

# Friday Times

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## Local

## Investing in Kuwait's environment



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Unfortunately, the issue of the environment is not as important as it should be for many people in Kuwait, starting from throwing rubbish on the streets, leaving trash on the beaches at weekends and not sorting waste. There is a need to activate projects for a real waste system. This issue has become intuitive in many countries in the West, yet we seem not to be interested in it. Why is this so and what do we need to do?

A recent statement by the director of the public private partnership authority is an indication of this view. In a statement to the press this week, the director stressed the importance of the municipal solid waste project in terms of strategic and environmental aspects, pointing out that the cancellation of the project has negative repercussions. The cancellation of this project will weaken investor confidence, damage the investment climate and disrupt the implementation of development plan projects in the state.

I believe that statement is important because it came from an official who is keen on environmental security in the country, and the issue can be resolved by reaching a compromise formula among all. Especially since the project is based on land that does not contain any assets or buildings, which will help in building the facility, including a plant to incinerate a million tons of solid waste annually and convert it into energy, along with landfills to bury the ash.

The project was also supported by feasibility studies by the World Bank to determine the technical specifications of the waste incineration plant. It is one of the technologies that is approved globally for the disposal and treatment of solid waste to secure residents' needs for sustainable infrastructure, attract foreign investment and engage the private sector.

The director-general said the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects, in cooperation with the Municipality, presented the project as one of the partnership projects listed in the medium term development plan for the years 2015-2020. But the Audit Bureau had reservations towards the project and decided to reject it for several reasons. All the reasons have been published in full detail. The official commission responded to the observations of the Audit Bureau, which insisted on its position, and the issue was sent to the Council of Ministers.

I believe that such development projects are paramount for the country and its future, especially as they are aimed at securing the needs of citizens from sustainable infrastructure, as well as attracting foreign investment. It is a good opportunity to allow young people and the private sector to benefit from working with foreign partners and gain experience. Also, it is an opportunity for skilled expatriates to support projects with citizens with the involvement of the private sector, because it should not keep waiting only for government tenders, but engage in megaprojects to enhance the reputation of the country.

I think the reasons of the Audit Bureau published in newspapers are logical and reasonable, but the problem can be resolved by negotiations, especially with regards to the percentage of national labor and investor rights, because this is a development project and an opportunity to protect the environment of Kuwait. It is time to see real partnership between the private and public sectors for the benefit of the country and the environment.

### PHOTO OF THE DAY



Summer is the season of fires in Kuwait. Blazes triggered by soaring temperatures as well as improper storage of flammable materials, accidents, aging wiring or other causes are common during the worst of the summer heat. Photo shows a member of the Kuwait Fire Services Directorate working to contain a recent place in Ahmadi.

— Photo from archives

## Professional skill development in person and online

By Ben Garcia

Without a degree and the knowhow and tools to face challenges, life is tough indeed. Enter vocational or trade schools offering short courses. In Kuwait, a few trade schools offer training programs for individuals who want to stand out amid the sea of people seeking jobs in the market.

Trade institutions are designed to provide vocational education or technical skills training required by the job market. Post-secondary education, vocational schools are traditionally distinguished from four-year colleges by their focus on job-specific training to students who are typically bound for one of the skilled trades, rather than providing academic training for students pursuing careers in a professional discipline.

Kuwait Times spoke to Jenny Reyes, the director in charge of operations at the International Institute of Computer Science and Administration (ICSA Kuwait), located on Fahd Al-Salem Street. ICSA is a private education provider operating in Kuwait since 2001.

"Our students are individuals who are passionate about self-improvement. Many are adult learners, but we welcome students as young as 13 of various

nationalities. We aim to empower our learners with modern essential skills to make them competent and job ready or to improve their chances of career growth," she said.

Local training courses, however, are facing growing competition from online workshops and training as well as pop up workshops. Nowadays anyone that wants to learn to code can teach themselves online through a variety of free or very affordable options. Similarly many other professional skills including typing, graphic design, computer skills, computer repair, web development and design, motion graphics, AutoCad and much more can be learned online. Management courses offered by globally recognized universities are also increasingly available online for self starters interested in growing their professional skills and development.

Many motivated self learners can even find online degree programs (though these are not yet recognized in Kuwait) for obtaining bachelor degrees or other post graduate degrees and diplomas.

For those seeking local workshops and courses, there are an increasing number of pop up classes hosted by local community organizations, businesses and cafes in animation, media, drawing, graphic design, claymation, calligraphy, writing and more.



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# Tenants renegotiate amid slump in real estate sector

## Apartments vacant as expatriates leave Kuwait amid hardship

By Chidi Emmanuel

From Fahaheel to downtown Kuwait City, signs advertising apartments for rents can be found in abundance. Rising costs of living, stagnant wages for expatriates and growing anti-expat government policies are driving foreigners to leave the country. According to the Central Statistics Department,

the number of Filipinos, Indians and Egyptians in Kuwait has dropped sharply in recent months. Filipinos in Kuwait declined from 243,400 to 216,200 - 27,000 Filipinos left the country in the last nine months (almost 12 percent of the total). The Filipino community ranks fourth in number in the country. At the top sit Indians with 889,000, followed by Egyptians at 484,000 and Bangladeshis at 271,000.





## Local



According to experts, a phenomenal rise in the cost of living probably is the main factor that led to a slump in the real estate sector. Secretary-General of the Real Estate Union Qais Al-Ghanim said in a recent report that the real estate investment sector will witness more pressure in the coming months with an increasing number of expatriates leaving Kuwait, resulting in more vacant apartments in expat neighborhoods.

"The mounting burden on expatriates day by day due to the increase in fees and the cost of living, in addition to the state's tendency to terminate their services from public sector jobs, have forced many to leave, especially during the past few months. All this had a negative effect on the consumer situation in the country in general and on the investment property sector in particular," Ghanim said.

He pointed out that some property owners, in order to avoid apartments being vacant in their buildings, have resorted to housing singles - up to 12 people in one apartment, which in turn puts great pressure on water and electricity services, in addition to the inconvenience they cause to other tenants in the building. Ghanim explained that investment properties witnessed rent reductions of up to 20 percent during the last period.

The latest statistics available from 2018 indicate that there were around 400,000 apartments in the Kuwait market. New buildings opening over the last twelve months have undoubtedly added to this number at a time when occupancy rates are dropping.

Amid the slump, tenants are finding ways to keep their apartments. Some have resorted to sharing apartments, while others try to renegotiate in order to cope. "I had to take the bull by the horns. I asked our haris for the phone number of the owner of the building. He was reluctant initially, though he gave me the number later. I called him - and luckily enough, he slashed KD 50 off the rent," said Thomas Coelho, an Indian expat living in a three-bedroom apartment in Farwanyia.

Also in Maidan Hawally, an African expat narrated how the tenants renegotiated with real estate managers to bring down the rent of their two-bedroom apartments. "We used to pay KD 250 for a two-bedroom flat, which they later increased to KD 300. Many people left the building, while others decided to sublet their apartments. This actually affected the water and electricity consumption. Before we knew it, the building became overcrowded. So some tenants met the managers to renegotiate the rent, as they

threatened to pack out. All turned in our favor. We are now paying KD 260 instead of KD 300," Rasak Karim told Kuwait Times. In his words, "they (real estate managers) preferred to have few decent families in the building rather than having more people and paying more in utility bills".

Some of the tenants Kuwait Times interviewed echoed similar experiences. In Mahboula, Sabrina narrated how her husband was told to pay a lower amount when he opted to move out of the building. "We gave the haris a one-month notice as stated in the rent contract, after which we got a call from the house owner. He asked my husband why he was moving out. My husband complained that he can no longer afford KD 220 in rent for a one-bedroom flat. Surprisingly, he told him to pay KD 180 instead. A KD 40 reduction is a big relief," she said with a smile.

#### Partition room

The tightly-regulated real estate market has given rise to a black market where tenants sublet with or without the necessary permissions. "After my wife lost her job, we couldn't cope with the

rent. I had to beg the haris to allow me to put up a partition. With the KD 70 I get from the new partitioned room every month, I am able to retain the apartment. I only give the haris an extra KD 10 every month in 'appreciation'," Indian expat Kabir Sanjay said.

Like Sanjay, Vijay just shared his two-bedroom apartment with another family. "We agreed to pay KD 125 each since it is a two-bedroom flat. We are only four in the apartment," he said. When asked if he took permission from the haris, he said: "There is no need for that. He is interested only in getting his KD 10 per month and the KD 250 in rent."

Renegotiating rent for an apartment you already live in is a bit hard. The biggest obstacle to overcome is the lack of leverage. There is always a 50-50 chance of success, and as economic hardship mounts, many expats are seeking various ways to make ends meet. There is always a push and pull factor. While most house owners prefer to keep you around, you probably don't even want to deal with the hassle of moving out either. With that in mind, it's in both parties' best interests to come to a tacit agreement.





## Local

# Talha, lone tree species able to withstand Kuwait's summer heat



**Talha (Acacia pachyceras) is the lone tree species native to Kuwait.**

carpus. They are not native to Kuwait, but the irony is that we keep growing them here because they grow quickly and create greenery on the streets. But we are not aware that it destroys our natural environment. We recommended the government to get rid of these trees because they are harmful in the long term and will destroy the natural environment of Kuwait," Kaitharath said. He also mentioned related health issues like allergies suffered by people because of its flowers.

Kaitharath recommends slowly replacing this plant to restore

the natural ecosystem. "Talha needs less maintenance compared to Conocarpus plants that need a huge amount of water. The Conocarpus needs one liter of water per leaf - it's too much! Imagine how much water you need caring for that tree. Conocarpus leaves also cannot be composted for fertilizer as they are dry and take years to disintegrate. They are not eaten by microbes, not eaten by soil minerals and even earthworms," he said.

According to Kaitharath, the government is now looking at Conocarpus plants objectively and is keen on replacing most imported plants and trees in favor of plants native to Kuwait. "This is the reason why we exist - we want to help the government by delivering the best native plants we have in Kuwait. In some places, they are now planting native shrubs and I hope they will come to a complete realization that these kinds of plants have no place in Kuwait," he said.

To preserve the natural environment, Kaitharath advises the government to sponsor planting plants native to Kuwait, completely eliminate Conocarpus trees, balance the grazing of animals in the desert and limit oil exploration and extraction (but we cannot dictate the government on this since the main source of revenue is through oil). Dumping of waste products and the annual camping season are the main factors why Kuwait's ecosystem is being destroyed. "Kuwait's ecosystem is very unique - there are plants that grow only in Kuwait that you cannot even find in Saudi Arabia because of environmental conditions. The soil here is very saline, and it is too hot, dry and sometimes very cold too. Common plants such as date trees and cactus in the desert are not actually native to Kuwait," he concluded.



**Harm (Haloxylon salicornicum).**

By Ben Garcia

Out of 374 plant species native to Kuwait, only one can be considered a tree, and it can withstand the hottest summer heat in the country. The tree, known as 'Talha', can grow up to five meters tall and can live for 3-5 years or longer if it is cared for and not deliberately cut or killed. "If the Talha tree is not protected, it normally dies after 3 to 5 years. But it regrows depending on the climate," said Dr Jose Kaitharath, Technical Manager at Al-Faisaliya Farm.

In 2006, Faisaliya Farm was chosen by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to conserve, protect and create a nursery for the distribution of native plants to cover at least 10 percent of Kuwait's landmass. But the proposal has stalled for more than a decade now. According to Kaitharath, Faisaliya Farm nevertheless started planting native trees and plants in its nursery, which it created even as the government dallied.

"Our founder Faisal Sultan Al-Essa created the nursery in 2006 aiming to produce seedlings and saplings that can be distributed and planted any time the government pursues the plan. Initially, they selected seven areas to plant these native plants, but due to bureaucracy, none have been operational," Kaitharath said.



"I don't know what keeps them so slow to make this a reality - it's been 13 years now since we created the nursery of native plants of Kuwait. We have produced plants, the seedlings are ready and we are maintaining and growing it year after year in order to make the dream a reality and pursue the planting of native plants on 10 percent of Kuwait's land," he told Kuwait Times. He added some of the saplings they cultivate at Faisaliya Farm are sold to private companies.

Talha is one of the species being cared for at the nursery. "Talha is the best plant we should be seeing here in Kuwait instead of the many Conocarpus trees imported from Africa (they are native to Ethiopia)," Kaitharath said. These trees started to thrive after the 1991 Gulf War and dominate the streets of Kuwait.

But according to Kaitharath, they kill the natural ecosystem. "These trees suck up all the minerals and water where they are planted, leaving our soil vulnerable and unproductive. If we keep them in Kuwait for long, they will make this country more arid and unhealthy. It also kills small plants that grow under it. We need to slowly remove these trees in Kuwait, just like they did in Dubai. They had them before, but now they have eliminated them for good," he said.

"I think the government is doing all it can to get rid of the Cono-



**Arfaj (Rhanterium epapposum) another plant native to Kuwait.**



# 1st



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## Local

# Kuwait offers \$500,000 to fight AIDS, TB, malaria

## Kuwait will spare no effort to support affected countries

**GENEVA:** Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim stressed yesterday Kuwait's keenness on supporting the objectives of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, revealing that his nation donated \$500,000 for such a noble cause. This came in Ghunaim's statement yesterday following his meeting with the fund's Executive Director Peter Sands at the headquarters of the fund in Geneva.

Kuwait has provided a voluntary contribution of half a million dollars to the fund in continuation of Kuwait's approach to support humanitarian action in the world, especially since a large part of the fund's work is directed towards combating these epidemics in many developing countries and Islamic countries, Ghunaim said. Kuwait was a pioneer in financing the operations of the fund im-

mediately after its establishment with a UN resolution in 2001, he added. Recent reports refers to outbreaks of tuberculosis and cholera in a number of countries such as Yemen, Somalia or Afghanistan, which requires urgent intervention to prevent their spread in the region. He also stressed the need to take into account the existence of some of these epidemics and infectious diseases in refugee camps and displaced in a number of countries in the region, which requires a rapid access to a preventive intervention to avoid its spread.

He added that Kuwait will spare no effort to support the affected countries, stressing that cooperation between Kuwait and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria will continue to serve the international humanitarian agenda in the future. — KUNA



**GENEVA:** Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim presents a cheque to the Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Peter Sands. — KUNA

## Kuwait's public health services date back to early 1930s

**KUWAIT:** Healthcare services began in Kuwait in the early 30s, prior to formation of a proto-health ministry in 1936, followed by opening the first "public clinic" in 1939. The clinic was originally a pharmacy called "Wanis", owned by Mohammad Boodai and was later bought by the government and turned into a health center.

The pharmacy's name referred to the pharmacist who worked there, said Dr Khaled Al-Jarallah in his book "The History of Healthcare Services in Kuwait, From Establishment until Independence." The government then moved the clinic to Ismail Maarafi's diwan as the first one was too small.

The new place had an examination room for women and another one for men, a pharmacy, a plaster room and a drug storage room, said Jarallah. The clinic included doctors and workers from different nationalities including Kuwaitis and Syrians.

Later in 1944, a women's only clinic was opened due to the need for expansion in the healthcare field, while the first clinic became a men's only clinic. He added that "Beit Khalaf" was also opened as the first maternity clinic in the country. — KUNA



Dickson House

## Tech is important for infrastructure projects: Roudhan

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Commerce, Industry and Minister of State for Services Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan stressed yesterday the importance of applying modern technology into state development projects, especially in the field of communications and Internet. In a press statement on sidelines of the inauguration of the new communication center of the residential district of Sabah Al-Ahmad, Roudhan said that the center, which has 261 employees,

will be able to operate around 30,000 telephone lines using fiber technology completely free of copper. He added that the operation of the center fully using fiber optic reflects the interest of the state in developing communications and information technology sectors in the country.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Services Khulood Al-Shehab said in a similar statement that the center is fully equipped with all required needs to operate all of its sections. Shehab said that the ministry has developed a plan to operate the center by managing its various sections according to special requirements, in addition to providing transport of staff and employees from Sabah Al-Ahmad City. She called on citizens wishing to obtain telephone services to visit the center accompanied by a copy of the civil ID card, the fiber optic box number and the automated number of the house. — KUNA

## KOC staunch advocate of environment

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) CEO Imad Al-Sultan yesterday affirmed the company unwavering commitment to preserving Kuwait's environment and the population's safety. Speaking at a forum on rehabilitating the Kuwaiti environment, he indicated at the approach of cooperating with all concerned authorities and individuals to bolster collective action at this level. Muthanna Al-Mumen, in charge of the KOC team tasked with soil treatment, affirmed that the forum aimed at shedding light on achievements and future plans to tackle the local environment.

The KOC, in 2012, launched programs at the oil fields to tackle environmental pollution, as part of the efforts to cleanse the land, contaminated as a result of the 1990-1991 Iraqi occupation, Mumen added. Kuwait has exerted efforts at various levels to clear the land of polluting residues resulting from oil lakes, formed when Iraqi aggressors set alight a number of oil installations before retreating from the country in 1991. The massive pollution had been also seen in the sky, when it was filled with huge plumes of black smoke that billowed from the torched sites.

KOC cooperates with the "national coordination center for tackling damage that resulted from the aggression". There have been a number of achievements, such as construction of dumping sites in the south and north and building a workshop in the north, in addition to regular participation in conventions on soil reclamation.

Meanwhile, Nuhail Abdulrazzaq, secretary general of the program for rehabilitating the Kuwaiti environment, indicated the "KARB" project aims at treating the damage according to international standards. The UN special commission on war compensations had allotted \$3 billion to fund environmental projects and restore Kuwaiti wildlife. The Kuwaiti press archives are rich in pictures of various animals and birds soaked in oil when large oil pools covered large swathes of Kuwaiti land. — KUNA



## Local

# Britain and Kuwait agree on cooperation in various fields

## National Guard, NCCAL, KISR signs accords with UK counterparts

**LONDON:** The Kuwait-British Joint Steering Group yesterday wrapped up its 14th session with an agreement on pursuing co-operation in diverse sectors including defense and cyber security. Kuwaiti and British officials, in a joint communique publicized after inking a common action plan for the next six months, said the coordination would focus on commerce, investments, immigration, security, defense, cyber security, health, education, scientific research, environment and culture.

The joint statement noted that the discussions between the Kuwaiti and British officials within the commission framework dealt with cooperation in global environment, through cooperation between the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development and the British Department for International Development. The statement added that the committee meeting, co-chaired by the Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Khaled Al-Jarallah, and the British Secretary of State for the Middle East and North Africa Andrew Murrison, tackled defense affairs and prospects to hold more joint military drills.

The two parties endorsed a joint action blueprint on aviation security, immigration, a project for information swap, training anti-terrorist squads, airports' security, it said, adding that the meeting was distinguished with "positive and useful discussions regarding cyber security," also noting that the British side pledged to continue helping in regulating communication and information technology in Kuwait.

British and Kuwaiti companies, the statement notes, can play a pivotal role in enhancing commercial ties, boosting commercial exchanges and organizing fairs and conventions. Kuwaiti exports to Britain reached £2.5 billion (\$3.15 billion) last year, with the total trade exchanges between the two countries hitting £4 billion (\$5 billion), also according to the joint statement. The two sides have pledged to expand cooperation in trade, scientific research, education, protecting the environment and overhauling the economy of creativity. Meanwhile, Deputy Head of the Kuwaiti Na-

tional Guard office's Director Major General Jamal Mohammad Dhiab and Deputy Director of Gulf and Iran at the British Ministry of Defense Giles Ahern signed yesterday a memorandum of understanding in the field of military cooperation and training. In a statement to KUNA, Dhiab explained that the memorandum of understanding aims at benefiting from the British experience in developing and strengthening the capabilities of the Kuwaiti National Guard.

It aims to achieve the vision of HH the Prime Minister and in accordance with the directives of HH the President of the National Guard and his deputy of the Strategic Document 2020. It will also allow the two sides to exchange courses, military exercises, specialized consultations and exchange of information, he added.

The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) also signed a contract with the British Council, being one of the leading countries in the knowledge field. In a statement to KUNA, Assistant Secretary-General for the Culture Sector at NCCAL Issa Al-Ansari said signing of the contract with the British side came as an implementation of the memorandum of understanding inked by the two countries in culture and arts in June 2015.

The knowledge industry includes several areas, namely advertising, marketing, architecture, graphic design, product design, information technology, software, computer services, museums, exhibitions and visual arts, Ansari explained. He stressed the importance of cooperation with the British Council in such creative industries due to the ways in which it stimulates innovation. Ansari signed the contract on behalf the Kuwait side, while the Director General of the British Council Michael Jordan represented the British side.

Kuwait Scientific Research Institute (KISR) and the British Cultural Office also inked yesterday a memo for cooperation in scientific and technological research. It was signed by KISR Director General Samira Omar and the director of the British office in Kuwait Michael Gordon, after the end of the session of the joint



**LONDON:** Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Khaled Al-Jarallah and the British Secretary of State for the Middle East and North Africa Andrew Murrison are seen during the signing ceremony. — KUNA

commission. Omar said the memo is complementary to the accord of understanding, signed on June 24, 2014, with regards to higher education and scientific research. She added that such cooperation will be pursued with emphasis on clean energy and management of waste. According to the memo, the Kuwaiti side will organize at least one visit for researchers to the UK to examine works at laboratories and specialized faculties as well as to discuss prospective joint programs. — KUNA

## Amir's representative offers condolences to Sharjah ruler



**KUWAIT:** First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Representative of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, offered yesterday condolences to Member of the UAE Supreme Council and Sharjah Ruler Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammad Al-Qasimi and to the Al-Qasimi family over the death of Sheikh Khaled bin Sultan bin Mohammad Al-Qasimi. — KUNA

## Company fined KD 130,000 for encroachment

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Municipality's PR department said Mubarak Al-Kabeer municipal branch carried out several field tours to make sure company licenses are valid. Director of the safety department Maisaa Bushehri said that a citation was issued to a company that used land belonging to the state covering 2,801 sq m for temporary offices and storage, adding it was fined KD 130,000.

### Hajj room bookings

The awqaf ministry denied claims in newspapers and social media about suspicions over hajj room bookings. The ministry denied 60 rooms were reserved but not used, adding that all rooms were occupied (100 percent), as the number of employees in the hajj mission is 263. It said several meetings were held with concerned ministries and rooms were booked accordingly, then the finance ministry, Central Tenders Committee, Audit Bureau and the fatwa and legislation department were informed for approval.

### Turkey test centers

Health Ministry Undersecretary for Public Health Dr Majida Al-Qattan, member of the central committee for examination of technical labor in Gulf countries, said 12 testing centers were visited in Istanbul to evaluate them in order to test workers desiring to work in Gulf countries. She said that recommendations were sent to the labor examination and central committee at the GCC Health Council for approving the centers.

### Educational charity fund

An educational source said 17,875 students are benefiting from the charity fund for the 2018-2019 school year in the three educational stages, including 15,449 bedoons and 2,426 expats. The source said the fund's budget last year was KD 6.796 million to provide education to needy children.

### Consumer protection societies

The commerce and industry ministry issued a decision allowing the establishment of consumer protection societies, and a technical secretariat was created for this purpose. The decision stipulates that the number of founding members should be a minimum of 50, members should have been involved in voluntary activities in this field and should not have been convicted in honor and trust crimes.





Gibraltar detains  
tanker suspected of  
carrying oil to Syria

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Putin meets pope, 'welcoming' populist govt during Italy trip

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**PANMUNJOM:** This picture shows North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un, left, and US President Donald Trump shaking hands during a meeting on the south side of the Military Demarcation Line that divides North and South Korea, in the Joint Security Area (JSA) of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized zone (DMZ). —AFP

# US 'hell-bent' on sanctions: N Korea

## Trump-Kim meet ends standstill on denuclearization talks

**UNITED NATIONS:** North Korea has accused the US of being "hell-bent on hostile acts" just days after the countries' leaders agreed to resume denuclearization talks. US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held an impromptu summit on North Korean soil on Sunday, where they smiled and shook hands, ending a standstill in discussions. But in a quick shift in tone, Pyongyang's delegation to the United Nations on Wednesday said the US continues to be "obsessed with sanctions".

It complained that while Trump invited Kim to hold talks, the US had also sent a letter to all UN member-states urging them to send back North Korean workers. The delegation claimed the letter - also signed by Britain, France and Germany - was sent on June 29, the same day Trump tweeted that he would like to shake Kim's hand during his visit to the Korean peninsula.

"What can't be overlooked is the fact that this joint let-

ter game was carried out by the permanent mission of the United States to the UN under the instruction of the State Department, on the very same day when President Trump proposed (for) the summit meeting," said the press statement from the North Korean mission.

It shows that the US is "more and more hell-bent on the hostile acts" against North Korea, even while it is seeking dialogue, it added. The US letter was in fact sent on June 27 and called on all countries to apply sanctions provisions that call for the return of all North Korean workers by the end of 2019.

The UN estimates tens of thousands of North Koreans are sent abroad every year, mostly to China and Russia, working in slave-like conditions to generate hard currency for Pyongyang. "We do not thirst for lifting of sanctions," the North Korean mission said, adding it was "quite ridiculous" for the United States to consider the restrictions a "panacea for all problems."

### Historic visit

UN sanctions ban all new contracts with North Korean workers and commit countries with existing migrant laborers from there to sending them back by the end of this year. In the letter, the four countries noted that only 34 countries had filed reports to the UN on what action they have taken. Trump became the first US president to ever visit North Korea on Sunday, stepping in to the Demilitarized Zone following a last-minute invitation to his counterpart on Twitter.

It marked a thaw in the pair's hot-and-cold relationship, after their last meeting in Hanoi ended without agreement. As well as the working-level talks, Trump also floated the idea of sanctions relief-repeatedly demanded by Pyongyang-and said he invited the North Korean leader to the White House. Analysts have been divided by Sunday's events, some saying they spurred new momentum into deadlocked nuclear talks, while others described them as "reality show theatrics". —AFP



# Sudan talks enter day two as key issue still unresolved

## Ethiopian, African Union calls for civilian-majority ruling body

**KHARTOUM:** Talks between Sudan's ruling generals and protest leaders, held after weeks of standoff following a deadly crack-down on protesters, enter a second day yesterday with the key issue of forming a new governing body still unresolved. Sudan has been rocked by a political crisis since the army ousted longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir in April on the back of widespread protests, with the ruling generals resisting demonstrators' demands to hand power to a civilian administration.

The generals had previously agreed over a broad civilian structure, but talks between the two sides collapsed in May following a disagreement over who should lead an overall new governing body—a civilian or a soldier. Tensions further surged between the generals and protest leaders after a deadly pre-dawn raid on a longstanding protest camp in Khartoum on June 3 killed dozens of demonstrators and wounded hundreds.

Talks finally resumed Wednesday after intense mediation by Ethiopian and African Union envoys, who have proposed a draft proposal to break the deadlock. "Today, the discussion will be about who heads the sovereign council," a prominent protest leader who is part of the talks, Ahmed al-Rabie, told AFP, referring to the governing body. He said the ruling military council that took power after Bashir's ouster insists the head of the new governing body be from the army. "We believe that symbolically the head of the state must be a civilian," Rabie said. For weeks this issue has rocked Sudan, extending the political crisis triggered since the fall of Bashir.

### Darfur rebels release

The joint Ethiopian and African Union blueprint calls for a civilian-majority ruling body. On Wednesday, the first day of the latest round of talks, the two sides did not discuss the crucial issue of the governing body. "The parties conducted responsible negotiations and agreed on some issues," African Union mediator Mohamed El Hacen Lebat told reporters overnight after long hours of talks held at a luxury hotel in the capital. "There's a decision taken to release all political detainees."

About 235 fighters from a faction of a Darfur rebel group that is part of the protest movement are expected to be released later yesterday. Protest leaders have exerted pressure on the generals



**KHARTOUM:** Members of the Sudanese Military Council and the movement the Alliance for Freedom and Change meet at the Corinthia Hotel in the capital Khartoum. — AFP

since the June 3 raid on the mass sit-in outside army headquarters. The raid was carried out by men in military fatigues. The ruling military council insists it did not order the violent dispersal of the sit-in.

At least 136 people have been killed across the country since the raid, including more than 100 on June 3, according to doctors close to the umbrella protest movement, the Alliance for Freedom and Change. The health ministry says 78 people have been killed nationwide over the same period. On Sunday, protest leaders managed to mobilize tens of thousands of supporters in the first mass protest against the generals since the raid.

The mass rally had been seen as a test for the protest leaders' ability to mobilize crowds after the generals imposed a widespread internet blackout and deployed security forces in the capital's key squares and districts, its twin city Omdurman and other towns and villages. Protest leaders have further upped the pressure on the generals by calling for a similar mass protest on July 13, to be followed by a nationwide civil disobedience campaign a day later. The campaign, if observed, would be the second such agitation since the June 3 raid. The first, held between June 9 and 11, paralyzed the country, hitting an already dilapidated economy hard. —AFP

## Iraq detaining thousands in 'degrading' conditions

**BAGHDAD:** Human Rights Watch slammed Iraq's prison authorities yesterday for detaining several thousand men, women and children in overcrowded and "degrading" conditions that amount to ill treatment. The rights group said it had acquired photographs from Tal Keif prison in Nineveh province that suggested it, along with the nearby Faisaliyah and Tasfirat facility, did not fit basic international standards.

One photograph depicted dozens of teenage boys packed into a juvenile detention centre, some in fetal positions. The floor was not visible amid the sea of limbs. Another showed a room full of women and gaunt toddlers, with clothes and plastic houseware goods hung from the walls. "Two years ago, we documented deaths in custody simply because of overcrowding," said HRW Iraq researcher Belkis Wille. "To see these kinds of conditions persist means the prison population is still under threat. It's incredibly frustrating," she told AFP.

