

New Zealand stunned India to reach their second successive World Cup final as they survived Ravindra Jadeja's late heroics to clinch a thrilling 18-run win at Old Trafford yesterday.

P16

# THE DAILY tribune



Camila Cabello goes blonde in latest track 'Find U Again'

14 CELEBS

WORLD

5

Britain's US ambassador resigns after Trump spat

## Yemen aid discussed Geneva

Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Yemen to the United Nations and other international organisations held a meeting yesterday in Geneva with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Peter Maurer.

During the meeting, they discussed the humanitarian efforts and relief work in Yemen and raised the violations being committed by the Houthi terrorist militias against the Yemeni people.

According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the "severity of needs is deepening", with the number of people in acute need, a staggering 27 per cent higher than last year, when it was already the most acute crisis on the globe.

A recent report on Yemen shows that 14.3 million people are classified as being in acute need, with around 3.2 million requiring treatment for acute malnutrition.

210 fils (includes VAT)



# French push to save deal

France dispatches envoy to Iran as US calls Tehran breaches 'nuclear extortion'

● **Despite the criticism, Iran has welcomed France's efforts to salvage the nuclear deal.**

● **Tehran says it has lost patience with perceived inaction by European countries.**

Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron's top diplomatic advisor yesterday held high-level talks in Tehran aimed at saving the 2015 nuclear deal and easing tensions between Iran and the United States, which called Iranian breaches "nuclear extortion".

The decision to send one of Paris' top diplomats to the Islamic republic comes as tensions continue to rise between Iran and the United States over Washington's withdrawal from the nuclear deal, crippling sanctions on the Iranian economy and Tehran's subsequent reduction of its

commitments as outlined by the agreement.

Emmanuel Bonne met Rear-Admiral Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his deputy Abbas Araghchi.

Mr Bonne's mission is "to try and open the discussion space to avoid an uncontrolled escalation, or even an accident", according to French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

The United States instead urged world powers party to the nuclear deal with Iran not to give in to its demands by providing new economic incentives to get it to backstep its recent escalation of its atomic program.

Jackie Wolcott, the US ambassador to international organisations in Vienna, told a gathering of the International Atomic Energy Agency Wednesday that Iran's recent moves to enrich uranium beyond the deal's limits amounted to "nuclear extortion".

She said Iran's "misbehaviour" should "not be rewarded". Ms Wolcott reiterated that Washington believes the deal was ineffec-



France's top diplomat Emmanuel Bonne shakes hands with Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Tehran.

said before the meeting with Mr Bonne, in reference to US sanctions against Iran.

Pointing to the US withdrawal from the JCPOA, he added that the Europeans "must solve that problem".

Despite the criticism, Iran has welcomed France's efforts to salvage the nuclear deal.

Iran's state news agency IRNA reported that Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi "welcomed France's role in reducing tension and implementing the accord".

"The French are part of efforts ... to keep the nuclear deal alive," Mr Mousavi was quoted as saying during the visit by Emmanuel Bonne, Macron's top diplomatic adviser.

But Iran threatened on Monday to restart deactivated centrifuges and ramp up enrichment of uranium to 20 per cent purity in a move away from the nuclear accord.

Its moves have been rebuked in capitals across Europe. The three European signatories of the deal, Britain, France and Germany, have all called on Iran to reverse its breaches of the deal.

Iran's recent moves to enrich uranium beyond the deal's limits amounted to nuclear extortion.

MS WOLCOTT

ive, but remains "open to negotiation without preconditions".

Tehran says it has lost patience with perceived inaction by European countries more than a year after President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled the United States out of the agreement.

"Negotiations are never possible under pressure," Mr Zarif



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# Spotlight on Thailand ties

'Mutual respect and understanding form the basis of bilateral ties between Manama and Bangkok'

● HRH the Premier emphasised his support to all the efforts to bolster the bilateral co-operation and mutual trade.

● The envoy reaffirmed his country's aspiration to boost its ties with Bahrain in the various sectors.

## Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received Ambassador of Thailand to Bahrain, Thanis Na Songkhla, at the Riffa Palace yesterday.



HRH the Premier receives Thanis Na Songkhla.

HRH the Premier commended the advanced friendly ties and reviewed ways of boosting them in various fields.

HRH the Premier expressed his

gratitude and appreciation for the hospitality he received during his recent visit to the Thailand that reflects their deep-rooted friendship.

The Thai ambassador conveyed the greetings and appreciation from Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-O-cha and his best wishes to Bahrain and its

people of continuous progress and prosperity.

He also expressed his country's appreciation for His Highness's efforts in boosting the bilateral friendship and co-operation ties and His Highness's supporting the Gulf countries' co-operation with Thailand.

HRH the Premier emphasised his support to all the efforts to bolster the bilateral co-operation and mutual trade and investment and opening new areas for co-operation and encouraging the private sector and businessmen from both sides to enter into joint ventures to reap the benefit in both countries.

HRH the Premier expressed pride in the close friendship and partnership between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Thailand, based upon their mutual understanding, co-ordination, respect-

ing each other and the spirit of amity and rapprochement between both Governments and friendly peoples.

The ambassador of Thailand expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to HRH the Prime Minister for his keenness on boosting the Bahrain-Thailand cooperation relations, lauding the outcome of the latest visit of HRH the Prime Minister to Thailand in developing communication between the two friendly countries to serve their mutual interests.

The ambassador praised the contributions of HRH the Prime Minister and his pivotal role in consolidating the friendship and cooperation between Thailand and Bahrain, and reaffirmed his country's aspiration to boost its ties with Bahrain in the various sectors.



Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday received His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Environment, in presence of His Highness Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, President of the Royal Equestrians and Endurance Federation (BREEF) and Vice President of the Supreme Council for Environment. The BDF Commander-in-Chief commended the efforts of His Highness in the protection of the environment and preservation of wildlife in the Kingdom.

## Bahraini women's strides highlighted at UN forum



Dr Shaikha Rana speaks at the UN forum.

## Geneva

The Supreme Council for Women (SCW) has participated in the panel discussion organised by Bahrain's mission at the UN headquarters here on the sidelines of the 41st session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to shed light on the Kingdom's women advancement achievements, being related to the Sustainable Development Agenda and Goals 2030.

The event attracted a large number of attendees, including heads and members of diplomatic missions to UN and delegations to the UNHRC sessions, as well as specialised academics and students.

During the panel discussion, Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary and SCW member, Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Duaj Al Khalifa, delivered a statement in which she talked about Bahrain's experience in the field of women's advancement,

as well as women's contributions to the development and stability of society.

While highlighting Bahraini women's achievements in the diplomatic field, she said that an undersecretary, an Executive Director of Bahraini Diplomatic Institute and five directors had been appointed at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, in addition to appointing women ambassadors to France, Belgium, the UK, China and the US, noting that women account for 33 per cent of the Foreign Ministry's staff and 31 per cent of the diplomatic personnel.

Director-General of Polices and Development at the SCW, Shaikha Deena bint Rashid Al Khalifa, gave a presentation about Bahraini women's prominent presence across various development fields, as well as the key role played by the SCW in this role.

She also spoke about Bahraini's presence at the international level in women-related fields, being an active member in the UN Commission on

the Status of Women and the UN-Women Executive Board, noting that the kingdom has proved its influential and effective role in regional and Arab women organisations.

