nations responsible for programs to aid education and the health of children and mothers in developing countries.
 50. A game played with young children.
 53. Consisting of or made of wood of the beech tree.
 57. An inflow.
 58. A bachelor's degree in religion.
 60. A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element.
 61. The superior of an abbey of monks.
 63. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
 66. A sensation (as of a cold breeze or bright light) that precedes the onset of certain disorders such as a migraine attack or epileptic seizure.
 68. Soft creamy white cheese.
 70. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
 71. Make reference to.
 72. Stable gear consisting of either of two curved supports that are attached to the collar of a draft horse and that hold the traces.
 74. A secret agent hired by a state to obtain (military) information about its enemies or by a business to obtain industrial secrets from competitors.
 75. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
 77. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
 80. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
 81. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you take care of your body, your body will take care of you. This applies to your mental well-being also. Once your mind is set to becoming a better you, things will seem to fall into place in your world. You will have a greater appreciation for life and a renewed love of self. Happiness begins at home and your health is the root of this happiness. If you will stick to a new lifestyle you will find great reward will come to you from choices you make today. Today is the first day of the rest of your life. You will be a new confident you and find that you can truly love who you are. Take the leap.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may have heard, "You can't have it all." This is not true for you. Taurus. You can "bring home the bacon and cook it up in the pan" and still feel like enjoying a night on the town. Keep your work day stress-free by handling crises with humor. Be sure to take a break today and step out for a breath of fresh air. Save your energy to enjoy time with your friends and family this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Get out and be heard. This is a wonderful time in your life and what you have to say will be heard. This is a great day for public speaking. You seem to have a knack for knowing what people want and being able to provide it. It seems your popularity may be at an all time high now. You are charming and pay close attention to the needs of others. Who could ask for a better friend? You may find a profitable deal come your way concerning real estate. Playing the middle man may be the way to go.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may make mistakes today. Fortunately, you learn from your mistakes. A small setback will not diminish what you accomplish. You will dwell on the slip-ups just long enough to make sure they don't happen again. Then you will focus on the good you have done. You will be applauded for your work. Others will notice and appreciate your efforts.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Close relationships are where your focus is placed now. As independent as you seem to appear, you need to feel the love and support of those closest to you. This alone makes your life feel complete. You are beginning to truly feel needed and cared for. You may feel as if a fresh start is what you need. You are beginning to develop new habit patterns. Out with the old and in with the new. Make sure new habits are good ones. These will set the tone for years to come. The new you is the best you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

There is a problem out there that can be solved with a simple new product. And you are capable of creating that product. Put your inventive mind to work. Look around and see what is needed. Then set about to provide it. The solution will bring you more than financial success. It will provide the satisfaction of knowing you made someone's life easier. You are a kind friend and a good person.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may look in the mirror and see someone you truly love and respect looking back at you. Today you realize you appreciate who you are and how far you have come in this life. You strive to be a kind person and to help others as much as possible. A giver who attracts takers but doesn't let the users stop you from being you. There is no room for bitterness in your heart. You are determined to leave your mark on this world. What you see today is exactly how those close to you see each day. Know that you are loved and appreciated.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

If you take care of your body, your body will take care of you. This applies to your mental well-being also. Once your mind is set to becoming a better you, things will seem to fall into place in your world. You will have a greater appreciation for life and a renewed love of self. Happiness begins at home and your health is the root of this happiness. If you will stick to a new lifestyle you will find great reward will come to you from choices you make today. Today is the first day of the rest of your life. You will be a new confident you and find that you can truly love who you are. Take the leap.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have begun to search for beauty in all that surrounds you. Life takes on a different meaning to you. You seem to see a new depth to the meaning of life. Your ability to analyze your situation and the situations of others are at high point. You are able to really get to the root of all problems that present themselves and provide those around you with solutions. You are able to express yourself and communicate with ease. A long deep conversation with someone may be just what you need to stay grounded and focused. This may be a great time to refrain from spending and beginning focusing your goals on a budget and organizing your finances.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Reach for the stars. You feel as though you are invincible. Today that may be true. If it can go your way, it does. What a wonderful feeling! You are full of optimism and faith. Your self-confidence is at an all-time high. You may desire to make a change in your living situation. Leave this decision for a later date when your head comes down from the clouds.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You may be faced with a difficult decision this week. You may feel led to pass up a very profitable career opportunity because it truly conflicts with your morals and values. This is a road to success you may choose to take a detour around. The easy way is not always the right way. You may find in the long run you will reap great reward from doing the right thing.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Expect to feel much admiration and recognition from those close to you today. You may feel support and able to relate to anyone and any situation. You may find yourself to be the center of attention in a social setting today. It seems everyone is able to relate to you and you may find that someone turns to you for help today. Feel flattered that you are trusted with such a delicate situation that your peer is experiencing. Through sharing life experiences of your own you may be able to assist this person and appreciated your own hardships as lessons learned. This is a great time of reflection in your life. Pisces, live, learn, and love.

Wordsearch Puzzle

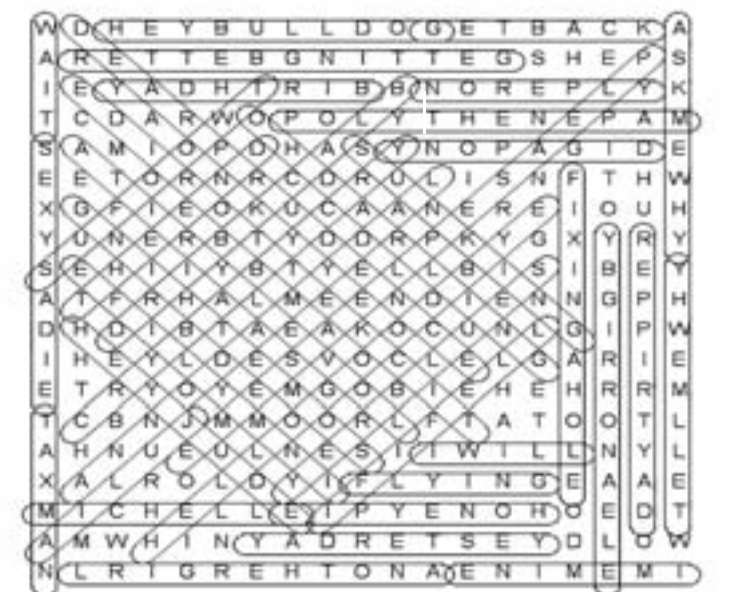
Beatles Songs 2

Find and circle all of the songs by The Beatles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional Beatles song.



- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| ALL MY LOVING
AND I LOVE HER
BECAUSE
BLUE JAY WAY
COME TOGETHER
DIG IT
DOCTOR ROBERT
DRIVE MY CAR
FOR NO ONE
FOR YOU BLUE | GIRL
GLASS ONION
GOLDEN SLUMBERS
GOOD NIGHT
HELP
HELTER SKELTER
HER MAJESTY
I FEEL FINE
I NEED YOU
I'M A LOSER | I'M SO TIRED
LET IT BE
LOVE ME DO
LOVE YOU TO
MAGGIE MAE
MARTHA MY DEAR
NOWHERE MAN
OLD BROWN SHOE
PAPERBACK WRITER
PENNY LANE | PIGGIES
RAIN
REVOLUTION
ROCKY RACCOON
SANDY TRUFFLE
SHE LOVES YOU
THE WORD
THIS BOY
WHAT GOES ON
WILD HONEY PIE |
|--|---|---|--|

Beatles Songs 1



- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| ANOTHER GIRL
ASK ME WHY
BIRTHDAY
BLACKBIRD
CRY BABY CRY
DAY TRIPPER
DEAR PRUDENCE
DIG A POONY
ELEANOR RIGBY
FIXING A HOLE | FLYING
GET BACK
GETTING BETTER
HELLO GOODBYE
HEY BULLDOG
HEY JUDE
HONEY PIE
I ME MINE
I WILL
IF I FELL | IN MY LIFE
JULIA
LADY MADONNA
LOVELY RITA
MICHELLE
NO REPLY
OH DARLING
PLEASE PLEASE ME
POLYTHENE PAM
SEXY SADIE | SOMETHING
SUN KING
TAKING
TELL ME WHY
THE END
TICKET TO RIDE
TWO OF US
WAIT
YER BLUES
YESTERDAY |
|--|---|---|--|

The hidden song is: SHE CAME IN THROUGH THE BATHROOM WINDOW

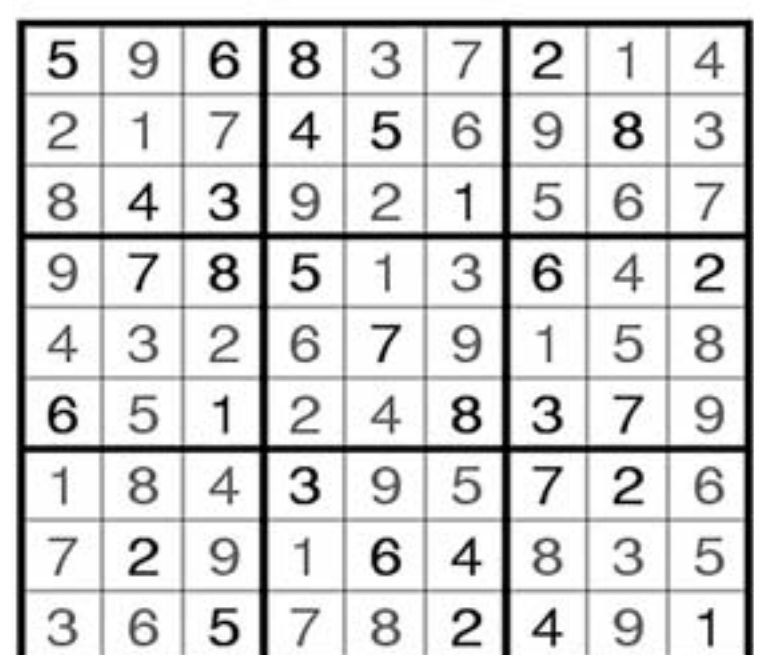
Yesterday's Solution



Daily Sudoku

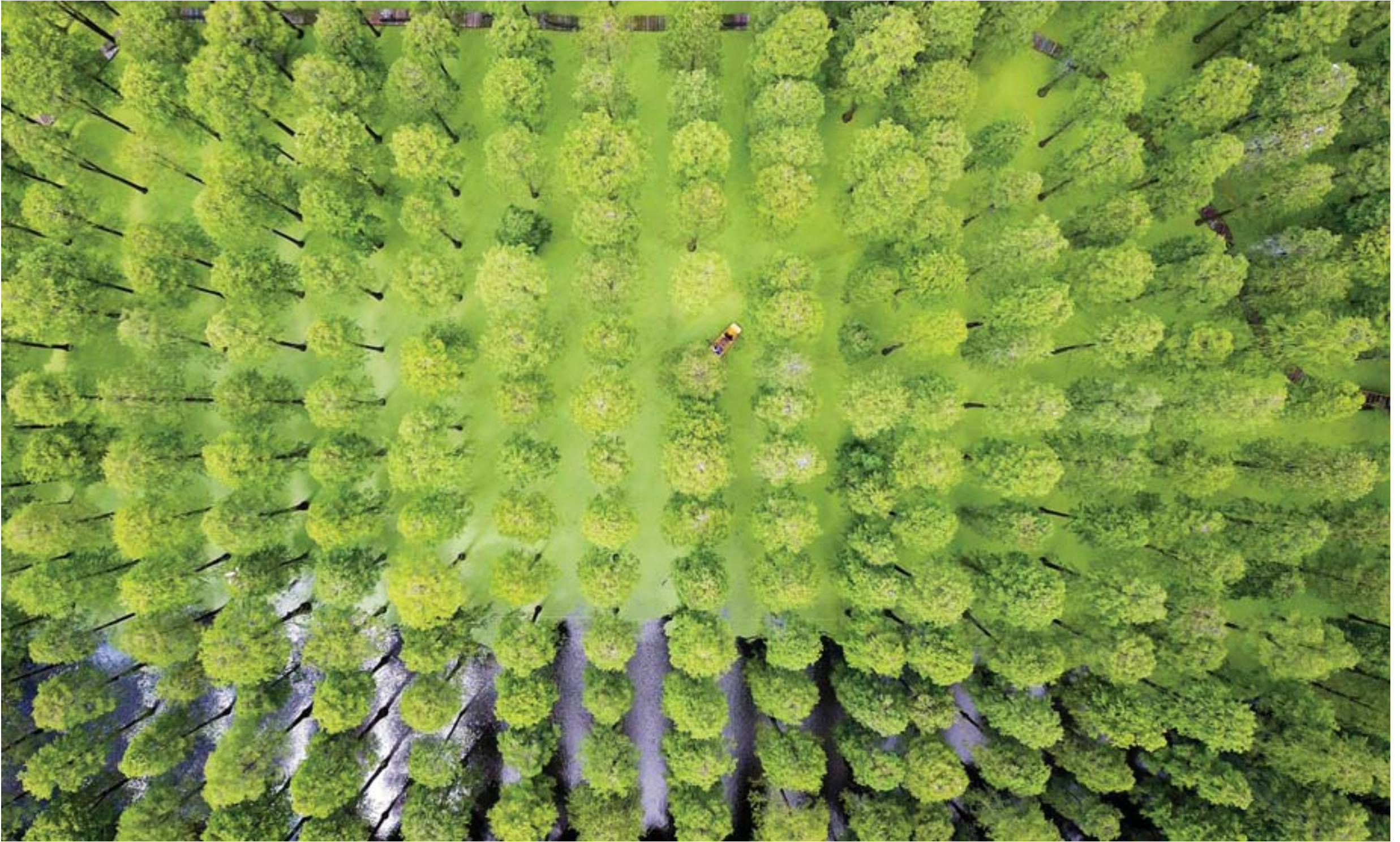


Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019



This aerial photo shows tourists riding a boat among trees at Luyanghu Lake wetland park in Yangzhou in China's eastern Jiangsu province. — AFP

'Z' for Zorro, 100 years on



The dashing masked avenger Zorro made his first swashbuckling appearance 100 years ago in the pages of a US magazine to become an international icon alongside the likes of Tarzan and Superman. The original caped crusader, Zorro was created by US writer Johnston McCulley and introduced in the story "The Curse of Capistrano", carried in a Californian pulp magazine over five weeks starting from August 9, 1919. In conceiving the sword-wielding defender of the downtrodden, McCulley set the stage for a whole century of superheroes.