According to HRW, Tal Keif, Faisaliyah and Tasfirat were holding about 4,500 people, mostly on terrorism charges, nearly double their combined capacity of 2,500. Nearly a third of detainees had already been convicted and should have been transferred from the three northern prisons to Baghdad, some as long as six months ago. Legal advocates have no access to their clients, partly because the prisons have no space for meetings, according to a leading Iraqi specialist who visited the prisons and provided HRW with the photographs.

Iraq declared victory over the Islamic State group in late 2017 but has continued to carry out arrests of suspected IS members, including in Nineveh province and its capital Mosul, once IS's main Iraqi bastion. The government does not provide figures on detention centers or prisoners, but some studies estimate 20,000 are being held for alleged IS links.

The prison system has long been fiercely criticized for its abysmal conditions, with security forces accused of torturing prisoners to extract confessions. Such abuse could lead to the radicalization of vulnerable prisoners, analysts have warned. "The authorities should ensure that the conditions in Iraq's prisons do not foster more grievances in the future," said HRW's acting regional director Lama Fakih. HRW urged Iraq to improve conditions to meet international standards and guarantee due process for detainees. — AFP

## Emirates to resume Khartoum flights

**DUBAI:** The Middle East's largest carrier, Emirates Airline, said yesterday it has decided to resume flights to Sudan from July 8 after a one-month suspension in the face of deadly unrest. "After closely monitoring the situation in Sudan and conducting an exhaustive review of all operational factors, we have decided to resume our services to Khartoum," Emirates said in a statement. The carrier suspended its services to Sudan in early June along with fellow UAE carriers Etihad and Flydubai.

Emirates will run one daily flight to Sudan, which has witnessed sporadic deadly violence between its ruling generals and a powerful protest movement. Protest leaders held their first talks with the generals on Wednesday since security forces bloodily dispersed a long-running sit-in outside army headquarters on June 3.

More than 100 people were killed in that action, according to doctors close to the umbrella protest movement, the Alliance for Freedom and Change. The health ministry says 78 people were killed nationwide on that day. The resumed talks are focused on the makeup and leadership of a new governing body to replace the current transitional military council. A civilian-led ruling body is the central demand of the protest movement. — AFP



## International

# Gibraltar detains supertanker suspected of carrying oil to Syria

## Tanker suspected of violating EU sanctions against Syria

**MADRID:** A supertanker suspected of carrying crude oil to Syria in violation of EU sanctions was detained in Gibraltar yesterday, the British territory's Chief Minister Fabian Picardo said. Authorities did not say where the oil came from but specialized shipping trade publication Lloyd's List said the Panamanian-flagged tanker was thought to be transporting crude from Iran.

If confirmed, this would come at a sensitive time as the European Union mulls how to respond to Iran announcing it will breach the maximum uranium enrichment level it agreed in a landmark 2015 nuclear deal. The 330 meter Grace 1 vessel was halted in the early hours of yesterday by police and customs agencies in Gibraltar, a small rocky outcrop on Spain's southern tip. They were aided by a detachment of British Royal Marines.

The ship was detained 2.5 miles south of Gibraltar in what it considers British waters, although Spain, which lays claim to the territory, says they are Spanish. It was boarded when it slowed down in a designated area used by shipping agencies to ferry goods to vessels. "We have reason to believe that the 'Grace 1' was carrying its shipment of crude oil to the Banyas Refinery in Syria," Picardo said in a statement. "That refinery is the property of an entity that is subject to European Union sanctions against Syria." "We have detained the vessel and its cargo," Picardo said.

### EU notified

European Union sanctions against war-torn Syria have been in force since late 2011. The 28-member bloc has imposed sanctions on 277 Syrian officials including government ministers over their role in the "violent repression" of civilians. It has frozen the assets of some 72 entities and introduced an embargo on Syrian oil, investment restrictions and a freeze on Syrian central bank assets within the European Union. Picardo said he had "written this morning to the Presidents of the European Commission and Council, setting out the details of the sanctions which we have enforced".

In a statement, Britain's foreign office said "we welcome this firm action by the Gibraltar authorities, acting to enforce the EU Syria Sanctions regime". According to Lloyds List, which analyzed vessel-tracking data, the 1997-built ship is the first tanker laden with Iranian oil to head for Europe since late 2018. It reported that the ship loaded oil off Iran in April and sailed around the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.

The tanker detention comes just days after Iran announced it would exceed the uranium enrichment limit set up as part of the 2015 deal to avoid it building up to the level required for a nuclear warhead. Iran did this in response to Washington abandoning the nuclear deal last year and hitting Iran's crucial oil exports and financial transactions with biting sanctions. —AFP



SPAIN: A picture taken from La Linea de la Concepcion in southern Spain shows supertanker Grace 1 suspected of carrying crude oil to Syria in violation of EU sanctions after it was detained in Gibraltar. —AFP

## Kremlin says details of sub fire 'state secret'

**MOSCOW:** The Kremlin on Wednesday refused to reveal the full story of a fire that killed 14 officers on what was reportedly a nuclear-powered mini-submarine, saying the details of the tragedy were a "state secret." But apparently under pressure from critics, the defense ministry published the names and photographs of the victims who it said had saved "their comrades and the deep-sea submersible" at the cost of their lives.

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said there were survivors of the accident, without specifying numbers. The seamen died on Monday due to smoke inhalation, the defense ministry said, following the fire on a submersible in the Barents Sea in Russia's territorial waters, but the accident was only made public on Tuesday. Two days after the tragedy the defence ministry described the victims as "true patriots" and top professionals, adding they repeatedly took part in expeditions to study the Arctic and plunged to "maximum depths."

Russia has been involved in the battle for the Arctic, staking a claim for the Arctic Ocean and

its riches. The tragedy has echoes of the sinking of the Kursk submarine in 2000, also in the Barents Sea, that claimed 118 lives and shook the first year of Vladimir Putin's presidency. Officials have released little information, saying the crew was studying the sea floor in the interests of the navy. But Russian media reported the ship was a top-secret nuclear-powered mini-submarine.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov explained the secrecy surrounding the tragedy by saying the information was a "state secret." Putin did not go to a military base in the northern city of Severomorsk where the vessel is now, dispatching Shoigu instead. The Kremlin also did not declare a nationwide day of mourning.

### Complicated task

Igor Kurdin, a former commander of a nuclear submarine, said authorities have managed to extract only four bodies from the vessel which was full of water. "It's a complicated task," Kurdin told Echo of Moscow radio. "When and most importantly in what state the rest of the bodies will be taken out is unclear so far." Independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta said the accident took place on an AS-12 nuclear mini-submarine.

Little is known about it and no official photographs of the vessel are available. Conceived in the Soviet era and launched in 2003, the AS-12 is apparently carried by a "mother" submarine and is designated for research and special military operations. —AFP

## Philippine senator draws flak over toddler's death comments

**TRECE MARTIRES, Philippines:** A Philippine senator who initially led President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly drug war sparked outrage yesterday when he dismissed the killing of a toddler in a police anti-narcotics operation with an expletive and as collateral damage. Ex-Philippine police chief Ronald Dela Rosa, who won a senate seat in May, made the comments as police burned 1.4 tons of seized narcotics while warning the nation still faced a flood of illegal drugs.

Authorities said a three-year-old girl was killed Sunday in a sting operation outside Manila. Her father, a drug suspect, as well as an undercover police officer were also shot dead. "Of course you need to secure everything—no collateral damage. But if you infiltrate, it's not really possible," Dela Rosa told a news conference, dismissing allegations by the dead girl's family that the father had been unarmed. "No one wants that to happen, but shit happens. During operations shit happens," Dela Rosa added.

Dela Rosa was police chief in the first 21 months of Duterte's presidency. The crackdown has officially killed over 5,300 alleged users and dealers—a number rights groups say could be three times higher. Campaigners say the drug war killings could amount to crimes against humanity. Although the Philippines has

pulled out of the International Criminal Court, the war crimes body is pushing ahead with a preliminary examination of the crackdown.

Watchdog group Human Rights Watch condemned Dela Rosa's comments. "It is unfortunate that... Dela Rosa, the first chief enforcer of Duterte's 'drug war' that has killed thousands, would display such uncaring, even contemptuous attitude to (the victim) and, by extension, the dozens of other children killed in the brutal campaign," it said. The Commission on Human Rights, an independent government agency, said Friday it will investigate the shooting.

"Minors caught in the crossfire of the government's initiative in combating illegal drugs in the country are simply not collateral damages. They are victims. Their hopes and dreams fall short once bullets enter their bodies, the commission added. Duterte had suspended the drug war twice in the past two years as the government investigated alleged abuses by drug police, but later allowed them to continue without significant reforms.

Three low-level police officers were found guilty last year of the 2017 murder of a Manila teenager who they said they mistook for a drug suspect. Police said they are now targeting higher-level traffickers. "We have shifted to supply reduction because the flood of illegal drugs continues despite our intensified campaign... on the street level," national police spokesman Bernard Banac told reporters as he watched the incineration of about a fifth of the drugs seized since the Duterte crackdown. Cellophane-wrapped bricks of cocaine and methamphetamine were packed into a massive incinerator in Trece Martires City under armed guard in a carefully staged event before TV cameras. —AFP



## International

# Dutch Heineken kidnapper gets life for five gangland murders

## Holleeder denies charges, to appeal against life sentence

**THE HAGUE:** The Netherlands' most notorious gangster was jailed for life yesterday for ordering the "liquidation" of five people including his accomplice in the 1980s kidnapping of a Heineken beer tycoon. Willem Holleeder's "life was determined by greed, lust for power and violence", judges said as they convicted the 61-year-old at a hearing in a secure court in Amsterdam dubbed "De Bunker." Holleeder, nicknamed "The Nose" because of his most prominent facial feature, became a minor celebrity following the abduction of beer heir Freddy Heineken and his driver in 1983.

The burly ganglord appeared on television and was even known as the "huggable criminal" for posing for selfies with fans on Amsterdam's beer terraces. But the public image masked the brutal reality of a gangland enforcer who ruthlessly wiped out anyone who threatened his position as king of the Amsterdam underworld. He was found guilty of ordering five murders and one manslaughter. In scenes reminiscent of Hollywood mob movies the Godfather and Goodfellas, he ordered the murder of Cor van Hout, his former friend and partner in crime in the Heineken abduction.

Van Hout was the father of the children of Holleeder's sister Sonja but was nevertheless gunned down outside an Amsterdam restaurant in 2003, after two earlier attempts on his life. Holleeder—who has been detained since 2014 — was also convicted of ordering the murders of so-called "banker for the mob" Willem Endstra in Amsterdam in 2004, gangster John Mieremet in Thailand in 2005, building contractor Kees Houtman, also in 2005, and associate Thomas van der Bijl in 2006.

### Unscrupulous

At the court, from which the public was banned due to security fears, judges said Holleeder "had an unscrupulous and indifferent attitude to life and death." "His violence has led to close relatives only having the courage to testify when they, too, saw no other way out," they added. "The court comes to the conclusion that there is a great risk of repeated violent criminal offences and that a life sentence is therefore appropriate." Holleeder continues to deny the charges and will appeal against the life sentence, his lawyers said. In a handwritten note tweeted by



**AMSTERDAM:** Chairman Frank Wieland of the court sits in the highly secured Bunker prior to the decision in the criminal case against Willem Holleeder in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. — AFP

his defense counsel, Holleeder spoke of an "unprecedented media campaign" against him, adding: "I can see only that I have been right all the time." Holleeder is further accused of ordering "hits" on his two sisters Sonja and Astrid after they testified against him. They were foiled after a fellow prisoner told police. "He doesn't tolerate being crossed," Astrid,

who wore a wire to record her brother's confessions and now lives in hiding, told Dutch newspaper NRC in 2016.

Astrid wrote a best-selling book called "Judas" about her brother, describing what she said were his rages and increasingly brutal and controlling behavior. The Heineken kidnapping is one of the country's best-known crime sagas and was turned into a movie starring Anthony Hopkins. Freddy Heineken and his driver were released after three weeks in captivity following the payment of a ransom of 35 million Dutch guilders was paid. Most of the money was never recovered.

Holleeder—whose alcoholic father worked for the Heineken brewery in Amsterdam—fled to France with van Hout but the pair were eventually arrested. They were sentenced to 11 years in 1987 for the abduction and released five years later, after which they reportedly used the missing money from the Heineken job to build a criminal empire based on drugs and the Amsterdam sex trade. Holleeder spent a further five years in jail for extortion from 2007 but emerged even more famous. — AFP

## Wave of shootings in Sweden as gangs settle scores

**STOCKHOLM:** Honor, debts, and prestige are serving as the pretext for an increasing number of deadly shootings that challenge the ideals of equality and social harmony on which modern Sweden was built. "You strengthen your own gang by eliminating an external threat and you gain prestige," Eddy Paver, a reformed former member of a biker gang, told AFP. Paver was long willing to pay the ultimate price in order to "belong" to a criminal gang which required absolute loyalty from its members.

"It's about strengthening the sense of community and showing who's the toughest," the 47-year-old former convict explained. Last year more than 300 shootings resulted in 45 deaths and 135 injuries in Sweden. While the overall homicide rate remains one of the lowest in the world, with one per 100,000 inhabitants according to police statistics, deadly shootings have been steadily rising and last year reached record levels.

This year is on track to create another unwanted record. In Stockholm the first six months of the year have seen as many killings as the whole of 2018. Most of the shooters and victims are unemployed young men with immigrant backgrounds, under 30 years of age, living in disadvantaged neighborhoods and often without a high school diploma. "If you don't feel like you belong anywhere, you're struggling with the language (Swedish), and you see these guys who sell drugs, they have gold chains, they drive fancy cars, they get to sleep with the girls. It's not hard to find your way there," said Paver.

### Honor, narcotics

Like in other European cities, you find many of Sweden's struggling housing projects at the end of metro lines. Other designated "vulnerable areas," with elevated levels of violence are found in inner cities, as in Malmo in the south. Buildings are generally in good condition, schools properly equipped and streets clean, but social issues, unemployment and a high proportion of foreign-born inhabitants lead

to segregation, school drop-outs and drug trafficking. "Some shootings are connected to the trade of narcotics, internal conflicts or when someone has been cheated out of money... But many times it can be about honor. You can get screwed over by someone in the same gang, fights over cliques or girlfriends. The level justifying a retaliation is quite low," Gunnar Appelgren, police commissioner in Stockholm, told AFP.

"Gangs have no institutional recourse to resolve conflicts... The motive for settling a score is not always important. It's about saving face," said Torbjorn Forkby, a Professor of Social Sciences at Linnaeus University. The most badly affected areas are the capital Stockholm, and Malmo and Gothenburg, but violence has also started to spread to medium-sized cities.

The weapon of choice for gangs are Kalashnikov automatic rifles. Imported from the Balkans, they are available for between 2,500 and 3,500 euros (around \$2,800 to \$3,950), although they become "more expensive in the event of an open conflict," according to Appelgren. Sweden's gang members have also been using grenades and explosives to settle their scores. On June 7 a bomb placed in a bicycle shed destroyed the facades of two residential buildings, causing damages to over 200 apartments in the city of Linköping, a two-hour drive south of Stockholm. Miraculously it caused no serious injuries.

Some efforts by authorities have helped reduce local tensions. The city of Malmo has adopted the Group Violence Intervention (GVI) program, implemented in Boston in the 1990s though its impact is still uncertain.

The right-wing and far-right opposition have been critical of Social Democratic Prime Minister Stefan Lofven's "laxity" in responding to the shootings. They have been calling in particular for the abolition of a prison penalty "discount" when it comes to the incarceration of people under 21 years of age. "This violence is tearing apart society as we know it and the country we want Sweden to be," conservative MP Johan Forssell said during a recent debate on gangs in parliament.

The government for its part has said that a repressive response is not enough and has called for a joint mobilization of civil society and law enforcement. "The shootings and gang crime can only be uprooted if police efforts are combined with a strong social sector and a good school," PM Lofven told the parliament last month. Eddy Paver, who now works at a drug rehab centre, also believes that a mere judicial response would be insufficient. — AFP

## 27 dead as boat sinks off Honduras

**TEGUCIGALPA:** At least 27 people died and nine were missing Wednesday when their fishing boat sank off the Caribbean coast of Honduras, the country's military said. Armed forces spokesman Jose Meza said that 55 people survived when the vessel sank off the remote coastal Mosquitia region. Ninety-one people were aboard the boat, the 70-tonne "Wallie," when it set sail from Cabo Gracias a Dios on the country's easternmost point bordering Nicaragua after a seasonal ban on lobster fishing was lifted.

The boat sank near Cayo Gorda, a tiny island just northeast of their point of departure. The cause of the disaster was not immediately clear. Meza added that the bodies and the survivors would be taken to Puerto Lempira, the main city in eastern Honduras. Hours before the "Wallie" sank, an overloaded fishing boat in the same area went under. Meza said that 49 people were rescued from that boat, the "Miss Francely," which had a capacity to carry 31 people.

The head of the Honduran Merchant Marine, Juan Carlos Rivera, told HCH television that reports from the remote region were incomplete, but that experts will begin to look into what happened to prevent such deadly accidents from taking place again. Rivera said that authorities have suspended navigation permits for up to three years for boats whose owners bring on too many fishermen. The captain of the vessel sent out the SOS just before dying, local media reported. — AFP



# Putin meets pope, 'welcoming' populist govt during Italy trip

## Putin to discuss Russia-EU relations, situation in Ukraine

**ROME:** Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Rome yesterday for a lightning visit including talks with the pope and Italy's populist government, which has called for an easing of sanctions despite Moscow's ongoing crisis with the West. Rome's historic centre is on security lockdown for the visit with 50 streets blocked to traffic and Italian media reporting that mobile phone signals could be scrambled. Putin landed around an hour late at Fiumicino airport and his convoy drove into Rome and the Vatican City where he met the pope for closed-door talks.

Putin has arrived late for all three of their encounters, the last of which was in 2015 when the pope urged all parties to the conflict in Ukraine to make a "sincere effort" for peace. Yesterday's meeting comes a day before the pope receives leaders of Ukraine's Greek Catholic Church. Pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine are mostly Russian Orthodox, while those they fight are Orthodox and Greek Catholic.

### Improved ties

Francis first met Putin in 2013, as the Roman Catholic Church sought to improve ties with the Russian Orthodox Church. Only in 2009 did the Vatican and Moscow re-establish full diplomatic ties which were severed during Soviet times. Relations have improved since the coming to power in the same year of Patriarch Kirill, who headed up

the Russian Orthodox Church's diplomatic arm for years. The Russian Orthodox Church has frequently accused the Catholic Church of proselytizing in Russia, an Orthodox Christian country of 144 million.

The pope in 2016 held a historic meeting with Kirill in Cuba, the first encounter between the heads of the two largest Christian churches since Christianity split into Western and Eastern branches in the 11th Century—an event known as "The Great Schism." Kremlin advisor Yuri Ushakov said on Wednesday that "for the time being a possible invitation for the pope to visit Russia is not on the agenda." The pope and Putin were to discuss matters including "preserving Christian holy sites in Syria", the Kremlin said.

After meeting the pope, Putin will hold talks with Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and President Sergio Mattarella. Putin is being driven around in his six-meter-long armored limo by a chauffeur who has been practicing negotiating his way around the Eternal City's narrow streets. His talks with Italian leaders should be easier. Far-right Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini has often expressed admiration for Putin, and his coalition government advocates reviewing EU sanctions against Russia.

On the eve of the visit, Putin praised Salvini and his Lega party for having a "welcoming attitude" to Russia. "They are pushing for a rapid abolition



**VATICAN CITY:** This photo shows Pope Francis meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, during a private audience at the Vatican. — AFP

of the anti-Russian sanctions introduced by the US and the EU," Putin said in an interview with Corriere della Sera. The US and EU have progressively imposed sanctions on Russia since its annexation of Crimea in 2014 and Moscow's involvement in the conflict in eastern Ukraine, including the shooting down of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17.

Salvini has previously visited Moscow and been pictured in pro-Putin T-shirts. When his party won most Italian votes in May's European elections, Salvini posted a photo of himself with a picture of Putin in the background. "Men like him (Putin) who act in the interest of their own citizens, there should be dozens in this country", Salvini said last year. —AFP

## China and Britain wage war of words over Hong Kong

**LONDON:** London summoned Beijing's ambassador for a dressing down Wednesday in a rapidly escalating diplomatic feud over protests in Hong Kong as China told Britain to keep its "hands off" the city and "show respect". The demonstrations sweeping the former British colony have also revived tensions inherent in the two sides' historic agreement on the global financial hub's handover to Chinese rule 22 years ago.

Hong Kong enjoys broad freedoms and rights not seen in mainland China under a doctrine known as "one country, two systems". But fears and frustrations over Beijing's gradual tightening of those liberties has spilled over into mass demonstrations against a now-stalled draft law on extradition from Hong Kong to China. On Monday, groups of mostly young, hardline protesters stormed and ransacked Hong Kong's legislature, daubing it with graffiti such as "HK is not China". British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt—one of two candidates to become Britain's next prime minister—on Wednesday took the global lead in condemning China's handling of its "special administrative region". Hunt called on Beijing not to use the protests as a "pretext for repressions" and warned of "serious consequences" if China breaches the commitments it made to London decades ago under the terms of the handover.

His comments provoked a cascade of condemnations from China that began with its foreign ministry in Beijing and continued with its embassy in London. "He seems to be fantasizing in the faded glory of British colonialism and in the bad habit of gesticulating while looking down on other countries' affairs," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular briefing in Beijing. "I need to re-emphasize that Hong Kong has now returned to its motherland."

### Colonial mindset

The diplomatic offensive raged on in London, where Chinese ambassador Liu Xiaoming hastily convened a press conference. "I tell them: hands off Hong Kong and show respect," Liu said, according to the state-owned CGTN news site. "This colonial mindset is still haunting the minds of some officials or politicians." He spoke moments before being summoned by the Foreign Office for a private meeting with UK diplomatic service chief Simon McDonald.

Liu was informed "that the comments made on UK policy towards Hong Kong by the Chinese ministry of foreign affairs spokesperson were unacceptable and inaccurate," a UK Foreign Office spokesman told AFP. The sides' relations are turning into a hot-button issue in London because of Britain's impending exit from the European Union and the imminent adoption of 5G technology. Brexit is forcing Britain to seek closer trade relations with the United States and the booming economies of Asia. And China's controversy-hit Huawei telecoms giant has assumed the global lead in rolling out the next-generation mobile network that should serve as a gateway to the "internet of things". Britain has been under pressure from the United States to drop Huawei from its plans over national security concerns—and from China about the consequences to trade if it does.

### Best possible understanding

Hunt appeared to try to both soften his earlier comments and reassert his leadership credentials in a television interview broadcast late on Wednesday. "I've been very reasonable with the Chinese. I'm someone who believes we should be the best of friends with China. I want us to trade with China," Hunt told Channel 4 News. "I want us to have the best possible understanding between two of the great countries in the world." Hunt has been playing up his diplomatic and business credentials in the two-man race with former London mayor Boris Johnson to succeed Prime Minister Theresa May at the end of the month. He has portrayed himself as an experienced one-time entrepreneur who knows how to reach agreements on prickly issues while securing Britain's interests abroad. Johnson told a campaign event on Wednesday that he backs the Hong Kong protesters "every inch of the way". —AFP

## Pakistan PM to meet Trump in US

**ISLAMABAD:** Prime Minister Imran Khan will travel to Washington to meet US President Donald Trump on July 22, the Pakistani foreign ministry said yesterday, a rare visit between leaders of the sometimes prickly allies. The visit—Khan's first to the US since coming to power last year—came at Trump's invitation, a Pakistani foreign office spokesman said at a weekly briefing, adding: "The focus will be to refresh the bilateral relationship". He gave no further details.

The announcement comes as the US is seeking Pakistan's help in finding a way out of neighboring Afghanistan, where American forces are now in their 18th year of war. Ostensibly allies, the US and Pakistan relationship has always been bumpy, and Trump has angered Pakistani officials in the past with his aggressive language. The White House believes that the shadowy Pakistani military establishment has long helped fund and arm the Taliban, both for ideological reasons and to counter rising Indian influence in Afghanistan.

Pakistan denies the claims and says it has paid the price for its alliance with the US in the so-called "war on terror", with thousands of its citizens killed in its long struggle with militancy. Pakistan has given Washington "nothing but lies & deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools," Trump wrote on Twitter at the start of 2018. "They give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan, with little help. No more!" But Trump is also eager to end the war in Afghanistan, and Washington has long seen Pakistan as key to that outcome. —AFP



## International

Friday, July 5, 2019

# Trump, producer-president, makes July 4th his own show

## Trump promises show of a lifetime, seeks re-election

WASHINGTON: Tanks in the heart of Washington, fighter jets screaming overhead, and a speech from the Lincoln Memorial: President Donald Trump promised the “show of a lifetime” yesterday as he turns the Fourth of July into a personal primetime extravaganza. The commander-in-chief and erstwhile Manhattan showman plans to tear up another norm, critics say, by hijacking traditionally non-partisan Independence Day as he seeks re-election.

“Our July 4th Salute to America at the Lincoln Memorial is looking to be really big. It will be the show of a lifetime!” Trump tweeted Wednesday. “We have the greatest economy anywhere in the world. We have the greatest military anywhere in the world. Not bad!” he added. Vice President Mike Pence also chimed in via Twitter. “The #SaluteToAmerica at Lincoln Memorial tomorrow [Thursday] night will be a great show and an amazing display of our country’s wonderful military!” he wrote.

Usually, said Rich Hanley, a media and popular culture expert at Quinnipiac University, July 4 works as a kind of national ceasefire. “It’s a day when people can set aside their polarized differences ... and raise the flag without entering into political discussions,” he said. “Then on the 5th they go back to normal.” But this year, the familiar script is being given a rewrite. At around 6:30 pm, Trump will take to the hallowed steps of the Lincoln Memorial for an unprecedented “Salute to America” event that will include a televised address, military hardware and a giant fireworks display. The nation’s top military brass will have

a front row seat. The modified Boeing 747 used as Air Force One will fly over, as will noisy, powerful warplanes expected to include F-35s, and jets from the Navy’s Blue Angels air show team.

A handful of tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles are stationed near the Lincoln Memorial, although the enormous M1 Abrams tanks are not expected to roll, as their tracks would likely tear up city streets. Vice President Mike Pence tweeted that it will be “a great show and an amazing display of our country’s wonderful military!” The center of attention, however, will not be the weapons. Or the nearly million dollars’ worth of fireworks that are in the works, a donation from two big manufacturers. Rather, it will be Trump. “Your favorite President, me!” he tweeted when announcing the show.

### Non-partisan no more

July 4 is a unique holiday in that it is hyper-patriotic but free from usual Republican-Democratic fighting and it is far more civic than military in nature. Inserting such a high-profile presidential address into the festivities risks changing that, given that the polarizing Trump is supported by just over 40 percent of the country ahead of his 2020 reelection bid and fervently opposed by much of the remaining electorate.

Trump’s “ego is so large that he’s holding this Fourth of July campaign rally in a desperate cry for attention, and everyone knows it,” Senator Chuck Schumer wrote on Twitter. Counter-protesters plan to bring their own kind of political fireworks to the National Mall, the grassy park



WASHINGTON: Members of the US Army finish parking an M1 Abrams tank in front of the Lincoln Memorial ahead of the Fourth of July ‘Salute to America’ celebration in Washington, DC. — AFP

running two miles from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol. Leftist organization Code Pink is deploying its “Baby Trump” blimp, a large inflated doll depicting the president in diapers.

But the National Park Service denied permission to fill the inflatable with helium, so the depiction of a cranky, infantile Trump will stay on the ground. On Wednesday, one Code Pink activist held a sign near an armored vehicle that

read “Tanks But No Tanks,” and #Boycott-Trusts4thOfJuly was trending on Twitter in the US. Many are up in arms about what all this is going to cost. The White House has refused to say so far. “Instead of addressing something like veteran homelessness, he’s spending it on boosting his ego with a parade that’s fundamentally about him,” said Democratic presidential hopeful Julian Castro. “What a waste of money.” —AFP

## Teachers occupy Rio squares offering free classes

RIO DE JANEIRO: A firm believer in the idea of “better late than never,” 86-year-old Edna Pinheiro practices reading with a tutor in a Rio de Janeiro square—one of hundreds taking advantage of free outdoor classes. “I’m going to study while I can because little by little, we lose our sight and we turn into old ladies who can’t read or do anything,” says Pinheiro, who could barely read or write before joining the Adopt a Student project.

The brainchild of engineer Silverio Moron, Adopt a Student has helped nearly 300 people of all ages to brush up their skills in subjects including math, physics, English and Brazil’s official language Portuguese since its launch last year. A former tutor for private school students, the 64-year-old Moron says he wanted to share his knowledge with those who could not afford to pay for classes.

So he placed a sign on a cement table in a public square that said: “I answer questions on math and physics.” Moron had to wait several days before he got his first student, but soon dozens were showing up looking for help. A team of volunteer teachers now tutors groups of no more than three people at a time in several neighborhoods. “I know that we are still a drop in the ocean,” Moron tells AFP. “That drop in the ocean may one day become a tsunami of education.”

### Getting results

There is a huge need. Brazil’s woeful school system is blamed in part for the country’s high rates of violence and unemployment. More than 11 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate, according to the national statistics agency. The World Bank estimates it would take Brazilian 15-year-olds 75 years to reach the OECD average score in math, and more than 260 years in reading. Moron’s tutorials are making a difference.