Shaikha Deena also stressed the importance of the HRH Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women's Empowerment in adopting mechanisms to support women issues across the world according to the best international standards.

She also stressed the SCW's keenness to contribute to achieving SDGs, noting that it has recently launched a gender balance observatory to be an official reference for all women-related indicators.

In this regard, she pointed out that most indicators reflect the strength of the women advancement-supporting environment in Bahrain, citing the lack of wage gap between women and men in the Kingdom, and the increase of women's income by 91 per cent between 2008 and 2018.



Ambassador of Bahrain to Germany, Abdullah Abdullatif Abdullah, took part in the annual reception hosted by German Chancellor Angela Merkel for ambassadors and heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to Germany. In her remarks, Chancellor Merkel reviewed challenges facing the world today, stressing the need for all countries to co-operate in order to overcome these challenges and achieve peace and prosperity in the world. She also highlighted the efforts exerted by Germany and the European Union to resolve disputes through diplomatic and peaceful means.



Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) Chief Executive Officer Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa stressed the importance of co-ordination and co-operation to ensure the sustainability of the property sector. He made the statement as he received Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Real Estate and Construction Committee Manaf Hamza to discuss current developments. Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa stressed RERA keenness on hearing the opinions of all concerned parties so as to reach adequate decisions for all sides.

# Garbage bag vending machines to be installed across the capital

New garbage bags will have eco-friendly and biodegradable make-up

● The Capital Municipality aims to replicate the success of Southern Municipality.

● The garbage bag vending machines project has been named 'Sahal', which translates to 'Easy' in English.

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

Residents of Manama will soon be able to receive garbage bags from vending machines, it emerged.

The Capital Municipality, in collaboration with the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning, intends to install automated garbage bag vending machines to provide garbage bags for the residents of the governorate.

The municipality aims to replicate the success of the Southern Municipality that installed similar machines earlier this year.

According to municipal sources, the machine will store and provide black garbage bags to the residents, who need them.

The garbage bag vending machines project has been named 'Sahal', which translates to 'Easy'

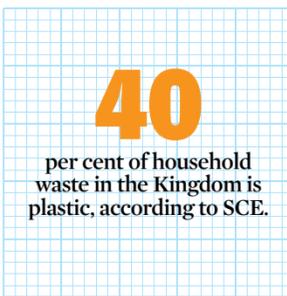


Works, Municipalities and Urban Planning Affairs Minister Essam Khalaf inaugurates 'Sahal' project in the Southern Governorate.

in English, the sources added.

These vending machines are meant to be user friendly, only requiring the users' ID number and EWA account number to check the eligibility of the user, who is receiving the bag.

The project was first launched in the Southern Governorate in April. Furthermore, the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning is considering launching the machines across



all governorates.

The ministry hopes to cover all important locations in Bahrain with such machines.

The Director-General of the Capital Municipal Council, Shawqiya Humaidan stated that the municipality has conveyed to the garbage bag suppliers to incorporate new eco-friendly and biodegradable make up.

This comes in accordance with the Ministerial Resolu-



The SCE has implemented measures to expand the number of recycling businesses by increasing the total number of recycling bins.

DR BIN DAINA

tion No 11 of 2019 regarding the technical regulations for plastic products, which will enter into force from July 21, banning all single use plastics bags across the Kingdom.

A study conducted by the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) revealed that the transition to eco-friendly and biodegradable garbage bags would not affect the plastic products manufacturing sector in the Kingdom.

"The SCE has implemented measures to expand the number of recycling businesses by increasing the total number of recycling bins, thereby reducing plastic-waste that ends up in landfills," said Supreme Council for Environment Chief Executive Officer Dr Mohammed Bin Daina.

He highlighted that 40 per cent of household waste is plastic, which can only be effectively reduced through prohibition and regulation.

Lecture focuses on SDGs  
Manama

The Civil Service Bureau, in collaboration with the Office of the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Kingdom, organised a lecture titled "the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals".

The Director of Human Resources Development Directorate, Mohammed Saleh Al Dawood, stated that the lecture reviewed the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals at the global and Arab levels, as well as the 2030 Agenda and the goals, objectives and indicators of sustainable development and their inclusion in government programmes.

He also added that the lecture discussed the role of the government sector in approaching and linking the objectives of sustainable development and the government sector. Mr Ali Salman Saleh from the UNDP office said that in order for the government sector to reach sustainable development goals, all development process partners should be involved including the government sector as well as the private sector and civil society institutions.

He further explained that linking the objectives of sustainable development with national plans and strategies requires monitoring activities of various government sectors and touching on the goals, objectives and indicators of sustainable development by monitoring the national strategies and plans related to government plans that contain programmes, projects and initiatives.

## Security programme for youth concludes

Manama

A security and social programme, held under the patronage of Southern Governor, HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, in co-operation with the General Directorate of Traffic and the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security, has concluded on a high note.

Held between June 20 and July 9, the programme attracted 60 participants aged between 14 and 25.

The programme contributed to developing Bahraini youth's capabilities and enhancing the level of their security awareness and culture through the workshops, training courses and field visits that shed light on the requirements of traffic safety and the need to avoid



Nearly 60 participants attended the programme.

wrong driving habits.

It also contributed to raising the participants' awareness on cyber security and ways to avoid misuse of social media networks.

The participants expressed satisfaction with the first-of-

its-kind programme for preparing them to face various future challenges, commending the efforts exerted by the governor, the Southern Governorate and the Interior Ministry's directorates for launching the constructive programme.

## GFH to support 'Al Fares' project launched by RCO

Manama

The GFH Financial Group yesterday announced its support to the 'Al Fares' project launched by the Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) to provide insulin pumps to children with Type 1 Diabetes.

This came as Yousif Abdulla Al Yaqoob, RCO Assistant Secretary General for Planning and Charity Resources Development received in his office, Salah Abdulla Sharif, Chief Administration Officer of GFH, who presented GFH contributions.

Mr Sharif conveyed the greetings of GFH's Board of Directors and executive management and their appreciation for the efforts exerted by RCO in the charitable and humanitarian sector.

He also praised the support and vision of His Majesty King



Mr Yousif Al Yaqoob, Mr Sharif and Mr Karim with GFH and RCO officials.

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs and President of the Council of Trustees of RCO.

GFH remains committed to its social responsibility and continues to work to enhance in projects supporting community development including such

national programmes and initiatives providing social and humanitarian services.

Mr Yousif Al Yaqoob expressed his thanks and appreciation to GFH for their support, wishing the Group and its officials all success.

Hazem Abdul Karim, Head of Government Relations at GFH, and a number of RCO officials, also attended the meeting.

## '2,695 enterprises benefitted from BDB services last year'

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) has financed entrepreneurial ventures to the tune of BD592 million since it commenced operations in 1992, it was revealed.

Speaking at a luncheon seminar organised by the Bahrain India Society (BIS), BDB Chief Executive Officer Sanjeev Paul said that as many as 2,695 enterprises benefitted from the bank's development services last year.



Mr Paul with BIS board members at the seminar.

He said that the bank's contribution to funding small and me-

dium enterprises (SMEs) would help in creating more than 3,000

jobs since the start of 2018.