"Zorro is the original caped crusader. Before Batman, before Superman, before Wonder Woman there was Zorro," American history professor Stephen Andes, who studies the history and myth of Zorro, says on his website.

Mexican role model?

The prolific McCulley (1883-1958) went on to pen about 60 books about Zorro, which means "fox" in Spanish, but was reputed for his reluctance to say what inspired the character. One theory is that he was modeled on real-life Mexican highway bandit, Joaquin Murietta, who took revenge for abuses of his countrymen in California during the 19th-century Gold Rush.

Another is that he was drawn from the Scarlet Pimpernel character-created by Hungarian-British writer Emma Orczy—who rescued aristocrats before they were sent to the guillotine during the French Revolution. "Zorro was intended to express the spirit of the caballero of the times, and to everyone's satisfaction he did," the US Oakland Tribune Magazine wrote in 1923 after interviewing the author.

Secret identity

The character is the alter-ego of a young 19th-century Spanish nobleman, Don Diego de la Vega, who returns to California from studies in Spain to find it being ruled by corrupt and cruel tyrants. When he takes action in defense of the defenseless, he disguises himself in black with a

cape, hat and mask covering the top of his face. He famously uses his sword to leave a "Z" on his defeated villains. His secret identity is known only to his trusted servant Bernardo, who is mute, and to his intelligent black horse Tornado.

From silent to blockbuster

It was on the screen that Zorro became famous. A year after "The Curse of Capistrano" was published, it had been adapted for cinema as the silent film "The Mark of Zorro" starring Douglas Fairbanks, then one of Hollywood's biggest stars. More than 50 Zorro films followed, a handful made in Mexico and including spoofs and erotic versions.

Two featuring Spanish actor Antonio Banderas and Catherine Zeta-Jones were Hollywood blockbusters: "The Mask of Zorro" (1998) and its sequel "The Legend of Zorro" (2005). The Walt Disney television series, which ran for 78 episodes from 1957 to 1961, remains popular, still aired in France, for example. Its musical title is legendary: "Out of the night, when the full moon is bright, comes the horseman known as Zorro. This bold renegade carves a 'Z' with his blade. A 'Z' that stands for Zorro."

The character is played by the tall American Guy Williams, a fencer who did all the many sword duels himself with an unprotected blade. Another Zorro television series was produced in the Philippines until 2009, with nearly 100 episodes, and a popular telenovela saw more than 110 episodes in Colombia. In theatre, animation, comics books and video games, Zorro was credited by the creator of Batman, American Bob Kane, as a "major influence" on his own masked and cloaked character who debuted 20 years later. In her 2005 "Zorro: The Novel", Chilean novelist Isabel Allende imagines the background of the Zorro character, depicting him as "a mixture of Robin Hood, Peter Pan and Che Guevara". — AFP



Renovated Poggi's ramps.. Pride of Florence

Poggi's ramps in Florence is considered as one of the most beautiful walks in the world due to their various wonders including the pyramid-shaped fountains that pumps huge amounts of water towards Michelangelo Square. Architect Giuseppe Poggi (1811-1901) constructed this beautiful edifice in 1876 within a scheme to turn Florence into the capital of beauty. — KUNA





Harry Styles tried to make out music video shoot was for mayo advert

Harry Styles reportedly tried to keep his music video shoot a secret by making out it was a mayonnaise advert. The 'Kiwi' hitmaker's team tried their hardest to keep the major filming for the promo under wraps, but the sheer capacity of Harry's crew and security and the fact he was spotted by Mexican fans in Lombardo Toledano in Cancun, Mexico, as they filmed scenes at 20 buildings, including a yellow property, gave it away. A source told The Sun newspaper's Bizarre column: "The area was swarming with people. 'People in the neighborhood knew filming couldn't just be for a mayo advert, as there would never be so much security or such a large crew. 'His team had bought hundreds of bouquets of violet and purple flowers for the video.

Harry spent most of time filming inside a yellow house." There is no word on what the song that will accompany the music video is called. The One Direction star's 2017 self-titled debut - which includes the hit single 'Sign Of The Times' - went gold in six countries, including the UK and US. And the 25-year-old star admitted he had no idea what he was doing the first time round, and wrote a lot of "sh** songs" before arriving at his final track-listing. He spilled: "I'm making my second album right now, so I'm going to do that [making the right choices], read a lot and see what happens." On finding his feet as a solo artist, he added: "I tried to write as much as possible, with as many different people as possible and try and learn as much as I could. 'I guarantee I wrote a lot of really, really bad

sh** before I wrote anything good." This time round, the heartthrob doesn't have the pressure of having to fit in a movie role, like he did with 'Dunkirk' two years ago. Though he hinted that he'd just have to manage if another job came up whilst he's writing his new record. He said: "When I got the role in 'Dunkirk', it happened right at the start of my first album, so I had to stop everything for five months. "But stuff like that always happens when it happens, so ... I'm enjoying not knowing to be honest." As it happens, Harry is rumored to be playing Prince Eric in 'The Little Mermaid', although it's currently only in pre-production.



Swift, Gomez and Perry to collaborate?

Taylor Swift, Selena Gomez and Katy Perry have reportedly collaborated on a song. It has been rumored that the three female stars have a new track on Taylor's upcoming album, 'Lovers'. A fan who attended one of Taylor's secret listening parties told one of the singer's fan accounts on Twitter that the trio will perform a track about female empowerment. Taylor recently ended her feud with Katy and she spoke of how she wanted to make sure things were "solid" between them before letting the public know they were on "good terms" again after they famously fell out when Katy took three of Taylor's backing dancers for her 'California Dreams' world tour before her 'Red Tour' had finished in 2013. She spilled: "She and I have really been on good terms for a while. She sent me a really nice note and an olive branch to the - like an actual olive branch - to my tour when it started, the 'Reputation' stadium tour, a while ago. "From that point on we've been on good terms. "Then we saw each other at a party and walked up to each other and hugged it out and talked about things, and then we saw each other again and hung out at another party and it was just like something felt so much lighter about my life when things became really good between us. And, you know, she and I have been fine for a while and really on good terms but we didn't know if we were ever gonna really tell people about it. We wanted to make sure that was solid between us before we ever made the public aware."



Gallagher hails Stormzy's headline Glastonbury set 'a great thing'

Noel Gallagher says it's "a great thing" that Stormzy headlined Glastonbury. The ex-Oasis star has revealed his two sons, Sonny, eight, and 11-year-old Donovan - whom he has with wife Sara MacDonald - are massively into the grime star and dance around the house to his recent single, 'Vossi Bop'. In an interview with The Guardian newspaper, he said: "Oh, that's what my two lads are on about. "Because they'll be doing these dances in the kitchen when they're getting ready for school and I'll be thinking: 'What's a vossi bop?' I didn't realize it was to do with grime." The 52-year-old rocker says the UK rap scene is having as big an impact as British rock bands Pulp, The Jam and The Kinks had on pop culture, and he applauded the Worthy Farm festival for giving the 'Crown' rapper, who grew up on a council estate, the headline slot. Noel said grime is "as English as Pulp, or The Jam or The Kinks", and continued: "And it's their own language, which is a great thing that something born on council estates out of poverty and street culture has got to the main stage at Glastonbury." Although, he admitted: "Now, if I'm a 52-year-old father of three living in Maida Vale, then he's talking street jive to me. "He's talking about some guy stabbing him in the back when he was a kid - I'm not humming along to that!" The 'Some Might Say' hitmaker has previously heaped praise on grime artists, including 'Man's Not Hot' hitmaker Big Shaq. Asked how he discovered the rapper, Noel - who also has 19-year-old daughter Anais with ex-wife Meg Matthews - revealed: "I came back from New York the other day and I was in the kitchen with my two lads who, as you know, are ten and seven. "I told one of them to take his hoodie off while he's having his lunch. He said - and I'd never heard it before - he said, 'Mans not hot'. "I was like, what? And he went, 'Mans not hot'. And I went, 'Who's not hot?'. And he went 'Man'. "He was going on about Big Shaq. I'd never heard of this Big Shaq before, until three days ago. Man it's the funniest thing I've ever seen. "I was watching this Big Shaq feller and I was thinking it can't be real. It turns out he's comedian called Michael Dappah. And he's a genius. He's the funniest thing I've ever seen on the internet." Asked if he'd like to bring him out at his shows, he said: "Oh, I'd love to. If you're listening Michael, get in touch we'll do some gigs, it'll be amazing!" And Big Shaq accepted, saying: "Yeah I think it will be special for the people, you know. We gotta give them something epelectical and electical and electrical."

Blue thinks Four of Diamonds are destined for greatness

Jonas Blue says Four of Diamonds' debut album is coming along well, and thinks "there's a gap in the market for a new girl group" to make it big. The 30-year-old DJ and record producer is executive producing the upcoming debut album of girl group Four of Diamonds, who rose to fame when they competed on the 2016 season of UK talent show 'The X Factor', where they finished in eighth place. And Jonas - who also produced the group's single 'Blind' last year - has now said he believes the quartet could be the next big girl group. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, he said: "We're working on the album at the moment. It's fun because my background is pop songwriting and idols of mine like Max Martin write for other artists. "I want to

give my advice and share my experience with them. I'm actually acting as the executive producer on the album and it's just great to be involved with the girls and I think there's a gap in the market for a new girl group. They're such incredible girls and they're so likeable and so talented as well. It's just another avenue to put my songwriting efforts and production efforts and do something a little bit different on the side, it's great being behind them and helping. We're working on the new single at the moment, they have a lot of good stuff coming." The 'Rise' DJ admits he isn't directly working on every track of the group's album, but is "overseeing everything creatively". He added: "I'm not producing everything and I'm not writing everything, there are a few records I'm doing. It's mainly overseeing everything creatively and making sure everything is in line and correct and we're not jumping from one sound to the next, just making sure everything is right and we have a steady build for them." Jonas is also still working on his own music alongside producing for the band - comprised of Caroline Alvares, Lauren Rammell, Sophia Saffarian and Yasmin Broom - and recently released new track 'Ritual', which features Tiesto and Rita Ora. Asked whether he sees himself as the next Simon Cowell, he said: "It's nice to be able to do this and do Jonas Blue too, it's nice to be able to dip into that once in a while rather than be Simon Cowell sitting behind a desk committing to it 24/7."



Unperfect have freedom as a girl group

Unperfect believe they have more freedom in the music they make compared to the girl groups of the past like Sugababes and Girls Aloud. The new British girl group have been created by legendary music producer Brian Higgins of Xenomania fame, the production team that created hits for Cheryl's former band, Kylie Minogue, The Saturdays and many more. The 'I'm A Dreamer' hitmakers - comprised of four members Chloe, Siobhan, Soipan and Tiah - feel lucky to be starting their musical journey in 2019 as they don't have to conform to any stereotypes in the pop business. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, Soipan said: "It's definitely more empowering now, I feel like we're at a point in time socially where women are in a position of a lot more power than a lot more of the girl groups in the

past, when you had Girls Aloud and the Sugababes, society was a lot different then. Whereas, now, I feel that the freedom that we've had socially has allowed us to experiment more. Whether that be with our sound or image, we're very unforgiving because women are being accepted for what they are in society now." Higgins found the four Unperfect members after holding a host of auditions and once he settled on the line-up he told the girls to "believe in themselves" and to each have confidence in their unique voices. Tiah said: "He just wants us to believe in ourselves, he makes sure we believe in ourselves because I can be a bit negative, but he's always instilling the belief in all of us that we can do well." Soipan admitted: "We're different to all those other groups so there's not the pressure that we have to do all well as them because we're a completely different subsection but he'd not going to compare us. He's there to show us how." This summer, Unperfect have partnered with Robinsons Fruit Shoot to release their latest track, 'I'm A Dreamer', to inspire kids across the UK to dream big. The release of the single marks the launch of Fruit Shoot's epic summer on-pack promotion, which gives children, whatever thing they are into, the chance to win their dream version if it.