When left-handed student Camila Ribeiro, 11, broke her left arm, her grades plummeted, her mother Marta tells AFP. After a month of tutoring in Portuguese and math, though, her daughter has “improved a lot,” she says. For Maria do Jesus Rangel, 77, the tutorials were a chance to get the education she was denied as a child. “In my era, parents didn’t send their kids to school,” says Jesus as she finishes up one of her three weekly literacy classes.

“It was very difficult for those working in the countryside. The mentality was that a woman should look after the home and the men work the land. ‘I have two children who have graduated (from university). Now, it’s my turn,’ she adds proudly. Moron is reluctant to discuss the politics of education and the recent wave of protests involving students and teachers angry over the education funding cuts planned by President Jair Bolsonaro’s government.

“The aim of the project has nothing to do with the government, nor with the one before it,” Moron says. It is not about “questioning” public power but “helping” it, he says, though he acknowledges teachers in the public system should earn higher salaries. Moron hopes that Adopt a Student will spread to public squares across the city. “For that, we need the support of residents in each neighborhood, for them to come out of their homes into the squares to share their knowledge,” he says. — AFP

## Mexican police protest president’s National Guard plan

MEXICO CITY: Hundreds of federal police blocked roads and protested in Mexico City Wednesday against President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador’s plan to merge them into his new National Guard. The leftist leader is launching the new security force in a bid to fight violent crime fueled by drug trafficking and also curb chronic corruption in the police. But officers accused the government of planning to cut their pay, and said the president was violating the constitution by putting them under military command.

A huge crowd of angry police gathered outside the capital city’s command center in a pre-dawn protest that lasted well into the day. At one point, officers blocked two key roads and briefly seized a toll plaza at the edge of the city. They vowed to continue the protest Thursday with a nationwide strike. Lopez Obrador wrote on Twitter that the police are engaging in “mutiny,” but it is not justified because “no police officer is being fired.”

He said that the unease is because some federal police will be unable to join the National Guard since “they do not have acceptable behavior” or have health problems, although he said that they will be given other jobs. At a news conference, Security Minister Alfonso Durazo assured the police that “absolutely none of your rights will be violated,” and that pay, benefits, seniority and rank would be respected under the National Guard. None of this convinced the protesters. — AFP



## International

# Fears of evictions as Bangladesh gives rivers legal rights

## Rights to protect rivers from pollution, encroachments

**BANGKOK:** A ruling by Bangladesh's top court granting rivers the same legal rights as people could hurt the poor fishing and farming communities that depend on them, human rights activists said. The Supreme Court declared this week that all Bangladesh's rivers had the legal status of living entities, a move aimed at protecting them from growing pollution, encroachments and illegal dredging.

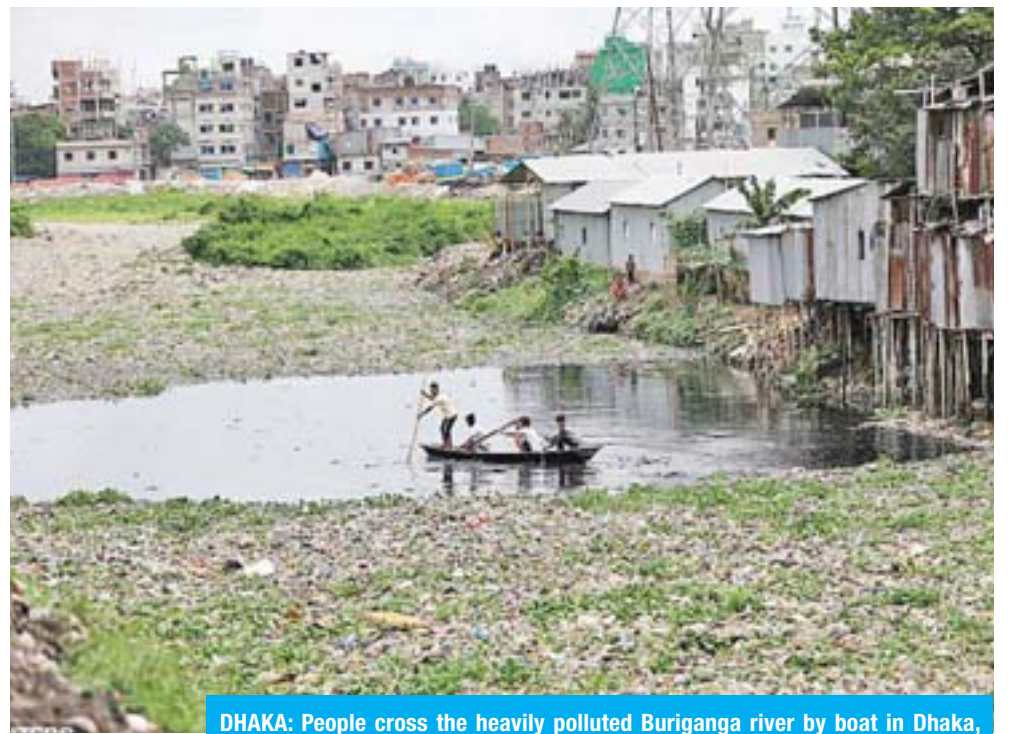
"Water is likely to be the most pressing environmental concern of the next century," the court said in its order, calling for rivers to be protected "at all costs". The ruling followed a 2016 petition and came after similar moves from countries including New Zealand, India and Colombia, and the U.S. state of Ohio to give legal rights to rivers and lakes. Himanshu Thakkar, coordinator of the advocacy group South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People, said such rulings may make riverside communities more vulnerable to eviction.

"Countries are jumping onto the bandwagon without setting up proper frameworks to check pollution and improve conservation," he said yesterday. "The New Zealand ruling recognised communities as stakeholders, and that is key. Otherwise, fishermen and farmers who have traditionally lived by rivers, but do not have legal rights to do so, may be more vulnerable to eviction."

Three Himalayan rivers converge in Bangladesh to form the world's largest delta and nearly 80% of the densely populated country of 165 million people is floodplain.

Millions live on or alongside rivers, relying on them for fishing and farming. Authorities have already started evicting informal settlements along river banks in the capital Dhaka, human rights groups said. The government estimates more than 2.2 million people live in slums and informal settlements, although land rights groups say the number is far higher. "The government must take stock of poor communities who need resettlement, or protection from industries and real estate developers," said Mohammad Abdul Matin, general secretary of human rights group Bangladesh Poribesh Andolan.

"If enacted well, the verdict will be helpful in returning the rivers to the people who have historically depended on them." The court appointed Bangladesh's National River Conservation Commission (NRCC), a government agency, as the legal guardian of rivers. Chairman Muzibur Rahman Howlader said the NRCC was framing policies that would take local communities into account. "Protecting the rivers also means protecting the entire eco-system, which includes fishermen and farmers who live on the banks. Their rights will also be protected," he said. — Reuters



**DHAKA:** People cross the heavily polluted Buriganga river by boat in Dhaka, Bangladesh. —Reuters

## At least 4 dead, 21 missing after Pakistan boat capsizes

**PESHAWAR:** At least four people have been killed and 21 still missing after a boat capsized in northwest Pakistan, officials said yesterday, with a rescue operation continuing as hopes for finding survivors fade. The boat was carrying passengers along the Indus River from Shangla to Haripur district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Wednesday when it overturned.

"There were 38 people on the boat when the incident occurred and 13 people saved their lives by swimming to the shore," local police official Zahid Ullah told AFP. "We have retrieved four dead bodies from the river including two women and children," he said. "The flow of the water is very fast the river is very deep which has dimmed the chances of survival, however we will continue the rescue operation till the last individual is found," he added.

Senior police official Mohammad Ali Babakhel said the accident took place in a remote location with little communication, meaning officials did not learn of it until well after it happened. "People only came to know about the incident when a second boat carrying passengers passed through the area," he told AFP. "The rescue operation is still going on but there are little chances of survival," he said. Babakhel said the locals in the northern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa use boats for travelling because the roads in the area are unpaved and it saves them time. —AFP



**HARIPUR:** In this picture a Pakistani rescue worker carries the body of a child after a boat capsized in the Indus River in the Haripur district. — AFP

## India recovers 13 bodies after dam breach

**MUMBAI:** Thirteen bodies have been recovered in western India after the heaviest monsoon rains in a decade breached a dam and caused mayhem in Mumbai, authorities said yesterday. Eleven people were still missing after the dam in Ratnagiri, around 275 kilometers south of Mumbai, burst on Wednesday and swamped seven local villages, rescuers said. "We have commenced rescue operations for the second day and recovered 13 dead bodies. We are still trying to find remaining victims," National Disaster Response Force spokesman Alok Awasthy told AFP.

In Mumbai, the death toll from a wall collapse in a slum on Tuesday rose to 26 as the city braced for 200 millimeters of fresh rain forecast in the coming days. Six laborers also died in the nearby city of Pune when another wall collapsed on Tuesday. Building collapses and dam breaches are common during the monsoon in India due to dilapidated structures that buckle under the weight of continuous rain.

Torrential downpours in Mumbai—a city of 20 million—earlier this week caused traffic misery as floods swamped roads and railways and forced the closure of the airport's main runway, which remained off limits yesterday. India's second-busiest airport cancelled 75 flights on Wednesday and more than 100 on Tuesday, causing chaos for passengers. —AFP



## International

# Australian student detained in North Korea 'released, safe'

## Australian PM thanks Sweden for helping secure Sigley's release

**BEIJING:** A 29-year-old Australian student detained in North Korea surfaced in Beijing yesterday, saying he felt "great" after being released. Alek Sigley—one of a handful of Westerners living and studying in North Korea—disappeared without a trace around June 23, prompting a week of deep concern and frantic speculation about his fate. For days Sigley's family received no word about his whereabouts or wellbeing, stoking fears he may have been the latest in a long line of foreigners to become entangled in North Korea's police state.

"I'm ok, I'm ok, yeah, yeah, I'm good. I'm very good," Sigley said at Beijing's international airport. Asked how he felt, he responded: "Great." He went to the Australian embassy and was later seen again at the airport, where he smiled again and waved at reporters. He was expected to travel to Japan, where his wife still lives. Earlier, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison told lawmakers that Sigley had "been released from detention in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" and that "he is safe and well". Sigley's father Gary, a professor of Chinese and Asian studies, told media in Australia that the family was "extremely pleased he is safe and sound". The father admitted he had missed a call from his son because he had been busy "shopping", but hoped to give him a "big hug and kiss" soon.

### Demystify North Korea

Sigley's detention came just days before a G20 summit and a landmark meeting between

President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump was intimately involved in the case of University of Virginia student Otto Warmbier, who was imprisoned during a tour of the authoritarian state in 2016. Doctors said Warmbier suffered severe brain damage while in detention, fell into a coma and died days after arriving back in the United States, aged 22.

Sigley was much more familiar with the country and spoke fluent Korean. He ran tours to North Korea and a number of social media sites, which usually had a stream of apolitical content about life in one of the world's most secretive nations. His blog posts focused on everyday Pyongyang—everything from the city's dining scene to North Korean app reviews. "He is always trying to demystify North Korea, unlike the typical Western media. He tries to understand the people there," his 26-year-old Japanese wife, Yuka Morinaga, had said.

The pair married in a lavish ceremony in Pyongyang last year. The case was complicated by Australia's lack of diplomatic representation in North Korea. Morrison thanked Sweden for its help in securing Sigley's release. Earlier this week Swedish special envoy Kent Harstedt travelled to Pyongyang, where he raised the issue with North Korean authorities. "I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Swedish authorities for their invaluable assistance in securing Alek's prompt release," Morrison said, hailing it as a triumph of "behind the scenes" diplomacy. —AFP



**BEIJING:** Alek Sigley, an Australian student who was detained in North Korea, waves while holding his passport and flight ticket as he walks for his departure at the Beijing International airport. —AFP

## India's log-jammed courts hitting economy hard

**NEW DELHI:** India's grid-locked courts are a major hurdle to doing business and faster growth in Asia's third-largest economy, a government report said on Thursday, calling for the hiring of thousands of new judges to clear a huge backlog of cases in just five years. India's judicial system was not only saddled with over 35 million pending cases, of which around 87 percent were stuck at the district level or below, but also suffered from delays with clearing new cases, the government's economic survey, presented to parliament yesterday, said.

This was partly due to a lack of judges, leaving the country's Case Clearance Rate (CCR), the ratio of number of cases completed to those filed in a year, at 88.7 percent in 2018. But there are nationwide variations, with states like Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Tamil Nadu with nearly 100 percent CCR, while some in the east, including Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal, are significantly less efficient. Case clearance rates in those states range from 55 percent to 78 percent.

"A 100 percent clearance rate in the district and subordinate courts can be achieved by recruiting about 2,200 odd judges, which is well within sanctioned capacity," the finance ministry's chief economic adviser, Krishnamurthy Subramanian, the report's main author, told reporters. Many court systems in the United States and Europe had clearance rates of around 100 percent, the report said. Overall, Indian courts would need a little over 8,500 judges across all levels to reach a 100 percent clearance rate and resolve all existing backlog in five years, the report calculated.

There was also a need to improve productivity, Subramanian said, which could be achieved through improved technology and administration and reworking court vacations. "The main point of this analysis is that a major hurdle to economic growth and social well-being can be stabilized through a relatively small investment in the legal system," the report said. Prashant Reddy, a senior resident fellow focusing on judicial reforms at think-tank Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, said much more needed to be done.

"There are also a lot of systemic issues on the administrative side... Right now, there are only about 18,000 court rooms available in India," he said. "If you recruit 8,000 judges, where are you going to seat them?" Courts have also struggled to find good candidates for the bench, especially in the lower judiciary, he said. — Reuters

## N Zealand slams Google over murder case gaffe

**WELLINGTON:** Google was accused of "giving the middle finger" by New Zealand's Justice Minister yesterday, after the US tech giant refused to tighten publication standards after breaching court suppression orders in a high-profile murder case. A Google news email that went out to the general public named the accused killer of Briton Grace Millane in December, despite a court order suppressing his identity while he was on trial.

The tech firm initially appeared contrite, holding meetings with Justice Minister Andrew Little and assuring Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern earlier this year that the issue was being looked at. Little said a follow-up inquiry in March yielded no results, before he finally received a one-paragraph email from Google this week indicating the company saw no need to change its policy as the case had been "extensively reported by overseas media".

A furious Little described the response, which included a link to Google's legal support page, as "contemptible" and "extraordinarily disrespectful". "It's giving the middle finger to New Zealand justice and the family of Grace Millane," he told AFP. Little said suppression orders were put in place to ensure the court system gave the accused a fair trial and Google's actions potentially undermined that right. "I can't let that happen," he said.

"If Google aren't going to change then I have to find a way to put pressure on them through the legal system or through international agreements." He said he would raise the issue at meetings with his international counterparts in coming months. Millane, 22, was killed in December last year shortly after arriving in Auckland on holiday in a crime that shocked New Zealand. A 27-year-old man has pleaded not guilty to her murder.

The row is the second time the New Zealand government has taken social media giants to task in recent months. Ardern led global efforts to force them to curb hate speech in the wake of the Christchurch mosques massacre in March, when a gunman killed 51 Muslim worshippers as they gathered for Friday prayers. Little said Google had shown a willingness to take responsible action in the wake of the attack and he hoped it would do so again in the Millane case. —AFP



## International

# Victims, perpetrators: Rehabilitating Indonesia's child bombers

## Indonesia grapples with growing threat of family attacks

**JAKARTA:** Thrown off a motorbike as her parents blew themselves up, nine-year-old Mila was the sole survivor of a family suicide bombing, part of a wave of such attacks involving children that rocked Indonesia. Orphaned and radicalized, there were concerns for her future after the Islamic State-inspired strike, but a renewed focus on rehabilitating the children of terror suspects may offer Mila, and others like her, a chance at normality.

She is among a small group who are being treated at a Jakarta safe house in a unique scheme that provides psychological and social care to the offspring of suicide bombers or children directly involved in terror plots. The world's biggest Muslim majority nation is grappling with the growing global threat of 'family attacks' and also with how to reintegrate returning IS jihadists and their relatives as the extremist group's caliphate lies in ruins, a challenge faced by many nations including France and the United States.

"It hasn't been easy dealing with (the children) because they believed in radicalism...and that bombing was a good thing," said safe-house head Neneng Heryani, who gave AFP exclusive access to the state-run compound on the edge of Indonesia's capital. "They were taught that jihad was essential to go to heaven and that you must kill non-believers. It was very hard to change that mindset," she added. Social workers and psychologists are trying to re-socialize the

children with counseling and an emphasis on normal daily routines which include lessons, mosque visits, and regular playtime.

### 'Indefensible and deplorable'

For Mila—a name given by AFP to protect her identity—this treatment means helping her find a way to cope with her parents' suicide bombing and living with the knowledge they involved her in mass murder, and intended for her to die. Other children of terror suspects, including those linked to the deadly suicide bombings in Surabaya last year, are also undergoing this dedicated treatment. "Deploying children in such a way is indefensible and deplorable," Human Rights Watch campaigner Andreas Harsono said, adding that the 2018 incidents were the first time suicide bombers used their own kids in attacks in Indonesia.

The youngsters that survived had been subjected to years of jihadi indoctrination by their families and often shown violent propaganda, counselors say. Gaining their trust has not been easy but staff at the safe house believe their approach could help neutralize the years of radicalization. At the heart of the rehabilitation effort are lessons about Indonesia's national heroes, building trust and Pancasila, the nation's ideology which stresses unity and respect for ethnic and religious minorities in a country of some 260 million spread across thousands of islands.

"We still teach them that the Koran is the



**SURABAYA:** This file handout photo shows firefighters trying to extinguish a fire after a blast outside the Gereja Pantekosta Pusat Surabaya in Surabaya. — AFP

foundation for everything and that they have to believe in it. But if you violate other people's rights, then that's not okay" said social worker Sri Musfiah Handayani. Trying to help rehabilitate the children of suicide bombers is largely uncharted territory. "This is the first time that we know of. It's not a common phenomenon," said Sidney Jones, director of Jakarta-based In-

stitute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC). While children are easy prey for extremists, "that vulnerability can also provide a starting point for treatment", said Haula Noor, an expert in radicalized families at Australian National University (ANU). "We should view these children as both victims as well as potential perpetrators" she added. — AFP

## Malaysian children in practice run for Muslim hajj

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Thousands of Malaysian children took part in a practice run yesterday of the Muslim hajj pilgrimage, marching around a model of the holy Kaaba, Islam's most sacred site. Dressed in white robes, the youngsters circled the black cuboid in the compound of a convention centre just outside Kuala Lumpur. The Kaaba sits inside the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and Muslims around the world turn towards it to pray. Part of the hajj involves walking around the Kaaba.

"We are learning how to do the hajj," six-year-old Aqra Izz told AFP, as nearly 6,000 boys and girls took a break after marching under the tropical sun. "I want to do this when I get older... like my mother and father." The hajj pilgrimage is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims must perform the hajj at least once in their lives, if able, and it marks the spiritual peak of their lives. Millions of devotees from around the world travel to Saudi Arabia annually for the pilgrimage.

For Thursday's event, called the "Little Hajj", buses dropped off the children at the compound as loudspeakers played Muslim-themed songs and prayer chants in Arabic. Guided by female teachers, the children also took part in a practice of a ritual known as "The Stoning of the Devil", picking up mock stones before throwing them at makeshift pillars. — AFP

## Jakarta residents sue Indonesia govt over air pollution

**JAKARTA:** Residents of Indonesia's capital yesterday filed a lawsuit against the government over the toxic levels of air pollution that regularly blanket the city. Jakarta has been shrouded in hazardous smog for much of the past month, with air quality readings recording high concentrations of harmful microscopic particles known as PM2.5. Fed up with what they say is worsening air pollution, a group of 31 concerned residents has sued President Joko Widodo, as well as the ministry of environment and forestry, ministry of health, and Jakarta's governor.

The plaintiffs—which include activists, office workers and motorcycle taxi drivers—want to raise awareness about the issue and force the government to act. "(The government) has neglected people's rights to breathe healthy air," lawyer Nelson Nikodemus Simamora told reporters after filing the lawsuit. "They have not maintained air quality at a level that is healthy enough for the 10 million people living here."

Toxic smog saw Jakarta ranked as the most polluted city in the world for several mornings running last month, forcing residents to wear pollution masks and sparking a storm of social media criticism. Air Visual, an independent online air quality index (AQI) monitor, pegged Jakarta at the "very unhealthy" level of 231 on June 25, higher than notoriously polluted cities like India's capital New Delhi and Beijing in China.

Environment groups blame the air pollution on a cocktail of vehicle fumes, smoke and emissions from coal-fired power plants that ring greater Jakarta. Greenpeace Indonesia last week rec-

ommended people don masks to protect themselves from respiratory illness. "The number of unhealthy days for 2018 is twice as high as the figure for 2017," Bondan Andriyanu, climate and energy campaigner for the group, told AFP. "The government should recognize the issue, they are still using outdated regulation from the '90s." Public discontent has been growing, especially online where social media users have been posting pictures of the city blanketed in a grey haze. "As a mother of two I'm worried about the air pollution issue," 35-year-old office worker Dita Nandine told AFP. "The government should address the cause of the problem... how long will we let this problem continue?"

The environment ministry did not immediately respond to AFP's requests for comment on the lawsuit, but the head of Jakarta's environment agency, Andono Warih, played down the problem. On Monday, he denied that Jakarta had the world's worst air pollution, the Jakarta Post reported, citing lower government figures established using a different methodology. —AFP



**JAKARTA:** Indonesian environmental activists participate in a protest as they filed a lawsuit against Jakarta's toxic air pollution at the Central Jakarta court. —AFP



FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2019

Friday Times

# Lifestyle

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A model presents a creation by Jean Paul Gaultier during the Women's Fall-Winter 2019/2020 Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris.—AFP

Disney live-action  
'Little Mermaid' to  
star a black Ariel

See Page 21



# Tutankhamun bust faces London sale despite Egyptian outcry



A 3,000-year-old bust of Egyptian “Boy King” Tutankhamun goes under the hammer yesterday in London despite an outcry from Cairo. Christie’s auction house expects the 28.5-centimetre (11-inch) quartz relic to fetch more than £4 million (\$5 million, 4.5 million euros) at one of its most controversial auctions in years. The famous pharaoh’s finely-chiseled face—its calm eyes and puffed lips emoting a sense of eternal peace—comes from the private Resandro Collection of ancient art that Christie’s last sold in 2016 for £3 million.

But angry Egyptian officials want the sale halted and the treasure returned. Christie’s decision “contradicts international agreements and conventions,” Egypt’s foreign ministry said on Wednesday. Former antiquities minister Zahi Hawass told AFP that the piece appears to have been “stolen” in the 1970s from the Karnak Temple complex. “We think it left Egypt after 1970 because in that time other artefacts were stolen from Karnak Temple,” Hawass said. Christie’s counters that Egypt had never before expressed the same level of concern about a bust whose existence has been “well known and exhibited publicly” for many years.

“The object is not, and has not been, the subject of an investigation,” it said in a statement to AFP Wednesday. The auction house has published a chronology of how the relic changed hands between European art dealers over the past 50 years. Its oldest attribution from 1973-74 places it in the collection of Prince Wilhelm of Thurn and Taxi in modern-day Germany. Yet that account was called into doubt by a report from the Live Science news site last month suggesting that Wilhelm never owned the piece. Wilhelm was “not a very art-interested person,” his niece Daria told the news site. A journalist and art historian who knew Wilhelm told Live Science site that the prince had no arts collection at all.

Tutankhamun is thought to have become a pharaoh at the age of nine and to have died about 10 years later. His rule would have probably passed without notice were it not for the 1922 discovery by Britain’s Howard Carter of his nearly intact tomb. The lavish find revived interest in ancient Egypt and set the stage for subsequent battles over ownership of cultural masterpieces unearthed in colonial times. Tutankhamun became commonly known as King Tut and made into the subject of songs and films. — AFP

## Artists battle expulsion as rents rise in booming Berlin

A cemetery has popped up outside a Berlin block of art studios called Treptow Ateliers, with half a dozen crosses marked “Demolition” or “Expulsion”. The small “graveyard” is an installation by painters, sculptors and photographers who face losing their workspaces because of gentrification in the booming capital. “It’s an installation to draw attention to what’s happening here,” said painter Lydia Paasche, 41. “Something is being lost here. There won’t be one cross standing in the end.”

All 30 artists in the building have received a notice to vacate the premises they have used since 2013. They have been told to leave by March 2020 as the space is to be demolished and replaced by a five-storey mixed-use complex. Their fate mirrors a wider problem in the city, where up to 350 art studios are closing every year, driven out by rising costs, according to the Association of Professional Visual Artists in Berlin (BBK).

With rents doubling in just a decade, Berlin risks losing its reputation as a mecca for artists. Irishman Lorcan O’Byrne arrived in the 1980s in a still-divided Berlin, drawn by its extraordinary mix of cultural edginess, political activism and huge vacant spaces in which budding artists could thrive. For him, “the irony is that the newly ar-



German artist Sebastian Koerbs displays samples of his work in his studio at the “Treptow Ateliers” artist colony in Berlin.

rived, who were drawn to Berlin by its arty scene, are driving out the cultural spaces that drew them in the first place” by putting further pressure on the property market.

### ‘Not prepared’

Artists flooded into the German capital from the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, many taking over vacant residential buildings or disused industrial sites. Far cheaper than other Western capitals, Berlin swiftly became a magnet for many young artists starting out. But three decades on and with Germany’s job market booming, investors have



German artist Lydia Paasche poses in her studio at the “Treptow Ateliers” artist colony in Berlin. — AFP photos

also increasingly crowded into Berlin, putting pressure on the property market.

Over the past decade, several art squats or colonies had to make way, including the celebrated Tacheles in central Berlin which was cleared in 2012 to be replaced by a luxury apartment block and a hotel that are yet to be built. Half of the 8,000 Berlin artists polled by BBK fear losing their studios in the medium term. Acknowledging the problem, Berlin’s culture minister Klaus Lederer said: “The spiral of commercial rent is inversing rapidly and leading to the disappearance of a big number of art spaces.”

“We were not prepared for this,” he conceded in an interview with Berliner Zeitung. “We should have begun preparing policies seven or 10 years ago.” But Peter Ottmann, who owns Treptow Ateliers, defended his rebuilding project, arguing that it would in future benefit more people because new studios would be built alongside around 30 apartments and a kindergarden on the site stretching over 4,500 square meters (a little more than an acre). “I can understand that the tenants are emotional about this,” he said. “But it’s important to remember that the new project will provide space for 175 people—that is, 150 more than currently.”

### ‘It would be boring’

But the artists said they were not given a guarantee they could stay. Further, rents would be raised in the new complex, at a time when Berlin has taken the drastic measure of freezing rents for five years to cool the market. “There hasn’t been any discussion,” Paasche said. “He informed us that we can put our names on the waiting list for these studios. “But putting myself on the list is accepting that I’m being expelled and not fighting against it.” The artists at Treptow Ateliers are hoping that the authorities will step in. — AFP



Canadian painter Marc Bowditch at work in his studio at the “Treptow Ateliers” artist colony in Berlin.



( From left ) German artist Sebastian Koerbs, German artist Lydia Paasche, Irish artist Lorcan O’Byrne and Italian photographer Michele Caliarì, pose outside the “Treptow Ateliers” artist colony in Berlin.



## Cock-a-doodle-don't: Rowdy French rooster at center of legal battle

A rooster named Maurice, whose early-morning crowing has got under the skin of neighbors on the French island of Oleron, was at the center of a court battle yesterday that has raised howls of protest in the countryside. Maurice himself was not present for the proceedings in the western town of Rochefort, and nor were his accusers, a retired couple with a holiday home on the picturesque island who claim his dawn chorus rouses them from their slumber. But feathered fans of the celebrity cockerel were on parade outside the courthouse, among them a chicken called Pompadour and giant Brahma rooster called Jean-Rene.

The case has attracted attention not only because the rooster is one of France's national emblems, but because the complaint is seen by some as an attack on the countryside's traditional sounds and way-of-life. The couple's lawyer however rejected the characterization of the case as a battle between "bobos"-bourgeois bohemians-and countryfolk. "My clients live in a housing estate. It's not the countryside," Vincent Huberdeau argued.

### Soundproofing with egg boxes

Maurice's owner, Corinne Fesseau, who has been living on

Oleron island for 35 years, told French radio she had taken to locking up her bird at night and lined his shed with egg boxes to try to block the light and so stop him crowing-but all to no avail. "Out of 40 neighbors there are only two who are bothered by it!" her lawyer Julien Papineau told the court. Fesseau defended the cockerel's right to make himself heard. "He crows and I think it's great. Long live nature!" she said. Tensions between locals and holiday-home owners are nothing new in rural France, but Maurice's case has become something of a cause celebre.

"Today it's the cockerel, but what will it be tomorrow? Seagulls? The noise of the wind? Our accents?" said Christophe Sueur, mayor of Saint-Pierre-d'Oleron where Maurice and his owner live, in comments to AFP last month.

### Sounds as cultural heritage

The growing wealth gap between rural and urban France has been at the heart of weekly "yellow vest" demonstrations which began in November last year. Maurice, who has his own Facebook page, appeared in a luminous yellow vest in one post in November expressing solidarity with the protesters.