Mr Paul highlighted various

shifts taking over the market and how the kingdom could benefit

from capitalising on these changes.

He stated that Bahrain was ahead of the MENA average on most of the parameters. "Bahrain had already begun building an ecosystem to support entrepreneurs and that its institutions such as Tamkeen, EDB and BDB had played a critical role in furthering development and progress."

BIS Chairman Raj Damani welcomed the speaker and the gathering and director Vijay Bolour proposed a vote of thanks.

# Death sentence for Sudanese murderer

Indian national was brutally murdered by the convict

● **During the hearing, the accused had told court that he committed the act "out of his love for Bahrain".**

● **To manipulate investigators, he is said to have written slogans on the walls of the apartment to frame a particular sect in the murder and walk free.**

TDI | Manama

A Sudanese national was sentenced to death yesterday by the First High Criminal Court for murdering an Indian national in the Capital Governorate last year.

The court also ordered to im-

prison him for five years.

The defendant had earlier confessed to killing the Indian victim, 31 years old Abdul Nahas, after seeing him "walking drunk on the road".

The gruesome killing was shocking as the 41-year-old tortured his victim, raped him and videotaped the process.

The Defence Attorney, Mohammed Bumtai, pleaded that his client isn't guilty, as medical reports proved he isn't mentally fit at the time when the crime took place, claiming that he wasn't responsible for his actions.

The details of the case show that the defendant had murdered the victim after encountering him on a public road at dawn.

He also sodomised him while he was dying, according to medical reports. The report stated that the victim was strangled to death after he was beaten up.

The defendant told the pros-



Abdul Nahas ... the victim

ecutors earlier that he killed the victim out of his "love for Bahrain" and refusal to see drunk men walking publicly.

He said that he had come to Bahrain in search of a job and that he was a holder of a medical engineering certificate.

"I was looking for a job and my sister works as a doctor at a hospital here. Her employers sponsored me for some time, but I couldn't find a job," the defendant said in his statements.

"I didn't have any relationship

with the victim. I saw him on the day of the incident at dawn and he was drunk. I was talking with my Bahraini friends on the road and I stopped him.

"I asked him about his religion because I love Bahrain and I don't like to see drunk people walking in public. I ordered him to show me his identity card, but he ran away," he explained.

The man claimed that he enquired in the neighbourhood and learnt where the victim lived. "I went to his apartment because I wanted to advise him.

"He opened the door for me and I entered the apartment. He locked the door and started attacking me. I responded in self-defence," he alleged.

Court files showed that the defendant then proceeded with torturing the victim and later killing him.

To mislead investigators, he is said to have written slogans on the walls of the apartment with

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**I went to his apartment because I wanted to advise him. He opened the door for me, and as I entered inside he locked the door and began attacking me. And I responded in self-defence.**

DEFENDANT

an intention to get people belonging to a certain sect indicted in the murder.

"I decided to pour chlorine on the body of the victim because I saw in movies that they were using chemicals to conceal the traces of crimes.

"I also poured alcohol and powder all around the apartment. Before I left I wrote some slogans on the walls to mislead investigators," he added.

'Rapunzel' event set



An event poster.

TDI | Manama

In partnership with the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), the US Embassy has announced the visit of Missoula Children Theatre (MCT) members Adam Ferguson and Grace McGeoch to the Kingdom to present a series of workshops, conduct auditions for children, and perform the popular children's play "Rapunzel".

The official performance of "Rapunzel" will be held today at the Cultural Hall at 7:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

MCT is an American non-profit organisation deeply attuned to the important role the arts play in all communities, a statement issued by the US Embassy said.

MCT highlights the power of creativity, a commitment to excellence, and the belief that theatre facilitates the universal desire to connect, the statement added.

## Court acquits teacher charged with leaking final exam papers

Acquittal ruling came after the teacher proves her innocence before the court

● **Education Ministry discovered the matter and lodged a complaint to the Public Prosecution.**

● **The teacher was accused of divulging secrets by the Public Prosecution.**

TDI | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has acquitted a female public school teacher, who was facing trial for allegedly leaking the questions and answers of a final exam, earlier this year.

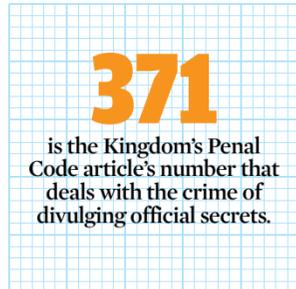
The acquittal came after it

was proven in the court that the teacher wasn't aware that the exam wasn't conducted and that she immediately deleted it from the parents' WhatsApp group to which she had forwarded them.

As reported by Tribune earlier, the intermediate school teacher apparently took pictures of the final exam questions of the seventh grade and sent it using WhatsApp to some of her students and their parents before they underwent the exam.

According to Southern Governorate Chief Prosecutor Noor Shehab, Education Ministry discovered the matter and lodged a complaint to the Public Prosecution, which completed its investigation into the matter and referred the case to the criminal court.

Ms Shehab confirmed that the prosecution interrogated the suspect, heard witnesses'



testimonies and viewed the evidence. The woman confessed to her crime after she was confronted with the evidence.

The teacher was accused of divulging secrets, a crime that is subjected to the punishments mentioned in Article 371 of the Kingdom's Penal Code.

Article 371 of the Penal Code stipulates: "A punishment of imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding BD100 shall be

inflicted on a person who divulges a secret entrusted thereto in his official capacity trade, profession or art in conditions other than those prescribed by the law or uses it for his personal benefit or for the benefit of another person, unless the person concerned with the secret allows the divulgence or use thereof."

However, the article stipulates that the punishment is severe in the case of public servants, similarly to the defendant who's a teacher at a public school.

"The punishment shall be imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years if the perpetrator is a public servant or an officer entrusted with a public service to whom the secret has been confided during, because or by reason of performing his duties or service," Article 371 states.

'Bahrain keen on enhancing ties with Asian countries'



Ms Zainal receives Mr Padam Sundas.

Manama

Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Fawzia Zainal, has stressed Bahrain's high-level interest in bolstering Asian co-operation and enhancing bilateral relations at all levels to consolidate common Bahraini-Asian interests during His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's prosperous era.

While receiving the Nepalese Ambassador to Bahrain, Padam Sundas yesterday, the speaker noted that the relevant Asian legislative councils and parliaments are required to unify and co-ordinate their efforts aimed at achieving the aspirations of Asian countries

and peoples through supporting joint economic and investment projects and coordinating parliamentary stances at international gatherings through the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

She also discussed with the envoy ways to enhance bilateral parliamentary relations and activate joint parliamentary friendship committees, lauding the distinguished relations between the two countries and their friendly peoples.

Ambassador Padam Sundas expressed his country's pride in its strong relations with Bahrain, and its keenness to bolster co-operation with it.

He also lauded the progress boom witnessed by the kingdom in various fields.

## BRAVE CF 'London event, a total game changer'

TDI | Manama

Amidst Brave Combat Federation high-profile show in London fast-approaching, BRAVE CF President Mohammed Shahid has pointed out that the event will showcase the sport in a different light, and to a new audience, and that this strategy will empower mixed

martial arts in Europe and in the world, changing it for the better.