Bay collaborates with Brandon Flowers

James Bay has teamed up with The Killers star Brandon Flowers on a new collaboration. According to The Sun newspaper's Bizarre column, the 'Hold Back The River' hitmaker and the chart-topping US band's frontman have co-written the track 'Easy Distraction' together. Although it's not yet known who will perform what on the song, which they received help from past collaborators Tommy King and Ariel Rechtshtaid on. In May, James - who has released two studio albums, 2015's 'Chaos and the Calm' and last year's 'Electric Light' - surprised fans with the release of the EP 'Oh My Messy Mind', which features the song 'Peer Pressure' with Julia Michaels. Meanwhile, the 28-year-old star has been supporting Ed Sheeran on his 'Divide World Tour' and he's also done a collaboration with Irish boy-band legends Westlife on their upcoming LP 'Spectrum', half of which has been co-written with Ed. Mark Feehily of the band - also comprised of Shane Filan, Kian Egan and Nicky Byrne - recently revealed as well as the lead single 'Hello My Love', the 'Shape of You' hitmaker also worked with producer Steve Mac on five of the other tracks on the record, which is released on September 6. He said: "He's done six songs for the album. "So effectively half the album. "One day Ed went in the studio and said 'I just want to write Westlife songs'. It's been a truly organic coupling."



Destiny's Child reportedly set to reunite in 2020 for tour and new music

Destiny's Child are reportedly in talks for a major reunion after being inspired by the Spice Girls. A source has claimed Beyonce and her bandmates Michelle Williams and Kelly Rowland are plotting a major run of shows in 2020 to mark their 20th anniversary - and there is also rumors of new music on the horizon. An insider told The Sun newspaper's Bizarre column: "Beyonce has been desperate to get the girls back together with her in the studio. "She can't think of a better time than 2020, when they will be marking two decades as one of the world's biggest all-female groups. "She saw the success of the Spice Girls tour and wants to replicate that, but far bigger and better. "Beyonce has been meeting with Kelly and Michelle and discussing what they can do. "It's early days but they want to record new music and put it out alongside some of their biggest hits. "Then they want to do a tour which will be short enough for them to fit it into their schedules, but big enough to make sure all their fans can make a date to see them. "As well as going around the US they want to play dates in Europe, including the UK. "They are one of the very few groups where love for them has only grown since they went on hiatus in 2006, so the demand is massive." The 'Survivor' hitmakers - who split up in 2006 - reunited for two special greatest hits medley sets during Beyonce's Coachella headline slots at the Indio festival in April 2018. Each member has had a successful solo career, with Beyonce, 37, having put out six solo albums and recently voicing Nala in Disney's 'The Lion King' remake, as well as releasing the soundtrack LP 'The Lion King: The Gift'. Whilst Michelle, 39, and Kelly, 38, have respectively released four studio albums.



Lifestyle | Gossip



Pierce Brosnan to join cast of Eurovision

Pierce Brosnan is reportedly set to join the cast of 'Eurovision'. The 66-year-old actor is said to be starring alongside Rachel McAdams in Will Ferrell's new Netflix comedy based around the annual singing contest. Details about the plot have not yet emerged, but HN Entertainment reports that Brosnan will appear with Ferrell and McAdams, who are said to be playing Icelanders. The 'Anchorman' star will produce the project through his Gary Sanchez Productions company, and he is penning the script with Andrew Steele, while David Dobkin is helming the project. Filming will be tak-

ing place in Iceland and Tel-Aviv, Israel, although no release date has been set by the streaming service. It was recently announced that and Ferrell Adam McKay had ended their partnership under their Gary Sanchez Productions banner in order to "start anew", but they confirmed existing projects were set to continue. The pair teamed up for more than a decade on films such as 'Vice', 'Step Brothers' and 'Talladega Nights' - as well as both the 'Anchorman' and 'Daddy's Home' franchises - but their working relationship is coming to an end. While McKay revealed it was "the best time" for the pair to cease their

Gary Sanchez Productions business, he insisted it would be "heartbreaking" to never work with Ferrell again, and teased they have an idea "kicking around". He said: "We both felt it had got pretty big and it was time to start up anew. It's the best time. "We have an idea we're kicking around right now which we'd love to do. If he and I didn't work together, that would be heartbreaking. We're going to do everything we can to make sure that's not the case."

Luhmann's Elvis biopic given release date

Baz Luhrmann's untitled Elvis Presley biopic has been given a release date. It has been announced by Warner Bros. that the forthcoming movie about the King of Rock 'n' Roll, is slated for release on October 1, 2021, and the director is keen to begin production on the project later this year. This news comes after it was confirmed that Austin Butler will play the iconic musician, beating Harry Styles, Ansel Elgort, Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Miles Teller, who were all screen-tested for the role. Luhrmann will direct the movie and has penned the script along with Craig Pearce, and the filmmaker previously said he was keen to hire a relatively unknown actor to play the late 'Hound Dog' hit-maker - who died in 1977 aged 42 at his Graceland estate. Speaking of the casting, Luhrmann previously said: "I knew I couldn't make this film if the casting wasn't absolutely right, and we searched thoroughly for an actor with the ability to evoke the singular natural movement and vocal qualities of this peerless star, but also the inner vulnerability of the artist. "Through a journey of extensive screen testing and music and performance workshops, I knew unequivocally that I had found someone who could embody the spirit of one of the world's most iconic musical figures." Tom Hanks is currently on board to play Presley's former manager Colonel Tom Parker who spotted Elvis' talent in the early 1950s, initially helping him with bookings and promotion before becoming his manager. He went on to arrange the music legend's deal with RCA, and the singer's first single with the label 'Heartbreak Hotel' set him on the path to super-stardom after it was released in January 1956.



Awkwafina nearly missed out on The Farewell role

Lulu Wang was hesitant to cast Awkwafina as the lead in 'The Farewell'. The 'Posthumous' filmmaker recently helmed the comedy-drama, which is based on her own life and follows a family who - upon learning their grandmother has only a short while left to live - decide not to tell her and schedule a family gathering before she dies. The role was given to Awkwafina, but filmmaker Wang revealed that when the producer approached her suggesting the 30-year-old rapper and actress should play a "version of her" in the film, she wasn't convinced the star would be a good fit. In an interview with Variety, she said: "[When] my producer brought her name up I was like, 'Awkwafina, the rapper from Queens? This is who you think should play, I guess, a version of me in a drama? Are we making the same film here?'" However, Wang went on to explain that the audition tape finally convinced her that the 'Ocean's 8' star could give a moving performance. She added: "There was a quality of both light and dark, where she's able to make a joke but you kind of feel like, in a way, she's doing it to mask something deeper." Although Wang has made smaller films in the past, the writer and director wouldn't be averse to making bigger movies, and insisted she would "love" to make a superhero film - although the project would have to have "the right message". She explained: "I would absolutely love to do a superhero movie. It just has to be the right one. It has to have the right message. "Yes, I'm putting it out into the universe. Bring me all the superheroes. Definitely female. I definitely want to do a female superhero."



Cate Blanchett to star in Nightmare Alley

Cate Blanchett is set to star in Guillermo del Toro's 'Nightmare Alley'. The 50-year-old actress is reportedly set to star alongside Bradley Cooper in the adaptation of William Lindsay Gresham's 1947 novel of the same name, in which the acclaimed filmmaker will take a step back from directing and will instead produce. 'Nightmare Alley' follows Stanton 'Stan' Carlisle, a man who joins a travelling carnival where he attempts to learn the ways of mind-reading act of Mademoiselle Zeena and her alcoholic husband, Pete. Following Pete's death, Zeena takes on Pete as a stage-partner where he proves more successful than her late husband and soon graduates to full-blown spiritualist, catering to the needs of the rich and gullible in their well-upholstered homes. According to the book's official synopsis, the story is a "dark jewel, a classic American tale about the varieties of deception and self-deception and the dream of redemption - a dream that is only a nightmare in disguise". According to Collider, Toni Collette, Richard Jenkins, Willem Dafoe, Mark Povinelli, Rooney Mara and Guillermo's friend and frequent collaborator Ron Perlman are all in various stages of making deals to appear in the film which is due to start shooting next year. Guillermo's next project is the big screen adaptation of Alvin Schwartz's collection of short horror stories 'Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark' and the director previously insisted he was keen to take on the challenge as soon as production company CBS Films approached him as he is such a big fan of the book. 'The Shape of Water' filmmaker - who is acting as producer on the project - said: "When CBS Films approached me about doing this movie, I was really excited. They'd done two screenplays before, but I said, 'Let's start from scratch.' "I have this idea that's very relevant to today. It's an interesting way to see how stories shape who we are; about how once you release a story, you can't get it back."



Black Adam movie to start filming in 2020?

Dwayne Johnson's 'Black Adam' movie could start production next year. The film's producer Hiram Garcia has revealed there are plans to begin filming the movie about the DC Comics' super villain by the end of 2020. Garcia told Collider: "Definitely the success of 'Shazam!' was awesome to us. It was important for us to launch that and get that out in the film world and begin crafting this universe. It's a big thing for us to start to create this universe, this DC section of the universe that we're working on with characters we have planned to bring into it, headlined by Shazam and Black Adam. The idea is that if everything falls in line right now ... the plan is to be filming that end of next year." Johnson previously admitted he couldn't wait to get started on the forthcoming movie. He said: "The challenges and the struggle that we were having and that was gnawing at my gut is that we were trying to tell two origin stories in one script. Those who know the comic books and the mythology of the comics of 'Shazam!' know that Shazam is connected to Black Adam. Black Adam is an anti-hero, or villain, who I cannot wait to play. I've been developing this, and it's been with me and my DNA for over 10 years now. We should start shooting that in about a year. Very excited about that." Black Adam was originally slated to appear in the 'Shazam!' movie but director David F. Sandberg decided against making the character the main villain because he needed his own origin story and he wanted his film to be "about Shazam". — Bang Showbiz



Jackman denies Williams' Greatest Showman role

Hugh Jackman denied that Robbie Williams will appear in 'The Greatest Showman' sequel. It was rumored the 50-year-old actor would be creating a special role for the 'Let Me Entertain You' singer in the hotly-anticipated follow up to last year's musical smash hit after Robbie joined him on the UK leg of his 'The Man. The Music. The Show' tour. However, the leading man has revealed that the 'X Factor' judge will not be featuring in the sequel to the original film, which starred Jackman as circus owner P.T. Barnum. A spokesperson for the actor told the Metro.co.uk: "There is no truth to this story". Speculation began after an insider claimed Jackman could be using his producer power to land his new pal a role in the film after the formed a bond on the road. The source said: "The Robbie and Hugh bromance is just going from strength to strength, Hugh wants space to be made for them to do a number and sing and act in his 'Greatest Showman' sequel." The 'Logan' star previously revealed that "work" has begun on a sequel to 'The Greatest Showman' but he is "not sure" exactly how that will work. He said: "The real answer is 'could be'. I'm not sure. I'm being completely honest with you, there is talk of something going around but no one is really sure. I think right now there's more emphasis being put on what will happen with it ... No one is really sure right now, so that's the honest truth. "But I think someone is working on a treatment for something ... I know they are, they're working on a treatment for something."

Guillermo Del Toro isn't interested in scares

Guillermo Del Toro isn't "interested in scares" when he's directing. The 54-year-old filmmaker is gearing up for the release of his new horror movie 'Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark' - which he produced and wrote the screen story for - later this month, but has said he usually doesn't worry too much about "the scares" in his movies, because he opts for telling "fairy-tales" with "horror images". He said: "As a director, I'm not that interested in scares. I use my movies more like a fairy-tale. I do horror images, but like a fairy-tale. However, as a producer, I'm really interested in the scares with Juan Antonio Bayona in 'The Orphanage', and with Andy Muschietti on 'Mama', and this." Guillermo says scares interest him as a producer because he "enjoys watching" scary movies. He added: "I'm very interested because it's something that I enjoy watching. In this movie, you need to coax the audience with very elegant camera work and very good set-ups. There's a high production value, too. Plus, I have lots of empathy with the characters." 'Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark' is based on the children's book of the same name by Alvin Schwartz, and Guillermo says that whilst the film is a horror flick, it's one the whole family can enjoy. Speaking to SFX magazine, he said: "When I made the first 'Hellboy', I thought, 'The audi-

ence that I really want for this movie is going to me able to tell me what they think 10 years from now.' I was making that movie for kids and, sure enough, the people that grew up with it are the people who love it the most. "However, the beauty of this project is the way that it's a horror movie that can be watched with the family."





Syrian Cartoonist Amani Al-Ali works on a painting in her home studio.



Various illustrations by Syrian Cartoonist Amani Al-Ali, pinned on a wall at her home studio in the city of Idlib.

'NOTHING BUT BLOOD': WOMAN CARTOONIST DRAWS SYRIA'S IDLIB



Various illustrations by Syrian Cartoonist Amani Al-Ali at her home studio.

Bent over a computer tablet in war-torn northwest Syria, cartoonist Amani Al-Ali takes her pen to the screen to sketch life in the embattled opposition bastion of Idlib. "I'm trying to get across what others struggle to say," said the 30-year-old artist, dressed in a long red jacket and lacey white headscarf. Idlib, a jihadist-run region of three million people, has come under increasing bombardment by the regime and its Russian ally since late April despite a months-old truce deal. Through her cartoons, Ali has boldly challenged traditions to comment on life in the anti-regime bastion, and to condemn seeming international indifference to civilian deaths.

In one, the world is depicted as an ostrich burying its head in a mound of blood-drenched skulls as red missiles rain down all around. In another, titled "Eid in Idlib", a warplane drops candy wrappers containing TNT, instead of the sweets usually distributed during the Muslim holiday. The sketches are etched out in black and white, with splashes of red, colors the artist says are inspired by life in the opposition stronghold.