A woman holding a rooster in her arms talks to the press in Rochefort, western France, yesterday where the high court is set to rule on whether a lively cockerel should be considered a neighbourly nuisance in a case that has led to shrieks of protest in the countryside. — AFP

The trial has raised tempers, with the mayor of Gajac village penning a furious open letter in May in defense of the rights of church bells to ring, cows to moo, and donkeys to bray throughout rural France. "When I go into town, I don't ask them to remove the traffic lights and cars," mayor Bruno Dionis du Sejour, who is a retired farmer, told AFP. — AFP



## Disney live-action 'Little Mermaid' to star a black Ariel

R&B singer Halle Bailey is to play Ariel in a live-action version of "The Little Mermaid," she said Wednesday, in a rare casting of a black actress as a Disney princess. Bailey, 19, who rose to fame under the wing of pop queen Beyonce, said it was a "dream come true" to play the lead role. She tweeted a cartoon image of the princess in which the traditionally red-headed Ariel has dark skin, brown eyes and black hair. Director Rob Marshall said Bailey had been cast after an extensive search, and praised her "rare combination of spirit, heart, youth, innocence, and substance-plus a glorious singing voice."

News of the casting was trending on Twitter late Wednesday, with many fans overjoyed by the decision. "If your Egyptian adaptations (actually historical) can be white people, Ariel (a fictional character) can be black," wrote one Twitter user, @NiceNurse22. Like most Disney princesses, Ariel has been portrayed as pale-skinned in previous cartoon films, in which she was voiced by white actress Jodi Benson.

Disney came under criticism last year for "whitewashing" Princess Tiana in cartoon movie "Ralph Breaks the Internet," hastily redrawing the character with darker features just months before the film's release. Bailey's casting comes more than two decades after Disney cast singer Brandy, who is also black, as Cinderella in a live-action 1997 film. Bailey is part of Atlanta-based sister duo Chloe x Halle, who received a Grammy nomination for Best New Artist last year. Beyonce became a mentor of sorts to them after seeing the pair cover her song "Pretty Hurts" in 2013. — AFP

## Michael Jackson fans sue in France over HBO documentary

Michael Jackson fan clubs moved to sue two alleged victims of the late singer in a French court on Thursday over their claims in the hit HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland". The legal action in the French city of Orleans targets James Safechuck, 41, and Wade Robson, 36, who recount how their idol molested them as boys at his Neverland Ranch in California. They are the key figures in the hit two-part documentary, which made headlines around the world when it was released by HBO in March, and broke streaming records.

The fan clubs-Michael Jackson Community, the MJ Street and On The Line-have filed a suit in France using defamation laws that make it an offence to wrongly sully the image of a dead person. US or British laws do not provide such protection. The French lawyer representing the fan clubs, Emmanuel Ludot, said: "The image of the departed has been damaged, as well as the community of fans of Michael Jackson." Safechuck and Robson have snubbed the court action and did not send legal representation to Thursday's proceedings, which lasted only 10 minutes. But a statement from Jackson's estate backed the French legal efforts, which are in addition to a suit filed against HBO in the US by the Jackson family seeking damages of \$100 million (88 million euros). — AFP



## Hollywood producer arrested in Malaysia over 1MDB scandal

The Malaysian producer of the Leonardo DiCaprio-starred film "The Wolf of Wall Street" was arrested yesterday on suspicion of money laundering as part of investigations into the 1MDB scandal, officials said. Riza Aziz was detained in Malaysia after questioning by graft investigators and will appear in court today to face charges, said Latheefa Koya, head of the anti-corruption agency. Riza is the stepson of Malaysia's disgraced ex-leader Najib Razak, and the son of the country's former first lady Rosmah Mansor. Both Najib and Rosmah have been charged over the plundering of state fund 1MDB.

"I confirm (Riza) has been arrested today and was released on bail," Latheefa told AFP, adding he would face charges under laws related to money-laundering. A second agency official, who spoke anonymously, also said the arrest was linked to investigations into 1MDB. Billions of dollars were looted from the investment vehicle, allegedly by Najib and his cronies, and spent on everything from yachts to pricey artwork in a globe-spanning fraud. Riza co-founded the Hollywood company Red Granite Pictures, and US officials allege that it was bankrolled by huge sums of pilfered 1MDB cash.

As well as the "Wolf of Wall Street"—a 2013 film about a massive stock market scam that netted its perpetrator millions of dollars—it produced the Jim Carrey movie "Dumb and Dumber to" and "Daddy's Home", starring Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg. In May, some US\$57 million forfeited by Red Granite was returned to Malaysia and put into an account set up to recover money looted from 1MDB. — AFP





Sarah Cartier, guardian of the Charpoua refuge on the Charpoua Glacier, walks near the refuge in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc. —AFP photos



Sarah Cartier, guardian of the Charpoua refuge on the Charpoua Glacier, breastfeeds her son in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc.



Sarah Cartier, guardian of the Charpoua refuge on the Charpoua Glacier, works in her kitchen.

# Charpoua shelter: Soup and cake half-way up Mont Blanc

Those last few meters in the snow are the toughest. But when you finally look up at the refuge, there is your hostess, Sarah Cartier, welcoming you with a smile - and a polite request to keep the noise down as the baby is sleeping. Perched 2,841 meters (9,320 feet) up in the French Alps, the Charpoua shelter has been welcoming climbers for 115 years now. (And since Mont Blanc itself is 4,810 meters high, it's a little over half-way up.) There is no running water, no electricity and to go to the toilet you need to step outside and climb a little - and it's a rudimentary affair.

"After they've seen that," quips Sarah, "nobody asks if there's a shower." But the view from the doorway will take your breath away - if the altitude has not already done that for you. Sarah's job is to look after the climbers who book the shelter and make sure they arrive on schedule - because if they don't, she has to raise the alarm with the emergency services. The Charpoua refuge - "more of a hut than a refuge" as one website puts it - is named after the glacier right next to it. At a pinch it will sleep 12 hardy climbers.

This is 30-year-old Sarah's fifth season here, working from the end of June to the end of August. The rest of the time, she is based at the foot of the mountain in Chamonix, where she

works as a ski instructor. And rather than working in a big refuge, the idea of working up here, all alone, is what appeals to her. She gets her water from the glacier. She bakes her own bread and cooks with local, organic produce. Her supplies arrive by helicopter at the beginning the season and her partner arrives every Friday from over the border in Switzerland with a few fresh products.

And when a few days of poor weather means the climbers cannot reach her, Sarah is happy to be left alone to care for her baby son Armand in the peace and quiet. He's no trouble, she says - and a hit with her visitors. This evening, it's a full house: as well as two AFP journalists and their guide there are several climbing parties. People settle down, get to know each other and exchange information on routes and conditions. And as the beers go down, the smell of soup from the gas stove and chocolate cake from the oven fills the wooden cabin.

Two solar-powered lamps help light the meal as everyone gathers around the table to eat. Sarah puts them outside every day to charge. And after breakfast in the morning, she is there to send the climbers on their way-up or down the mountain - with the same good humor. — AFP



Sarah Cartier, guardian of the Charpoua refuge on the Charpoua Glacier, holds a cage with a mouse captured in the storage room in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc.



Sarah Cartier, guardian of the Charpoua refuge on the Charpoua Glacier, walks near the refuge in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc.



Sarah Cartier, guardian of the Charpoua refuge on the Charpoua Glacier, works in her kitchen in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc.



The hand of the son of Sarah Cartier, guardian of the Charpoua refuge on the Charpoua Glacier, is pictured on the table of the refuge in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc.





# FASHION ICON **JEAN PAUL GAULTIER** SAYS HE COULD GO BACK ON FUR BAN



French fashion designer Jean Paul Gaultier said Wednesday he could go back to using fur if he could be sure it was entirely traceable. The flamboyant creator announced in November he was renouncing fur, a move hailed as a major victory by animal rights groups like PETA who have previously tried to disrupt one of his shows and occupied his Paris boutique. But at his first fur-free Paris haute couture show, Gaultier told AFP that this “wasn’t a funeral for fur”. He said that he did not rule out one day recycling his old furs, or using new pelts again “if everything is done right, and obviously not with endangered species. “But for now we need to calm things down,” he added. Gaultier told French television last year that the methods used to kill animals for fur were often “absolutely deplorable”.

He produced his entirely fur-free autumn winter collection Wednesday with US singer Christina Aguilera in the front row alongside French movie legend Catherine Deneuve and “RuPaul’s Drag Race” stars Violet Chachki and Miss Fame. Gaultier replaced fur with feathers in typically flamboyant fashion, with huge fluffy collars and plume-decked chapka hats, quipping, “No feathers have been killed for this show.” Pelts gave way to animal prints. “It’s fake fake fur,” Gaultier told AFP, “a trick of the eye.” “I really like the feel of fur, it’s absolutely magnificent and so warm. But now we have that in other ways,” he admitted. “We are in an age when there is too much of everything, so we shouldn’t be killing animals. “I have a charming little pussy, and I love animals, though I draw the line at crocodiles,” said the 67-year-old enfant terrible.



Models present creations by Jean Paul Gaultier during the Women’s Fall-Winter 2019/2020 Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos





Gaultier said that it had been well established that animals used for fur were often not well-treated. “So I prefer not to use it any more, or maybe just recycle my old furs from 15 years ago that weren’t sold so I can do something with them. “We have to recycle clothes. It is something I have done from the beginning of my career with old jeans, cutting them up in every which way.

We could do the same thing with fur. We should not be burning clothes.” Gaultier conceded that fur had a huge image problem. “I didn’t like the image of women who wore fur-of women kept by old rich men. Thankfully women have gone beyond that a long time ago, and fur is no longer a synonym for that.”— AFP



Models present creations by Zuhair Murad during the Women's Fall-Winter 2019/2020 Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris.







Models present creations by Guo Pei at the end of the Women's Fall-Winter 2019/2020 Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris.





# Next time, don't buy SANDWICH BREAD Make it at home

The quintessential American sandwich loaf - tall and domed, with a fine, snowy-white crumb and a light brown crust is a supermarket staple. Since it's eaten so often, we wanted to develop a recipe that wasn't just better than bouncy plastic-wrapped bread, but the best - an impressive loaf that was a worthy base for sandwiches.

For this bread's soft crumb we needed to include a fair amount of fat; we used whole milk for a majority of the liquid and then enriched the dough further with 2 tablespoons of melted butter. These amounts were enough to tenderize the bread without making it too rich.

A couple spoonfuls of honey gave the bread the faint sweetness we'd expect. But because our dough contained milk, butter, and honey, the crust was prone to browning before the inside was done. We tested oven temperatures of 350 F, 375 F and 400 F and found that the lowest temperature gave us the soft crust we wanted and avoided a doughy interior. Still, we felt that our loaf was a bit dense.

We experimented with letting the loaf proof longer, until it reached a full inch above the lip of the pan; the increased rise produced an airy crumb and a bigger loaf. This additional rise also meant we could eliminate slashing the loaf because it wouldn't expand much more in the oven. Nixing the slashing gave our finished loaf the smooth top of supermarket bread. The test kitchen's preferred loaf pan measures 8 1/2-by-4 1/2 inches; if you use a 9-by-5 inch loaf pan, increase the shaped rising time by 20 to 30 minutes and start checking for doneness 10 minutes earlier than advised in the recipe.

## AMERICAN SANDWICH BREAD

### Ingredients

Servings: 20

Start to finish:: 4 to 5 hours, plus 3 hours cooling time

Rising Time 2 1/2 to 3 1/3 hours

Baking Time 35 minutes

Key Equipment: 8 1/2-by-4 1/2-inch loaf pan, water-filled spray bottle, instant-read thermometer

2 1/2 cups (13 3/4 ounces) bread flour

2 teaspoons instant or rapid-rise yeast

1 1/2 teaspoons salt

3/4 cup (6 ounces) whole milk, room temperature

1/3 cup (2 2/3 ounces) water, room temperature

2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

2 tablespoons honey

### Preparation

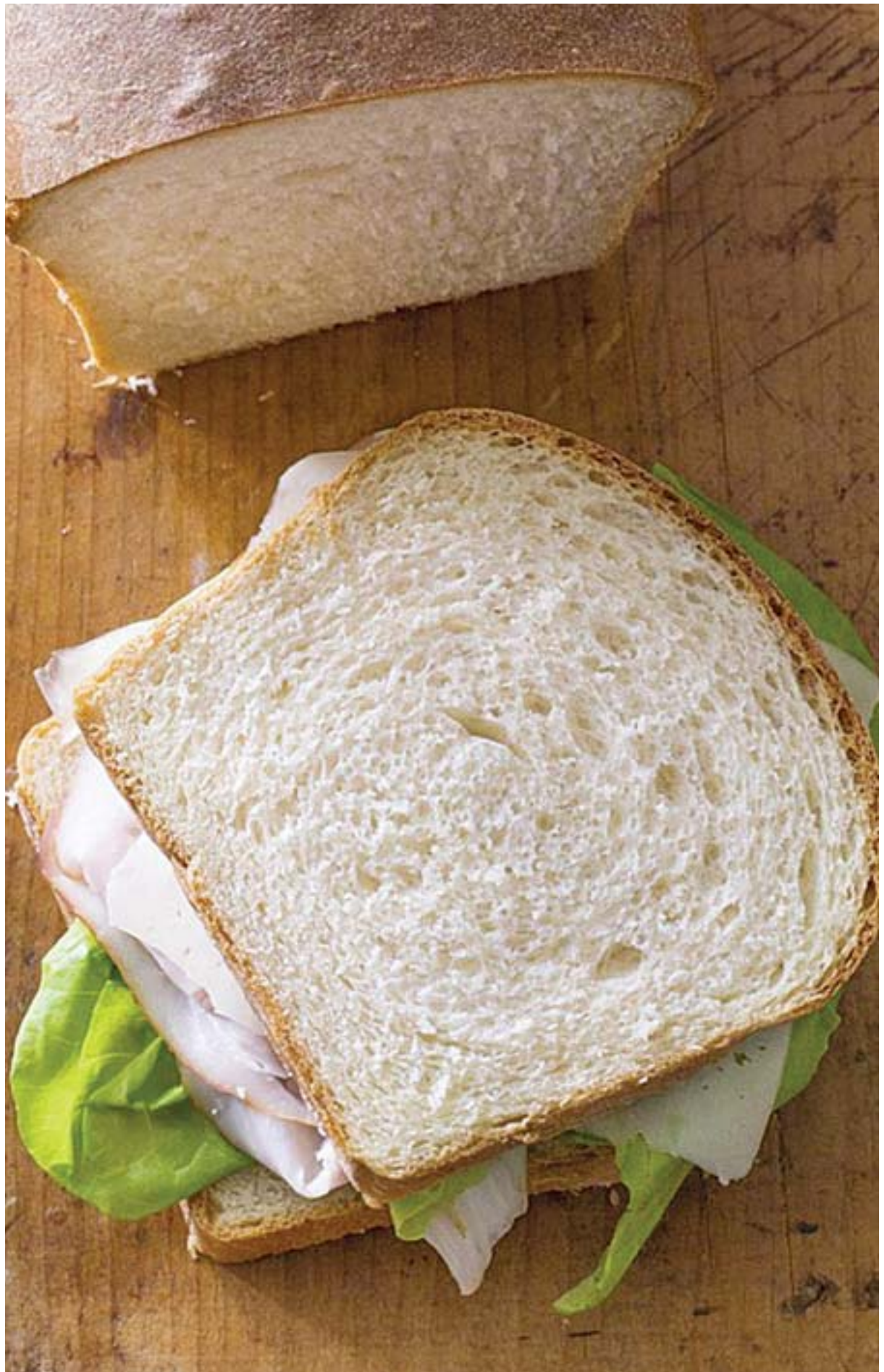
Whisk flour, yeast, and salt together in bowl of stand mixer. Whisk milk, water, melted butter, and honey in 4-cup liquid measuring cup until honey has dissolved. Using dough hook on low speed, slowly add milk mixture to flour mixture and mix until cohesive dough starts to form and no dry flour remains, about 2 minutes, scraping down bowl as needed. Increase speed to medium-low and knead until dough is smooth and elastic and clears sides of bowl, about 8 minutes.

Transfer dough to lightly floured counter and knead by hand to form smooth, round ball, about 30 seconds. Place dough seam side down in lightly greased large bowl or container, cover tightly with plastic wrap, and let rise until doubled in size, 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

Grease 8 1/2-by-4 1/2-inch loaf pan. Press down on dough to deflate. Turn dough out onto lightly floured counter (side of dough that was against bowl should now be facing up). Press and stretch dough into 8 by 6-inch rectangle, with long side parallel to counter edge.

Roll dough away from you into firm cylinder, keeping roll taut by tucking it under itself as you go. Pinch seam closed and place loaf seam side down in prepared pan, pressing dough gently into corners. Cover loosely with greased plastic and let rise until loaf reaches 1 inch above lip of pan and dough springs back minimally when poked gently with your knuckle, 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and heat oven to 350 F. Mist loaf with water and bake until deep golden brown and loaf registers 205 F to 210 F, 35 to 40 minutes, rotating pan halfway through baking. Let loaf cool in pan for 15 minutes. Remove loaf from pan and let cool completely on wire rack, about 3 hours, before serving.







# This chocolate Eclair cake is an instant dessert classic

**C**hocolate Eclair cake is an instant dessert classic; this no-bake cake features layers of store-bought vanilla pudding and Cool Whip sandwiched between graham crackers and topped off with chocolate frosting.

As the graham crackers soften, the whole thing melds into a creamy, sliceable cake. We loved the ease of these convenience items, but our enthusiasm waned when confronted by their flavor. With a couple of easy techniques and very little active time, we produced a from-scratch version that easily trumped its inspiration.

Since the cake layers required no more work than lining a pan with graham crackers, we made the effort to prepare a quick stove-top vanilla pudding, folding in whipped cream to lighten it. For the Eclair topping, we created a simple microwave-and-stir glaze. Six ounces of finely chopped semisweet chocolate

can be used in place of the chips.

## CHOCOLATE ...CLAIR CAKE Ingredients

Servings: 15  
Start to finish: 3 1/2 hours plus cooling time  
1 1/4 cups (8 3/4 ounces) sugar  
6 tablespoons cornstarch  
1 teaspoon salt  
5 cups whole milk  
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into 4 pieces  
5 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1 1/4 teaspoons unflavored gelatin  
2 tablespoons water  
2 3/4 cups heavy cream, chilled  
14 ounces graham crackers  
1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips  
5 tablespoons light corn syrup

## Preparation

Combine sugar, cornstarch, and salt in large saucepan. Whisk milk into sugar mixture until smooth and bring to boil over medium-high heat, scraping bottom of pan with heat-proof rubber spatula. Immediately reduce heat to medium-low and cook, continuing to scrape bottom, until thickened and large bubbles appear on surface, 4 to 6 minutes. Off heat, whisk in butter and vanilla. Transfer pudding to large bowl and place plastic wrap directly on surface of pudding. Refrigerate until cool, about 2 hours.

Sprinkle gelatin over water in bowl and let sit until gelatin softens, about 5 minutes. Microwave until mixture is bubbling around edges and gelatin dissolves, 15 to 30 seconds. Using stand mixer fitted with whisk attachment, whip 2 cups cream on medium-low speed until foamy, about 1 minute. Increase speed to high and whip until soft peaks form,

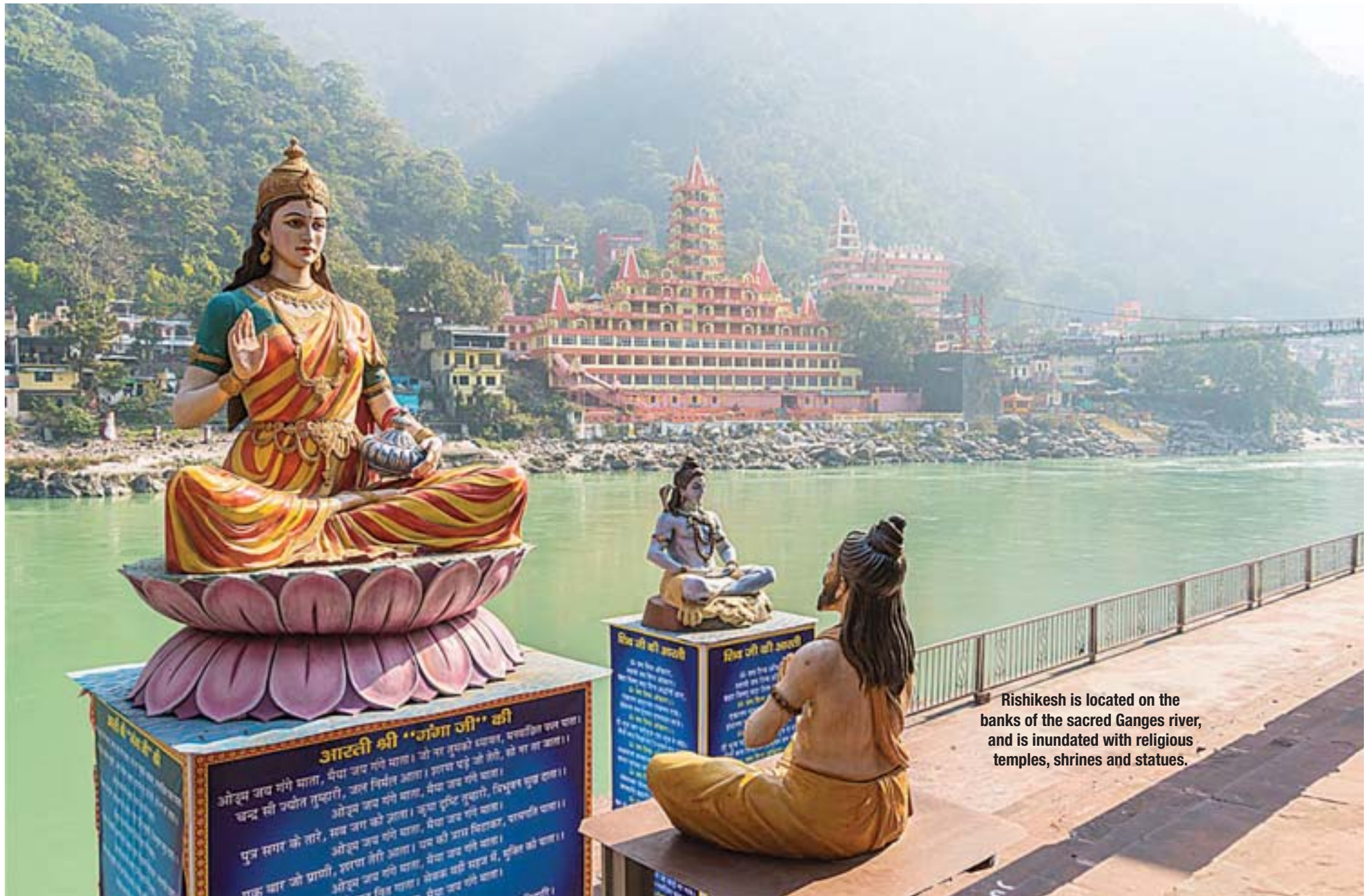
1 to 3 minutes. Add gelatin mixture and whip until stiff peaks form, about 1 minute.

Whisk one-third of whipped cream into chilled pudding, then gently fold in remaining whipped cream, 1 scoop at a time, until combined. Cover bottom of 13-by-9 inch baking dish with layer of graham crackers, breaking crackers as necessary to line bottom of pan. Top with half of pudding-whipped cream mixture (about 5 1/2 cups) and another layer of graham crackers. Repeat with remaining pudding-whipped cream mixture and remaining graham crackers.

Combine chocolate chips, corn syrup, and remaining 3/4 cup cream in bowl and microwave on 50 percent power, stirring occasionally, until smooth, 1 to 2 minutes. Let glaze cool completely, about 10 minutes. Spread glaze evenly over graham crackers and refrigerate cake for at least 6 hours or up to 2 days before serving.



# 6 of the best destinations for YOGA TRAVEL



Rishikesh is located on the banks of the sacred Ganges river, and is inundated with religious temples, shrines and statues.

**S**ure, you feel refreshed after a lunchtime yoga class in the local gym, sandwiched between work and a disappointing baguette. But imagine the levels of zen you could attain performing your sun salutations on a beach in Bali or cutting your best mountain pose in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Hoping to invigorate their practice and free themselves from modern routine, budding yogis are increasingly combining yoga with travel, laying down their mat amidst some of the world's most beautiful locales, from Spain to Peru.

Whether your downward-facing dog is rock solid or your warrior pose is a little wobbly, we've collated six of the world's best destinations for a yoga holiday; places you can unwind, hone your skills and enjoy a myriad of restorative ac-

tivities to channel your chi between classes.

## RISHIKESH, INDIA

A city nestled within the Himalayan foothills on the banks of the sacred River Ganges, where locals gather at dusk for the nightly river worship ceremony, set to a tinkling soundtrack of temple bells - it's hard to fathom a place more conducive to spiritual healing. India is the birthplace of yoga, and Rishikesh's pedigree in the ancient art is well known, thanks, in part, to a certain Liverpoolian quartet, who visited an ashram here in the 60s.

Ease into this yoga heartland with a class (or lengthier stay) at Parmarth Niketan, one of India's top yoga centers offering Pranayama and Vedic healing for all abilities. For total

rejuvenation, try Phool Chatti ashram. Standing strong after 120 years of practice, this centre draws on Hindu traditions in a program of yoga and holistic renewal.

Away from the mat: Rishikesh's most iconic landmark, Shri Trayanbakhshwar Temple, is a grand, tiered monument, bedecked in Hindu shrines, that's well worth a visit, and for a more adrenaline-pumping experience, there's ample opportunity to try river-rafting in the Ganges. If their spiritual presence isn't quite tangible enough, the swinging Cafe Delmar is the perfect place to pay homage to the Beatles (and serves up a mean smoothie too).

## IBIZA, SPAIN

Still proudly sporting its badge of honor as one of the





world's most established party destinations, Ibiza is perhaps an unexpected addition to this list. But, bedazzled with secret coves and sheltered beaches, and dusted with fragrant pine forests, this Balearic island is as much about natural serenity as hazy hedonism.

A swathe of new wellness retreats channeling Ibiza's liberal soul and natural beauty now provides a salubrious yin to the island's hard-partying yang. Hidden Yoga is one such centre, which holds classes in isolated outdoor locations, from clifftop Hatha sessions to paddleboard yoga in secluded coves. For a more conventional experience, the Yoga Rosa retreat offers a tranquil stay in a traditional, whitewashed villa, with daily guided practice and meditation sessions.

Away from the mat: A trip to Ibiza wouldn't be complete without some dedicated beach time, and the island's rugged topography offers a wealth of coastal hiking to pair with a refreshing dip in the Med. For the ultimate way to unwind, head to Benirràs Beach of a Sunday evening, where local bongo drummers get together to play in the sunset.

#### SACRED VALLEY, PERU

Burrowed into the slopes of the Andean highlands and dotted with Incan citadels, rural weaving villages and airy, colonial towns, the Rio Urubamba Valley is better known as 'Sacred' for a reason. This is a spiritual place, with

the energy of Pachamama (Incan Mother Nature) tangible in every cloud-shrouded mountain peak, rushing waterfall and grazing alpaca, drawing yogis from all corners of the globe.

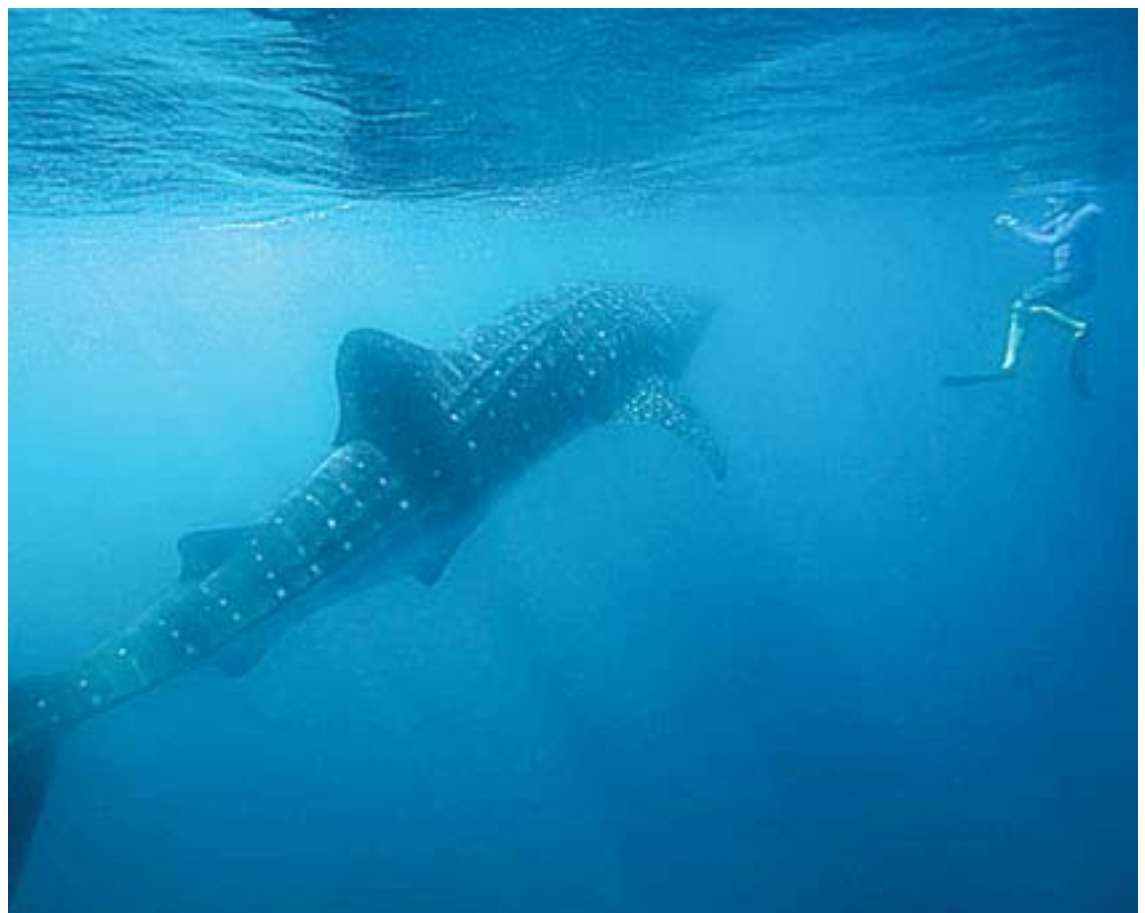
Whether it's the spirituality or the scenery that appeals, there's a miscellany of centres scattered throughout the valley, offering a variety of classes. Nidra Wasi offers daily Andean and Hatha yoga sessions - and longer teacher training courses - in a beautiful studio with floor-to-ceiling windows, as well as an on-site sauna and spa. Elsewhere, Paramatma Holistic Healing centre in the ancient Incan city of Cuzco runs Asthanga Vinyasa yoga and meditation workshops for all abilities.