"When we go to London, we're going to showcase an event capable of connecting people, and we will make sure mixed martial arts is never looked at the same. We want to change perceptions about the sport, we want everyone to see MMA as something



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**We want to change perceptions about the sport. We want everyone to see MMA as something that can bring people together.**

MR MOHAMMED SHAHID

that can bring people together.

"Mixed martial arts is not only a great and exciting sport, not only the most global sport out there, not only the fastest-growing, but it is also a sport that has equal power, that can bring government, business, advertisers and revenue-generating industries under one roof, into one sport," commented Shahid.

Recently, the Sports Ministry of France announced MMA would become legal in the country starting January 1st, 2020.

The news has come at a great time for BRAVE CF, and the promotion has its eyes set on going to a host of different countries, including France, in the next years.

WORLD  
world

## Nine deer dead in Japan after eating plastic: wildlife group



Tourists are forbidden from feeding the deer any food other than crackers

## Tokyo

Nine deer have died after swallowing plastic bags in Japan's Nara Park, a wildlife group said yesterday, warning that a surge in tourism may be to blame.

The Nara Deer Preservation Foundation said that masses of plastic bags and snack packets were found in the stomachs of the deer which died between March and June this year.

"The biggest litter found in one of the nine amounted to 4.3 kilograms (9.5 pounds)," foundation official Yoshitaka Ashimura said.

"We were surprised. It was so big," he said.

The picturesque park in Japan's ancient capital is home to more than 1,000 deer, which can even be found roaming the streets in search of spe-

cial tasty crackers offered by tourists.

Tourists are forbidden from feeding the deer any food besides the crackers but Ashimura said some visitors offer the animals other types of snacks.

"The deer probably think that the snacks and the plastic packs covering them are both food," he said, adding the animals normally eat grass and acorns.

"They might also eat plastic bags dropped on the ground," he said, adding that he believed such cases had increased recently "due to the growing number of visitors".

"The only way to prevent this is to remove all the garbage."

The sprawling park that also includes wooden temples and shrines built centuries ago is a major tourist attraction.

## Turkey vows to keep drilling off Cyprus despite warnings



Turkey last month sent a second ship called Yavuz to search for oil and gas in the eastern Mediterranean

## Ankara

Turkey yesterday vowed to continue drilling activities off Cyprus despite tensions with the European Union, which has called on Ankara to cease its "illegal" activities.

The discovery of huge gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean has sparked a dispute between EU member Cyprus and Turkey, which last month sent a second ship, the Yavuz, to search for oil and gas in the region.

"The drilling activities of our ship Yavuz are based on legal and legitimate grounds," the Turkish foreign ministry said in a statement.

"We reject the statement made by Greek Foreign Ministry and EU officials that deem our country's activities illegal," it added.

In May, Ankara sent the ship

Fatih into Cyprus' exclusive economic zone to begin drilling there, while the Yavuz was deployed last month to search for oil and gas to the east.

The European Union said in a statement on Monday that a second attempt by Turkey to drill for oil and gas was an "unacceptable escalation", having already warned Ankara to stop its "illegal" activities or face sanctions.

The European Council said it was considering "appropriate measures" and would respond "in full solidarity with Cyprus" in light of the second exploration.

The United States and Egypt also joined a chorus of criticism this week, with Washington urging Turkish authorities "to halt these operations".

Ankara says its actions abide by international law and that it is drilling inside its continental shelf.

## Britain's US ambassador resigns after Trump spat

London, United Kingdom

Britain's ambassador to Washington Kim Darroch said yesterday he was resigning after drawing Donald Trump's ire for calling the US president "inept" in leaked confidential cables to London.

Darroch said in a resignation letter to the Foreign Office that the scandal made it "impossible" for him to continue representing British interests in the United States.

Trump has said his administration would no longer "deal" with Darroch.

"Since the leak of official documents from this Embassy there has been a great deal of speculation surrounding my position and the duration of my remaining term as ambassador," Darroch wrote.

"I want to put an end to that speculation. The current situation is making it impossible for me to carry out my role as I would like," he said.

"I believe in the current circumstances the responsible course is to allow the appointment of a new ambassador."

Prime Minister Theresa May told parliament moments after Darroch's resignation that the criticism he faced was "beyond unfair and wrong".

"I think he's given honourable and good service and he should be thanked for it," she said.



British Ambassador to the US Kim Darroch speaks during an annual dinner of the National Economists Club at the British Embassy in Washington, DC

“Since the leak of official documents from this Embassy there has been a great deal of speculation surrounding my position and the duration of my remaining term as ambassador”

DARROCH

The Mail on Sunday's publication of Darroch's cables set off a political firestorm in London and saw Trump launch two successive days of Twitter attacks against the envoy and May.

One of the cables called the Trump administration "uniquely dysfunctional" and another characterised the US leader as "inept" and "insecure".

Trump tweeted Monday that Darroch "is not liked or well thought of within the U.S. We will no longer deal with him." He also welcomed the "good

news" that Prime Minister Theresa May was stepping down in two weeks.

The US leader followed that up on Tuesday by calling "wacky Ambassador" Darroch "a very stupid guy".

The scandal saw Darroch taken off the guest list of a dinner attended by Trump on Monday.

He also missed visiting UK Trade Minister Liam Fox's talks in Washington on Tuesday with the president's adviser and daughter Ivanka Trump.

## Iraqi gets life in jail for teen rape-murder

Wiesbaden | Germany

An Iraqi man was sentenced to life in jail by a German court yesterday for the rape and murder of a teenage girl that fuelled far-right protests against a mass influx of migrants.

The Alternative for Germany (AfD) party and other far-right groups have seized on the brutal killing of 14-year-old Susanna Maria Feldman in their campaign against Chancellor Angela Merkel's asylum policy.

The accused, rejected asylum seeker Ali Bashar, 22, was convicted of the killing and handed the maximum sentence of life in prison by the court in Wiesbaden, the city where the murder took place in May last year.

The judge, Juergen Bonk, also found the crime to be of exceptional severity, meaning that Bashar will not be granted parole after 15 years as is usually the case in Germany.

Bashar committed a "cold-blooded murder" and showed "neither remorse nor empathy," said the presiding judge, adding that during his trial the defendant had "voiced no sincere word of regret".

The Iraqi man battered, raped



Prosecutors said that Bashar battered, raped and strangled the schoolgirl to death in a wooded area



Bashar later confessed to the killing but denied the rape

and strangled the schoolgirl to death in a wooded area near railway tracks on May 23.

The court heard he then sent

false messages from Susanna's smartphone indicating she had left for an impromptu trip to Paris.

Her body was only found on June 6 in a shallow grave covered with leaves, twigs and soil.

By this time, Bashar and his family had left Germany and returned to Arbil in northern Iraq.

The accused was however arrested by Kurdish security forces and, even though Berlin and Baghdad have no formal extradition treaty, taken back to Germany.

## Incapable of empathy

Federal police chief Dieter Romann personally joined the controversial operation, as newspaper front pages showed pictures of commandos escorting a heavily restrained Bashar off an aircraft.

Bashar later confessed the killing but denied the rape, claiming that he and the girl had consensual sex before she fell, got angry and threatened to call the police.