"We see nothing but blood, darkness and destruction," she said. The spike in violence over the past three months has killed more than 790 civilians, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says, despite the truce deal struck by Russia and rebel backer Turkey. Ali has sketched this accord too, as a blood-stained paper bearing the words "the Idlib agreement". On Thursday, the Syrian government said it had agreed to a new truce, giving at least a temporary reprieve for Idlib's residents.

'Broke with customs'

Though her cartoons have now been exhibited as far away as the Netherlands and United Kingdom, Ali had to study drawing on the sly growing up, because her father forbade it. "I consider myself to be a girl who broke with customs and tradition," Ali said. "I confronted my parents and managed to impose the life I wanted for myself." Her society, she said, frowned upon women who engaged in political satire through cartoons or art. Before civil war erupted in 2011, Ali worked as an art teacher at a private school in Idlib so she could "be close to the field that I love". But after the region fell to rebel forces, she "started a new life" as a cartoonist, often dabbling in satire to capture the reality of a war that has cost more than 370,000 lives and displaced millions across Syria.

"I hope to convey even the smallest part of civilian suffering," she said. But beyond regime and Russian air strikes, Ali has also criticized jihadists and rebels controlling Syria's northwest—a daring move that has seen others detained or targeted. In November, fellow cartoonist, radio presenter and vocal activist Raed Fares was shot dead by unknown gunmen. In January, Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham—a group led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate—took over full administrative control of Idlib.

Fans and enemies

Ali said she does not criticize HTS itself, but rather its behavior, especially when it mirrors that of the regime. "For eight years, we have been fighting to get rid of the habits and remnants of the regime," she said. But even now Idlib is outside government control, "some mistakes are still happening because of a lasting regime culture," she said. In one cartoon from last year, a bearded man in a short robe typical of ultra-conservatives inserts a giant syringe into another's ear to stuff his head with notions of what is "illicit", or religiously forbidden.



A cartoon of two agitated donkeys bringing their heads close to each other, illustrated by Syrian Cartoonist Amani Al-Ali in her home studio.

In another, she criticizes overpriced higher education. Ali's work, she said, has earned her both fans and enemies. "Many people tell me I should be careful, that I don't know what I'm doing," she said. "The thing I hear most is that I'm a girl and I shouldn't be drawing such things." But abroad, people are impressed. "During my exhibition in the UK, lots of British academics were surprised there was a girl doing drawings like this under HTS," she said. A new exhibition has opened in France and she may soon showcase her work in neighboring Turkey. Though she is unlikely to attend either without the necessary visa to travel, she hopes both will help to bust stereotypes about women in northwest Syria. Women in Idlib are not "voiceless people who are unable to leave their houses and always clad in black", she said. "Yes, there are certain limits, but we're resisting." — AFP



Illustrations by Syrian Cartoonist Amani Al-Ali at her home studio.



Syrian Cartoonist Amani Al-Ali speaks about some of her drawings at her home studio.



Syrian cartoonist Amani Al-Ali sketches a portrait of President Bashar al-Assad in her home studio.

'Hobbs & Shaw' dethrones 'Lion King' to top N America box office

Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw dethroned "The Lion King" in North American theaters, taking in an estimated \$60.8 million, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations said Sunday. The latest installment in the long-running Fast & Furious franchise, "Hobbs & Shaw" features Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Jason Statham facing off against "cyber-genetically enhanced anarchist" Idris Elba. It ended the box office reign of "The Lion King," a remake of the 1994 animated film that employs hyper-realistic computer-generated images with a voice cast including Donald Glover as Simba and Beyonce as Nala,

together with Seth Rogen, Chiwetel Ejiofor and James Earl Jones. "The Lion King" earned \$38.2 million for second place, topping director Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon A Time In Hollywood," which has earned rave reviews and took in \$20 million for third place. "Once Upon a Time"—the ninth of the 10 movies Tarantino has said he will make before retiring—is set in Tinseltown in 1969 and features Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie and Al Pacino. In fourth place was "Toy Story 4," which managed \$8.2 million. The latest installment in the family-friendly Disney/Pixar animation franchise that began in

1995, the movie features the voices of Tom Hanks (Woody) and Tim Allen (Buzz Lightyear). "Spider-Man: Far from Home"—which continues where "Avengers: Endgame" left off and stars Tom Holland as the Marvel superhero—came in fifth with \$7.8 million.

Rounding out the weekend's top 10 were: "Yesterday" (\$2.4 million) "The Farewell" (\$2.4 million) "Crawl" (\$2.2 million) "Aladdin" (\$2 million) "Annabelle Comes Home" (\$875,000)—AFP



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Tuesday, August 6, 2019



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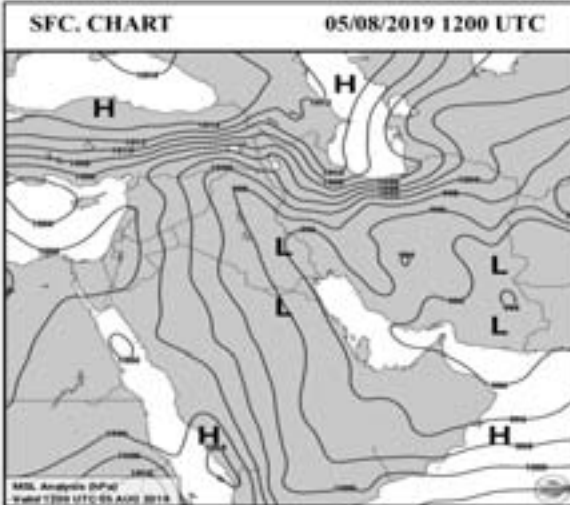
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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Hot to relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h.

BY DAY: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 05/08/2019 1200 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	47 °C	36 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	47 °C	32 °C		
ABDALY	46 °C	31 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	46 °C	33 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C		
SALMIYAH	43 °C	36 °C		
AHMADI	44 °C	36 °C		
NUWAISIB	46 °C	32 °C		
WAFRA	46 °C	30 °C		
SALMY	44 °C	31 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	08/06	Very hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	48 °C	32 °C	NW	15 - 40 km/h
Wednesday	08/07	Very hot with a chance for rising dust	49 °C	34 °C	NW	20 - 55 km/h
Thursday	08/08	Very hot with a chance for rising dust	49 °C	33 °C	NW	20 - 55 km/h
Friday	08/09	Very hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	50 °C	34 °C	NW-N	20 - 45 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:43
Sunrise	05:11
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:30
Sunset	18:37
Isha	20:01

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	32 °C
MAX. RH	24 %
MIN. RH	06 %
MAX. Wind	NW 39 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JOAQUIM ANTONIO FILOMENO CAESAR HENRIQUES holder of Indian Passport No. P7117842, having permanent address at Molla, Chandor, Salcete, Goa-India, PinCode 403714, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as Given Name: JOAQUIM ANTONIO FILOMENO CÉSAR and Last Name: HENRIQUES (C 5665) 6-8-2019

I, SUSAN JOHN (given name) holder of Indian Passport S 3697819 do hereby change my name to SUSAN (given name) JOHN (surname) for all purposes. I also undertake to effect the change in all my other public documents. (C 5664) 5-8-2019

EMERGENCY

112

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"Annual Service Contract for Maintenance of Embassy's photocopier"

The Embassy of India, invites bids from interested companies from 1st August to 22nd August, 2019 for Annual Service Contract for maintenance of Embassy's 4 photocopiers. Details are available on Embassy's website: "www.indembkwt.gov.in"

All offers should be sent in a sealed cover to be marked for Offer for Annual Service Contract for maintenance of Embassy's photocopiers - to be opened by the Addressee only" and addressed to the Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, Daeya, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait. The offer must be delivered at the Embassy on or before 16:00 hrs. on Thursday, **22nd August, 2019.**

For enquiries - 22513498; 22530600 Ext. 212 & 229 [9 am to 4 pm] on any working day



EMBASSY OF INDIA

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF LOCAL CLERK:

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Email: admnukuwait@mea.gov.in



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 6/8/2019				Departure Flights on Tuesday 6/8/2019			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	241	Alexandria	00:05	JZR	141	Al Najaf	12:45
IGO	1757	Kochi	00:10	JZR	123	Dubai	13:10
KAC	122	AGP	00:20	JZR	115	Doha	13:25
JZR	254	Amman	00:20	KAC	541	Cairo	13:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:20	MSR	611	Cairo	13:45
KAC	102	London	00:20	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
JZR	734	Cairo	01:00	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KAC	182	Alexandria	01:00	FBS	119	Sarajevo	14:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:20	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	JZR	703	Dubai	15:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:50	FDB	060	Bahrain	15:05
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	103	Dubai	15:05
KKK	1268	Istanbul	01:55	UAE	878	Dubai	15:30
JZR	262	Beirut	02:05	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	02:25	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	563	Amman	16:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:50	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
THY	768	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:10
JZR	406	Kochi	03:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	QTR	646	Muscat	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:20
KAC	418	Manila	03:20	KAC	619	Doha	16:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	FEG	442	Asyut	16:55
OHY	352	Istanbul	04:00	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:55
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
KAC	382	Delhi	04:05	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:40
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:25	FEG	242	Alexandria	17:45
JZR	404	Hyderabad	04:50	KAC	343	Chennai	17:50
MNB	170	Bahrain	05:05	KAC	155	Istanbul	17:50
THY	1414	Trabzon	05:05	KAC	381	Delhi	17:55
THY	770	Istanbul	05:20	SAW	706	Damascus	18:00
JZR	402	Mumbai	05:25	MYW	1220	Tbilisi	18:00
KAC	552	Cairo	05:50	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:10
JZR	112	Doha	05:50	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:15
KAC	362	Colombo	06:05	GFA	216	Doha	18:20
JZR	702	Asyut	06:10	KNE	536	Taif	18:20
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:25
JZR	714	Sohag	06:20	JZR	501	Lahore	18:35
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30	JZR	733	Cairo	18:35
KAC	106	London	06:40	JZR	253	Amman	19:10
KAC	678	Dubai	06:40	JZR	261	Beirut	19:10
KAC	204	Lahore	06:45	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
KAC	559	Alexandria	06:50	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	07:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:05	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
IGO	1766	Mumbai	07:10	KAC	331	Trivandrum	19:55
BBC	043D	Dhaka	07:15	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	358	Kochi	07:25	RUA	641	Amman	20:05
KAC	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	357	Kochi	20:05
KAC	354	Bengaluru	08:00	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
IRA	675	Lar	08:00	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
QTR	1084	Doha	08:00	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	384	Delhi	08:10	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	DLH	624	Dammam	20:55
JZR	708	Luxor	08:45	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:50	RBG	214	Sohag	21:10
OMA	641	Muscat	09:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:25
JZR	746	Sharm el-Sheikh	09:05	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	MNB	171	Bahrain	21:50
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
SAW	703	Damascus	10:00	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KAC	624	Doha	10:55	JZR	1737	Cairo	22:20
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
QTR	074	Doha	1:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
JZR	1736	Cairo	11:05	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
JZR	114	Doha	11:10	SVA	5203	Jeddah	22:50
JZR	252	Amman	12:20	ICV	6752	Hong Kong	22:55
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:30	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
THY	766	Istanbul	12:30	KAC	795	Madinah	22:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
MSR	610	Cairo	12:45	KAC	551	Cairo	23:00
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
JZR	222	Riyadh	13:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				SVA	5207	Jeddah	23:45
				JZR	611	Tbilisi	23:50

Syria regime, Russia resume Idlib air strikes after scrapping ceasefire

KHAN SHEIKHUN, Syria: Damascus and Russia resumed air strikes on Idlib in north-west Syria yesterday, a monitor said, scrapping a ceasefire for the jihadist-run bastion and accusing the regime's opponents of targeting a Russian airbase. The northwestern region, which hosts some three million people, is one of the last major centres of resistance to President Bashar al-Assad's regime after eight years of war.

Damascus said Thursday it had agreed to a truce from Friday to halt three months of regime and Russian bombardment on the area, which has killed more than 790 civilians and pushed 400,000 people from their homes. But jihadists running the region on Saturday refused to comply with a key condition to that truce, declaring they would never withdraw from a planned buffer zone around the area.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said regime air strikes resumed on the region minutes after the truce was cancelled, before Russian planes joined in too. Russian planes pounded the western edge of the enclave, while aircraft from both sides resumed bombardment of its southern flank, the Britain-based war monitor said. In the south, an AFP correspondent saw the wind blow plumes of white smoke across the fields after planes and helicopters pounded the town of Khan Sheikhun. A few families fled the town in cars or trucks piled high with their belongings, women and children perched on top, the correspondent said.

Earlier in the afternoon, Syria's army said it would resume operations against the region. It accused fighters there of launching a flurry of rockets at the Hmeimim air base near Syria's Mediterranean coast, causing "great human and material losses" nearby. The Russian

defense ministry said there had been no casualties on the base itself, but that, according to the Syrian security services, rockets fell on a nearby district, "wounding four residents".

Syria's military said it was scrapping the truce as "armed terrorist groups, backed by Turkey, refused to abide by the ceasefire and launched many attacks on civilians in surrounding areas", according to a statement carried by state news agency SANA. Experts and residents had been skeptical that the truce would hold, citing several previous failed ceasefires. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a jihadist group led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, has since January controlled most of Idlib province as well as adjacent parts of the Hama, Aleppo and Latakia governorates. Other rebels and jihadists are also present.