Away from the mat: The Sacred Valley is home to Peru's most beguiling ancient sites, not least Machu Picchu and the ruins of Ollantaytambo and Pisac. To take it easy after a day of practice, head to the colonial town of Aguas Calientes and soak tired limbs in its natural hot springs.

#### TOFO, MOZAMBIQUE

Perched at the crest of a sweeping, white sand beach, laidback Tofo is a small but charismatic town, both alluring and unassuming in equal measure. Overlooking a coral reef teeming with manta rays, whale sharks, dolphins and migratory humpbacks, this coastal community is a perpetual draw for surfers and divers, and its low-key,

Centers like the Nidra Wasi in Peru's Sacred Valley draw yogis from all over the world.



An inner calm will come in handy when snorkeling near Tofo's giant whale sharks.





Boulder is a city of outdoor lovers and exercise enthusiasts.



Bali is synonymous with modern wellness, but its spirituality extends far beyond the glitzy spas.

#### What better way to cool off after yoga than with a dip in the Med?

boho vibe attracts a steady stream of worldly yogis keen to hone their skills too.

If the idea of downward-facing dog in an oceanfront, gaia-tree yoga shala tickles your fancy, set your sights on Turtle Cove, a yoga and surf retreat that offers classes from beginner to advanced. Alternatively, mix your practice with a spot of scuba diving at Tilak Lodge's specially crafted retreat. Well, when in Tofo...

Away from the mat: It's impossible not to get swept up in the surfing and diving buzz that pervades Tofo - ideal for testing out that newly strengthened core and sharpened balance. It's also a great place to nourish your stomach as well as your soul, with hearty local cuisine from cassava and coconut milk matapa (a green stew) to piquant peri peri sauce.

#### BOULDER, USA

The sprightly city of Boulder in Colorado is a big draw for lovers of the American countryside. Framed by dramatic mountain-scapes, rugged creeks and ponderosa-fringed trails, the city's population of students, chic urbanites and outdoor athletes match its natural energy - fertile ground indeed for yoga studios and retreats to set up shop.

With the imposing Flatiron mountains as a backdrop to Boulder life, outdoor yoga practice here is particularly rewarding. SUP Yoga offer paddleboard yoga sessions on Boulder Reservoir, focusing on core control and breathing whilst immersed (although hopefully not fully) in the city's surrounding landscape. For something a touch more traditional, Iyengar Yoga Centre in the heart of the city runs a full program of therapeutic sessions, as well as Asana and anatomy workshops to boot.

Away from the mat: Boulder, as the name hints, is a hotbed for climbing, with classes

for beginners and experts alike tackling faces throughout the Flatirons, which also offers great hiking and biking trails. For something a little different, try tubing on Boulder Creek - something of a local rite of passage - which can be a serene or adrenaline-fuelled experience depending on the river's water levels. Inner tubes are available from a number of businesses in the town centre, including Whitewater Tube Company.

#### BALI, INDONESIA

Bali's fertile, volcanic mountains, glittering shoreline and hushed, hillside temples are synonymous with all things wellness, but the divine energy that characterizes this island extends far beyond the private retreats and luxury spa resorts that perennially pop up on Instagram. It's soaked into the reverent, religious ceremonies, streets strewn with flower petal offerings and gentle, almost meditative pace of local life, seemingly unaffected by the ever-present streams of visitors seeking to experience Bali's unique essence for themselves.

Tucked within the emerald folds of Ubud's rainforest is Taksu Spa, a serene sanctuary offering a range of Hatha, Flow and traditional Balinese yoga classes. If you're looking to really master your sun salutation, consider a longer stay at Desa Seni retreat in Canggu, which provides personally tailored yoga workshops for beginners and upwards.

Away from the mat: From blissful beach relaxation in Seminyak to exploring the island's many tranquil temples, relaxation and restoration are built into Bali's DNA. Consequently, there's tons of quality travel experiences on offer here that pair well with a stint in a yoga retreat, from watching traditional craftsmen at work to spotting cheeky macaques in Ubud's Sacred Monkey Forest.

—(www.lonelyplanet.com)



Comic

Word Search

Fishing

Find and circle all of the Fishing words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a quote by Henry David Thoreau.

LEERDNADORMANFTUORTY  
MREGUAFENGGLSRLOFXIS  
BASSGNILGNANOAHOOHIN  
FLIESGPBIBKHLISLBAFAR  
RISLBLOEPLSIHEMLTOE  
ENPSLF AALIPFILSYOTEB  
VEOIHUHTNEDIKFCIRNSB  
IEONEILGFEFCNANGFAAO  
RTLKFRYRRLAISGNALYEB  
IEVEIELEETYSISFPKLG  
WNNRSIILTLIRHHLHINEF  
EGONHUMITNQSEYIRKORN  
LNPOIWIAGIINRETNNOOG  
BITOHPTRAFTOASLIGPNC  
BOTTNRSTLIDREPEEK SAR  
INISEDGLNFLOUNDERTHA  
NAODSPINCASTREELFTCP  
BLAFITJRELWARCSIHTTP  
HEEYSSTREAMARESAFTA  
LUREJIGGINGERHKOCHCE

- ANGLER

ANGLING

AUGER

BAIT

BASS

BLUEFISH

BOAT

BOBBER

CATCH AND RELEASE

CATFISH

CRAPPIE

CRAWLER

DAILY LIMIT
- FLIES

FLIPPING

FLOAT

FLOUNDER

FLY CASTING

FLY FISHING

FLY REEL

FLY ROD

GEAR

HOOK

JIGGING

JIGS

KEEPER
- LAKE

LANDING NET

LEADER

LINE

LURE

NEBBLE

PANFISH

POLE FISHING

POND

REDFISH

RIVER

ROD AND REEL

SALMON
- SINKER

SPINCAST REEL

SPINNER

SPOON

SPOON

STILL FISHING

STREAM

STRIKE

TACKLE BOX

TRAILER

TROLLING

TROUT

Yesterday's Solution

Horse Breeds

MNOOPHCTUNALECTIAFLO  
ISTANUARUBREUSOSAPBO  
SHRABARHALTEKEOLHOS  
AERSRATHURUJTOAPCRME  
KSODORAIOTHOLBEHBEAN  
IROLCTESHUAEERSHCRIN  
MRGGKASHADPCLGMLINE  
QRENHHCNIPLEUMAYHTO  
MRHUSRUMAEWOLUIDSOR  
GTEINNVITFRMYCSEERLA  
GORNELNLUQUAMPTUSED R  
LIERAHLNIRHREALDMEN  
IDIUOLSPFAESINAAHNN  
AAALELAAARTOSGGGLEBA  
MMARWARISHEDULTUNEKUI  
MSUFFOLKPEDRLLOARFP  
OGUNALIUJINSACETRRGS  
RANAISEITHFLNNMDIPHA  
ARABIANHOLSTEINERSEC  
BORDERBELUASRASESCA

- AKHALTEKE

ANDALUSIAN

ARABIAN

ARGENTINES

AZTECA

BARB

BLACK FOREST

CASPIAN

CLYDESDALE

OROLOO

CURLY
- FRABELLA

FRIESIAN

GIPSY

HACKNEY

HAWKINS

HOLSTEINER

ICELANDIC

JERSEY SPORT

JUTLAND

KATHAWAZI
- LIPZZANER

LUSITANO

MARWAZI

MESAKI

MONGOLIAN

MORAB

MORGAN

MUSTANG

OLDENBURG

PAINT
- PERCHERON

QUARTER

SADDLEBRED

SENNER

SHIRE

STANDARDBRED

SUFFOLK

THOROUGHBRED

TRAKHNER

WALER

WELSH COB

Hidden sentence: NO PHILOSOPHERS SO THOROUGHLY COMPREHEND US AS DOGS AND HORSES.

Crossword 2249



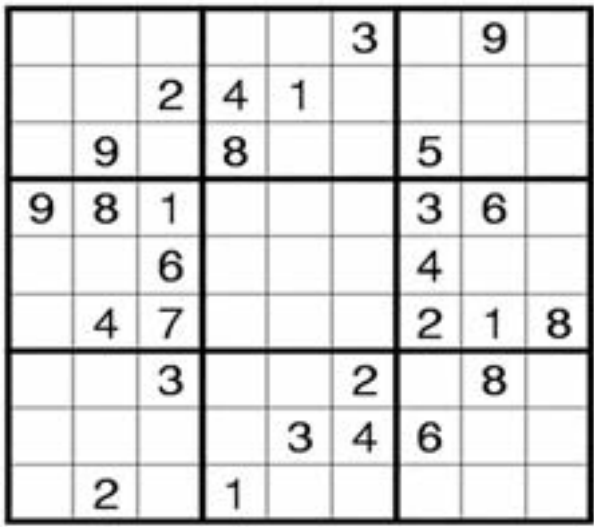
ACROSS

1. A unit of length of thread or yarn.  
4. Of or having to do with or belonging to an abbey or abbot, or abbess.  
12. 30 to 300 gigahertz.  
15. Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.  
16. Admitting of bail.  
17. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.  
18. A member of the Wakashan people living on Vancouver Island and in the Cape Flattery region of northwestern Washington.  
20. Move the upper body backwards and down.  
22. The fourth month of the Hindu calendar.  
24. Small long-bodied short-legged German breed of dog having a short sleek coat and long drooping ears.  
25. A city in western Germany near the Dutch and Belgian borders.  
27. Brief episode in which the brain gets insufficient blood supply.  
28. A festival featuring African-American culture.  
31. Commit forever.  
35. The first of three divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures comprising the first five books of the Old Testament considered as a unit.  
37. A landlocked republic in central Africa.  
38. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.  
42. A watery solution of sugars, salts, and minerals that circulates through the vascular system of a plant.

43. Being three more than forty.

45. Used as a Hindi courtesy title.  
47. Thin flat unleavened cake of baked oatmeal.  
48. Clean one's body or parts thereof, as by washing.  
50. A state in New England.  
51. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.  
52. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.  
54. Flightless New Zealand rail of thievish disposition having short wings each with a spur used in fighting.  
56. A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.  
57. A master's degree in fine arts.  
58. Capital of modern Macedonia.  
63. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.  
67. Mixture of untoasted dry cereals and fruits.  
69. Put to use.  
71. A sharp projection on an edge or surface.  
72. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.  
73. Disappear gradually.  
75. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.  
76. Annual grass of Europe and North Africa.  
77. A woman's headscarf folded into a triangle and tied under the chin.  
78. Being one more than ninety.

Daily SuDoku

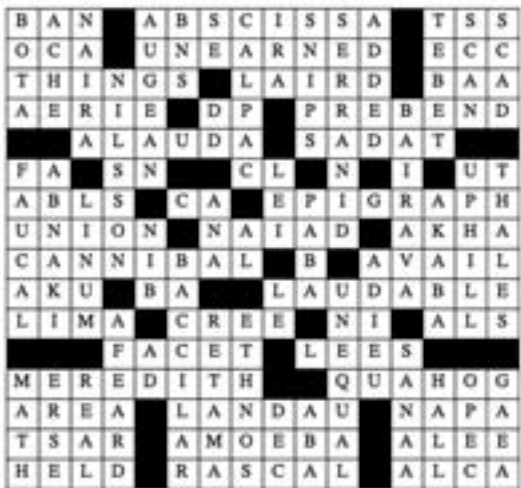


DOWN

1. A Russian river.  
2. (Greek mythology) God of love.  
3. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.  
4. A member of the Circassian people living east of the Black Sea.  
5. The cry made by sheep.  
6. A heavy brittle diamagnetic trivalent metallic element (resembles arsenic and antimony chemically).  
7. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.  
8. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.  
9. A United Nations agency created to assist developing nations by loans guaranteed by member governments.  
10. Dependent on chance.  
11. A genus of fungi belonging to the family Boletaceae.  
12. Armor plate that protects the chest.  
13. A Loloish language.  
14. To run away.  
19. (prefix) Across or crossing or on the opposite side.  
21. The sacred city of Lamaism.  
23. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.  
26. (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.  
29. (India) Usually in combination.  
30. Look forward to the probably occurrence of.  
32. Afflicted with or characteristic of mental derangement.

33. A city of northern Poland near the mouth of the Vistula River on a gulf of the Baltic Sea.  
34. 1 species.  
36. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.  
39. The face of a timepiece.  
40. The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.  
41. Any thick messy substance.  
44. (Greek mythology) Son of Daedalus.  
46. The fifth month of the Hindu calendar.  
49. French naturalist who proposed that evolution resulted from the inheritance of acquired characteristics (1744-1829).  
53. A river that rises in northeastern Turkey (near the source of the Euphrates) and flows generally eastward through Armenia to the Caspian Sea.  
55. English philologist (1835-1912).  
59. The muscular back part of the shank.  
60. (pathology) An elevation of the skin filled with serous fluid.  
61. A list of dishes available at a restaurant.  
62. The number of opening per inch of a screen.  
64. A mythical Greek hero.  
65. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.  
66. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.  
68. Any of various coarse shrubby plants of the genus Iva with small greenish flowers.  
70. A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.  
74. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.

Yesterday's Solution



Yesterday's Solution





TV Listings




01:25 The Unseen  
03:20 Patriots Day  
05:35 Andron  
07:20 Around The World In 80 Days  
09:20 Thor: The Dark World  
11:15 Andron  
12:55 Boone: The Bounty Hunter  
14:25 The Drowning  
16:05 The Tuxedo  
17:45 Captain America: The Winter Soldier  
20:00 Con Air  
22:00 The Chronicles Of Riddick



00:45 North Woods Law  
01:40 Expedition Mungo  
02:35 Into Alaska  
03:25 Lone Star Law  
04:15 North Woods Law  
05:02 Wildest Middle East  
05:49 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
06:36 RSPCA: On The Frontline  
07:25 Wild Africa: Rivers Of Life  
08:15 Mekong: Soul Of A River  
11:55 Wildest Islands  
12:50 Into Alaska  
13:45 Take Back The Harbour  
14:40 Extinct Or Alive  
15:35 Expedition Mungo  
16:30 Flying Wild Alaska  
17:25 Red Ape: Saving The Orang-utan  
18:20 Into Alaska  
19:15 Evan Goes Wild  
20:10 Life On Earth: A New Prehistory  
21:05 Wildest Middle East  
22:00 After The Attack  
22:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
23:50 Evan Goes Wild



00:15 EastEnders  
00:45 Press  
01:45 Holby City  
02:35 Bad Move  
03:00 Hold The Sunset  
03:30 Death In Paradise  
04:25 Doctors  
06:30 EastEnders  
07:00 Last Tango In Halifax  
07:55 Holby City  
08:45 Casualty  
09:40 Bad Move  
10:00 Hold The Sunset  
10:30 Death In Paradise  
11:25 The Coroner  
12:10 Doctors  
12:45 Holby City  
13:35 The Musketeers  
14:30 Bad Move  
14:55 Hold The Sunset  
15:25 Doctors  
18:30 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators  
19:20 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators  
20:10 Press  
21:05 Trauma  
21:55 Les Miserables  
23:00 Save Me  
23:55 Doctors



00:00 Homicide Hunter  
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
01:55 Homicide Hunter  
02:50 It Takes A Killer  
03:45 Live PD: Police Patrol  
04:30 The First 48  
05:15 Homicide Hunter  
06:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill  
07:00 Live PD: Police Patrol  
07:20 The First 48  
08:50 Homicide Hunter  
10:30 Homicide: Hours To Kill  
11:25 Homicide Hunter  
12:20 Crimes That Shook Britain  
13:15 Live PD: Police Patrol  
14:10 It Takes A Killer  
15:05 Homicide Hunter



16:00 The First 48  
17:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill  
18:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
19:00 The First 48  
20:00 Homicide Hunter  
21:00 Live PD: Police Patrol  
22:00 The Jail: 60 Days In  
23:00 Live PD: Police Patrol

00:20 Rocketman  
00:45 Takeshis Castle Thailand  
01:10 Tosh.0  
01:35 Friends  
02:25 Kroll Show  
02:50 Takeshis Castle Thailand  
03:15 Tosh.0  
03:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
04:10 Broad City  
04:35 Impractical Jokers  
05:00 Are We There Yet?  
07:05 Lip Sync Battle  
07:55 Takeshis Castle Thailand  
08:20 Comedy Central Presents: Menna W FINA  
08:55 Takeshis Castle Thailand  
09:20 Ridiculousness Arabia  
09:45 Comedy Central Presents  
Comedy 3alwagef  
10:15 Friends  
12:20 Workaholics  
14:30 Lip Sync Battle  
15:20 Tattoo Disasters  
16:15 Tattoo Disasters  
17:10 Friends  
19:30 Martha And Snoop Potluck Dinner Party  
21:30 Teachers  
22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
22:30 Norm Macdonald: Me Doing Stand-Up  
23:25 Broad City  
23:50 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
00:30 The Food Inspectors  
01:20 My Cat From Hell  
02:10 Animal Battlegrounds  
02:35 Animal Battlegrounds  
03:00 Do You Know?  
03:50 Mysteries At The Museum  
04:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
05:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
05:30 My Cat From Hell  
06:20 Animal Battlegrounds  
06:40 Animal Battlegrounds  
07:00 Do You Know?  
07:50 Mysteries At The Museum  
08:40 Weather Top Tens  
09:30 Weather Gone Viral  
10:20 Storm Chasers  
11:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
12:00 Insane Coaster Wars: World Domination  
12:50 Life On The Line Australia  
13:40 Battle Bots  
14:30 Strange Evidence  
15:20 Do You Know?  
16:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
17:00 My Cat From Hell  
17:50 Animal Battlegrounds  
18:15 Animal Battlegrounds  
18:40 Do You Know?  
19:30 Guy's Grocery Games  
20:20 Breaking Magic  
20:45 Breaking Magic  
21:10 Tricks On The Streets  
21:35 Tricks On The Streets  
22:00 The Next Great Magician  
22:50 Into The Pride  
23:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things



00:00 Jonbenet: An American Murder Mystery  
02:00 True Conviction  
03:00 Jonbenet: An American Murder Mystery  
04:30 Jonbenet: An American Murder Mystery  
05:20 Disappeared



06:10 Blood Relatives  
07:00 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen  
08:50 Deadly Secrets  
09:45 Deadly Secrets  
10:40 Disappeared  
11:35 Murder Chose Me  
12:30 Murder Chose Me  
13:25 Blood Relatives  
14:20 Reasonable Doubt  
15:15 Deadly Secrets  
16:10 Disappeared  
17:05 Breaking Homicide  
19:00 Dead On Arrival  
21:00 Dark Waters: Murder In The Deep  
22:00 Dead On Arrival  
23:00 Betrayed




00:00 Alex & Co.  
00:25 Alex & Co.  
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles  
01:40 Alex & Co.  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:55 Hank Zipzer  
03:45 Alex & Co.  
04:35 Violetta  
05:25 Binny And The Ghost  
05:45 Rolling With The Ronks  
06:00 Jessie  
07:15 A.N.T. Farm  
08:30 Freaky Friday  
10:00 101 Dalmatian Street  
10:10 Shake It Up  
11:25 K.C. Undercover  
12:40 101 Dalmatian Street  
13:05 Kitty Is Not A Cat  
13:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
13:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
14:20 101 Dalmatian Street  
14:45 Kitty Is Not A Cat  
15:10 Raven's Home  
16:25 Bunk'd  
17:40 Liv And Maddie  
18:55 Bizaardvark  
19:20 Descendants Wicked World  
19:25 Bizaardvark  
20:15 Stuck In The Middle  
21:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
21:10 Stuck In The Middle  
21:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
22:50 Lolirock  
23:10 Evermoor Chronicles  
23:35 Binny And The Ghost




00:00 The Lion Guard  
00:25 Disney Junior Music Nursery Rhymes  
00:30 Trulli Tales S1  
01:00 PJ Masks  
01:25 PJ Masks  
01:50 The Hive  
02:00 Zou  
02:15 Zou  
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:20 The Hive  
03:30 The Hive S2  
03:40 Zou  
04:25 The Hive  
04:35 The Hive  
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:35 The Hive  
05:45 PJ Masks  
06:00 PJ Masks S2  
06:15 PJ Masks  
06:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons S3  
07:00 Disney Muppet Babies S1 Splits  
07:15 PJ Masks S2  
07:30 PJ Masks  
08:00 Vampirina  
08:30 Fancy Nancy S1  
09:00 Sofia The First S3  
09:30 Elena Of Avalor  
10:00 Doc McStuffins S3 Splits  
10:55 Toy Story Toons  
11:00 PJ Masks  
12:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers S1 Splits  
12:20 Mickey And The Roadster Racers S1 Splits



12:40 Mickey And The Roadster Racers S1 Splits  
13:00 Fancy Nancy Splits S1  
14:00 Vampirina S1  
15:00 Gigantosaurus S1 Splits  
15:55 Toy Story Toons  
16:00 The Lion Guard  
16:30 Elena Of Avalor  
17:00 Gigantosaurus S1  
17:25 Mickey And The Roadster Racers - Chip And Dale's  
17:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers S2  
18:00 Fancy Nancy S1  
18:30 Vampirina S2 Splits  
18:45 Vampirina S1  
19:00 PJ Masks  
19:30 Puppy Dog Pals  
20:00 The Lion Guard  
20:25 Mickey And The Roadster Racers - Chip And Dale's  
20:30 Elena Of Avalor  
21:00 Gigantosaurus S1  
21:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers S2  
22:00 Fancy Nancy S1  
22:30 Vampirina S2 Splits  
22:45 Vampirina S1  
23:00 PJ Masks  
23:30 Puppy Dog Pals



00:15 Ultimate Survival  
01:05 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed  
01:50 How Do They Do It?  
02:35 What On Earth?  
03:20 Misfit Garage  
04:05 Misfit Garage  
04:50 How Do They Do It?  
05:35 Auction Kings  
06:00 Storage Wars Canada  
06:20 Auction Kings  
06:45 Ultimate Survival  
07:35 The Last Alaskans  
08:20 Gold Rush  
09:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
09:55 Salvage Hunters  
10:45 How Do They Do It?  
11:30 Misfit Garage  
12:20 Misfit Garage  
13:05 Storage Wars Canada  
13:30 Auction Kings  
13:55 Salvage Hunters  
14:40 Railroad Alaska  
15:30 Wildest Europe  
16:15 Diesel Brothers  
17:05 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
17:50 Gold Rush  
18:40 How Do They Do It?  
19:05 How Do They Do It?  
19:25 Misfit Garage  
20:15 Misfit Garage  
21:00 Wheeler Dealers  
21:50 Diesel Brothers  
22:40 Shifting Gears With Aaron Kaufman  
23:30 The Last Alaskans



00:15 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
00:35 Booster  
01:00 Booster  
01:25 Counterfeit Cat  
01:45 Counterfeit Cat  
02:10 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
02:35 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
03:00 Booster  
03:20 Booster  
03:45 Dude That's My Ghost  
04:10 Dude That's My Ghost  
04:35 Counterfeit Cat  
05:00 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
05:29 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja  
06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man  
06:25 Space Chickens In Space  
06:35 Marvel's Avengers: Black Panther's Quest  
07:00 Phineas And Ferb  
08:00 Gravity Falls  
08:50 Pair Of Kings  
09:40 Big City Greens  
10:00 Big City Greens



10:25 Kick Buttowski  
10:50 Phineas And Ferb  
11:00 Gravity Falls  
11:25 Gravity Falls  
11:50 Milo Murphy's Law  
12:05 Marvel's Avengers: Black Panther's Quest  
12:30 Supa Strikas  
13:20 Lab Rats  
14:10 Pair Of Kings  
15:00 Marvel's Spider-Man  
15:25 Disney Mickey Mouse  
15:30 Space Chickens In Space  
15:55 Big City Greens  
16:20 Big Hero 6 The Series  
16:45 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
17:00 Milo Murphy's Law  
17:31 DuckTales  
17:55 Phineas And Ferb  
19:00 Gravity Falls  
19:50 Marvel's Avengers: Black Panther's Quest  
20:15 Lab Rats  
20:40 Lab Rats  
21:05 Kick Buttowski  
21:30 Big City Greens  
21:55 Disney Mickey Mouse  
22:00 Milo Murphy's Law  
22:29 Milo Murphy's Law  
23:00 Dude That's My Ghost  
23:50 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja



00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
01:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
02:00 E! News  
03:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
04:00 WAGs  
08:00 E! News: Daily Pop  
08:55 Model Squad  
11:40 E! News  
12:35 Very Cavallari  
15:20 E! News: Daily Pop  
16:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
19:00 E! News  
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
22:00 Botched  
23:00 Botched



00:10 Dinner Date  
01:00 Emmerdale  
01:30 Coronation Street  
02:30 Kate's Wardrobe Secrets  
03:25 Her Majesty's Cavalry  
03:55 Gino's Italian Coastal Escape  
04:20 This Time Next Year  
05:15 Dinner Date  
06:15 Couples Come Dine With Me  
07:10 Kate's Wardrobe Secrets  
08:05 Her Majesty's Cavalry  
08:35 Gino's Italian Coastal Escape  
09:00 This Time Next Year  
09:55 Dinner Date  
10:55 Couples Come Dine With Me  
11:50 Kate's Wardrobe Secrets  
12:45 Emmerdale  
13:15 Coronation Street  
14:15 Couples Come Dine With Me  
15:10 Royal Wives Of Windsor  
16:00 What Would Your Kid Do?  
16:55 Cannonball  
17:50 Dinner Date  
18:50 Emmerdale  
19:15 Coronation Street  
20:10 Royal Wives Of Windsor  
21:00 What Would Your Kid Do?  
21:55 Cannonball  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Coronation Street



00:15 Clash Of Warriors  
01:00 UFO Hunters  
01:45 Cities Of The Underworld  
02:30 Ancient Impossible  
03:15 Ancient Aliens  
04:45 Battles BC


05:30 Jurassic Fight Club  
06:15 Million Dollar Genius  
07:00 UFO Hunters  
07:45 Cities Of The Underworld  
08:30 Ancient Impossible  
09:15 Ancient Aliens  
10:00 Ancient Aliens  
10:45 Battles BC  
11:30 Jurassic Fight Club  
12:15 Million Dollar Genius  
13:00 UFO Hunters  
13:45 Cities Of The Underworld  
14:30 Ancient Impossible  
15:15 Ancient Aliens  
16:45 Battles BC  
17:30 Jurassic Fight Club  
18:15 UFO Hunters  
19:00 Cities Of The Underworld  
19:45 Ancient Impossible  
20:30 Ancient Aliens  
22:00 Search For The Lost Giants  
22:45 Jurassic Fight Club  
23:30 Million Dollar Genius



00:20 Mountain Men  
01:05 Pawn Stars  
01:50 American Pickers  
02:35 Storage Wars  
03:25 Ax Men  
04:15 Forged: Iron & Fire  
05:05 Forged In Fire  
06:00 Counting Cars  
06:45 Mountain Men  
07:30 Pawn Stars  
08:15 American Pickers  
09:00 Storage Wars  
09:45 Ax Men  
10:30 Forged: Iron & Fire  
11:15 Forged In Fire  
12:00 American Pickers  
15:00 Fifth Gear  
18:45 Ancient Aliens  
19:30 Storage Wars: Barry's Best Buys  
21:00 Secret War On Drugs  
22:15 Pawn Stars  
22:40 American Pickers



00:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea  
01:00 Ultimate Airport Dubai  
02:00 What's For Sale With A View  
02:55 A House Of Its Time  
03:50 Access 360 World Heritage  
04:45 What's For Sale With A View  
05:10 Chasing Time  
05:40 The Wine Show  
06:35 Island Hunter  
07:30 Fish Tank Kings  
08:25 Confucius Was A Foodie  
09:20 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen  
10:15 Eat Street  
11:10 The Wine Show  
12:05 Island Hunter  
13:00 Fish Tank Kings  
13:55 Confucius Was A Foodie  
14:50 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen  
15:45 Eat Street  
16:40 The Wine Show  
17:35 Island Hunter  
18:30 Fish Tank Kings  
19:25 Confucius Was A Foodie  
20:20 Fish Of The Day  
20:45 The Game Chef  
21:15 Eat Street  
22:10 Croatia's Finest  
23:05 Island Hunter



00:00 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman  
00:50 Primal Survivor  
01:40 Inside Cocaine Wars  
02:30 One Strange Rock  
03:20 World's Most Extreme  
04:10 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman  
05:00 Primal Survivor  
06:00 Inside Cocaine Wars  
07:00 One Strange Rock  
08:00 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman  
09:00 Jurassic C.S.I.  
10:00 Yukon River Run  
11:00 Innovation Nation  
12:00 Money Meltdown



Stars



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Plan a special outing with someone near and dear to your heart. Special time with someone you love will be very emotionally satisfying to you today. You are in a loving mood. You are focused on building a stronger relationship and you will find this very satisfying. This is the ideal time to tap into your creative energy. Look around for a need that is not being met. The answer could be a simple invention with a huge impact. Your mindset is perfect for this. You will be able to not only use your talent to benefit your needs, but also help others. This could be a win-win situation for you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Prepare for a major event. This may put an end to your old way of life. You may find independence is a necessity now rather than a choice. You are on your own and this may mark a time of increased responsibility and accountability. Some soul searching may be in order to face this new life. Take your time and spend sometime meditating or relaxing to access your new situation. Do not ask yourself, Why me? You know why. Because you can handle any obstacle that is put in your path.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Things may seem too good to be true. In an almost magical sense it seems that all of your dreams are coming true. Goals seem attainable now. Everything seems to be falling in your lap. You are being smiled upon and you have a new love for life. This is the result of your hard work and dedication. You may find that karma has a way of repaying your good deeds and there seems to be no other explanation for this vast array of good fortune. This is a great time to get all of your affairs in order and continue to dream big.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your words have more power than you could ever imagine. Use them wisely. This is a time others will find you very persuasive. You are a natural born leader and may find yourself asked to lead the pack today. You are starting to discover may career opportunities will begin to present themselves to you. Choose your friends wisely and be sure to keep only those who have your best interest at heart in your circle. You may find not everyone is supportive. Jealousy and envy may rear its head in your world today. Keep your chin up and keep going full steam ahead!