In a separate trial, Bashar is accused of twice raping an 11-year-old girl, who was believed to have also been sexually assaulted by an Afghan youth.

# Paris says its missiles found on pro-Haftar base

● US-made Javelin missiles discovered in a camp south of Tripoli in June had been purchased by France

● The anti-tank missiles, worth \$170,000 (150,000 euros) each, were seized when forces loyal to the UN-recognised government in Tripoli overran the pro-Haftar base in Gharyan

Paris, France

France said its missiles had been found at a Libyan base used by forces loyal to strongman Khalifa Haftar, in an embarrassing admission raising fresh questions about its role in the conflict.

Confirming a report in the *New York Times*, a defence ministry statement said US-made Javelin missiles discovered in a camp south of Tripoli in June had been purchased by France.

But it denied supplying them to Haftar in breach of a UN arms embargo, saying French forces operating in the war-torn country had lost track of them after they were judged to be defective.

"Damaged and out-of-use, these weapons were being temporarily stocked in a warehouse ahead of their destruction," the statement said. "They were not transferred to local forces."

The anti-tank missiles, worth \$170,000 (150,000 euros) each,



Fighters loyal to the internationally-recognised Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) displaying US-made Javelin anti-tank missiles and precision guided munition, which were reportedly confiscated from forces loyal to General Khalifa Haftar in Gharyan.

were seized when forces loyal to the UN-recognised government in Tripoli overran the pro-Haftar base in Gharyan, 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Tripoli.

The ministry statement did not explain how the missiles were lost.

The find could boost suspicions that Paris is backing Haftar on the ground.

Claudia Gazzini, senior Libya analyst at the International Crisis Group, an NGO, said the

town of Gharyan had in the past housed facilities for obsolete weapons.

But she said there were unanswered questions about whether French troops were present when the base was overrun.

"The French need to clarify in greater detail," she said. "The open question is whether or not they are actively supporting Haftar forces in their offensive on Tripoli."

Haftar has been branded a warlord and dictator-in-the-making by his opponents.

On April 4, he launched an offensive on the Libyan capital seeking to overthrow the government of Prime Minister Fayed al-Sarraj.

The fighting has claimed at least 1,000 lives and displaced tens of thousands of people.

## French presence

In a video distributed by

pro-Sarraj forces, a captured pro-Haftar commander alleges six French military advisors and other soldiers were at the base in Gharyan when it was overrun.

This was dismissed as "fake news" by the French embassy in Tripoli.

France under President Emmanuel Macron has publicly denied taking sides in the conflict and has called for a UN arms embargo to be enforced.

French special forces and

members of its DGSE intelligence service are, however, known to be operating in Libya, which descended into chaos after a 2011 uprising and NATO-backed military campaign against late dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

"These weapons were for the protection of forces undertaking intelligence and counter-terror missions," the French statement said.

## Proxy war

The Libyan conflict has drawn in a range of regional and international actors and the country is awash with foreign weaponry despite the UN embargo.

"Before, the violations were happening but people were still cautious," Gazzini said. "But now it is quite the contrary. There is no shame in boasting about the arrival of new equipment."

The UN-recognised government in Tripoli headed by Sarraj controls a much smaller section of territory around Tripoli in the west and draws support from Turkey, Qatar and Italy, analysts say.

In May, the government posted pictures showing the arrival of Turkish BMC Kirpi armoured vehicles at Tripoli port.

France's role has caused tensions.

Macron threw himself into diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict after his election in May 2017, seeing the instability as a major security worry and a source of migration to Europe.

He invited Haftar and Sarraj to a peace conference in Paris in 2017 which was seen as giving the commander international legitimacy for the first time.

# Japan's Hayabusa2 asteroid probe set for final touchdown

● The mission hopes to collect pristine materials from beneath the surface of the asteroid that could provide insights into what the solar system was like

Tokyo, Japan

Japan's Hayabusa2 probe began descending yesterday for its final touchdown on a distant asteroid, hoping to collect samples that could shed light on the evolution of the solar system.

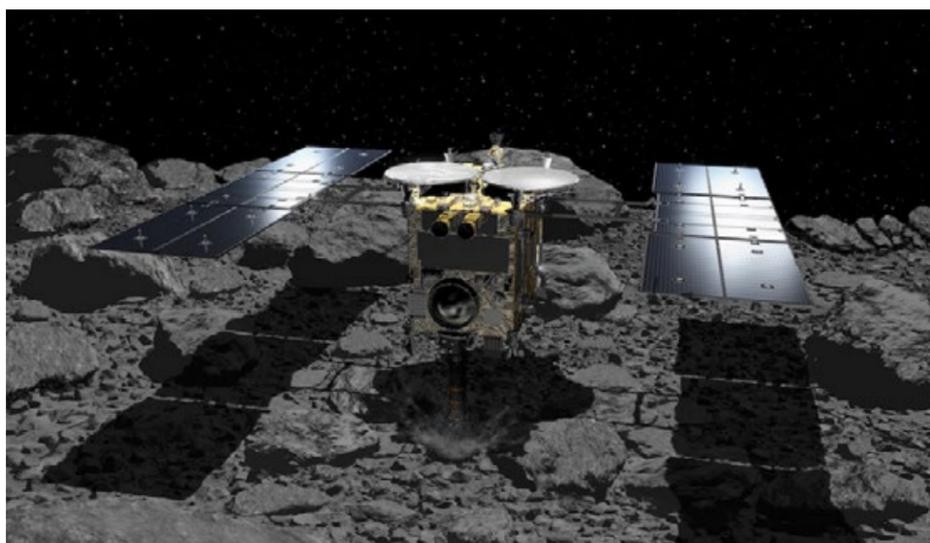
"At 9:58, we made a 'Go' decision for the Hayabusa2 probe's second touchdown," the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said in a statement.

By early afternoon, JAXA said the probe had descended around five kilometres and was on track to touchdown today on the Ryugu asteroid, some 300 million kilometres (185 million miles) from Earth.

If successful, it will be the second time it has landed on the desolate asteroid as part of a complex mission that has also involved sending rovers and robots.

The mission hopes to collect pristine materials from beneath the surface of the asteroid that could provide insights into what the solar system was like at its birth, some 4.6 billion years ago.

To get at those crucial materials, in April an "impactor" was fired from Hayabusa2 towards



Artist's concept of the Hayabusa 2 spacecraft touching down on asteroid Ryugu.



**This is the second touchdown, but doing a touchdown is a challenge whether it's the first or the second**

YUICHI TSUDA

HAYABUSA2 PROJECT MANAGER

Ryugu in a risky process that created a crater on the asteroid's surface and stirred up material that had not previously been exposed to the atmosphere.

"This is the second touchdown, but doing a touchdown is a challenge whether it's the first or the second," Yuichi Tsuda, Hayabusa2 project manager, told reporters ahead of the mission.

"The whole team will do our best so that we'll be able to complete the operation," he said.

## 'Extremely attractive materials'

Hayabusa2's first touchdown was in February, when it landed briefly on Ryugu and fired a bullet into the surface to puff up dust for collection, before blasting back to its holding position.

The second touchdown requires special preparations because any problems could mean

the probe loses the precious materials already gathered during its first landing.