Idlib is supposed to be protected from a massive government offensive by a Turkish-Russian deal struck in September last year. But that deal was never fully implemented as jihadists refused to withdraw from the planned demilitarized cordon. On Saturday, HTS leader Abu Mohamed Al-Jolani said his fighters would "never withdraw from the zone".

Over the weekend, several civilians displaced by the bombardment had taken advantage of the ceasefire to return to their homes and inspect the damage. In Khan Sheikhun, Abu Abdullah dug through the rubble of his bombed-out house, scavenging for the scant belongings he could salvage from the ruins. Below mangled rods, the repairman dusted off a small ceramic statue of the Quran and retrieved some coffee cups from the rubble. "I'm trying to collect some of the belongings we had, some of the memories we have left behind in this place" after leaving five months ago, he said.

By yesterday, bombardment on his home-



JIBALA, Syria: Displaced Syrians who fled from their villages in the south of Idlib province to escape bombing by Syrian government forces return home shortly before a truce fell apart between rebels and President Bashar Al-Assad's regime yesterday. — AFP

town - nearly deserted in recent months - had resumed. While the ceasefire had halted air strikes on the region from Friday, both sides had continued to trade artillery and rocket fire. On Sunday, regime rocket fire killed a woman inside the bastion, the Observatory said. On Friday, militant rocket fire near Assad's ancestral village to the west killed a

civilian, SANA said.

Humanitarian groups have repeatedly raised the alarm over recent Russian and regime bombardment of Idlib, fearing one of the worst disasters of Syria's war. The conflict has killed more than 370,000 people and displaced millions since starting with the brutal repression of anti-Assad protests in 2011.

After a string of Russia-backed victories against rebels and jihadists since 2015, the Damascus regime today controls around 60 percent of the country. But several areas remain beyond its reach: Idlib, nearby territory held by Turkey-backed rebels, and a large swathe of the country's oil-rich northeast held by US-backed Kurds. — AFP

July hottest month ever; 2019 to be...

Continued from Page 1

three to seven years - in the eastern Pacific Ocean. "July has rewritten climate history, with dozens of new temperature records at local, national and global levels," World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement a few days ago. Global warming, he added, was clearly to blame. "This is not science fiction," he said. "It is the reality of climate change."

Every month so far in 2019 ranks among the four warmest on record for the month in question, with June being the hottest June measured, the Copernicus team said in a press release. Accurate temperature records extend into the 19th century, starting around 1880. The Copernicus service is the first of the world's major satellite-based climate monitoring networks to report average July temperatures.

The margin of increase is small enough, it noted in a press release, that other networks - such as the US government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - may report temperatures equal to or slightly below the July 2016 record. "Typically, there is a difference

between the values provided by the global temperature datasets of various institutions, and the Copernicus difference between July 2019 and 2016 temperatures is smaller than this margin," the agency said in a statement.

"We have always lived through hot summers, but this is not the summer of our youth. This is not your grandfather's summer," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said late last week. "All of this means that we are on track for the period from 2015 to 2019 to be the five hottest years on record."

Every year in the 21st century except one has been among the hottest on record, a fact that defies explanation without the dominant influence of manmade global warming, scientists say. Europe has endured two exceptionally strong heatwaves in a matter of weeks. Record highs tumbled across France, with the mercury peaking at 46C on June 28 in the southern town of Verargues. The previous record, set back in 2003, was 44.1C.

The second wave of heat saw Paris's all-time high pulverized last month: Météo France measured 42.6C in the French capital on July 25 - more than 2C hotter than the previous high, set more than 70 years ago. In the first half of the year, temperature records were also shattered in New Delhi, Anchorage, Santiago and part of the Arctic Circle. The Paris Climate Agreement enjoins nations to cap global warming at "well below" 2 C above pre-industrial level. The year 2018 was about 1C above it. — AFP

Tensions have spiked since the Trump administration began stepping up a campaign of "maximum pressure" against Iran. Drones have been downed and tankers seized by Iranian authorities or mysteriously attacked in Gulf waters, while Britain has detained an Iranian tanker off Gibraltar.

At the height of the crisis, Trump called off air strikes against Iran at the last minute in June after the Islamic republic's forces shot down a US drone. Iran said on Sunday its forces had seized a "foreign" tanker carrying smuggled fuel in what would be the third such seizure in less than a month in Gulf waters - a conduit for much of the world's crude oil. Last month the Guards said they had impounded the Panama-flagged MT Riah for alleged fuel smuggling as well as the British-flagged Stena Impero for breaking "international maritime rules".

In response to such incidents, the US has been seeking to form a coalition - dubbed Operation Sentinel - to guarantee freedom of navigation in the Gulf. Last month Britain, while still led by former prime minister May, proposed a European-led maritime protection force. But both plans struggled to find partners, with European countries believed to be reluctant to be dragged into a conflict. Germany said Monday it was currently "not in favor" of joining an American-led coalition.

Meanwhile the US continues to target Iran economically, while holding out the prospect of possible talks. It imposed sanctions against Zarif on Wednesday - under the same sanctions already applied to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei - targeting any assets he has in America and squeezing his ability to travel. Meanwhile however the New Yorker magazine reported that Senator Rand Paul had met Zarif in the US on July 15 and had Trump's blessing when he invited the Iranian minister to go to the White House.

Zarif dismissed as disingenuous US "claims" it wants dialogue. "They were the ones who left the table... Who do they want to negotiate with?" he said. But Zarif did not rule out talks in the future, saying: "Even in times of war negotiations will exist." — AFP

Sinai Peninsula.

Attacks outside Sinai have become relatively rare, although there have been several security incidents in recent months in Giza, across the Nile from central Cairo. In May, an explosion targeting a tourist bus injured at least 12 people, mostly South African tourists, near the Giza pyramids. In December, three Vietnamese tourists and an Egyptian guide were killed, and at least 10 others injured when a roadside bomb hit their tour bus near the pyramids. — Agencies

UK joins US in Gulf mission...

Continued from Page 1

It follows a spate of incidents - including the seizure of ships - between Iran and Western powers, in particular Britain and the US, centered on the vital Strait of Hormuz thoroughfare. "The UK is determined to ensure her shipping is protected from unlawful threats, and for that reason we have today joined the new maritime security mission in the Gulf," Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said in a statement.

The announcement from Britain's defense ministry did not detail which, if any, other countries would be joining the new naval coalition. Britain was also at pains to stress that it had not changed its broader policy towards Tehran. "We remain committed to working with Iran and our international partners to de-escalate the situation and maintain the nuclear deal," Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said.

The announcement came hours after Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Washington was increasingly isolated in its hardline stance against Tehran and its allies were too "ashamed" to join its forces in the Gulf. He also dismissed US calls for talks as a sham, confirming he had turned down an offer to meet President Donald Trump last month despite the threat of US sanctions against him. "Today the United States is alone in the world and cannot create a coalition," he said. "Friendly countries are too ashamed of being in a coalition with them," Zarif told a news conference, saying they had "brought this situation upon themselves, with law-breaking, by creating tensions and crises."

Tehran and Washington have been locked in a battle of nerves since last year when Trump withdrew the US from a landmark 2015 deal placing curbs on Iran's nuclear program and began reimposing sanctions.

20 killed as car explodes outside...

Continued from Page 1

Egyptian security forces are waging a counterinsurgency campaign against Islamist militants, some with links to Islamic State, that is focused in the north of the

Trump condemns white supremacy...

Continued from Page 1

Ned Peppers Bar. Outside the Walmart store that was attacked Saturday, people paused to pay their respects at the memorial. Balloons shaped like stars - Texas is the Lone Star State - fluttered in the morning breeze. One poster read: "A date never to forget: August 3, 2019."

In his brief address, Trump made no mention of two ideas he had tweeted hours earlier: Tightening background checks for gun buyers and linking gun control reform to changes in immigration law. The president did say he supported "red flag" laws allowing authorities to confiscate weapons from people believed to present grave risks. Many people were grateful that even more were not killed in Ohio. In Texas, 26 people were wounded, and another 26 were hurt in Ohio, where the shooter was killed in roughly 30 seconds by police who were patrolling nearby. Two of those wounded in Texas died yesterday.

Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl told a news conference Sunday that the quick police response was crucial, preventing the shooter from entering a bar where "there would have been... catastrophic injury and loss of life". Biehl said the shooter wore a mask and a bullet-proof vest and was armed with an assault rifle fitted with a 100-round drum magazine. Police named the gunman as a 24-year-old white man called Connor Betts and said his sister was among those killed. She had gone with him to the scene of the shootings.

Police said yesterday they had no evidence so far that

Uproar as India scraps Kashmir's...

Continued from Page 1

There were already growing fears among Kashmiris that the special status would be ditched after Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) obtained a large parliamentary majority in recent elections. His party had vowed to fulfill a long-held promise to scrap the laws, and many fear New Delhi wants to change the region's demographics by allowing non-Kashmiris, mostly Hindus, to buy land locally.

The move is set to exacerbate the already bloody rebellion in Kashmir and deepen the long-running animosity with nuclear rival Pakistan which has fought two out of three wars with India over the territory. "There will be a very strong reaction in Kashmir. It's already in a state of unrest and this will only make it worse," Wajahat Habibullah, a former senior bureaucrat in Jammu and Kashmir, told AFP.

The announcement sparked chaotic scenes in the national parliament, and the main opposition Congress party described it as a "catastrophic step". But Home Minister Shah sought to allay fears that the government's actions could fuel fresh violence. "Kashmir was a paradise, is a paradise and will remain a paradise," he told parliament hours after announcing the contentious decision. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also defended the move, saying India had waited for 70 years to ditch Article 370 "so it is not something we brought out suddenly like a rabbit from a magic hat".

But condemning what she described as Indian democracy's "darkest day", former Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti tweeted that Delhi's move was illegal and unconstitutional, and would make India "an occupational force" in the state. The announcement follows days of uncertainty in the region that began on Friday when New Delhi ordered tourists and Hindu pilgrims to leave "immediately". All phones, Internet services and cable networks in the restive Himalayan region of

race played a part in the Dayton shooting. In Texas, police said the suspect surrendered on a sidewalk near the scene of the massacre. He was described in media reports as a 21-year-old white man named Patrick Crusius. He was believed to have posted online a manifesto denouncing a "Hispanic invasion" of Texas. El Paso, on the border with Mexico, is majority Latino.

Seven of those killed in the El Paso shooting were Mexican, the country's foreign minister, Marcelo Ebrard, said Sunday. The manifesto posted shortly before the shooting also praised the killing of 51 Muslims at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand in March. Police said the suspected shooter has been charged with capital murder and could face the death penalty, and a federal official said investigators are treating the El Paso shooting as a case of domestic terrorism.

Despite a string of horrific mass shootings in the US, where gun culture is deep-rooted, efforts to strengthen firearms regulations remain divisive. The latest two shootings capped a particularly bloody week for gun violence: three people died in a shooting at a food festival last Sunday in California, and two more Tuesday in a shooting in a Walmart in Mississippi. On Twitter Saturday, Trump described the El Paso attack as "an act of cowardice."

But critics said the president's habit of speaking in derogatory terms about immigrants is pushing hatred of foreigners into the political mainstream and encouraging white supremacism. "To pretend that his administration and the hateful rhetoric it spreads doesn't play a role in the kind of violence that we saw yesterday in El Paso is ignorant at best and irresponsible at worst," said the Southern Poverty Law Center, a major civil rights group. It cited Trump actions like calling Mexican migrants rapists and drug dealers and doing nothing when a crowd at a Trump rally chanted "send her back" in reference to a Somali-born congresswoman. — AFP

more than seven million people were cut at midnight, and only residents issued with a curfew pass were allowed on the streets.

Article 370 of the Indian constitution gave special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. It limited the power of the Indian parliament to impose laws in the state, apart from matters of defense, foreign affairs and communications. A senior government source told AFP the move would be a boon for development in the region. "While the intent (of Article 370) was to localize the opportunity for locals, it discouraged investments since (other) people couldn't own land or bring in outside workers," the official said.

"Politically, it's advantage BJP," said Happyman Jacob, a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University in the Indian capital. "The scrapping of Article 370 of the constitution is likely to set off a slew of political, constitutional and legal battles, not to speak of the battles on the streets of Kashmir." Yesterday's move reflects Modi's muscular approach to national security. In February, he ordered war planes into Pakistan after a militant group based there claimed responsibility for a deadly attack on a military convoy in Kashmir. That step, in turn, prompted a retaliatory raid by Pakistan.

Introduced decades ago, the constitutional provisions reserved government jobs and college places for Kashmir's residents, among other limits aiming to keep people from other parts of the country from overrunning the state. The government has also decided to split the state into two federal territories, one formed by Jammu and Kashmir, and the other consisting of the enclave of Ladakh, citing internal security considerations. Turning the state into a federal territory allows Delhi to exert greater control.

Ram Madhav, general secretary of Modi's BJP, hailed the government's actions as ushering in a "glorious day". In Modi's western home state of Gujarat, people shouted slogans of support on the streets. In Pakistani-controlled areas of the region, however, there was anger at India, with protests extending to the capital, Islamabad and the southern commercial center of Karachi. In Muzaffarabad, 45 km from the two countries' contested border, dozens of protesters held black flags and burnt car tyres, chanting "Down with India". — Agencies

Sports

Shabab Al-Abdallah registers first Kuwaiti win at ASBC championship

Al-Abdallah defeated his Filipino opponent with a score of 4-1



Kuwaiti boxer Shabab Al-Abdallah



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait's boxer Shabab Al-Abdallah registered the first Kuwaiti win at the ASBC Asian Schoolboy Boxing Championship 2019 Kuwait, which continues for the third day at Kuwait Sports Club Hall. Al-Abdallah defeated his Filipino opponent with a score of 4-1. This victory has given his compatriots an incentive and belief to win against the rest of the competition.