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your peers are appreciative of your ability to be able to make constructive suggestions or to help them with practical decisions, which relate to group issues. Knowing exactly what the public wants at this time is yet another feather in your hat. Your name and reputation are spreading quickly. Expect an upgrade soon in your job identity and pay. The idea of value or a greater appreciation for things of value is fun to comprehend this afternoon. It is most assuredly a time when tangible things have a great deal of importance. Your emotions or the feelings of those around you should be quite clear, making it a great time to reflect and truly understand individual family members and your connection in the family.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Today may find you feeling as you encounter a road block at every turn. Perhaps, today is not the day for big decisions. You may find yourself a bit frustrated and preferring a bit of isolation. You are simply not in the mood for people. You may feel as if you are not able to get your point across to anyone and may feel greatly misunderstood. You could find yourself at odds with those close to you and should remember to try and remain calm as conflict and confrontation seem to be seeking your company today. Today would be a great day for re-organizing and reflection to get yourself back where you want to be.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You have a special place in your heart for those close to you. You seem to be the one the younger generation in your life look up to and admire. Your advice and guidance maybe sought from someone who looks to you as a mentor. You may feel as if your greatest growth comes when you are helping others. Today may be one of those days you are spinning your wheels getting physical tasks accomplished. Before frustration takes hold, stop and realize your shoulder to lean on and your listening ear and wonderful advice may be a much greater accomplishment that a completing a simple chore. Libra, be proud of who you are and what you mean to others.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Things may seem too good to be true. In an almost magical sense it seems that all of your dreams are coming true. Goals seem attainable now. Everything seems to be falling in your lap. You are being smiled upon and you have a new love for life. This is the result of your hard work and dedication. You may find that karma has a way of repaying your good deeds and there seems to be no other explanation for this vast array of good fortune. This is a great time to get all of your affairs in order and continue to dream big.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A need for power and control is a driving force in your life now. You long to be in control of everyone and every aspect of your world. You may find that others see you as being more assertive than usual and are caught off guard by the change in you. You find you are curious and seeking answers to subjects and mysteries you find intriguing. Today could find you doing a bit of soul-searching trying to find answers to all that fascinate you about who you are, who you have become, and where life finds you today. This is a day solutions to old problems seem to fall into your lap. You may find much support from someone close to you that truly admires your more eccentric qualities.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your relationships seem to take on a new importance for you now. You have come to realize you gather strength from the support of those closest to you. You may experience a bit of a wakeup call today. A refreshing reminder that helps you remember it is ok to put yourself first. You are not responsible for anyone's happiness but your own. Always putting others ahead of yourself after time can cause you to be unhappy. Take some time today to spoil yourself. This will be rewarding and satisfying to you.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Lady Luck is smiling down on you. Today is one of those days that it seems you can do no wrong. Everything is going your way and you are full of happiness and energy. This is a great time to seek advice from an elder. You are well aware that with age comes knowledge. You may find the advice you receive from this person is good and just the bit of encouragement you needed to make a leap forward. Live without fear. Aquarius. Take a chance and enjoy everything this day has to bring. Make plans today for future events as you will find everything seems to fall into place. What a great day.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There is a reason they make chocolate AND vanilla. What appeals to one may not always appeal to the other. People are different. They have different options and different outlooks on life. You may find yourself running across someone who could not be any more opposite of you. This person will not be someone whose company you enjoy. You can always turn a negative situation into something positive. Sit and have a talk and really listen to what this person has to say. Sometimes listening to understand rather than listening to respond can shed great light and understanding on a situation.

Country Codes

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



# CLINIC PAGE



**Kuwait Times**  
248 33 199

Friday, July 5, 2019

**DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY**  
Canadian Board of Otolaryngology  
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics  
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada  
A rare Subspecialty in Microscopic Ear Surgery, Cochlear implant & Ear diseases

- Diagnosis/Treatment of General Ear, Nose, and Throat conditions in adults & pediatrics
- Minimally Invasive Endoscopic sinus surgery including Balloon sinuplasty
- Minimally Invasive Microscopic Endoscopic Ear surgery
- Diagnosis & treatment of Otolaryngology and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & Balance disorders)
- Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)
- Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery
- Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders
- Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors

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@MAlhajry

**DR. FAHAD S. BUHAIMED**  
Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist & Hair Transplant, NY

**ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES:**

- Dermatology board certified.
- Fellowship training program in cosmetic dermatology and hair transplant, New York, USA.
- Member of American cosmetic dermatology society.
- Referee reviewer of International Journal of Dermatology.

**SPECIALIZED IN:**

- Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- Laser Treatments.
- Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- Body & Face Contouring.
- Injectable Fillers & Botox.

**SHARQ, Ahmad Alkhatib st., Building 14, Floor 11.**  
Tel: (+965) 22060777  
@DrFahadMed, @BeautyBeyond  
Email: drfahadmed@beautybeyond.com.kw  
www.beautybeyond.com.kw

**DR KHALED ALMERRI**  
Consultant Interventional Cardiology  
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

**Specialized in:**

- 1- Diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty), Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4- Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6- Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

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**Know your Doctor**  
Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)  
**Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj**  
ENT Specialist

- Laryngology Fellowship - Canada
- Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
- Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- Member of the British Laryngological Association
- Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- Member of the European Laryngological Society

**Specialized in:**

- Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
- Vocal cord augmentation.
- Treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- Thyroid surgery.
- Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- Treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- Treatment of snoring.
- Treatment of vertigo.

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**Dr. Abdullah Al Haddad**  
Surgery Department  
Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo - Rectal Surgeon

**Scope of Clinical Practice:**

- General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- Single Port Surgery
- Treatment of Colon - Rectal Diseases, including Colorectal Cancer
- Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (cryptoglandular)
- SMART Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Robot-assisted)
- Treatment of Intractable Bowel Symptoms
- Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- Stomach Bullectomy Incision & removal
- Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- Gallstones & Abdominal Hernia Surgery
- Colonoscopy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- Laparoscopic Mini Bypass
- Transanal minimally invasive surgery

**Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:**

- American Board of General Surgery
- Fellow of American College of Surgery
- Canadian Board of General Surgery
- Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada
- American Board of Colon - Rectal Surgery
- American Board of Surgical Critical Care

**daralshifa**  
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

**Dr. Ahmad Alaeddine**  
Head of Cardiology department  
at Dar Al Shifa hospital

- Consultant Interventional and conventional cardiologist.
- Specialized in the Diagnosis and treatment of all adult cardiac diseases, including those cases that need urgent intervention in Cath lab (primary angioplasty).

**دار الشفاء**  
Dar Al Shifa Hospital  
Tel: 1802 555

daralshifa

**Dr. Hani Haider**  
General Surgery Consultant

**American Board Certified in General Surgery**  
Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)  
Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation  
Member of many prestigious surgical societies.

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- Surgery for reflux disease
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- Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- Breast surgeries
- Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

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**Dr. Abdullah Hadi**  
Cardiology Department  
Consultant - Internal Medicine  
Interventional Cardiology & Adult Cardiology

**د. عبد الله هادي**  
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## Health

Friday, July 5, 2019

**Dr. Ahmed Hosni Abd Elhamid**  
Consultant

**Dr. Rany Essam Mitwally**  
Senior Registrar

**Dr. Abeer Khattab**  
Specialist

**Ophthalmology Services**

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**Dr Sahar Ghannam**  
Dermatology consultant, skin treatment and laser

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Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 9:30 am to 5 pm  
Thursday from 9:30 am until 1 pm

**Friday is a holiday.**

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Thyroid and parathyroid surgery  
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**DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM**  
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368    Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic 8

**DR. WALEED S. BUHAIMED**  
Consultant of General Surgery  
Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery

**Academic Certificates – Training**

- Kuwait Board of General Surgery.
- (IFSO) member .
- Faculty member of (BEST).
- Member of Kuwait Surgical Association.

**Scope of clinical Practice.**

- Bariatric surgeries.
- Gallbladder stones surgeries.
- Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- G.I. surgeries.
- Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- Anal surgeries.

email: wbuhaimeid@gmail.com    Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228    Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Over Center Mazaya Building

**Dr. Husain Alenezi**

-Board Certified Urologist.  
-Endourology Society-Approved Fellowship In Endourology And Robotic Surgery At Western University, Ontario, Canada.

**Expert in diagnosing and treating:**

- 1- Urinary Stones (Kidney, Ureter & Bladder) By Endoscopy & Laser
- 2- Prostate Cancer And Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia
- 3- Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms In Males And Females
- 4- Tumors And Malignancies Of The Urinary Tract (Kidney, Adrenals, Ureter, Bladder And Testes)
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# Classifieds

Friday, July 5, 2019

Kuwait Times

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e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Sakina** Habib Jigar holder of Indian Passport No. J3507105, issued in Kuwait, I need to change my name on my passport as **Sakina Zakir Husain Rantawala**. (C 5656)  
5-7-2019

I, **CABRAL** CAETANO S/o JOSE FRANCISCO CABRAL, holder of Indian Passport No. J0369680 issued in Kuwait, I need to change my name on my Passport as **CAETANO CABRAL S/o JOSE FRANCISCO CABRAL SEBASTIANA COSTA**, Passport No. J0369680, H.No. 996/1 Nova Palmar, Cortalim, Cortalim Mormugao, South Goa, Goa 403710. (C 5655)  
4-7-2019

I, **Lancy** Thomas D Cunha, holder of Indian Passport No. J7413137, having permanent address in India at Bethel House, Derebail Konchady Cross Road, Near Vishwa Geeth Complex, Mangaluru - 575006, Karnataka, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under:  
2-7-2019

Given Names: **Lancy** Thomas and Surname: **D Cunha**  
(C 5654) 3-7-2019

I, **Robin** Kadavenkottu Mathew S/o Mathew Kadavenkottu Thomas, holder of Indian Passport No. S4164643 issued in Trivandrum has changed the given name in passport from Mathew Robin Kadavenkottu to **Robin** Kadavenkottu Mathew, resident of Chittar PO, Pathanamdhitta, Kerala. Here by solemnly declare. (C 5651)

I, **Kasim** holder of Passport No. H8470593 issued in Kuwait hereby Change name on my Passport from given name **Kasim** to surname **Bhotvawala** and given name **Kasim** Yusuf. (C 5653)

I, **GILBERT** LUCAS FERNANDES, DOB 01/01/1997, Passport No. T1942816, issued in Kuwait on 24/01/2019. Currently my sur-name on the passport is **GILBERT** LUCAS and my given name is **FERNANDES**. I, hereby declare that my given name(s) is **GILBERT** LUCAS and my sur-name is **FERNANDES**. (C 5652)  
2-7-2019

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital

24812000

Amiri Hospital

22450005

Maternity Hospital

24843100

Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital

25312700

Chest Hospital

24849400

Farwaniya Hospital

24892010

Adan Hospital

23940620

Ibn Sina Hospital

24840300

Al-Razi Hospital

24846000

Physiotherapy Hospital

24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center

25716707

Rawda

22517733

Adaliya

22517144

Khaldiya

24848075

Kaifan

24849807

Shamiya

24848913

Shuwaikh

24814507

Abdullah Salem

22549134

Nuzha

22526804

Industrial Shuwaikh

24814764

Qadsiya

22515088

Dasmah

22532265

Bneid Al-Gar

22531908

Shaab

22518752

Qibla

22459381

Ayoun Al-Qibla

22451082

Mirqab

22456536

Sharq

22465401

Salmiya

25746401

STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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www.met.gov.kw

DAY: Thursday04/07/2019Valid From 7 PM To 7 AM

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Hot to relatively hot with light to moderate freshening at times over costal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h .

BY DAY: Hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 25 - 55 km/h causing rising dust.

WEATHER WARNING

No Current Warnings

STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	34 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	48 °C	34 °C
ABDALY	47 °C	28 °C
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C
JAHRA	48 °C	33 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	44 °C	31 °C
SALMIYAH	40 °C	33 °C
AHMADI	42 °C	36 °C
NUWAISIB	47 °C	32 °C
WAFRA	48 °C	32 °C
SALMY	46 °C	28 °C

SFC. CHART04/07/2019 1200 UTC

MSL Analysis (hPa)  
Valid 1200 UTC 04 JUL 2019

4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	07/05	Hot and rising dust	46 °C	34 °C	NW	25 - 55 km/h
Saturday	07/06	Hot and rising dust	46 °C	34 °C	NW	25 - 60 km/h
Sunday	07/07	Very hot and rising dust over open areas	47 °C	33 °C	NW	20 - 50 km/h
Monday	07/08	Very hot	48 °C	33 °C	NW	15 - 40 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	03:19
Sunrise	04:53
Zuhr	11:52
Asr	15:26
Sunset	18:51
Isha	20:23

All times are local time unless otherwise stated. UP:0

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	34 °C
MAX. RH	19 %
MIN. RH	06 %
MAX. Wind	N 57 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

2019/07/04 14:27 UTC V1.00 T2.4 ق.ت.ع. 8-1

2019/07/04 14:27 UTC V1.00 T2.4 ق.ت.ع. 8-1



## Business

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2019

**38** Warning light flashing for Slovakia's auto industry**39** South Korea may retaliate against Japan's high-tech export curbs**41** Vietnam asks firms to use local materials as US threatens tariffs

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (front right) poses for a group photograph with her staff before finalizing the 2019-20 union budget at her office in New Delhi yesterday. The government is set to release its annual budget today. — AFP

# India predicts 7% economic growth this year

## Govt warns of aging population, says retirement age should rise

**NEW DELHI:** India yesterday predicted that its economy will rebound and grow at 7.0 percent this year as it outlined plans on how to double its economy by 2025 to \$5 trillion. The forecasts are part of an annual Economic Survey released before the full budget today and sheds light on the state of the Asian giant's economic health.

India remained the world's fastest-growing major economy for nearly two years, outpacing China after the right-wing government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi took power in 2014. But a fall in domestic demand lowered its growth rate in the last quarter to 5.8 percent, pushing it to a five-year low and behind China's 6.4 percent in the same period.

The slowdown was largely linked to a slump in domestic consumption that has impacted tax collection amid rising state expenditure on the distressed farm sector. The annual growth in the last fiscal year remained at 6.8 percent, down from 7.2 percent in 2017-18.

The report says India's economy will expand through investment and consumption along with a stable political government. Modi, who won a second landslide victory in recent national elections, is likely to push up government spending and accelerate economic growth through tax reliefs.

The survey said India needs to sustain a growth rate of more than 8.0 percent to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, up from \$2.61

trillion now. India is ranked the sixth-biggest economy just behind Britain and ahead of France. The US and China occupy the first and second spots with \$19 trillion and \$12 trillion.

India's chief economic advisor K V Subramanian said the survey lays out a strategic blueprint for achieving the goal, through "virtuous cycle" of savings, investment and exports.

"The key theme is about shifting gears, we have grown well but we need to shift gears at 8 percent sustained growth," Subramanian told reporters at a press conference in New Delhi.

Modi, who in the election campaign came under sharp attack for falling short on creating jobs, tweeted that the report "outlines a vision to achieve a \$5 trillion economy".

The Indian government yesterday warned in a study that its population is going to start to age and it needs to be prepared to merge schools and raise the retirement age. While India should be set to benefit from the so-called "demographic dividend" over the next decade as its working population is set to increase by about 9.7 million a year between 2021-31, that will quickly fade as the nation's fertility rate plunges below replacement level.

The conclusions in the study, "India's Demography at 2040: Planning Public Good Provision for the 21st Century," will have major implications for many companies, particularly those that have been

eyeing consumer demand from India's young population.

It said the number of children in the 5-14 age bracket will decline significantly, leading to the need for school mergers and less focus on building new ones. Already states such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have fewer than 50 students enrolled in more than 40 percent of their elementary schools, according to the study, which was included in the government's annual Economic Survey.

It also said that policymakers need to prepare for an increasing number of elderly people, estimating there will be 239.4 million Indians over the age of 60 in 2041 against 104.2 million in 2011.

"This will need investments in health care as well as a plan for increasing the retirement age in a phased manner," concluded the study, which was authored by India's Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian and his team of economists. The current retirement age for most government workers in India is 60.

Meanwhile, the number of Indians aged between 0-19 has already started to decline and the proportion of the population in that age group is projected to fall to 25 percent by 2041 from 41 percent in 2011. The demographic dividend that is talked about in India refers to the current situation where the nation's labor force is growing quicker than the rest of the population it supports.— Agencies



# Warning light flashing for Slovakia's auto industry

## Shift to electric cars, trade tensions add to challenges

**BRATISLAVA/PRAGUE:** When David landed an assembly line job at Volkswagen's Bratislava factory, his colleagues congratulated him on securing a well-paid position he could ride to retirement.

Two years later, he is among the 3,000 workers being laid off at the plant that produces the Volkswagen Touareg and Porsche Cayenne in a round of job cuts that has sent shockwaves through Slovakia, the world's biggest car producer per capita. "All my colleagues were saying there's nothing to worry about, if I get used to the work load and work pace, the salary will gradually increase and I will have a stable job until retirement," said David, who declined to give his last name.

"And suddenly I get a call from human resources and learn that I'm being let go." The job losses at the factory, Slovakia's largest private sector employer, underline the challenges the country faces to keep the engine revving in an industry that accounts for about 12 percent of annual economic output and more than one in ten jobs.

Competition from lower-cost southeastern European markets, a shift to electric vehicles and global trade tensions are among the headwinds buffeting the small central European nation as automakers mull where to launch future produc-

tion lines. Volkswagen itself is looking at building a new plant in eastern Europe, with trade publications citing Bulgaria, Serbia and Turkey as the most likely locations.

While David found a job at another carmaker, the layoffs at the Bratislava plant, which also makes the Audi Q7 and Q8 models, have put the government on alert. "To use a car metaphor, we see a warning light, we don't need to take the car for a general repair yet," economy minister Peter Ziga told Reuters.

"We have 300,000 people working in the car sector (directly and indirectly). Should anything happen to them it would be serious."

The uncertainty has spurred unions, which have previously pushed for big wage increases, to change tack. "At the moment, we do not focus on salaries, the priority is job stability," Volkswagen union chief Zoroslav Smolinsky told Reuters. "We need to wait out the worse times and wait for the better times."

### Competitive edge

Seeking to bolster an auto industry that accounts for 44 percent of industrial output and 40 percent of exports, the government has approved subsidies to boost the sale of electric cars and announced tax breaks of up to 200 percent of the amount invested in research and



BRATISLAVA: An assembly line at Volkswagen's Bratislava factory

development. But at the same time, moves to raise the minimum wage and increase bonuses for night shifts introduced last year are making Slovakia less competitive, said Jan Pribula, secretary general of the Slovak Automotive Industry Association.

"This is the time when companies are deciding who gets new models in seven years," said Pribula, whose group represents Slovakia's four carmakers - Volkswagen, PSA Group, Kia Motors and Jaguar Land Rover - along with suppliers, research institutes and importers. — Reuters

## Saudi Arabia raises \$3.4bn in debut eurobond issue

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia has raised three billion euros (\$3.4 billion) in its first euro-denominated bond sale, the government said Wednesday, as the petro-state taps new funds to plug a budget deficit. The finance ministry announced the "successful completion of the first offering of an international bond denominated in the euro currency... with a total issue of 3 billion euros".

The world's top crude exporter, which had previously only issued bonds denominated in dollars, has posted budget deficits since oil prices crashed in 2014. The order book for the bond sale "peaked at 13.5 billion euros, which was 4.5 times oversubscribed," the ministry said in a statement. The bonds are split into an eight-year tranche offering a 0.78 percent yield and 20-year notes yielding 2.04 percent, it added. "One of the advantages of offering a euro bond is to increase the diversity of investors," said Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan.

"The very high demand has shown that the strength of Saudi Arabia enables it to enter multiple markets". Riyadh has posted an accumulated budget shortfall of \$313 billion over the past five years and projects another substantial deficit for 2019. The government announced an expansionary budget this year as it seeks to boost the economy and diversify away from oil revenue. Saudi Arabia has sought to raise money through the debt markets to help fund its economic transformation program. To generate additional sources of income, the kingdom has also increased the prices of fuels and electricity, imposed a five-percent value added tax (VAT) and levied duties on 11 million expatriates. — AFP

## Facebook services back online after worldwide outage

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Facebook said it was "back at 100 percent" Wednesday evening after an outage on all of its services affected users in various parts of the world.

Online monitoring service DownDetector reported earlier the outage began around 1200 GMT and affected Facebook as well as its Instagram and WhatsApp services.

"The issue has since been resolved and we should be back at 100 percent for everyone," the company tweeted at 0006 GMT yesterday adding they were sorry for "any inconvenience."

A Facebook spokesperson, also speaking on behalf of Instagram and WhatsApp, explained that a "routine maintenance operation" accidentally triggered a bug that made it difficult for users to upload or send photos and videos, US media reported. #Facebookdown and #instagramdown were trending on Twitter as users around the world reported these apps were not functioning. According to DownDetector, thousands of users around the world were reporting outages, with Europe and North America most impacted. Both individual users as well as businesses and organizations were affected. "Yes, we are affected by #instagramdown, too," the CIA tweeted during the outage. "No, we didn't cause it. No, we can't fix yours. Did you try turning it off and back on again?"

Earlier this year, an outage lasting as long as 24 hours that hit Facebook services was blamed on a "server configuration change." The March 13 outage was believed to be the worst ever for the internet giant, which reaches an estimated 2.7 billion people with its core social network, Instagram and messaging applications. The company did not immediately respond to an AFP query on Wednesday's outage. — AFP

### News in brief

#### William Hill plans 4,500 job cuts

**LONDON:** British betting company William Hill yesterday said it planned to shut 700 shops with a loss of 4,500 jobs, blaming the UK government's crackdown on problem-gambling. Explaining its decision, William Hill said that since the start of April, when the government slashed the top wager for fixed-odds betting machines, "the company has seen a significant fall in... revenues". After pressure from campaigners and lawmakers to act on problem-gambling, the government dramatically cut the maximum stake for a bet on terminals allowing gamblers to bet every 20 seconds to £2 (\$2.5, 2.2 euros) from £100. — AFP

#### EPH buys Uniper's assets in France

**PRAGUE:** Czech-based coal mining and energy group EPH said yesterday it had signed a deal to buy the French assets of German energy company Uniper, without disclosing its value. It is buying Uniper's "French sales business, two gas-fired power plants in Saint-Avoid (Lorraine), two coal-fired power plants in Saint-Avoid and Gardanne (Provence)," EPH said in a statement. Under the deal signed Thursday, EPH is also buying the biomass power plant Provence 4 Biomasse in Gardanne and Uniper's French wind and solar power plants. "We enter the French market with a strategic intention to further develop the business of Uniper France," he added. — AFP



## Business

# South Korea may retaliate against Japan's high-tech export curbs

## Export limits will disrupt global supply chain: Seoul

**SEOUL:** South Korea said yesterday it may retaliate against Japan's latest export limits on high-tech materials, as a row over forced wartime labor threatened to disrupt global supplies of memory chips and smartphones.

Samsung Electronics Co and SK Hynix Inc - the world's top memory chipmakers, and suppliers to Apple and China's Huawei Technologies - could face delays if the measures that took effect yesterday drag on. "Implementing corresponding measures against Japan cannot be ruled out," Finance Minister Hong Nam-ki told South Korea radio. He said the trade row could cause "unfortunate damage to both Korean and Japanese economies".

The dispute is the latest flashpoint in a quarrel over South Korean efforts to seek compensation for Japan's use of forced wartime labor, which got fresh impetus from South Korean court rulings last year.

The curbs on exports of three materials used in South Korean chips and smartphone displays, which Japan had announced on Monday, will disrupt the global supply chain, South Korea's trade minister said. Japan accounts for 70 percent-90 percent of the production of the three materials, Japanese media have said, making it difficult for South Korean chipmakers to find alternative sources of supply.

"It will pose a huge uncertainty and threat to the global economy by shaking up the global supply chain," Trade Minister Yoo Myung-hee

told a meeting of industry groups on Thursday.

South Korea's presidential office said on Thursday that it plans to actively seek diplomatic countermeasures, including complaining to the World Trade Organization (WTO) against the "retaliatory" export curbs. "We will explain to major countries about the unfairness of Japan's action, and the fact that this violates the principle of free trade," Yoon Do-han, press secretary to the President, said in a statement.

Finance Minister Hong had said it would take a long time to get a WTO ruling on the dispute.

The row exploded late last year when South Korean court rulings ordered Japan's Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to South Korean plaintiffs. Japan denounced the court verdicts as "unthinkable".

The two countries share a bitter history that includes Japan's 1910-45 colonization of the Korean peninsula and the use of comfort women, Japan's euphemism for girls and women, many of them Korean, forced to work in its wartime brothels.

### Fight just starting

Both sides showed no signs of backing down in the trade dispute. Kyodo News Agency reported on Tuesday that Japan was considering expanding its export controls to more items bound for South Korea. The leader of South Korea's ruling Democratic Party, Lee Hae-chan,



**SEOUL:** The dispute is the latest flashpoint in a quarrel over South Korean efforts to seek compensation for Japan's use of forced wartime labor, which got fresh impetus from South Korean court rulings last year.

said: "This fight is just in the beginning, not the end". The items affected by Japan's curbs include photoresists and hydrogen fluoride, both essential materials in the chipmaking process at

Samsung and SK Hynix. Samsung was reviewing measures to minimize the impact on its production, the company told Reuters. SK Hynix declined to comment. — Reuters

## Markets turn flat amid US holiday celebrations

**LONDON:** European stock markets flatlined yesterday, after an unconvincing session earlier in Asia, with trading volumes thin on the US Independence Day holiday, dealers said.

"European stocks have edged a tad higher while US stock futures are unchanged following Asia's mixed session, one day after new record highs for indexes stateside," said Oanda analyst Dean Popplewell. "Trading remains thin due to July 4th U.S. celebrations," he added but sounded caution before Friday's data release of US non-farm payrolls—a key update on the health of the world's biggest economy.

"Currently, the dollar trades broadly flat due to the US public holiday but could be vulnerable and ruin traders' weekends if tomorrow's US NFP data comes in on the weaker side." Asian equity markets experienced mixed fortunes, despite a record-breaking performance on Wall Street, as investors turned their focus to Friday's upcoming data while hoping for a big Federal Reserve interest rate cut.

US traders went on a pre-July 4 spending spree Wednesday to push all three main indexes to their all-time highs as a string of weak economic indicators reinforced the case for the Fed to reduce borrowing costs. With the relief-rally from Donald Trump and Xi Jinping's trade war ceasefire running its course, dealers were turning their attention to the global outlook and pinning their hopes on central bank support.

The release Friday of US non-farm payroll figures is key, analysts say, with a weak reading likely to reinforce expectations of



**NEW YORK:** Trader Gregory Rowe works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) ahead of the closing bell in New York City. US stocks finished down slightly at the close on Wednesday but are still on pace for a strong month. — AFP

a rate cut. Talk of a reduction and concerns about the economy have seen the yield on safe haven 10-year Treasuries fall below two percent.

Stephen Innes, at Vanguard Markets, said the fall in yields across several asset classes "has increased investor appetite for high dividend-yielding equity risk".

The increasing likelihood of a Fed cut has weighed on the dollar, with riskier currencies such as the South Korean won, Australian dollar and Indonesian rupiah all strengthening. However, Trump hit out at China on Wednesday in a Twitter rant, accusing it and Europe of artificially keeping the yuan and euro weak to gain an advantage over the US. He said they were playing a "big currency manipulation game" and "pumping money into their system", adding that the US should step up to the fight by matching them. — AFP

## Italian bond yields extend falls

**LONDON:** Italian government bond yields again fell to lows not seen since 2016 yesterday after Italy dodged the threat of disciplinary action over its public finances and as markets bet that the ECB would retain its dovish stance under Christine Lagarde.