A photo of the crater taken by Hayabusa2's camera shows that parts of the asteroid's surface are covered with materials that are "obviously different" from the rest of the surface, mission manager Makoto Yoshikawa told reporters.

The probe is expected to make a brief touchdown on an area some 20 metres away from the centre of the crater to collect the unidentified materials believed to be "ejecta" from the blast.

"It would be safe to say that extremely attractive materials are near the crater," Tsuda said.

The touchdown will be the last major part of Hayabusa2's

mission, and when the probe returns to Earth next year scientists hope to learn more about the history of the solar system and even the origin of life from its samples.

"I'm really looking forward to analysing these materials," Yoshikawa said.

At about the size of a large refrigerator and equipped with solar panels to keep it powered, Hayabusa2 is the successor to JAXA's first asteroid explorer, Hayabusa -- Japanese for falcon.

That probe returned with dust samples from a smaller, potato-shaped asteroid in 2010, despite various setbacks during its epic seven-year odyssey and was hailed as a scientific triumph.

Hayabusa2 observes the surface of Ryugu with its camera and sensing equipment but has

also dispatched two tiny MINERVA-II rover robots as well as the French-German robot MASCOT to help surface observation.

Its photos of Ryugu, which means "Dragon Palace" in Japanese and refers to a castle at the bottom of the ocean in an ancient Japanese tale, show the asteroid has a rough surface full of boulders.

Launched in December 2014, the Hayabusa2 mission has a price tag of around 30 billion yen (\$270 million) and is scheduled to return to Earth with its samples in 2020.

But its mission has already made history, including with the creation of the crater on Ryugu's surface.

In 2005, NASA's Deep Impact project succeeded in creating an artificial crater on a comet but only for observation purposes.



Researchers and employees working at a control room for the Hayabusa2 mission in Sagami-hara city, Kanagawa prefecture.

# 'Alexa, my head hurts'

UK health service signs up Amazon

London

“Alexa, what are the symptoms of flu?”

The UK government said yesterday that Britons will be able to get an answer to this and other simple medical questions from the National Health Service (NHS) using their Amazon smart speakers.

The state-run health system's tie-up with the California-based technology giant drew praise from overworked doctors and professionals weary of bad medical advice proliferating online.

But privacy campaigners expressed alarm over the possibility of Amazon storing medical data and then using it to sell targeted ads.

“Technology like this is a great example of how people can access reliable, world-leading NHS advice from the comfort of their home, reducing the pressure on our hardworking GPs and pharmacists,” Health Secretary Matt Hancock said in a statement.

Amazon said it began updating its Echo smart speakers to search NHS websites for medical answers at the start of the week.

The UK health department said it expected half of all symptom checks and other medical queries to be made through voice-assisted technology by next year.

It added that the new and more reliable service would be especially helpful to the elderly and the blind.

Health professionals also welcomed the government's



Amazon said it began updating its Echo smart speakers to search NHS websites for medical

However, it is vital that independent research is done to ensure that the advice given is safe

HELEN STOKES-LAMPARD  
ROYAL COLLEGE OF GPs CHAIRWOMAN

embrace of shifting consumer habits and the growing dominance of voice services.

“However, it is vital that in-

dependent research is done to ensure that the advice given is safe,” Royal College of GPs chairwoman Helen Stokes-Lampard said.

“Otherwise it could prevent people seeking proper medical help and create even more pressure on our overstretched GP service.”

Some privacy campaigners also pointed out that Amazon stores users' voice recordings in their own data centres.

“Encouraging the public to give their private health details to one of the most aggressive corporate data guzzlers is astonishingly misguided,” Britain's Big Brother Watch civil liberties

group director Silkie Carlo said.

“Healthcare is made inaccessible when trust and privacy is stripped away, and that's what this terrible plan would do,” Carlo said.

“It's a data protection disaster waiting to happen.”

The new service is being billed by the UK government as a world-first.

The government also points out that Amazon will not be able to access Britons' medical records.

The NHS website offers basic advice on thousands of medical conditions and is one of the most popular symptom checkers in the world.

## Gerard Pique handed \$2.36 million tax bill

Madrid, Spain

Barcelona's Gerard Pique will be forced to pay 2.1 million euros (\$2.36 million) to Spain's tax authorities after his conviction for rights-image fraud was confirmed, a legal source said yesterday.

According to a May 13 decision the country's National Court rejected Pique's appeal against the 2016 sentence which required the former Spain international to pay 1.5 million euros in tax arrears and a 600,000 euros fine.

The tribunal concluded Pique had faked the handover of his rights images to his Kerad Project company to pay less tax for 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Pique, a World Cup and European Championships winner retains the right to appeal to Spain's supreme court.

The verdict comes a month after his wife, Colombian musician Shakira, was questioned by a judge near the Catalan city over alleged evasion of 14.5 million euros in taxes.

Her press team released a statement in which they said the artist was innocent.

The centre-back's former teammate at the Camp Nou Neymar is under investigation by Spain's fiscal au-

thorities over a bonus he received at Barca as well as his world-record transfer to Paris Saint-Germain.

Another of Pique's fellow club squad members Lionel Messi, paid a two-million-euro fine in 2016 in his own tax wrangle and received a 21-month jail term.

The prison sentence was later reduced to a further fine of 252,000 euros, equivalent to 400 euros per day of the original term.

A Spanish court in January handed Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo a suspended two-year prison sentence for committing tax fraud when he was at Real Madrid.

The player, who joined Italian side Juventus last year, also agreed to pay 18.8 million euros in fines and back taxes to settle the case, according to judicial sources.

Newspaper *El Mundo* reported in April authorities had accused Atletico Madrid attacker Diego Costa of fraud totalling 1.1 million euros related to taxes related to his image rights in 2014.

Court rejected Pique's appeal against the 2016 sentence to pay 1.5 million euros in tax arrears



## New Zealand PM's neighbour lets the cat out of the bag

Wellington

A guilt-ridden neighbour of New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern revealed yesterday that he was responsible for accidentally killing the nation's “First Cat” Paddles while reversing out of his driveway.

Paddles died in November 2017, shortly after Ardern won office, but the full circumstances of the death were never publicly revealed, leading to curiosity about who killed the cat.

The much-loved feline was a popular member of the prime ministerial household, with a Twitter account set up in her name, *@FirstCatofNZ*, attracting more than 11,000 followers.

US magazine *Vanity Fair* praised the tech-savvy feline for “helping establish Ardern as the latest hip, cool world leader that America wishes it had”.

Paddles, who was “polydactyl”, with extra toes that looked like thumbs, also once interrupted a phone call between Ardern and US President Donald Trump by jumping on a table.

Ardern's neighbour, identified only as Chris, told the stuff.co.nz news website that he was rushing back to work from a lunch break in his Auckland home when the prime ministe-



The much-loved feline was a popular member of the prime ministerial household

rial moggy ran into the path of his reversing car.

“It was kind of shocking at first, and I felt fairly bad because I knew a bit of the back story, I knew Paddles had some kind of social media presence and had an extra toe,” he said.

“I was also aware that to Jacinda and Clarke, Paddles was their fur baby at that point that they loved, so I was pretty gutted.”