Chairman of Kuwait Boxing Federation Mohammad Mansi and Board members congratulated Shabab and wished him continued success to keep Kuwait's flying high in this Asian gathering. Elsewhere, secretary General Salem Al-Azmi lauded the fighting spirit of Shabab saying "we were happy with this deserved win and hope for more for Kuwait boxers". Al-Azmi said that all committees are doing their best to ensure the best

services for Kuwait's guests.

Meanwhile Head of Czech boxing Federation Svatopluk Zacek said he is happy that the ASBC is being held in Kuwait saying "it is good to hold a championship for this age group, as similar championships are held regularly in Europe".

He said there were high quality matches in all the weight categories and that these boxers have a bright future in Asian boxing. Head of Bahrain's Boxing Federation Ali Kazrouni lauded the distinguished levels he saw during the preliminaries, attributing it to Arab boxers getting further involved with the advanced boxers in Asia. He also wished to see more championships in Kuwait to help advance the sport.

ASBC Asian Schoolboy Boxing Championship second day results:

In the 43 kg Category:

- Jordan's Abdelhakeem Jarabat

defeated Sri Lanka's Theja Dewini

- Afghanistan's Masiullah Shirai defeated Iraq's Hassan Hussein
- Turkmenistan's Dovlet Nurmurdav defeated Tajikistan's Jafar Rahmonov
- Kuwait's Abdullah Shabab defeated Philippines Valero Justine
- India's Bind Rupesh defeated Thailand's Kalaseeram Thanaphansakon
- Uzbekistan's Umidillo Abdurasulov defeated Palestine's Zain Ibrahim
- Syria's Ammar Rababa defeated Kyrgyzstan's Bekmyrza Abdykarimov
- Kazakhstan's Anarbeye Bakhtiyar defeated Saudi Arabia's Ali-Eid

In the 58 Kg Category:

- Uzbekistan's Abdalaziz Abdurrahmonov defeated Jordan's Jafar Shishani
- India's Yashwardhan Singh defeated Turkmenistan's Magomed Kseyhanov
- India's Gauvar Saini defeated Kuwait's Ali Mohammad

In the 64 Kg Category:

- Kazakhstan's Yersultanov Zhandos defeated Saudi Arabia's Abdul Karim Alatai
- Uzbekistan's Shavkatjon Boltayev defeated Iraq's Mahdi Raad Hawi

In the 70 Kg Category:

- Uzbekistan's Aynazar Kenesbayev defeated Jordan's Abdullah Abulelah Dulkamoni.
- India's Joon Bharat defeated Tajikistan's Akmalzhon Abduliev
- Kyrgyzstan's Atai Asanbekor defeated Kazakhstan's Nurasyil Bauyrzhan
- Iran's Shabgama defeated Kuwait's Mohammed Hussain

In the +70 Kg Category:

- Kazakhstan's Yerods Sharipbek defeated Jordan's Rani Ahmad Alhyasat

In the (49 kg) Category:

- Kazakhstan's Sultan Moldash

defeated Kyrgyzstan's Islam Imanidinov

- India's Vinay Vishwakarma defeated Sri Lanka's Ramlan Madabawilage Tehan Sanchith

In the (61 kg) Category:

- Jordan's Jihad Yahya defeated Kuwait's Yousuf Al-Shamari

In the (67 Kg) Category:

- Kazakhstan's Batyrkhan Seitenov defeated Syria's Younes Haidar
- Uzbekistan's Shakhboz Khamidullaev defeated Kyrgyzstan's Mukhamed Dursunov

In the (+70 Kg) Category:

- India's Randeep defeated Kyrgyzstan's Zhoodarbek Saparbekov
- Uzbekistan's Khusanboy Rikhsiboev defeated Kuwait's Mohammad Al-Saeedi
- Turkmenistan's Bogdan Konstantinov defeated UAE's Mohamed Albaroud

Closing ceremony for tournament at Kuwait Shooting Club

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Shooting Sport Club held the closing ceremony on Saturday evening for the second Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Olympic Shooting Academy tournament for beginners and juniors, at the Jahra branch of the club. The ceremony was attended by Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Munahi Al-Osaimi along with KSSC officials.

Obaid Al-Osaimi said Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Shooting Academy is a continuation of the "2000 Shooter" project which began in 1998, with the support of honorary President Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah along with members of the board at the time and continued with the following boards. He said the academy is now more advanced and experienced and has the best world coaches in various types of shooting.

Al-Osaimi said Kuwait has many talented youth in the sport of shooting, and it is practiced instinctively. He said shooters of both genders are selected during such tournaments and are then trained on Olympic shooting under the supervision of national team coaches. Results of the tournament which included the Olympic



air pistol and rifle and archery were as follows:

Archer beginners: Ahmad Al-Enezi from Sabahiya, Abdelkareem Al-Saeedi from Jahra, Yousuf Mishal Al-Saeedi from Jahra.

Rifle juniors: Omar Al-Rashidi from Sulaibiya, Abdelaziz Al-Kandary from Sulaibiya, Mohammad Al-Otaibi from Jahra.

Pistol beginners: Farhan Al-Roumi from Sulaibiya,

Yousuf Al-Saffar from Sulaibiya, Ali Sabti from Sulaibiya.

Rifle beginners: Osama Al-Thafiri from Sulaibiya, Abdallah Khalid from Jahra, Mahel Al-Saadi from Jahra.

MOBIL wins in 24 hours of Le Mans

Mobil 1 powered cars claimed a mix of victories, podiums and titles at this year's 24 Hours of Le Mans, with Toyota Gazoo Racing claiming its second consecutive LMP1 class win, while the Porsche GT Team achieved a double podium finish in the GTE Pro category. After more than 5,000 kilometers of non-stop, hard-fought racing in one of the world's most challenging motor races, it was the #8 car driven by Sebastian Buemi, Kazuki Nakajima & Fernando Alonso that became the overall race winners - for the second successive year.

It was a remarkable performance for Toyota Gazoo Racing, whose Toyota TS050 Hybrid power unit was lubricated by a specially made blend of Mobil 1 engine oil, essential to maximizing power and performance through the most grueling motor race in the world.

Meanwhile, the Mobil 1 powered Porsche GT Team claimed a double podium finish in the GTE Pro class, with the #91 car driven by Gianmaria Bruni, Richard Lietz and Frederic Makowiecki claiming second place ahead of the #93 Porsche piloted by Nick Tandy, Earl Bamber and Patrick Pilet. The Porsche 911 RSR power unit was lubricated by the same Mobil 1 engine oil supplied to the German manufacture

for production factory fill. The Corvette Racing team also had the benefit of using Mobil 1 engine oil, with their leading #63 C7.R car claiming 9th position in the GTE Pro class, driven by Jan Magnussen, Antonio Garcia and Mike Rockenfeller.

Following the success at this year's race, David Tsurusaki, Global Motorsport Technology Manager, ExxonMobil, said: "This is a fantastic result for our partners, Toyota and Porsche. The 24 Hours of Le Mans really is the ultimate challenge for drivers, teams, cars and for our Mobil 1 lubricant. The extreme pressures these cars are able to withstand, racing at maximum performance over 5,000km non-stop, is absolutely phenomenal. This is why our partner teams demand use of only the best products which ExxonMobil is able to supply."

Hisatake Murata, Team President, Toyota Gazoo Racing said "we have an unusual feeling because we have won our second Le Mans. Nevertheless, I am proud of the overall performance as well as the team spirit which we showed throughout the race, also in the difficult moments in the final hour. Congratulations to the new World Champions Sébastien, Kazuki and Fernando, also on their second Le Mans victory. This was a dramatic end to an incredible season for TOYOTA GAZOO Racing and we look forward to defending our titles next season."



Sports

Sharma stars as India beat Windies in rain-hit Florida

India will now be pursuing a clean sweep of the series

LAUDERHILL: Rohit Sharma led from the front as India defeated the West Indies in a rain-affected second fixture of the three-match T20 International series at the Central Broward Stadium in Florida on Sunday. Opening batsman Sharma blazed 67 off 51 balls, with three sixes and six fours embellishing his entertaining innings, in pacing India to 167 for five after captain Virat Kohli chose to bat first.

Despite a bludgeoning 54 from Rovman Powell, West Indies were kept in check at 98 for four off 15.3 overs when the inclement weather intervened. Torrential showers prevented any further play and India were declared winners by 22 runs on the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method as West Indies needed to be at 121 to be ahead on run-rate when play was halted. Having won the low-scoring first match of the series by four wickets at the same venue a day earlier, India will now be pursuing a clean sweep of the series when the final match is played at the Providence Stadium in Guyana today.

Sharma dominated an opening stand of 67 with Shikhar Dhawan and looked on course for a hundred when a miscued swing at Oshane Thomas resulted in a comfortable catch for Shimron Hetmyer at extra-cover. Thomas also removed Rishabh Pant cheaply and the West Indies did a better containing job in the second half of the innings except for the final over when three sixes were hoisted off Keemo Paul.

Daunting target

Paul dismissed Dhawan for 23 and left-arm fast bowler Sheldon Cottrell claimed the prized wicket of Kohli (28) and doubled his wicket tally in removing Manish Pandey to a wicketkeeper's catch. After going almost four overs without finding the boundary ropes Krunal Pandya heaved two sixes and Ravindra Jadeja added another in Paul's expensive finale to the innings. Faced with a daunting target, and mindful of the potential threat of rain, West Indies suffered two early setbacks with Evin Lewis and Sunil Narine both falling cheaply.

Narine was promoted to open the batting for this match with John Campbell dropped to accommodate an additional spinning option for the Caribbean side in left-armed Khary Pierre. Powell and Nicholas Pooran tried to get their team back on course with a 76-run third-wicket partnership. But they failed to score quickly enough to put their opponents under any real pressure. Pooran was the main stumbling block as his 19 runs came off 34 deliveries while Powell raced to 54 off the same number of balls.

He lost Pooran to a well-judged catch by Manish Pandey on the long-on boundary before falling as well leg-before to the same bowler, Krunal Pandya. His entertaining innings included three sixes and six fours. There was no time for Kieron Pollard and Shimron Hetmyer to get into stride as the forecasted thunder-showers closed in to wash away any prospect of the remaining overs being bowled. —AFP



LAUDERHILL: Rohit Sharma of India hits 4 as Nicholas Pooran (L) of West Indies looks on during the 2nd T20I match between West Indies and India at Central Broward Regional Park Stadium. —AFP

Kyrgios edges Medvedev to win ATP Washington Open

WASHINGTON: Shaking off back spasms to blast 18 aces, Australia's Nick Kyrgios kept his composure and captured the ATP Washington Open title Sunday, defeating Russia's 10th-ranked Daniil Medvedev 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/4). The 24-year-old Aussie, who struggled through the opening set, claimed the \$365,390 top prize and his sixth career ATP crown at the US Open tuncup event. "This is probably my best memory of a final," Kyrgios said. "I left it all on the court."

Kyrgios, 5-1 this year against top-10 rivals, won his second title of the season after Acapulco in March and will jump 25 positions to 27th in yesterday's new rankings, his first top-30 appearance in 43 weeks. "This has been one of the greatest weeks of my life. I've made massive strides," Kyrgios said. "This whole week has been amazing. It's a week I won't forget." Known for his fiery temperament and inconsistency, Kyrgios was resilient all week, breaking racquets but holding his emotions together — "super proud" of his composure.

"In the past six months, it's crazy to think how much I've been able to turn it around," Kyrgios said. "I'm working hard to be better as a player and a person. I lost faith that I could still have weeks like this and be happy. I've got to thank (my family) for not losing faith. I just wanted to clean myself up and have a healthy attitude. I showed what I can do this week."

While saying his best memory of the week was "how professional I was off the court," Kyrgios also noted, "I've got a long way to go." American Jessica Pegula captured her first WTA singles title by ripping Italy's Camila Giorgi 6-2, 6-2 in the Washington women's final. The 25-year-old daughter of NFL Buffalo Bills owner and natural gas magnate Terry Pegula took a \$43,000 top prize. Kyrgios won a match that featured no break points or deuces after 94 minutes with back-to-back aces, the last his tournament-best 110th of the week.

'It's never easy to play Nick'

Medvedev, 23, was broken only twice this week but lost his lone sets to Kyrgios. He'll equal his career-best ranking of ninth yesterday. "I know how well Nick can play when he wants to play. This week, I think he wanted to play and it was tough," Medvedev said. "He was determined and it seemed like he wants to win. And that's what we don't see all the time." Kyrgios, who beat Medvedev on Rome clay in May in their only prior meeting, would face him again in the second round next week at Montreal if Kyrgios beats Britain's Kyle Edmund. "It's never easy to play Nick," said Medvedev, adding with a laugh, "I hope Kyle wins."

Kyrgios first grabbed his back at 2-all, stretching and twisting during a changeover but having no troubles after treatment between sets from a physiotherapist. "I just happened to get through that first set, which was massive," he said. His running and service speed were hampered at times during his seventh match in as many days counting doubles, but while Medvedev took 24 of 25 points on his serve, Kyrgios matching up into the tie-breaker. Kyrgios denied Medvedev on set point with a 124-mph ace, then hit a passing winner and won it when Medvedev sent a forehand wide. In the last breaker, two Kyrgios aces made his Washington's first unseeded ATP champion since 2011.