The European Commission's decision not to pursue an excessive deficit procedure gave fresh impetus for bond buying. In a new concession made close to the deadline, Rome offered a structural improvement of 0.45 percent, data published by the Commission on Wednesday showed. The headline deficit is now forecast at 2.04 percent this year. It is the second time in six months that Brussels has pulled back from a debt procedure against Italy, a sign of Rome's willingness to compromise but also of Brussels' lenient interpretation of EU fiscal rules. Italian 10-year bond yields have fallen over 50 basis points so far this week, putting them on track for their best weekly performance since April 2012, and are now yielding 1.576 percent, having risen as high as 3.78 percent last year. The Italy/Germany bond yield spread narrowed to its tightest since May 2018 at 194 basis points.

Government borrowing costs across the single-currency bloc had already tumbled to record lows after EU leaders agreed late on Tuesday to name Christine Lagarde as the ECB's new head. The current of the International Monetary Fund is expected to continue the dovish stance of current ECB President Mario Draghi and introduce more monetary easing measures. — Reuters



## Business

# Australia senate backs \$110bn tax cut plan to boost economy

## Tax plan seen as a boost to faltering economy

**SYDNEY:** Australia's upper house Senate passed yesterday A\$158 billion (\$110 billion) worth of tax cuts over the next decade, the centerpiece of the conservative government's plan to boost an economy that is threatening to stall. The plan was approved by the lower house of parliament on Tuesday but the vote was in doubt in the senate where the governing coalition does not have a majority. In the end, the main opposition Labor party backed the legislation on the grounds that the economy needed immediate stimulus even though later tax cuts favored wealthy Australians.

"Low-and middle-income earners will keep more of what they earn and have more money in their pockets. This will ultimately boost household consumption, which will be good for the overall economy," Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in a statement.

About 10 million middle- and low-income earners are expected to receive a rebate worth up to A\$1,080 within a week of the bill's passage. The tax cuts are welcome relief to Australia's central bank, which has said government

action was needed to boost consumer spending in order to revive an economy that is growing at its slowest pace in a decade.

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics yesterday showed retail sales rose a pedestrian 0.1 percent in May after falling 0.1 percent April, and below analysts' forecast of a 0.2 percent gain.

Separate data also showed the number of job vacancies - a leading indicator for labor demand - fell 1.1 percent in the three months to May from the previous quarter, clocking its first decline since February 2016. Economists have estimated the tax breaks would inject about A\$7.5 billion into the economy over 2019/20, pleasing the RBA.

The central bank cut interest rates on Tuesday for the second time in two months. The successful passage of the tax cuts is also a major legislative victory for Morrison. The tax plan was at heart of his re-election campaign and, after retaining power in May in what he described as a "miracle", he said the tax legislation was his government's first priority. — Reuters



**SYDNEY:** Australia's upper house Senate passed yesterday A\$158 billion (\$110 billion) worth of tax cuts over the next decade, the centerpiece of the conservative government's plan to boost an economy that is threatening to stall.

## Ex-British finance chief Osborne eyes IMF role

**LONDON:** Former British finance minister George Osborne is lining up a bid to replace Christine Lagarde as head of the International Monetary Fund, UK newspapers reported yesterday.

Making his interest known to friends, Osborne said the job required a "skilled political communicator and operator... not a technocrat", the Financial Times reported. Lagarde, a former French finance minister, is set to lead the European Central Bank, replacing Mario Draghi.

An opponent of Brexit, Osborne is currently editor of London's Evening Standard newspaper after quitting politics in the wake of Britain voting in a referendum three years ago to quit the European Union. Media yesterday said Osborne would need the support of Britain's new prime minister to stand a chance of succeeding Lagarde. The former Conservative MP is backing favourite Boris Johnson to replace



**LONDON:** Media said George Osborne would need the support of Britain's new prime minister to stand a chance of succeeding Lagarde. — Reuters

Theresa May as British prime minister. Draghi is meanwhile seen as a strong candidate to become IMF chief, with the global-crisis lender having always chosen a European to lead the Fund since its creation in the aftermath of World War II.

British bookmakers also have outgoing Bank of England governor Mark Carney, a Canadian-UK national, among their favorites to succeed Lagarde. — AFP

## Moody's affirms China's A1 ratings

**BEIJING:** Ratings agency Moody's affirmed China's rating at A1 with a stable outlook yesterday, citing the country's financial and policy means to contain any rise in its economy-wide leverage and mobilize resources to support its stressed public sector entities and maintain financial stability.

"... (China's) large fiscal and foreign exchange reserves and the government's control of parts of the economy and financial

system lend effectiveness to measures aimed at stemming financial stability risks," Moody's said in a statement.

Moody's also said it expected China's trade tensions with the United States to continue and oscillate between more or less intense phases. China will not engage in competitive currency devaluation, its Foreign Ministry said yesterday, a day after US President Donald Trump renewed his criticism of Beijing's foreign exchange policy. Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang made the comment at a daily news briefing yesterday, reiterating past statements from China. In a message on Twitter on Wednesday, Trump said that China and Europe were "playing (a) big currency manipulation game and pumping money into their system in order to compete with USA." — Reuters

## France issues first 10-year bond at negative rate

**PARIS:** France issued its first-ever 10-year bond at a negative borrowing rate yesterday, meaning investors pay, rather than receive, interest for the privilege of owning French sovereign debt, said the state debt management agency, AFT. AFT said in a statement that it issued 9.996 billion euros (\$11.3 billion) in long-term bonds, with just under half-or 4.972 billion euros-in the form of 10-year bonds at a rate of -0.13 percent.

The agency also issued 2.05 billion euros in 15-year debt with a coupon of +0.23 percent and 2.974 billion euros in 30-year debt at +0.8 percent. It is the first time that France, the eurozone's second-biggest economy, has issued sovereign debt at a negative rate with a number of other countries in the currency area-notably Austria, Germany and the Netherlands-already charging investors to buy their bonds. Official rates in the 19-country eurozone as a whole have been negative since 2014 when the European Central Bank lowered its key deposit rate to -0.10 percent.

The ECB has since cut the deposit rate further, to -0.40 percent.

But with more easing looking likely after ECB chief Mario Draghi hinted as much last month, the so-called yields, or investors' return, on Europe's safest bonds are falling. On the secondary markets, where already issued debt changes hands, the yield on 10-year French government bonds already drifted into negative territory in mid-June. Outside the eurozone, EU members Sweden and Denmark also have negative interest rates, as does non-member Switzerland.

Financially weaker eurozone members Greece and Italy still have to pay more than two percent of interest to find buyers for their government bonds. Analysts predict yields in Europe will keep falling as Draghi's successor at the helm of the ECB, IMF chief Christine Lagarde, is expected to increase economic stimulus either through rate cuts or quantitative easing.

But the move to more deeply negative yields raises concerns that Europe may be following in the footsteps of Japan, which has been having trouble to revive inflation and growth. — AFP



# China says US tariffs must be lifted for a trade deal

## Vietnam asks firms to use local materials as US threatens tariffs

BEIJING: US tariffs against China must be lifted for the two sides to reach a deal to end the trade war, the Chinese commerce ministry said yesterday. Trade teams from the world's top two economies "have maintained communication", ministry spokesman Gao Feng said, days after presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping announced a truce.

"The United States' unilateral tariff increase on China's exports to the United States is the starting point for the Sino-US economic and trade frictions," Gao said at a weekly press briefing. "If the two sides can reach an agreement, the tariffs imposed must be completely eliminated. China's attitude toward this is clear and consistent," Gao said.

The countries have exchanged tariffs on \$360 billion in two-way trade and negotiations broke down in May after the United States accused China of reneging on its commitments. Trump and Xi agreed at the G20 in Japan on Saturday to revive negotiations. The US leader said he would not slap new tariffs on Chinese exports and suggested he could take a softer stance on Chinese telecom giant Huawei, which he has moved to blacklist.

Vietnamese manufacturers should use domestically-sourced raw materials to avoid incurring US tariffs, Vietnam's foreign ministry

said yesterday, days after Washington said it would impose large duties on some steel products shipped through the Southeast Asian country. The US Commerce Department said on Tuesday it would slap tariffs of up to 456 percent on certain steel produced in South Korea or Taiwan which are then shipped to Vietnam for minor processing and finally exported to the United States.

"The Ministry of Industry and Trade has warned local companies about possible moves by importing countries, including the United States, to apply stricter requirements in trade protection cases," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Le Thi Thu Hang said at a routine news conference in Hanoi.

Vietnamese companies should consider business strategies that include switching to domestic materials, she said. Hang said Vietnam will continue to work with the United States in its efforts to crack down on goods of foreign origin illegally relabelled "Made in Vietnam" by exporters seeking to dodge tariffs.

Vietnam has been touted as one of the largest beneficiaries of the ongoing trade war between the United States and China, but recent comments from US President Donald Trump have led some to believe that Vietnam may be the next target of US tariffs. Last month, Trump said



Some producers are misleadingly labeling their products as "Made in Vietnam" to avoid tariffs. — AFP

Hanoi treated the United States "even worse" than China, amid the ongoing trade spat between Washington and Beijing.

Vietnam responded by saying it was committed to free and fair trade with the United States.

Vietnam's largest export market is the United States, with which it has a rapidly growing trade surplus, which widened to \$17 billion in the first five months of this year from \$12.9 billion in the same period last year. — Reuters

## US consumption of diesel hit by economic slowdown

LONDON: US consumption of diesel and other middle distillate fuels is decelerating in line with the wider slowdown in manufacturing and construction activity. Consumption of distillate fuel oil was up by 3 percent in the three months from February to April compared with the same period a year earlier, according to data from the US Energy Information Administration.

Consumption growth has fallen from more than 5 percent year-on-year in the three months from August to October and the trend is slowing despite short-term volatility. Distillate fuel oils are mostly used in manufacturing, freight transport, construction, mining, oil and gas production, and farming - as well as small amounts for home and commercial heating, especially in the US northeast.

Distillate consumption is therefore most heavily exposed to the business cycle and the recent slowdown is consistent with business surveys and government data showing the rate of economic growth is decelerating. Farm diesel consumption has been hit by heavy rains and flooding across the Midwest which has delayed or even cancelled the traditional planting season. Midwest distillate consumption was up by

just 2 percent in February-April compared with the same period a year earlier, down from peak growth of more than 4 percent in August-October. But the distillate slowdown cannot be wholly or mainly attributed to the farm sector's severe weather problems.

### Leveling off

Fuel consumption has slowed even more sharply in the states along the East Coast to less than 1 percent in February-April down from almost 7 percent in August-October. Gulf Coast and West Coast consumption growth also shows signs of leveling off or slowing after accelerating for much of last year.

Slowing distillate consumption growth is consistent with a broad range of other indicators pointing to a sharp slowdown in manufacturing and a downturn in construction and freight transportation. Hedge funds have responded by turning a bullish net long position in distillate futures and options of as much as 63 million barrels in October into a bearish net short position of 19 million barrels by the middle of June.

By June, hedge funds' outlook for distillate prices, as measured by the ratio of their long to short positions, had become the most negative since the middle of 2017 and before that the economy-wide slowdown of 2015/16. Since then, fund managers have covered some of their short positions, which has helped lift oil prices from their mid-June lows. The outlook for the rest of the year depends on whether the current softness in manufacturing and construction activity proves to be just a mid-cycle slowdown followed by re-acceleration or an end-of-cycle recession. — Reuters

## India plans \$330bn renewables push by 2030 without hurting coal

NEW DELHI: India said yesterday it needs \$330 billion in investments over the next decade to power its renewable energy dream, but coal would remain central to its electricity generation.

The energy guzzling country wants to raise its renewable energy capacity to 500 Gigawatts (GW), or 40 percent of total capacity, by 2030. Renewables currently account for 22 percent of India's total installed capacity of about 357 GW. "Additional investments in renewable plants up to year 2022 would be about \$80 billion at today's prices and an investment of around \$250 billion would be required for the period 2023-2030," according to the government's economic survey presented to parliament on Thursday.

India wants to have 175 GW of renewable-based installed power capacity by 2022.

The investment estimate reflects the magnitude of financial challenges facing one of the world's most important growth markets for renewable energy, with government data indi-

cating a growth slowdown in private and capital investments in the year ended March 2019.

India, which receives twice as much sunshine as European countries, wants to make solar a cornerstone of its renewable expansion, but also wants to make use of its cheap and abundant coal reserves, the fifth-largest in the world. The annual economic survey warned India against abruptly halting coal-based utilities, citing risks to its banking sector and the stability of the electricity grid.

"It may not be advisable to effect a sudden abandonment of coal based power plants without complete utilisation of their useful lifetimes as it would lead to stranding of assets that can have further adverse impact on the banking sector," the survey said.

Thermal power plants account for 80 percent of all industrial emissions of particulate matter, sulfur and nitrous oxides in India. India, one of the world's largest coal producers and greenhouse gas emitters, estimates coal to be its energy mainstay for at least the next three decades.

The country's coal use rose 9.1 percent to nearly a billion tons in 2018-19. The survey said it would be difficult for a growing economy like India to migrate to renewable power supply unless "sufficient technological breakthrough in energy storage happens in the near future". Environmentalists worry that India's rising use of coal at a time when many Western nations are rejecting the dirty fossil fuel will hamper the global fight against climate change, despite the country's commitment to renewable energy. — Reuters



## Sports

# Being green: Wimbledon is a living English country garden

**LONDON:** Keeping the Wimbledon tennis championships looking like an English country garden is a year-round task for a green-fingered crew that keep the grounds in pristine condition. Some 20,000 plants are brought in for the two-week tournament, plus another 15,000 petunias in hanging baskets dotted around the All England Club in southwest London.

The three weeks before the Grand Slam tournament are the busiest in preparing the site, while the Wimbledon fortnight itself is a relatively calmer maintenance job. "From late April to early May, the workload ramps up," head gardener Martyn Falconer said yesterday. Doing his 19th championships at the club, he runs a full-time team of seven gardeners. "We've tried to hit the 'tennis in an English garden' brief a lot more in the last five years. Before that, it was more evergreen shrubbery," said Falconer. "We've definitely upped the game."

The effort is proving a hit with Wimbledon visitors, some of whom come as much for the flowers as for the tennis. "We get lots of feedback from visitors and players," Falconer said. "A couple of players have said how peaceful it makes the grounds feel because it's so green and colorful." If they feel they need more to make them less stressful, we can always add more!

## 'Splash of color'

This year, two new living walls have been af-

fixed on the outside of Court One, flanking the giant screen in-front of the Aorangi picnic terrace where thousands of fans gather. The soil-free, hydroponic system is automatically irrigated but provides the gardeners with a challenge as they have to use lifts to do some vertical maintenance.

"All around London they're popping up on all sorts of buildings. It's great for biodiversity. They have so many benefits. Anything from insulating buildings to taking the carbon emissions down," said Falconer.

"It's not just for decoration. Goldfinches were nesting in it a week after it was installed. Walking along there, you can see all the bees. "Wimbledon is full of wildlife. We had ducks walking around last week. It's crazy, you don't realize you're in a 42-acre (17-hectare) Grand Slam sometimes!"

There are between 80 and 100 different types of plants dotted around the grounds. The flowers mainly stick to the club colors of purple, green and white, though yellow and red make the odd appearance in the color palette. "It is a good splash of color," said Falconer. The club pays for hanging baskets around the Wimbledon area and at Southfields London Underground station so tennis-goers immediately get the feel of the event. After the championships, unused additional plants are donated to local community gardens so none go to waste. —AFP



**LONDON:** Serbia's Novak Djokovic (C) takes part in a session at the practice courts at The All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on July 3, 2019, on the third day of the 2019 Wimbledon Championships tennis tournament. —AFP



## Kuwait Table Tennis Team prepares for championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Preparations by Kuwait Table Tennis National team have begun at various age stages at the Salmiya Club hall under the leadership of technical coach Sabri Jamaan in preparation for the Asian championship set to be held in the

middle of September in Indonesia. The team will also hold a two week training camp in Hungary in August.

Chairman of Table Tennis Federation Khalid Al-Khudhari congratulated the election of a new board of directors of Kuwait Olympic Committee under the leadership of Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah. He said Kuwait sport will have a significant move in all games under a youthful leadership that is looking for achievements. He thanked the administration of Salmiya Sports Club for providing the hall, as well as Public Authority for Sports for supporting the table tennis team. Technical coach Sabri Jamaan said the preliminary choice of players was done carefully from various clubs, adding that five players will be dropped before leaving for the camp as required by PAS.

## Kuwait shooting teams wins major int'l medals

By Abdellatif Shara

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait shooting teams continued its outstanding performance in foreign arenas as the trap team won the silver medal in the world championship being held in Lunato, Italy while Khalid Al-Mudhaf won the bronze medal in the same event. Italy's team won the gold while the British team took bronze. Al-Mudhaf also took

the individuals bronze after hitting 33 targets in the final round, while gold went to British player Mathew John Coward-Holley and the silver went to Italy's Mauro De Filippis.

President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations dedicated the achievement to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, the government and people of Kuwait, adding that Kuwait champions will not spare an effort to give all they have to keep Kuwait's name high in the most important world events. "We are planning to get more qualifications for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and to repeat what was done previously" he said. He also said that Kuwait shooters will compete for qualification during the world championships in Qatar and Finland. Shooters Abdelrahman Al-Faihan and Mansour Al-Rashidi already qualified for the Olympics.





## Sports

# Sprints are like gunfight at OK Corral, says Gatlin

**LAUSANNE:** A lack of a clear favorite allied with a host of younger, blossoming athletes in the post-Usain Bolt era have made sprinting like a gunfight at the OK Corral, according to American veteran Justin Gatlin. The controversial Gatlin, 37, is aiming for one last hurrah at the World Athletics Championships in Doha come September and will go there as reigning 100m world champion, having beaten Christian Coleman and Bolt to gold in the blue riband event at the 2017 London worlds.

Coleman is part of a group of young US sprinters including Michael Norman and Noah Lyles who are threatening to dominate in the years to come. "I like where the sprints are right now," said Gatlin, who won 100m gold at the 2004 Olympics but went on to serve a four-year ban for doping before rebounding with silver at the 2016 Rio Games, among other accolades. "It's like a gunshow at the OK Corral, you've got a lot of very talented athletes who are going to step up and that's what makes people get into the seats to see who's going to be the winner. It's not always a clear favorite so you always have to be on top of your game and I like that a lot."

Such is the US strength in depth in sprints, the national trials for a spot on the team for Doha promise to be absolutely top notch. "I've been around for a while," said Gatlin ahead of Friday's Diamond League meet in Lausanne. "But now it's

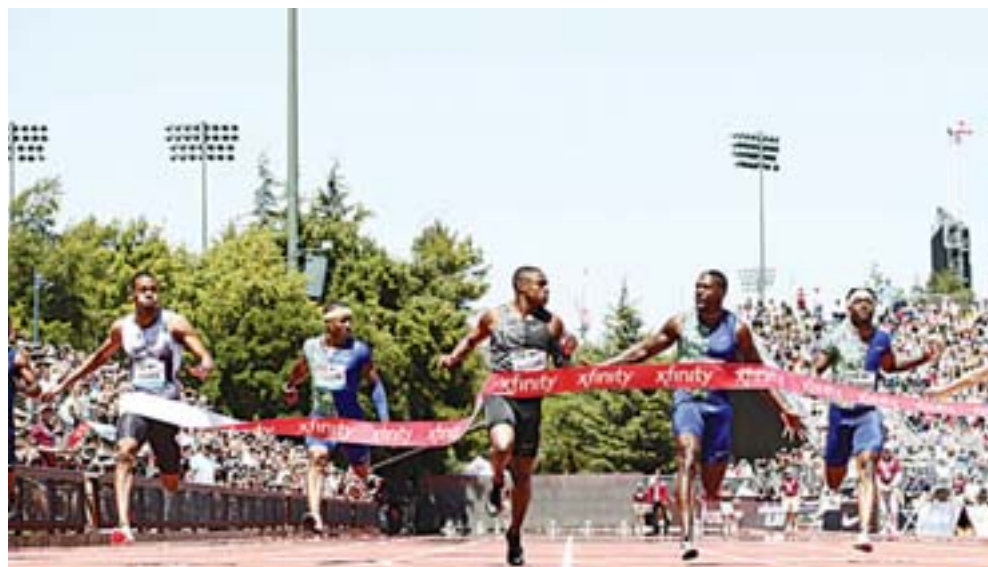
like a wave of talent came in the door... you have such dominance in the 100, 200 and 400m. "You see a lot of young sprinters coming along and it's a rarity to see young sprinters who are confident in themselves and in their abilities at such an early stage of their career. "I'm excited to go to trials and see these guys do their thing, and I'm excited to be in the mix as well."

## Rebirth of rivalries

Gatlin will run the 100m in Lausanne, while 21-year-old Lyles competes in his favored 200m, as he will do at the US trials in Des Moines, Iowa, on July 25-28. "I like how now every race is now 'who's going to win?' There are a lot of rivalries coming up, especially in the United States," said Lyles. "I've been waiting for this year since 2017," he said after admitting to spending years watching Gatlin, Bolt and Tyson Gay dominate sprinting.

"Now it feels like this is my generation and it's time where we get to step up and go to the world championships," Lyles added. "There's no pressure, I really don't have anything to lose since I haven't made a team before. It's about me going out there and giving my all. "I'm amped up, more excited than anything to get out there and try to prove to people that I can be the best." Gatlin played down his age going into the September 28-October 6 worlds in Doha.

"It's not necessarily about my age going into



**STANFORD:** Christian Coleman (center) of the United States beats (from left) Zharnel Hughes of Great Britain, Michael Rodgers of the United States, Justin Gatlin of the United States and Cravon Gillespie of the United States to win the men's 100m during the Prefontaine Classic at Cobb Track & Angell Field. —AFP

this season, this season is already an unorthodox season — we've never really explored running in October," he said. "It's more or less about being more consistent and being patient at the same time." As competitors you want to

run fast every time you step on the track, break records every time you step on the track, but knowing you have an extra two months to go it's almost like a game of chess rather than checkers now." —AFP

## Disgraced former US Olympic chief gets \$2.4m payoff

**LOS ANGELES:** The former chief executive of the United States Olympic Committee who was severely criticized for his handling of the Larry Nassar abuse scandal received \$2.4 million in severance pay, official records revealed on Wednesday. Scott Blackmun stepped down as chief of USOC in February last year, roughly one month after former national gymnastics team doctor Nassar was jailed for life for abusing more than 250 athletes, including several stars of the USA's 2012 and 2016 gold medal-winning Olympic teams.

A subsequent independent report commissioned by the USOC, which is now known as the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), was scathing of Blackmun's role in the scandal. The report by outside investigators alleged Blackmun and other Olympic chiefs had failed to react swiftly when first warned of allegations surrounding Nassar, concealing the doctor's crimes until the scandal erupted into the open in late 2016.

Blackmun told investigators he had "initiated an internal effort at the USOC to alert his SafeSport team to the allega-

tions and to confirm that the USOC was taking all appropriate steps to respond to the allegations and ensure athlete safety." However, investigators later concluded "no such conversations were had, and no such steps were taken."

His multi-million-dollar severance payment was revealed in a financial report made public on Wednesday. USOPC chairman Susanne Lyons said the payoff was necessary to facilitate "new leadership to guide the organization forward, as well as Blackmun's serious health challenges." Blackmun left his post after being diagnosed with prostate cancer in January 2018. Attorney John Manly, who represented many of Nassar's abused patients, slammed the payout.

"Blackmun knew Larry Nassar was a child molester in summer 2015," Manly wrote on Twitter. "He concealed that fact from the public, the media, police & worst of all the athletes & their parents. "Instead of going to jail he's been rewarded w/2.4 mill. by USOC leaders. Enough!!" Some of the biggest names in US gymnastics were abused by Nassar, including Simone Biles and fellow gold medalists Aly Raisman, McKayla Maroney and Gabby Douglas. Blackmun was also sharply criticized for bungling USOC's response to the crisis after it erupted, and was forced to apologize after the organization failed to send a representative to harrowing victim-impact testimony at Nassar's sentencing. —AFP

## Six riders to watch at the Tour de France

**BRUSSELS:** The 2019 Tour de France embarks from Brussels tomorrow with a mountain-packed course and a more open field than in recent editions. AFP Sport takes a brief look at six of the main contenders hoping to pull on the winner's yellow jersey at the iconic Champs-Élysées finish line in Paris on July 28:

### Geraint Thomas (Ineos)

The 33-year-old defending champion, who arrived at the race in peak condition in 2018, left his preparations a little tight. He then suffered a setback with a fright on the Tour de Suisse when he fell heavily and took a knock to the head. Having Ineos teammate Egan Bernal alongside him may actually play into his hands by causing a smokescreen to rivals. A great time-trialist, the Welshman has proved he can fight in the mountains thanks to his strong team.

### Egan Bernal (Ineos)

On paper Bernal has all the ingredients to steal the show on the Tour on only his second appearance. Not only a gifted climber but also a solid all-rounder with a knack of closing out victories with seemingly hidden reserves. But at just 22 it remains to be seen if the success he has garnered in the Tour of California, the Paris-Nice and the Tour de Suisse can be reproduced at the much longer three-week Tour de France.

### Nairo Quintana (Movistar)

Long in the shadow of four-time winner Chris Froome, Nairo Quintana has finished on the Tour podium three times, but ended the 2018 edition in 10th having suffered a costly

fall on stage one. The 2019 route will play to the pure climber's strengths due to reduced time-trialling, and crucially, seven ascents above 2,000 metres, three of them summit finishes on what might be his last real roll of the dice. Now 29 and in his seventh season at Movistar he races as co-leader with some heavyweight back-up in another potential winner, Mikel Landa, and wily world champion Alejandro Valverde.

### Jakob Fuglsang (Astana)

The Danish veteran won the key classic Liege-Bastogne-Liege in April, saying that in the closing kilometres he took the decision to win or die, having come second or third so many times. With his wife watching from the sidelines Fuglsang credited her with support and said he had finally grown into a winner at 34. The Astana captain then went to the Criterium de Dauphine one-week Tour warm up and won it, and can count on a powerful climb posse to protect him in France.

### Rigoberto Uran (Education First)

The feisty climber came second in the 2017 Tour. He was the leader of a powerful Colombian team at the 2018 world championships ahead of Nairo Quintana and Miguel Angel Lopez, although all of them faded on the so called 'Hell Hill' at Innsbruck. He fell in March's Paris-Nice but declared last week: "My season begins now". The newly recruited American rider Tejay Van Garderen leads a handy back-up crew for Uran.

### Vincenzo Nibali (Bahrain Merida)

Known as the shark because of his devastating knack of taking out opponents at key moments, Nibali almost pulled off a fourth Grand Tour win in May when he came second in the Giro. With just four weeks recovery time since then Nibali has to be an outsider to clinch a second Tour de France, but the 34-year-old Bahrain Merida captain can climb with the best, is an accomplished time-trialist, is possibly the best downhill rider in the game, and in the absence of Froome and Dutch master Tom Dumoulin, will surely target at least the podium. —AFP



# New Zealand's Williamson hopes break sparks World Cup revival

**CHESTER-LE-STREET:** New Zealand captain Kane Williamson hopes an upcoming break provides his side with a chance to revive their faltering World Cup campaign. The Black Caps suffered their third straight defeat of the tournament in a thumping 119-run loss to England at Chester-le-Street on Wednesday.

Had they won, it would have been New Zealand and not England who were assured of a place in the semi-finals. But they were rarely in the hunt and New Zealand, who won five of their first six games in a sequence that included a washout with India, had to accept another defeat following losses to Pakistan and Australia—the team that beat them in the 2015 final.

The consolation for Williamson's men is they are all but certain of a place in the semi-finals given their huge net run-rate advantage over Pakistan. And Williamson, whose team won't play again until next week if they make the last four, believes group form will count for little now that the tournament is heading into the knockout phase. "If we are fortunate to be in a semi-final, then we do have a little bit of a break," he said.

"If you are in a knockout stage where it's a semi-final opportunity, anything can happen. We know that we haven't put out our best performance yet and we know when we do it gives us the best chance of beating anybody, without a doubt. It is im-

portant for us to perhaps have a couple of days away. We sort of have a bit of a break now." New Zealand's chase against England saw them lose their top four inside 17 overs with just 69 runs on the scoreboard.

## Damage limitation

From then on it appeared the Black Caps were involved in damage limitation, even though they were still bowled out for 186 with five overs to spare. But Williamson was adamant his side had not been trying to manipulate the run-rate. "We were trying to win the game, but we didn't do a very good job of it," he said. "We just needed a couple of big partnerships, certainly from the top order and it wasn't there."

New Zealand were hampered before the start when leading fast bowler Lockie Ferguson, who has taken 17 wickets in seven games this tournament, was ruled out because of tightness in his hamstring. But the 28-year-old should be fit in time for Tuesday's semi-final at Old Trafford. "He's been outstanding throughout this whole tournament and a real point of difference for us," said Williamson. "Did we miss him? Yes. But we'd miss him more if we didn't have him, hopefully, in another game's time. He should be fine. It's a fairly minor injury, sort of a light hamstring thing, and he should be okay." — AFP



**LONDON:** New Zealand's captain Kane Williamson attends a press conference at Lord's. — AFP

## Kuwait to host Asian Men Handball Championships

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait has won its bid to host the 19th Asian Men's Handball Championships with its international competitive ban officially lifted, the Kuwait Handball Association revealed on Wednesday. The decisions were reached at the International Handball Federation (IHF) congress meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden, KHA Secretary Gayed Al-Odwan told KUNA. The bid had formally been presented to the Asian Handball federation last week. — KUNA

## Left is right for Cricket WC quicks

**LONDON:** They live in a right-handed world, historically stigmatized and challenged by tasks as simple as using scissors — but when it comes to taking wickets at the World Cup, being a southpaw seamer is a distinct advantage. Mitchell Starc leads the way at the top of the World Cup bowling charts, with 24 wickets in eight matches so far and has Pakistan's Mohammad Amir and New Zealand paceman Trent Boult for company in the top six.