He could have made a purr-fect getaway, but Chris front-

ed up to the prime ministerial household and told them what he had done, saying Ardern was understanding.

He said his children even wrote a condolence card asking Ardern not to send their father to prison.

After Chris spoke publicly about the incident for the first time on Wednesday, the *@FirstCatofNZ* twitter account retweeted his story and made its first post in more than a year. “I forgive you. #prpp.”

## Merkel suffers new shaking spell

Berlin, Germany

German Chancellor Angela Merkel suffered a new trembling spell on Wednesday, the third time in less than a month, raising questions over her health.

Merkel began shaking involuntarily as national anthems were being played at the reception of Finnish Prime Minister Antti Rinne, an AFP photographer witnessed.

A government spokesman played down the trembling, telling AFP: “The chancellor is well and the talks with the Finnish prime minister will go on as planned.”

The shaking was visible although less severe than during



German Chancellor Angela Merkel

the first episode in June.

On that occasion she appeared unsteady and shook as she stood in the midday sun next to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, whom she was welcoming with military

honours.

The first bout of shaking was blamed on dehydration, but a second episode struck a week later at the end of June, just hours before she was due to board a plane for a G20 summit in Japan.

Officials had taken the same line then as on Wednesday, saying that she was fine and that she would not be cancelling any planned engagements.

Merkel, who turns 65 in a week, has always enjoyed relatively robust health.

Frequently called the European Union's most influential leader and the most powerful woman in the world, Merkel has said she will leave politics at the end of her term, in 2021.

## Aircraft technician crushed by landing gear

Kolkata

A trainee technician in India was crushed to death yesterday by the landing gear flaps on an aircraft while conducting maintenance work, airline SpiceJet said.

“Inadvertently, the main landing gear hydraulic door closed and he got stuck in between the hydraulic door flaps,” SpiceJet said after the incident at Kolkata airport in eastern India.

“The hydraulic doors were broken to rescue (Rohit) Pandey but he was declared dead,”



SpiceJet said the accident occurred at Kolkata airport in eastern India

the airline said. “The entire SpiceJet family stands together in grief in this unfortunate incident.”

Airport director Kaushik Bhattacharya said that Pandey,

26, was “sucked into the lower end of the aircraft due to hydraulic pressure. His body had to be cut out of it”.

The aircraft was a Canadian Bombardier Q400.

# Alexis Tsipras became a vic

FAISAL AL YAFAI

*The prime minister who came to power on a promise of change was booted out in the election because he was simply more of the same*

Within hours of the polls closing on Sunday night, Greece's ex-prime minister Alexis Tsipras had called his rival and successor Kyriakos Mitsotakis to concede defeat. The man who swept to power on a tide of hope and a pledge to end austerity four years earlier was knocked from it by resounding losses at the ballot box, after the centre-right party New Democracy trounced him with an outright majority.

Over the course of his four-year term in office, Mr Tsipras went from being leader of the scrappy, left-wing, anti-establishment party Syriza, or Coalition of the Radical Left, promising a radical overhaul of tired, elitist systems, to becoming indistinguishable from the very hierarchy he promised to challenge. After four years of being governed by a prime minister who over-promised but under-delivered, Greeks have returned to the centre by voting in New Democracy - many of them young voters, nearly double the number that voted for the party in the 2015 election. What Greeks wanted from Syriza was

something different. What they ended up with was more of the same.

The writing was on the wall in May, when Syriza trailed behind New Democracy in the European parliamentary elections, prompting Mr Tsipras to call an early election. There are still plenty of believers in the party's founding principles. But faced with four years of disappointments, Syriza only managed to secure 31.5 per cent of the vote, considerably less than the 35.5 per cent it won in 2015.

The arguments will soon start over whether Syriza would have won had it stuck to its left-wing politics, instead of becoming managers for EU-imposed austerity. But the past few years have been so extraordinary for the country, it was always unlikely that Syriza would be able to deliver what it promised.

When the history of Greece's long path out of financial crisis is written, the legacies of both Syriza and Mr Tsipras will be tangled, complex ones.

After coming to power in January 2015 as a relative unknown, there was already a cloud hanging over his leadership by that summer when, despite the out-

come of a referendum rejecting bailout conditions, Mr Tsipras negotiated loan terms with the European Union, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund. There was enough of a backlash to trigger his resignation in August 2015. Although he was reinstated as prime minister in September 2015 in the second election that year, and Greece finally emerged from years of austerity measures last year after the end of its third bailout in a decade, for many, the damage had already been done.

Having steered a course for Greece through painfully deep cuts to public spending, Syriza is leaving office just a year after the last of the international bailouts ended.

Syriza and Mr Tsipras's political project were undone by a mixture of factors. Greek voters appeared to be exhausted by austerity. The radicalism that Syriza promised did not materialise or, more charitably, was at least unequal to the challenge of austerity.

But Mr Tsipras, too, bears some responsibility. He became too cosy with Brussels and Berlin, too enamoured of the trappings of the political circuit. His supporters will say he was mere-



Mr Tsipras comes out of the Greek parliament.

ly being realistic; to his critics, he was elected on a message that things could be different but as it turns out, they weren't.

If austerity pushed Syriza to the edge, two other political challenges tipped the party over it. The first was far bigger than

# How the idea of 'India' developed on the

SURESH MENON

*The Indian rush to England for the World Cup had its origins in a plan by some merchants to charter a steamer to take them to Britain to watch the Indians play there in 1911*

In 1911, the first 'All-India' team toured England for a series of matches, 14 of them First Class. It was led by a 19-year-old prince, and comprised six Parsis, five Hindus, three Muslims and two Dalits.

At least two earlier attempts had failed because the communal balance was deemed unsatisfactory.

How the idea of 'India' developed on the cricket field, and what the Kohlis and Bumrahs owe that pioneering effort is described superbly by Prashant Kidambi in *Cricket Country: The Untold History of the First All India Team*. The nation on the cricket field, Kidambi clarifies, was originally constituted by, and not against, the forces of empire.

When scholars (Kidambi is associate professor of colonial urban history at Leicester University) write on sport, they expand our understanding of ourselves, and the place of sport. After all, what do they know of history who only history know?

Kidambi has deliberately used the title of a book written during the world war. Edmund Blunden's *Cricket Country* is both a lament on the passing of an age and a celebration of the timelessness of the game. While Blunden's book is about Englishness, Kidambi's is a tribute to the game's Indianness. "By a curious historical twist," he says, "a sport that defined the identity of the former colonisers is now the ruling passion of the country that they conquered." If Blunden was saying



Cricket is the most popular sport in India.

that cricket was authentic only when it was English, Kidambi is saying, clearing his throat gently, that the 'country' in the title is actually India.

Blunden however anticipated Kidambi when he wrote: "The game is not terminated at the boundary, but is reflected beyond...and belongs to some wider field."

Kidambi's field is wide, wider than most. Politics and sport and their intersection might be a key, but the role of sport in establishing identity, the approach to it for both personal and 'nationalistic' purposes ring true today; only the names have changed. For the Maharajahs and Princes, read corporates and politicians. The Indian rush to England for the

World Cup had its origins in a plan by some merchants to charter a steamer to take them to Britain to watch the Indians play there in 1911. The idea was to take a party of 400 high caste Hindus, with food "prepared by Brahmins" and "all arrangements on orthodox principles." That plan fell apart, but says Kidambi, "the summer of 1911 saw a spike in the number of

travellers from the subcontinent to Britain."