Pegula's only other WTA singles final was last September at Quebec City, where she lost to France's Pauline Parmentier. Pegula, who will jump 25 spots to a career-best 54th yesterday, broke early in each set and closed matters just inside an hour with an ace. "It's extremely gratifying," she said. "The journey makes it all that much sweeter because it's hard. I really pushed myself this week. It's amazing. I'm excited. Hopefully I can take the momentum and keep riding it." —AFP

Hamilton relishing new rivalry with Verstappen

BUDAPEST: Lewis Hamilton hailed Max Verstappen yesterday after a gripping duel in the Hungarian Grand Prix which left drivers and followers of Formula One looking forward to many more battles between the two. "There really is no better feeling from a racing driver's point of view — when you have a race like this and face a really strong competitor and a great driver like Max," explained Hamilton who came through to win the race.

"When I got into second, I was like 'OK, this whole battle we've been talking about me having with Max, we are going to have that today' and it was really awesome." There was an element of relief in the words of Hamilton who had to be at his very best to win the race. It needed an unexpected second pit-stop — a strategic masterstroke from his Mercedes team — and a 20-lap chase before the five-time world champion finally broke the resistance of the Dutch tyro's Red Bull as it struggled on worn tyres.

"Lewis's driving was of a different dimension," said Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff after the race. "At first, it did not seem possible but as soon as Lewis sniffed the position there was no holding back. It was an unbelievable drive." It marked

Hamilton's record-extending seventh win in Hungary, which was the 81st victory of his career. Michael Schumacher's record 91 wins looms ever-closer.

More importantly for this season's title race, it was the Briton's eighth win out of 12 races in the first half of the season and, as the teams down tools for their summer break, puts him 62 points clear of teammate Valtteri Bottas. The battle between Hamilton and Verstappen produced a fourth thrilling race in succession to follow a drab procession of French event in June. The Dutchman's second place came after his first ever pole and followed victory in Germany, when Hamilton and the Mercedes team suffered an 'Armageddon' weekend.

Start of an era

Hungary, though, was the race that signaled the start of an era likely to be dominated by Red Bull's 21-year-old duel with the 34-year-old Hamilton, whose achievements and individuality have made him F1's brightest global star. Many observers believe already that Hamilton and Verstappen are from another planet, such was their superiority at the Hungaroring where they were more than a minute clear of the two Ferraris and lapped the rest of the field.

That has led to much 'silly season' speculation that they might fit into the same team — a scenario that Red Bull's mid-season improvement may render redundant and, ultimately, undesirable. "I'm really happy that after a period of time when everyone was so negative, talking about the sport, we get this big step up from the Red Bulls and now we have a really good battle on our hands, and it



BUDAPEST: Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen (R) competes next to Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton during the Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix at the Hungaroring circuit. —AFP

looks like it will stay," said Hamilton.

"I think Ferrari will come back into play at some races like Spa and Monza and be quick on the straights — and there aren't a lot of corners — so those places I think they will be really strong." But Red Bull have been doing great. It's awesome to see and I hope their performance continues and I really, really hope we have more battles like that." Hamilton's praise for his rival included recognition of the respect that exists between them despite a 13-year age gap, a welcome feature after so many acrimonious rivalries of the past.

"Max is at his best and is continuing to perform great," said Hamilton. "It's really

comforting and really important to see the respect level between us. It was really respectful driving and I hope to continue that." Not so long ago the Dutchman was known as Mad Max — now it is a case of Maturing Max. "If we were fighting on the same points, it may have been a lot more aggressive," said Hamilton. "But there was no need for that and it was really just about making sure that when you do finally pull off an overtaking maneuver that it is a clean, full sweep by." Hamilton and Verstappen will have some time to put their feet up and consider their new rivalry. The next race is at Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium on September 1. —AFP

Nadal 'ready to play' despite absences of Djokovic, Federer

MONTREAL: Rafael Nadal will focus only on the challenge in front of him as he defends his title at the Montreal Masters, where Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer are conspicuous absentees. "I cannot think if they are here or not," the top-seeded Spaniard said Sunday. "Anyway, tennis is more than just a few players. I need to prepare myself as well as possible and be ready to play. I would only face them in a semi-final or final anyway, so it's not worth worrying about."

Golf-mad Japan salutes its 'Smiling Cinderella'

TOKYO: Japan yesterday hailed a fairytale finish for Hinako Shibuno, the 20-year-old golf sensation known as 'Smiling Cinderella' who was crowned the surprise winner at the British Open. "She did it!" said TV presenter Tomoaki Ogura after Shibuno, in her debut tournament overseas, became Japan's first Major-winner in 42 years. "Who expected she could do this much in her first competition abroad, a Major championship?" he said in his morning show on a private TV network.

Shibuno's win at her first Major dominated morning television shows in Japan yesterday, topping news items. The story broke too late for the front pages of Japan's newspapers, but was splashed

across their websites. Despite the huge popularity of golf in Japan, only one Japanese player — male or female — had previously won a Major: Chako Higuchi at the 1977 Women's PGA Championship. Social media was abuzz with congratulations for the 20-year-old Shibuno, who only turned pro last year.

"A star is born!" tweeted one Japanese user. "A historic achievement," another wrote. On Japanese television, Higuchi said Shibuno looked as "relaxed" as if she were playing in Japan. "She is a new kind of player," the Daily Sports newspaper quoted Higuchi as saying. Shibuno hit a gutsy 18-foot birdie putt at the final hole to seal victory at Woburn on Sunday, finishing with a 68 and 18-under-par as she beat American Lizette Salas by a single stroke.

South Korea's world number one Ko Jin-young, who was seeking her third Major title of the year, had to settle for third place following a 66. Jun Sato, chief of the golf club where Shibuno practiced until she graduated from high school, told the Mainichi Shimbun he was elated by the victory. "I don't just feel happy. I feel superb!" he said. Shibuno herself



MILTON KEYNES: Japan's Hinako Shibuno celebrates with the trophy after her victory in the 2019 Women's British Open golf championship at Woburn Golf Club. —AFP

seemed overwhelmed by the victory. "I didn't feel that nervous when I was on the last putt," she told reporters. But after the win "I was just covered in goosebumps and I feel so tense now I

just don't know what to say!" She said she planned to celebrate her historic victory by indulging her cravings. "I want to buy as many snacks as I can eat," Kyodo news quoted her as saying. —AFP

Sports

Unfinished business fuels Tottenham's 'new chapter'

Pochettino has vowed to take his team to the next level

LONDON: Fueled by the pain of last season's Champions League final defeat against Liverpool, Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino has vowed to take his team to the next level. AFP Sport takes a look at the north London club as they bid to win a major trophy for the first time since 2008.

What to expect

Pochettino was so devastated by Tottenham's failure to win the Champions League for the first time that he hid away in his Barcelona home for 10 days before finally resurfacing to begin what he hopes will be an ambitious new era for his club. While the 2-0 defeat against Liverpool in Madrid denied Pochettino the first major trophy of his managerial career, the Argentine is attempting to turn the page as the new season looms.

But Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy appears undecided over his manager's demands for greater investment. Ahead of their first full season in their swish new stadium, Pochettino has made it clear Tottenham must be more ambitious, with the club record signing of Tanguy Ndombele not enough to stop him asking for more financial backing during pre-season.

Adding to Pochettino's issues, Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen has revealed he is

looking for a new challenge, stalling on a new contract as Manchester United and Real Madrid wait in the wings. Pochettino is marching on regardless, showing his ruthlessness by selling under-performing England defender Kieran Trippier to Atletico Madrid and considering off-loading Toby Alderweireld and Danny Rose.

Reaching the Champions League final partially obscured an inconsistent finish to the domestic season for Tottenham, who finished fourth in the Premier League after winning just once in their last five games. In past years that would still have been cause for celebration, but Pochettino is dreaming bigger these days.

New faces

It took Ndombele just one minute and four touches to show why Tottenham splashed out around £54 million pounds (\$66 million) — a club record — to sign the France midfielder from Lyon. The 22-year-old unfurled a perfectly weighted pass that allowed Lucas Moura to score with ease against Juventus in a pre-season friendly.

Impressing with his power and strength, Ndombele's movement and direct approach have drawn comparisons with former Manchester City star Yaya Toure, which might

explain why he caught the eye of the Premier League champions before Tottenham won the race for his signature. "With that first touch, he showed his quality, it was amazing," said Pochettino. "You see when he touches the ball, or when he runs, something can happen." Having caught the eye in the Champions League for Lyon, the confident Ndombele said: "I don't feel any pressure. I am proud to be the club record signing."

Key man

Harry Kane cut a forlorn figure at the end of the Champions League final after an ineffective display that raised questions about Pochettino's decision to play the striker in his first game back after his latest ankle injury. Kane's fitness will be firmly in the spotlight this season following his battle with the ankle problems that have interrupted his career too often for comfort.

Although Kane scored 24 goals in all competitions last season, his run of three successive campaigns with at least 25 Premier League goals came to an end as a result of the injury issues. The 26-year-old was a shadow of his usual dynamic self against Liverpool in Madrid, but he is confident of returning to peak form this season.

He has already netted an incredible stop-



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's Brazilian midfielder Lucas Moura (L) celebrates with Tottenham Hotspur's Argentinean midfielder Erik Lamela (R) after scoring the opening goal during the 2019 International Champions Cup football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Inter Milan at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. — AFP

page-time winner from the half-way line against Juventus in a pre-season friendly and is determined to bounce back as he enters what should be his prime years. "That's what people say. They always say late 20s is when

you start to hit your prime, so we'll have to see," Kane said. "I'm not classed as young anymore. I'm in a good place. I feel good and hopefully I can stay as fit as possible through the season." — AFP

Pressure on Lampard as Chelsea legend faces daunting task

LONDON: Chelsea manager Frank Lampard faces a daunting task on his return to Stamford Bridge as the club's midfield great tries to keep his team competitive despite a host of issues on and off the pitch. AFP Sport looks at the west London side ahead of Lampard's debut season on the Blues bench:

What to expect

Despite securing a third-place finish in the Premier League and winning the Europa League with a rout of London rivals Arsenal, Maurizio Sarri's decision to join Juventus in the close-season went unlamented by Chelsea fans. A large part of their relief at seeing Sarri return to Italy after only one season lay in the belief that Lampard would be the man to replace him.

The Blues' faithful got their wish as Lampard was hired after just one season in charge at second-tier Derby. Lampard is well-established as a Chelsea icon, with the midfielder's 13-year spell bringing the club's goal-scoring record, three Premier League titles, four FA Cups and their first Champions League crown in 2012.

But the 41-year-old's appointment is a significant gamble by Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich and his top aide Marina Granovskaia. The summer exit of star playmaker Eden Hazard to Real Madrid and an ongoing transfer ban leaves the inexperienced Lampard up against it, especially as he looks set to use gifted but raw youngsters Callum Hudson-Odoi, Tammy Abraham and Mason Mount to spearhead his reign.



SALZBURG: Chelsea's head coach Frank Lampard gestures from the sidelines during the pre-season friendly football match between Red Bull Salzburg and Chelsea. — AFP

New faces

With Chelsea's two-window transfer ban under way for breaching rules in relation to youth players, Christian Pulisic is the only new arrival in Lampard's squad, putting him firmly in the spotlight as the successor to Hazard. The promising US winger signed from Borussia Dortmund for £58 million in January, but was allowed to finish the

Bundesliga season before finally linking up with his new club in the close-season.

The 20-year-old has the daunting task of filling the void left by Hazard's move to Real Madrid. Hazard had a direct hand in 38 goals last term, scoring 21 and laying on 17 more, but Pulisic's new teammate Ross Barkley says the rest of the squad have to share that burden.

"We know he is an exceptional player, but we have other exceptional players. We have youngsters that will step up and produce the goods," Barkley said. Mateo Kovacic does not count as a new face, but the Croatia midfielder, who was on loan with the Blues last season, is now a permanent fixture after completing a £40 million (\$49 million) switch.

Key man

Just months after Callum Hudson-Odoi appeared headlined for an acrimonious departure, the England winger is set to become a leading member of Lampard's youth revolution. The 18-year-old Londoner handed in a transfer request in January after Chelsea rejected a bid from Bayern Munich, but he is now keen to stay after Lampard convinced him he would play a major role in his team.

Hudson-Odoi, who felt marginalized by Sarri, is set to sign a new long-term contract according to Lampard. And in another boost for the new Blues boss, Hudson-Odoi is on track to feature by September after recovering from a serious Achilles injury suffered in April. His return cannot come soon enough for Chelsea fans after he caught the eye with some precocious performances last season, but it will be fascinating to see if Lampard can accelerate his development as the expectations and hype increase. "I am not going to say things that are pie in the sky but, with his talent, he can be central to this team and to England," Lampard said. "He can show, right here at Chelsea, that he is going to be a world-class player. I truly believe that." — AFP

Liverpool replace Mignolet with Adrian for free

LONDON: Spanish goalkeeper Adrian signed for Champions League holders Liverpool on a free transfer hours after Simon Mignolet left to return to his home country and sign for Belgian side Club Brugge. Adrian, 32, will be an understudy to the European champions' first choice 'keeper Alisson. The Spaniard has previous experience in the Premier League having played more than 100 times for West Ham in the past six years.