Beginning with Australian Gary Gilmour's famous rout of England in the semi-final at the inaugural World Cup in 1975, lefties such as Wasim Akram, Starc and Boult have confounded their opponents again and again at the World Cup. The secret is in the different angles that left-armers create, giving batsmen an extra headache and forcing them to recalculate.

"I think lefties challenge the batsmen in their side-on stance and even with a straight ball, because the angle creates problems, especially for right-handers," said Akram, whose three wickets helped win the 1992 final for Pakistan against England. Egged on by a packed crowd in Melbourne, Akram came from around the wicket to create beguiling angles that bewildered first Allan Lamb and then Chris Lewis.

Remembered as "magical deliveries", they helped Pakistan beat England to win the World Cup for the first time. Akram was man-of-the-match and ended as the tournament's leading wicket-taker, with 18 dismissals. Since then, left-arm bowlers from New Zealand to Sri Lanka have repeatedly proved their value,

becoming the leading wicket-takers in four of the six World Cups since. The 2015 World Cup had a glut of left-armed fast bowlers, with Starc, Mitchell Johnson and Boult leading the pack. Pakistan, still buoyed by Akram's bowling performance 27 years later, have benefited more than most from the power of lefties.

## Pakistan left-arm power

Only about 10 percent of the global population are estimated to be left-handed but Pakistan produce more than their fair share of top-class left-armers. Many of them have been inspired by Akram, a fact that delights the former Pakistan captain, who told AFP: "Of course it's pleasing when you hear that the left-armers follow me."

Pakistan's 2019 World Cup squad boasts Wahab Riaz, highly promising teenager Shaheen Shah Afridi and Amir, whose career was interrupted by a five-year ban for spot-fixing. Amir, who was selected in the squad despite a poor run of form, has been a revelation at the tournament in England and Wales, with 16 wickets so far.

Former India opening batsman Aakash Chopra said Pakistan's left-armers gave them an advantage. "Facing a quality left-arm fast bowler is a challenge in itself because they make a straight ball look like it has done something spectacular due to the angle they create," he wrote in a column for cricinfo.com. But if left-arm bowlers are so common, why do they still catch batsmen off guard?

Pakistan batting great Javed Miandad believes the more a batsman faces left-armers, the easier it becomes but he says they get more practice against right-armers. "Most batsmen develop their technique against right-arm bowlers, throw down and bowling machines from the same angle, and they neglect the left-arm angles," he said. A good batsman should pay attention to the details and practice from all angles, he added. That will help to "counter the threat left-armers pose". — AFP

## Buttler's relief as England prepare for WC semi-finals

**CHESTER-LE-STREET:** England's Jos Buttler said he felt a sense of relief as well as excitement after the tournament hosts booked their place in the semi-finals of the World Cup. Back-to-back defeats by Sri Lanka and reigning champions Australia, which followed an earlier group-stage loss to Pakistan, threatened to scupper England's bid to win a first World Cup title.

But they responded in style with a 31-run win over India followed by Wednesday's 119-run thrashing of New Zealand in Chester-le-Street that saw them into the last four from the 10-team group phase. "It feels great. We're excited and have a bit of relief as well," said Buttler after England reached their first World Cup semi-final since 1992.

"It's obviously been two tough games to finish to qualify, and we showed great character to come through with two very good performances."

England have spent much of the past two years as the world's top-ranked side in one-day internationals and Buttler said: "We are just very excited to be in a semi-final. From the start I think it was the minimum requirement, the first stage we had to get to." The 28-year-old England vice-captain added: "We stood up and played our brand of cricket under that pressure."

"That breeds a lot of confidence for the group, that our way is the best way and gives us a lot of chance of performing. That's what we have resorted to in the two must-win games and shows that we must continue that." Since his century against Pakistan a month ago, Buttler's batting has gone off the boil but the wicketkeeper contributed to England's win over New Zealand with a brilliant diving catch to dismiss Martin Guptill. "I've been a bit disappointed not to have contributed as much as I'd like. I haven't quite executed or made the right decision and have found ways of getting out," said Buttler. "Luckily I still have another chance for another innings or two in the World Cup." — AFP



## Sports

# Morocco waiting for its dormant lion Hakim Ziyech to start roaring

**CAIRO:** Hakim Ziyech dazzled as Ajax embarked on an unforgettable European run while scooping a league and cup double, but the Morocco star has yet to cast his magic over the Africa Cup of Nations ahead of Friday's last-16 tie with Benin. His main contribution to a flawless group campaign in Egypt was a vicious free-kick that prompted Namibia defender Itamunua Keimuine to divert into his own net and earned Morocco a 1-0 victory in their opening match.

While Herve Renard's side triumphed in all three group games, it was primarily the result of an airtight defense and not a sputtering attack, with Youssef En-Nesyri's fine goal against Ivory Coast a rare highlight for the Atlas Lions going forward. Billed as one to watch, Ziyech, 26, found the going tough against compact Namibian and South African backlines, while the searing Cairo heat ensured an anticipated showdown with the Ivorians failed to ignite. Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane, banned for Senegal's first game, have scored twice already in Egypt, putting Ziyech's reduced output in the spotlight. Against Benin he will have another chance to show he can lead Morocco, on the hunt for a first title since 1976, deep into the tournament.

## 'Next level' at Ajax

"This year he took it to the next level, so we are asking him to move it up a notch at international level and we will all be with him so he can take us as far as possible," said Renard, who is attempting to win the title with a third different country. Dijon defender Fouad Chafik, who was overlooked for Morocco's Cup of Nations

squad, has been equally impressed by the improvement in Ziyech's game.

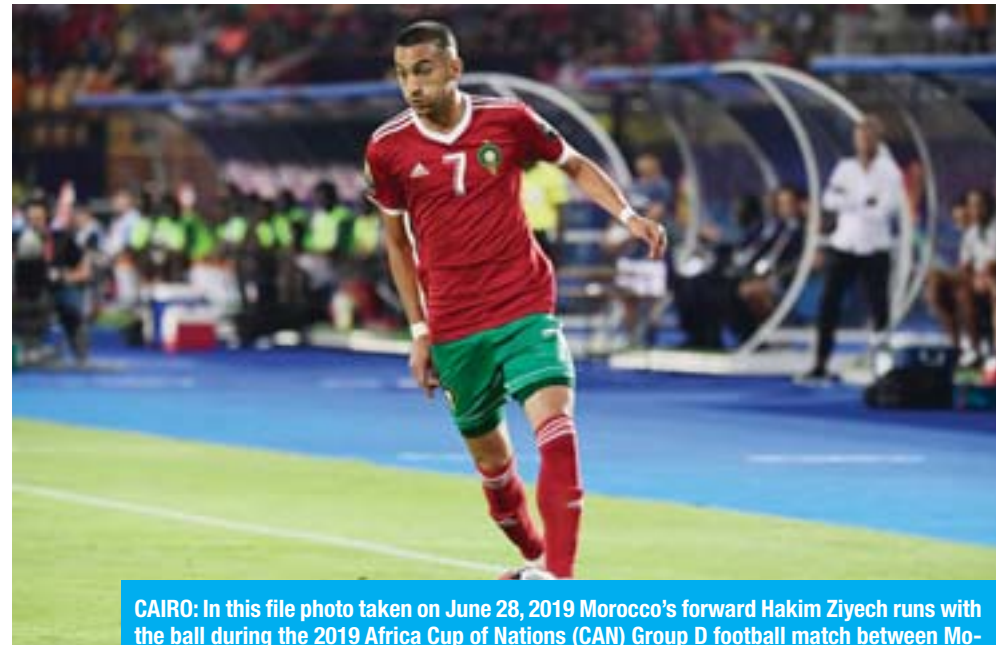
"When he came in 2015 we saw his technical ability, and in terms of his shot, he was really a cut above. He's progressed since then," Chafik told AFP. At Ajax, Ziyech was a chief protagonist in a Champions League adventure that saw the Dutch giants topple both holders Real Madrid and Cristiano Ronaldo's Juventus before an agonizing last-gasp defeat to Tottenham on away goals in the semi-finals.

Ziyech scored in both legs of the Real upset, as Ajax trounced the 13-time champions 4-1 in Madrid, and his influential displays have marked him out as a prized asset in this summer's transfer market. "He's a technical leader, the player we must take advantage of and who must help the others," said Renard. "He's the one who at any moment in a match is capable of providing the spark that makes the difference."

## Misunderstanding

The fates of Ziyech and Renard are inextricably linked, with one striving to prove he is the head of the pack as the other bids for a record-equalling third title as coach, ahead of a possible departure. Yet they initially struggled to see eye to eye. Appointed coach in February 2016, Frenchman Renard began his tenure at odds with the former Dutch youth international.

Ziyech was frozen out of the national team between January and June of 2017, his absence coinciding with the last Cup of Nations where Morocco lost narrowly to Egypt in the quarter-finals. "I didn't communicate enough with him.



**CAIRO:** In this file photo taken on June 28, 2019 Morocco's forward Hakim Ziyech runs with the ball during the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) Group D football match between Morocco and Ivory Coast at the Al Salam Stadium. — AFP

We left (with the Moroccan FA president) for Amsterdam and there after three minutes, when we started the conversation, everything was resolved," Renard recounted to RMC Sport in April. "He wanted to come back because he's very attached to his national team. I needed him and I recognized my mistakes. I'm 99 percent responsible for this mistake." Ziyech has re-

warded Renard's renewed confidence with nine goals in 19 matches, including a brace against Zambia in the final warm-up match, but after a quiet 2018 World Cup questions still linger as to whether he can come good when it counts most. "He's like the rest of the team, he has to get stronger," Renard said after the Namibia game. Will he finally deliver against Benin? — AFP

## Mane faces Onyango in crucial showdown between Africa stars

**CAIRO:** Star forward Sadio Mane goes head-to-head with star goalkeeper Denis Onyango when Senegal meet Uganda today in an Africa Cup of Nations last-16 match in Cairo. Senegalese Mane and Ugandan Onyango were included in the 2018 African team of the year chosen by a Confederation of African Football (CAF) panel.

They are also Champions League winners — Mane with Liverpool in Europe last season and Onyango with South African club Mamelodi Sundowns in Africa three years ago. Mane has scored twice and missed a penalty for Senegal in two group matches after being suspended for the opening match. "I am even ready to trade my Champions League success to win the Africa Cup of Nations," he told France Football magazine in a pre-tournament interview. Veteran Onyango has conceded three goals in three matches with another Liverpool star, Egyptian Mohamed Salah, among those who have scored against him. Here, AFP Sport looks at the two last-16 matches this Friday with Senegal and Morocco expected to beat Uganda and Benin respectively.

## Senegal v Uganda

Senegal may top the African rankings, 58 places above Uganda, but coach Aliou Cisse has warned his star-stacked side against over-confidence. "No one should take Uganda for granted and eliminating them will not be easy," warned Cisse, one of the stars of the

Teranga Lions team that reached the 2002 World Cup quarter-finals.

Mane echoed his coach, saying: "We saw the kind of football they played against Egypt. They are a good side and we will need to be at our best to beat them." Uganda had Egypt on the rack for more than half an hour before Salah scored and were equally impressive in the second half without being able to convert chances into goals. "We have reached the second round, which was the minimum target set for us by the national federation, and anything can happen in knockout matches," said coach Sebastien Desabre.

## Benin v Morocco

Morocco have been clinical, determined and efficient so far in Egypt, mirroring the beliefs of Herve Renard, the only coach to win the Cup of Nations with two countries. France-born Renard guided outsiders Zambia to the title in 2012 and repeated the feat with previous underachievers the Ivory Coast three years later. "I did windows and carpets," said Renard, referring to his job as a cleaner in Paris before turning to football. He took Morocco to the 2017 quarter-finals in his first Cup of Nations with the Atlas Lions, and they, Algeria and Egypt won all three group matches this time. Benin also have a French coach, Michel Dussuyer, who was hugged by his players and technical staff after taking the Squirrels beyond the first round for the first time. — AFP

## AFA lodges complaint with CONMEBOL over refereeing

**BUENOS AIRES:** The Argentine Football Association (AFA) on Wednesday lodged a complaint with South American football's governing body CONMEBOL over the "serious and gross refereeing errors" in their Copa America semi-final loss to arch rivals and tournament hosts Brazil. Lionel Messi's side were beaten 2-0 as their wait for a first major title since 1993 was extended on Tuesday.

AFA president Claudio Tapia also criticized Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro, who attended the game in Belo Horizonte and who performed "a clear political demonstration" that included "an Olympic lap of honor around the stadium at half-time." Tapia sent a six-page letter to CONMEBOL in support of the Argentinian team and after Messi himself had expressed his anger against South American football's governing body and the refereeing of Ecuadorian Roddy Zambrano.

Tapia said that Zambrano "unjustifiably omitted the use of VAR in at least two specific moves that clearly influenced the final result of the match." And he questioned whether "the principles of ethics, loyalty and transparency" had been observed during the match. Messi had also fumed over

his perceived sense of injustice claiming to have "grown tired of talking about the bull-shit in this Copa," adding that "Brazil were the hosts and they're managing a lot in CONMEBOL these days, which makes it complicated" for everyone else.

Tapia added that AFA had previously questioned the appointment of the refereeing team because of "Zambrano's negative history" that "amplified the doubt" surrounding the match's fairness. AFA also criticized the Brazilian football federation for "breaching organizational rules" which caused "unjustified delays in the transport of equipment to stadiums", except for the hosts.

Tapia seemed particularly angered by Bolsonaro's presence. The Brazilian leader went to pitchside at half-time and waved enthusiastically to fans, and at one point climbed onto advertising hoardings and waved the national flag. Far-right Bolsonaro was voted in as president last October after a polarized and bitter campaign in which his chief rival and former leftist president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was barred from standing due to a corruption conviction that saw him sitting in jail when the vote took place. — AFP



# Peru stun champions Chile 3-0 to reach Copa America final

**PORTO ALEGRE:** Peru stunned defending champions Chile 3-0 to reach the final of the Copa America for the first time in 44 years on Wednesday. Goals from Edison Flores, Yoshimar Yotun and Paolo Guerrero handed Peru a deserved win which sends them into a final against Brazil at the Maracana Stadium on Sunday.

The stunning upset prevented Chile's golden generation from challenging for a third straight title, following their wins over Argentina in 2015 and 2016. Instead the finalists from the previous two editions will meet in Saturday's third-place play-off in Sao Paulo. Little was expected of Peru in the knock-out stages after they ended the group phase with a humbling 5-0 thrashing by Brazil.

But after riding their luck — and being saved by VAR three times — to beat Uruguay on penalties in the quarter-final, they were a completely rejuvenated outfit in Porto Alegre. "The team has gone back to its essence, passing the ball and running hard," said goalscorer Yotun. "The game against Brazil was tough but this will be a different match. It's a final that's there to be won. We have to work hard and lift this cup."

Goalkeeper Pedro Gallese, the villain of that 5-0 defeat, was again faultless, as he had been in the quarter-final when decisively saving Luis Suarez's shoot-out penalty. He again saved a penalty and made a number of other vital stops. "It's painful for all of us because we fought for another title," said Chile captain Gary Medel.

"Peru played a great match and we have to congratulate them. They played really well, worked

really hard and deserve to be in the final." From the start Peru dominated the reigning champions, with Christian Cueva wastefully shooting wide two minutes in after he was teed up in space by his captain Guerrero.

On seven minutes Chile's Charles Aranguiz started and finished a superb passing move involving Alexis Sanchez and Jean Beausejour, by placing a precise shot just past the post. Flores took advantage of an Erick Pulgar slip in midfield to dart towards goal but he dragged his weak shot woefully wide. But a minute later he was alone at the back post to lash home left footed from an Andre Carillo flick on from Cueva's cross.

## Timely intervention

Striker Guerrero made a timely intervention in his own area to prevent a Sanchez corner from sneaking in at the near post. Yotun doubled the lead on 38 minutes after punishing Chile goalkeeper Gabriel Arias's rush of blood to the head. Carillo chased a long ball down the right hand side and beat Arias, who ill-advisedly had charged from his area, to the ball before picking out Yotun on the edge of the 18-yard area.

Faced with four back-tracking defenders, Yotun calmly controlled the ball on his chest and sent a low volley straight down the middle of the empty goal. Equally importantly was Gallese's one-hand save to tip over a Jose Fuenzalida volley a minute before the break. A 2-0 half-time lead was the least Peru deserved after an enterprising performance against tentative opponents. Chile were a lick of paint away from getting



**PORTO ALEGRE:** Peru's Yoshimar Yotun (R) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Chile during their Copa America football tournament semi-final match at the Gremio Arena. — AFP

back into the match on 51 minutes when Eduardo Vargas's flicked header beat Gallese but agonizingly came back off the post. Peru should have put the game to bed on a rapier counter-attack on the hour but Guerrero and Cueva passed rather than shooting and Yotun ballooned over from six yards with the goal gaping.

Peru started sitting deeper, inviting Chile to attack and Aranguiz sent a rasping shot whistling

past the top corner with Gallese a mere spectator. Gallese then tipped over a looping volley from Beausejour and 15 minutes from time he stayed big to block a shot from Vargas one-on-one. He was unbeatable and dived low to his right to palm out a venomous Sanchez effort from 20 yards. Guerrero put the icing on the cake in injury time after rounding Arias, but Gallese had the last word from the penalty spot. — AFP

## Groenen takes Netherlands through to World Cup final

**LYON:** The Netherlands' rise as a force in women's football continued on Wednesday as Jackie Groenen's extra-time strike saw them edge out Sweden 1-0 in a gruelling World Cup semi-final in Lyon, taking the European champions through to this weekend's final against the United States. After a goalless 90 minutes, midfielder Groenen — a former judo European Championship bronze medallist as a youth who recently agreed a move to Manchester United — broke the deadlock in the 99th minute of a tense contest, breaking Swedish hearts in the process.

When Danielle van de Donk's pass was touched into her path, Groenen sent a low shot from 20 yards beyond the reach of goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl and into the far corner. Having knocked out Italy and former winners Japan in the previous two rounds, the Dutch are now just one game away from adding a first World Cup to the title they won at Euro 2017 as hosts.

"We never knew this would be possible. It's one more match and we might possibly be world champions," said a beaming Groenen. Getting this far is a remarkable achievement for the "Oranje", appearing at just their second World Cup, but they will need to improve drastically if they are to stand any chance of defeating the holders.

The Netherlands have long been a force in the men's game, but they had never even been to a major women's tournament until a decade ago. "I think the potential has been in the Netherlands for a longer period of time but the facilities were not there," said Dutch coach Sarina Wiegman, pointing to the start of the Dutch league in 2007 as the catalyst. "It's the whole

development in the Netherlands and also the individuals that made bigger steps.

"Now they have been in a couple of tournaments so they are very experienced now too and they believe they can perform really well." The USA made it through to their third successive World Cup final after beating England 2-1 on Tuesday. That was a game which had it all, and it was always going to be difficult for this second semi-final to reach the same heights. After ending a long hoodoo against old rivals Germany in the last round, 2016 Olympic finalists Sweden were the better team in the first half here.

## Goalkeeping heroics

A Sari van Veenendaal save from Lina Hurtig in the 37th minute was the only chance of note in the first half, but the Dutch goalkeeper and captain denied Sweden again in the 56th minute as she tipped Nilla Fischer's low shot onto the post. On this evidence, it is remarkable that Van Veenendaal was released by Arsenal prior to the tournament.

That was not the best save in the second half, though, with Sweden's Lindahl displaying stunning athleticism to tip a Vivianne Miedema header onto the bar. Extra time approached, although substitute Shanice van de Sanden might have won it in stoppage time had her powerful strike not been tipped over by Lindahl.

The Dutch had seen Lieke Martens go off at half-time having been an injury doubt ahead of the game. She is a concern for the final, which her side reached thanks to Groenen finally getting the breakthrough in the first period of extra time. It was a fine goal by the 24-year-old, but it was agonizing for Sweden, and the 2003 World Cup runners-up also saw midfielder Kosovare Asllani go off on a stretcher at the end after being hit in the face by the ball. They will face England in the third-place play-off in Nice on Saturday. "Now it's about the medal," said coach Peter Gerhardsson. "Ending up third of course feels a lot better than ending up fourth. We'll do everything in our power to try to do that." — AFP

## Pulisic double as US beat Jamaica to reach Cup final

**NASHVILLE:** Christian Pulisic scored twice as the United States defeated Jamaica 3-1 to reach the CONCACAF Gold Cup final after a weather-disrupted semi-final yesterday. The United States will now face fierce regional rivals Mexico in Sunday's final at Soldier Field in Chicago. New Chelsea signing Pulisic bundled home a rebound from Jordan Morris's shot in the 52nd minute to give the US a 2-0 lead and then added third goal late on after a storm in Nashville had forced the players off for almost an hour and a half.

"It was a long night, but the mentality of the team was excellent," veteran USA midfielder Michael Bradley said. "We're really excited — US v Mexico in the final, there's not much better than that." US coach Gregg Berhalter was happy with the way his team had handled the lengthy interruption. "It's part of soccer and the guys dealt with it in a really good way," Berhalter said. "It gave us time to look at film and give them encouragement. "We showed a relentless spirit when we came back out tonight."

The defending champions had taken the lead through a superb Weston McKennie ninth-minute strike following a dominant opening spell which saw them carve out a series of chances. Schalke 04 player McKennie was a constant threat for the hosts, who had already gone close to scoring through Paul Arriola and Reggie Cannon when Bradley sprayed a pinpoint pass to Cannon on the flank. — AFP



## Sports

# Lampard makes a sentimental return as Chelsea change tack

**LONDON:** Frank Lampard has accepted the challenge of taking over Chelsea just one year into his managerial career as the return of the club's record goalscorer to Stamford Bridge was confirmed yesterday. Chelsea's latest managerial search following Maurizio Sarri's move to Juventus has seen a change of tack, with sentiment backed over a stellar coaching CV.

In response to Sarri's sour relationship with the Chelsea support, Roman Abramovich has turned to a fans' favorite to ease the Londoners through what could be a difficult season of transition. That decision is a risky one for both. Lampard lacks experience and could see his burgeoning reputation as a coach burned at a club where no manager has lasted long under Abramovich. However, his appointment hints at a change of approach by the Blues.

Lampard's one campaign at Derby led the Rams to the brink of a return to the Premier League, only to fall short in the Championship play-off final against Aston Villa. But his season in England's second tier showed a willingness and ability to develop young players, including some of Chelsea's academy products, that made him a perfect fit for the current state of affairs at Stamford Bridge.

## Midfield goal machine

As a player, Lampard joined Chelsea just before the wave of Abramovich investment swept the club into its most successful era. He scored an incredible 211 goals from midfield and won three Premier League titles, the Champions League and Europa

League among a 13-trophy haul. Yet Chelsea are no longer the Premier League's big spenders.

Abramovich's interest has waned since his UK visa was not renewed last year and even the riches of a Russian billionaire have been overtaken by Abu Dhabi's backing of Manchester City. Indeed, it is unlikely Chelsea will be able to spend anything on new recruits this summer as they serve a two-window transfer ban. And their best player of recent times has also gone after Eden Hazard completed a 100-million euro (\$114 million) move to Real Madrid.

The transfer ban, coupled with the loss of Hazard, should temper expectations and presents an opportunity for the kind of culture change the club's hierarchy have wanted for some time. John Terry, who made his debut in 1998, remains the last Chelsea academy graduate to become a first team regular. Lampard used his Chelsea contacts to take Fikayo Tomori and Mason Mount on loan at Derby last season where both excelled.

Other returning loanees such as Tammy Abraham and Reece James are also expected to get their chance as Chelsea plug the gaps in their squad. "The transfer ban is probably not what the club wanted but for us it is exciting," said Abraham when playing for England at the recent European under-21 championship. "There will never be a better time to play the youngsters. This year is the most important year for us. It is now or never."

Should Chelsea's youth finally be given a chance, 19-year-old England international Callum Hudson-Odoi might also be more likely to extend



**LONDON:** Chelsea's newly appointed English head coach Frank Lampard holds a football shirt as he poses for a photograph during his unveiling press conference at Stamford Bridge. —AFP

his contract beyond 2020, despite interest from Bayern Munich. Lampard's assistant, Jody Morris, also has extensive knowledge of the Chelsea youth system, having been a key figure at the club's academy prior to joining Lampard at Derby last summer.

Petr Cech, another familiar face of Chelsea's rise

under Abramovich, has been appointed the new technical and performance advisor. Chelsea described one of the former goalkeeper's primary tasks as to "facilitate strong links between our men's and academy teams." However, the history of Abramovich's time in charge suggests patience is not one of his virtues. —AFP

## Atletico Madrid sign 19-year-old Joao Felix for 126 million euros

**MADRID:** Atletico Madrid on Wednesday signed 19-year-old Portuguese striker Joao Felix from Benfica for 126 million euros (\$142 million), the clubs announced. The fee is a record for a Portuguese club and for Atletico Madrid and makes the teenager one of the five most expensive players in history. Atletico tweeted a video of the player in the Prado gallery in Madrid contemplating paintings by old masters, with the phrase, "enormous talent", before he turned and smiled at the camera with the caption: "Welcome Joao Felix, pure talent."

Felix has reportedly signed a seven-year contract. He is a potential replacement for Antoine Griezmann who scored 133 goals in five seasons at the club. Atletico have already said the French striker is leaving. He is expected to join Barcelona when his release clause, which dropped to 120 million euros on Monday, is activated. The Felix signing came on a busy day for Atletico. Earlier on Wednesday, the club confirmed the signing of Mexican midfielder Hector Herrera from Porto while another midfielder, Rodrigo Her-

nandez, left Madrid for Manchester City for 70 million euros.

Atletico had already bolstered their midfield with the addition of the 24-year-old Marcos Llorente, bought for 45 million euros from Real Madrid. Felix, a forward who can play on either flank or centrally, has enjoyed a breakthrough season at Benfica, scoring 20 goals in 43 games and helping the club win the Portuguese league title. He also made his debut for Portugal earlier this month, starting alongside Cristiano Ronaldo in their Nations League semi-final win over Switzerland.

He had been linked with a number of Europe's leading clubs including Manchester City, Manchester United and Juventus. Atletico coach Diego Simeone said in June that the Portuguese prodigy was in his sights. "He's a young player," Simeone told Fox Sports Argentina. "Historically, Atletico Madrid is a club that buys young players in order to develop and improve them... Like Griezmann, who when he arrived was not what he is today."

Felix becomes the most expensive Portuguese player in history, breaking the record of 105 million euros Juventus paid last summer for Ronaldo. Atletico's previous record signing was French midfielder Thomas Lemar who joined last year from Monaco for 72 million euros. The world transfer record is the 222 million euros Paris Saint-Germain paid Barcelona for Neymar in 2017. —AFP

## Man City sign Spain international Rodri for club record fee

**LONDON:** Premier League champions Manchester City yesterday announced the signing of Spanish international midfielder Rodri on a five-year deal from Atletico Madrid for a club record fee. Rodri, 23, officially became a City player a day after the La Liga club revealed the 70-million-euro (£63 million) release clause in his contract had been triggered.

"Manchester City are delighted to announce the signing of Spanish midfielder Rodri," said a statement on the club's website. The value of the release clause eclipses the reported £60 million City paid Leicester for Algeria international Riyad Mahrez last year. Rodri said: "What City have achieved in the last two years has been amazing and I'm looking forward to being part of such a talented squad."

"It's not just the titles they have won, but the way they have managed it, playing attacking football at all times. It's a style that excites me, as do the club's ambitions." Rodri's departure will secure a considerable profit for Atletico, who spent around 20 million euros last summer to re-sign the Spaniard from Villarreal after releasing him from their youth ranks.

He made 47 appearances for Atletico, scoring three goals, as Diego Simeone's men finished above Real Madrid in second in La Liga and won the UEFA

Super Cup. In the Spaniard, City have finally landed their long-term replacement for the influential Fernandinho. The Brazilian has been a key member of the squad that has won back-to-back Premier League titles under Pep Guardiola.

However, he is now 34 and struggled with injuries towards the end of last season. Rodri's composed style on the ball at the base of the midfield has earned comparisons to Barcelona and Spain midfielder Sergio Busquets, who was handed his debut at the Catalan giants by Guardiola. "Rodri has proven himself to be a hugely talented, young midfielder, who has all the attributes we are looking for," said City's director of football Txiki Begiristain.

"He works hard defensively, makes himself available to receive the ball and uses it well when in possession. He is a perfect fit for Pep Guardiola's team and we are confident he will be a success." Rodri is City's second signing in two days after activating a buy-back clause of £5.3 million to re-sign Spanish left-back Angelino from PSV Eindhoven.

In other news, Leicester yesterday completed the signing of Ayoze Perez from fellow Premier League side Newcastle for a reported fee of £30 million (\$38 million). The Spanish forward has signed a four-year contract at the King Power Stadium to become Brendan Rodgers' second summer capture. Rodgers had been looking for a versatile forward and the Foxes reportedly triggered Perez's release clause. "I'm very happy and very pleased. I'm very proud to be part of the Leicester family and I can't wait to get started," Perez told LFC TV. "The club want to keep growing as much as they can and that's something I like. I spoke with the manager and that was important. —AFP



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LONDON: Chelsea's newly appointed English head coach Frank Lampard attends his unveiling press conference at Stamford Bridge. — AFP

## Lampard returns to Chelsea as manager

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