"I'm very ambitious. I come here to try to win everything, to try to push Ali from the first minute and to make us better," Adrian told the Liverpool website. "We have many competitions ahead - we're going to fight for it and try to get them. "I'm looking forward to playing my first game at Anfield and to win as many games as we can." Mignolet, capped 22 times by his country, had earlier signed a five-year-deal after passing his medical costing Brugge a reported £6.4 million (7 million euros).

"It's official, Simon is a Bruges boy!" the Belgian top flight club said on its website, alongside a video of Mignolet arriving at his new home. Mignolet, 31, for his part tweeted a fulsome farewell to Liverpool. "It's been a great ride," Mignolet said. "There have been ups, downs and everything in between, but I'll always look on my time at Anfield with fondness. "I have no regrets. I've given my all and I've always done my best to wear the shirt with pride, and to represent the club with dignity and professionalism. "Once part of the family, always part of the family. Deep inside I'll always be a Red."

Liverpool won the Champions League last season but the Belgian international hardly figured as the English outfit conquered Europe for the sixth time and finished just a point behind Premier League champions Manchester City. Mignolet played for Liverpool on more than 200 occasions after arriving from Sunderland in 2013.

Captain calm

Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson says manager Jurgen Klopp's judgment in the transfer market should not be questioned despite a lack of heavyweight signings in the transfer window. The Reds have added just teenagers Sepp Van Den Berg and Harvey Elliott to a squad that won the Champions League and finished second to Manchester City with the third-highest points total in Premier League history.

There has been criticism of Klopp for not making a significant signing to help his side's quest for a first domestic title since 1990, but Henderson said that was unwarranted. "If the manager hasn't signed anyone then he knows better than everyone else," said the midfielder. "I think we've got a fantastic squad of players, we've shown that. We can use everybody, we've got big players (Naby Keita and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain) coming back from long-term injuries, which is like new signings as the manager says.

"We believe we've got a strong group in the changing room, a strong team, and we've just got to keep learning, keep improving on the training pitch, keep doing what we've been doing for a long time now, and keep staying hungry for more success." Liverpool lost to City on penalties in the Community Shield on Sunday but their second-half display suggests they can challenge the reigning champions this season, which gets under way on Friday when the Reds host Norwich.

However, Henderson stressed the quality of the performances could be improved despite the club's impressive points tally. "We can't always think back to what we did last season. We're looking forward, we want to improve as a team," he said. "There were a lot of games last year where we didn't play particularly well and play as well as we like and we did grind results out at times. "Performance-wise we can be much better and that's what we've got to focus on. Performance has got to be improving all the time." — AFP

A look at the world's most expensive defenders

LONDON: Manchester United made Harry Maguire the world's most expensive defender yesterday as they bought the England centre-back from Leicester for a reported fee of £80 million (\$97 million). AFP Sport looks at the top five most costly defenders of all time:

Harry Maguire, £80 million, Leicester to Manchester United (August 2019)

The England centre-back was top of Manchester United's transfer window shopping list after their defensive woes last season and boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer finally got his man with a fee so huge that even big-spending Manchester City bowed out of the race to sign him.

Virgil van Dijk, £75 million, Southampton to Liverpool (January 2018)

Liverpool paid Southampton a then world-record fee for a defender to sign the Netherlands centre-half and Van Dijk has proved a huge success, helping Liverpool reach two Champions League finals. They won the second of those, against Tottenham, to be crowned European champions for a sixth time.

Lucas Hernandez, £68 million, Atletico Madrid to Bayern Munich (July 2019)

The France international moved to Spain at the age of four and joined Atletico Madrid's junior set-up. Hernandez became a World Cup winner in 2018 and made more than 100 appearances for Atletico before joining Bundesliga champions Bayern at the end of last season.

Matthijs De Ligt, £67.5 million (could rise to £77 million with potential add-ons), Ajax to Juventus (July 2019)

De Ligt made his Ajax and Netherlands debut aged 17, quickly making the switch from deep-lying midfielder to centre-back. De Ligt played more than 100 games for Ajax and captained a youthful side to the semi-finals of the Champions League last season before joining Italian champions Juventus a month before his 20th birthday.

Aymeric Laporte, £57 million, Athletic Bilbao to Manchester City (January 2018)

The French centre-half joined Athletic Bilbao at the age of 16. Also able to play left-back, Laporte made more than 200 appearances for Bilbao before Manchester City signed him for a then club-record fee in January 2018. He has since won two Premier League titles at City, as well as League Cup and FA Cup winners' medals. — AFP



AMSTERDAM: Ajax's Danish forward Kasper Dolberg celebrates after scoring his team first goal during the Dutch Super Cup football final match between Ajax Amsterdam and PSV Eindhoven at the Johan Cruyff Arena. — AFP

Ajax face a difficult Champs League playoff

NYON: Last season's Champions League semi-finalists Ajax will take on either Qarabag or Apoel Nicosia in this year's playoff for the group stage if they find a way past PAOK Thessaloniki in the third qualifying round of the showcase European club competition. The Dutch side do not get automatic entry to the groups despite winning the Eredivisie for the 34th time and coming within seconds of reaching the final of last season's campaign.

It is not the easiest of ties for Ajax who have already lost several players

from their exciting young squad, with central defender Matthijs de Ligt at Juventus and midfielder Frenkie de Jong joining Lionel Messi at Barcelona. First, however, they have to see off PAOK, who went unbeaten on their way to winning the Greek Super League, finishing five points ahead of Olympiakos as they claimed their first league title in more than three decades.

The first leg of the third round in Greece takes place on Tuesday, with the return leg seven days later in Amsterdam. The playoff ties will be held on 20/21 and 27/28 August. Two-time European champions Porto will face either Istanbul Basaksehir or Olympiakos if they beat Krasnodar, while Slavia Prague await the winners of CFR Cluj and 1967 European champions Celtic. Red Star Belgrade, who won the competition in 1991, will face Swiss outfit Young Boys if they beat FC Copenhagen.

In the Europa League draw, Torino

and Wolverhampton Wanderers will meet up in the pick of the playoff ties if they get past Belarusian side Shakhtyor and Armenians Pyunik. Flamboyant Wolves are in Europe for the first time in 39 years after finishing seventh in the Premier League in their first year following promotion. Torino meanwhile, who also finished seventh but in Serie A, qualified for the competition after AC Milan accepted in June a voluntary ban from European football for the coming season over breaches of financial fair play rules.

Roma took fifth-placed Milan's place in the group stages, opening up a preliminary round spot for Walter Mazzarri's side, who impressed in the second half of last season. The Europa League draw also includes sides from the Champions League draw, who will drop into the lower ranked competition should they lose their third qualifying round matches.

25 Shabab Al-Abdallah registers first Kuwaiti win at ASBC championship

26 Sharma stars as India beat Windies in rain-hit Florida

27 Unfinished business fuels Tottenham's 'new chapter'



BIRMINGHAM: Australia's Nathan Lyon (C) celebrates after taking the wicket of England's Stuart Broad during play on the fifth day of the first Ashes cricket Test match between England and Australia at Edgbaston. — AFP

Lyon's six appeal overwhelms England

Australia takes the first Ashes test by 251 runs as Edgbaston 'fortress' crumbles

BIRMINGHAM: Nathan Lyon took six wickets as Australia thrashed England by 251 runs at their Edgbaston 'fortress' to win the first Ashes Test yesterday. England, set a daunting 398 for victory, lost four wickets for 12 runs either side of lunch on the last day as they collapsed to 97-7. They were eventually dismissed for 146 in their second innings, with off-spinner Lyon taking 6-49 — a haul that included his 350th Test wicket — and fast bowler Pat Cummins 4-32.

Victory gave Australia their first win at Edgbaston in any format since 2001 — the last time they won an Ashes series in England — and ended England's run off 11 successive wins at the Birmingham ground. England resumed on 13 without loss after Australia star Steve Smith's second hundred of his comeback Test following a ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal had allowed the tourists to declare late on Sunday's fourth day.

Rory Burns, whose first-innings 133 was his first century at this level, became just the 10th cricketer to have batted on all five days of a Test. But he had added just four runs to his overnight seven when he was undone by an excellent seaming and rising Cummins delivery that lobbed off his gloves to Lyon in the gully.

Number three Root, on four, was given out leg before to James Pattinson by umpire Joel Wilson. But in a match full of overturned decisions, Root successfully challenged the verdict. Root had made eight when he nearly played on to Cummins before Jason Roy, who made a superb 85 in eventual champions England's World Cup semi-final win over Australia at Edgbaston last month, drove him through extra-cover for four.

Root had moved on to nine when he was again given out leg before by Wilson, this time off the bowling of paceman Peter Siddle. But the batsman's immediate

review revealed an inside edge. That meant umpire Wilson had equalled an unwanted record with an eighth overturned decision in a Test match. Roy swept Lyon for four but then, in a shot more appropriate for a one-day match than a side trying to save a Test, charged down the pitch and was clean bowled for 28. Lyon remained a threat on a wearing pitch offering turn and bounce and he had Joe Denly (11) caught off bat and pad by Cameron Bancroft at short leg to leave England 80-3.

England collapse

And the Australia pair combined again to dismiss Root for 28. England's 85-4 at lunch soon became 85-5 when Jos Buttler (one) was bowled by a Cummins delivery that kept low. Cummins then had his 100th Test wicket when Jonny Bairstow (six) gloved a rising ball to Bancroft in the slips. England's collapse contin-

ued apace when Ben Stokes was also out for six, well caught by wicketkeeper Tim Paine off a sharply spun Lyon delivery.

Moeen Ali, who in the first innings had succumbed to Lyon when he was bowled for a duck playing no shot, fell to the bowler for the ninth time in 11 Ashes knocks when caught in the slips for four to leave England 136-8. It marked the end of a miserable match for England off-spinner Moeen, comprehensively out-bowled by Lyon.

Lyon had Stuart Broad caught in the slips next ball before James Anderson survived the hat-trick after not bowling at all in Australia's second innings because of a calf injury. Chris Woakes, who played several fine shots, was dropped in the slips by Smith. But former Australia captain Smith had the last word, catching Woakes (37) in the slips off Cummins, with England all out inside 53 overs. — AFP

ManU make Maguire world's most expensive defender

LONDON: Manchester United signed Harry Maguire from Leicester yesterday for a reported £80 million fee that makes the England centre-back the world's most expensive defender. United have secured Maguire on a six-year contract with an option for a further 12-month extension. The £75 million Liverpool paid for Virgil van Dijk in 2018 was the previous record fee for a defender.

However, Juventus' capture of Van Dijk's Netherlands teammate Matthijs de Ligt earlier this month (July) could rise to 85.5 million euros (£77 million) in add-ons. It is also a record fee between Premier League clubs, surpassing Van Dijk's move to Anfield from Southampton and Romelu Lukaku's switch from Everton to Manchester United. "I am delighted to have signed for this great club. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Leicester and would like to thank everyone at the club. However, when Manchester United come knocking on your door, it is an incredible opportunity," Maguire told United's website.

"From my conversations with the manager, I am excited about the vision and plans he has for the team. It's clear to see that Ole

is building a team to win trophies. I am now looking forward to meeting my new teammates and getting the season started." Maguire, 26, could make his debut in his new club's Premier League opener at home to Chelsea on Sunday and United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is confident he will live up to his hefty price tag. "Harry is one of the best centre-backs in the game today and I am delighted we have secured his signature," he said.

"He is a great reader of the game and has a strong presence on the pitch, with the ability to remain calm under pressure - coupled with his composure on the ball and a huge presence in both boxes - I can see he will fit well into this group both on and off the pitch. "He has a great personality and is a fantastic addition to the club." Manchester City had been interested in Maguire, but Pepe Guardiola admitted on Sunday that the champions couldn't afford his huge fee.

Meteoric rise

Maguire, 26, shot to prominence for his performances at last year's World Cup as England reached the semi-finals for the first

time since 1990. United were interested in his signature last summer, but balked at Leicester's asking price. A year on and with the heart of their defence brutally exposed in finishing sixth in the Premier League last season to miss out on Champions League qualification, the Red Devils finally paid the fee the Foxes demanded.

Solskjaer had made strengthening central defence a priority, with that need only becoming more acute when Eric Bailly suffered a knee injury during the pre-season tour of China which is expected to keep him out for at least four months. Maguire's arrival also continues the trend of United targeting young British talent rather than big-name foreign imports. The English giants have already splashed nearly £70 million on promising youngsters Daniel James and Aaron Wan-Bissaka.

Maguire started his career at Sheffield United before making the leap into the Premier League with Hull in 2014. After impressing even as the Tigers were relegated two years ago, he joined Leicester in a £17 million deal. His England debut followed in October 2017 and he emerged as one of the unlikely stars of the World Cup, where he featured in all of the Three Lions' seven games and scored in the quarter-final victory over Sweden.

That signified a meteoric rise for Maguire who just two years previously had travelled as a fan to support England at



LONDON: In this file photo taken on April 20, 2019 Leicester City's English defender Harry Maguire celebrates during the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Leicester City at The London Stadium. —AFP

Euro 2016. Nicknamed "slab head" by former Leicester teammate Jamie Vardy for his physical prowess in the air, Maguire has also impressed with his ability to play out from the back. However, City were less in need to break the bank for the 26-year-old after winning the first ever domestic treble

of trophies in English football history. By contrast, United need to shore up a defence that conceded 54 goals in the Premier League last season and are counting on Maguire's presence to cut the massive gap to rivals City and European champions Liverpool. — AFP