India couldn't persuade Ranji, the greatest Indian cricketer of his time to lead the country. Ranji tried to undermine plans for All-India teams because that might have jeopardised his status as an English icon.

Kidambi's research is deep and extensive. There are wonder-

1893

The first cultured pearl is obtained by **Kōkichi Mikimoto**.

1893

A revolution led by the liberal general and politician **José Santos Zelaya** takes over state power in Nicaragua.

1895

Brothers **Auguste and Louis Lumière** demonstrate movie film technology to scientists.



1897

**Salomon August Andrée** leaves Spitsbergen to attempt to reach the North Pole by balloon. He later crashes and dies.

# tim of his own budget cuts



Having steered a course for Greece through painfully deep cuts to public spending, Syriza is leaving office just a year after the last of the international bailouts ended.

voters was very regional – a long-running dispute with neighbouring Macedonia over the country's name. Although the Greek government managed to strike a deal to rename the country North Macedonia, it proved an easy lightning rod for nationalist sentiment, one which Mr Mitsotakis exploited to the fullest.

But it was ultimately tough austerity measures and Mr Tsipras's U-turn in office that decided his trajectory. Three rounds of international bailouts after the 2008 global financial crisis saved the Greek economy

from collapse but at the cost of enormous social and financial hardship.

The Bank of Greece last year estimated that half a million Greeks had emigrated since 2009, a staggering 5 per cent of its population. The vast majority are young, pushed out by a youth unemployment rate of nearly 40 per cent and a decade of financial hardship. Mr Mitsotakis, in his victory speech, said he wanted to "give the children that left the country the possibility to return".

Still, the difficult times are not going away: under a new deal struck with the European Union, the country must stick to limits on its spending until 2060. Some of Greece's young will have spent their entire working lives in the shadow of austerity.

But the story of Syriza is also the story of Europe's evolving left-wing politics.

The continuing Greek crisis has had an impact across the European Union. The sight of unelected officials in the EU and the International Monetary Fund facing down the elected representatives of a country and forcing austerity on them ignit-

ed fury on both the left and right of Europe's politics. Right-wing parties that wanted to exit the EU frequently cited the example of Greece being "bullied" by Brussels.

Yet while there was a brief period in 2015 when it was thought that left-wing parties could win more widely, today the parties whose ideas have the most momentum are all on the right.

This year alone, centrist parties in Denmark and Spain have won power by stealing the policies of their far-right competitors. That is also what happened in Greece, with New Democracy taking a hardline stance on immigration. Indeed, that was the other major story of the night: the far-right Golden Dawn's vote collapsed and the party failed to take even a single seat.

Mr Tsipras and Syriza were the future once. They might well be again. The Greek crisis, as the former finance minister Yanis Varoufakis put it, is far from over. The former prime minister is only 44 and Syriza remains the major opposition party. If Greek politics changed so much in four years, there is no reason to suppose it might not change radically again.

Greece alone. The continuing migrant crisis was exacerbated by the civil war in Syria. There are an estimated 90,000 migrants

scattered across Greece's islands in the Aegean, in camps built to take considerably fewer people. The other issues that swayed

## e cricket field?

The Parsi star Keki Mistry should have led, but Mistry worked for Bhupinder and would not have been granted permission to tour. Hence the ploy of getting a 19-year-old to lead so his employee could make the trip.

bursts of flamboyant batting before boredom set in and induced a fatal error." A brilliant description of the cricket the princes played as well as the lifestyles they led.

The year 1911 was significant in many ways. In Kolkata, Mohun Bagan defeated East Yorkshire Regiment to become the first Indian team to win the Indian Football Association (IFA) Shield. In London, George V was crowned King-Emperor, and there was an Imperial Conference held there. Other Indian sportsmen were touring too. Jamsetji Marker, the world racquets champion, the great wrestler Gama and a team of Punjabi wrestlers earned both plaudits and publicity.

It was a blazing summer – one of the hottest since the mid-seventeenth century. Temperatures went beyond 36 degrees.

And how did the pioneering Indian cricket team do? They won two of 14 First Class matches, and lost 10. Apart from psychological and geographical reasons, there were two sound cricketers, one too, Kidambi tells us. The weapons bowlers had developed recently – the outswinger and the googly – were a mystery to Indian batsmen. The great left arm spinner Palwankar Baloo picked up 75 wickets at just over 20, while his brother Shivram scored 631 runs, behind Rustomji Meherhomji's 684.

Watching India in England today with the crowd support suggesting they might be playing at home, it is useful to remember how it all began. Cricket Country tells that riveting story with passion and authority.

ful stories of many like Shaukat Ali who, along with his brother started the Khilafat Movement. Shaukat was also the cricket captain of Aligarh Muslim University whose room was "the venue of a royal durbar where appeals of freshers and younger boys were heard, decisions given and enforced." Or Shafiq Hussain, who played with only one good eye.

Kidambi clears some misconceptions that have attached themselves to that 1911 team. It was not "organised and financed" by the skipper, Maharajah of Patiala Bhupinder Singh, a most colourful character who fathered 88 children (according to one estimate).

The Parsi star Keki Mistry should have led, but Mistry worked for Bhupinder and would not have been granted permission to tour. Hence the ploy of getting a 19-year-old to lead so his employee could make the trip. Bhupinder "played in a manner that befitted his regal status: short, sharp

## Cryptocurrencies can boost post-Brexit UK

George Prior

Cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin should play a significant role in reshaping and reinvigorating the UK's financial services sector post-Brexit.

This is the bold assertion from the CEO and founder of one of the world's largest independent financial advisory organisations.

The observation from De Vere Group's Nigel Green comes as Britain's Brexit-weary economy has showed signs it is contracting for the first time since the referendum in 2016, fuelling speculation of a UK recession.

It also follows the world's largest cryptocurrency by market cap enjoying an impressive bull run in recent months and as Bitcoin currently eyes \$12,000. In June the world's leading cryptocurrency recorded a 193 per cent year-to-date price run.

Mr Green has said: "Brexit and the lingering uncertainty it has created has inflicted unprecedented damage on the UK's financial services sector – which makes up about 6.5pc of Britain's overall GDP.

"Companies across the industry have had to take precautionary action to safeguard their interests. There's been a steady drain of investment,

I believe cryptocurrencies could and should dramatically help change the fortunes of Britain's beleaguered financial services industry for three key reasons.

reasons.

First, once outside of the EU, the UK will not be beholden to the bloc's notoriously slow and burdensome bureaucratic protocols. It could promptly establish its own rules and regulations and set-up an innovative, pro-business, well-regulated market. This could position it alongside other crypto-friendly jurisdictions such as Japan and Switzerland - and ahead of many EU member states.

Second, cryptocurrencies – which are digital, global and borderless – are unquestionably the future of money. This is noted by the growing amount of retail and institutional investment into the burgeoning sector. Whilst other jurisdictions focus on the current, the UK should set its sights on the future to be ahead of the game.

And third, the UK is already a thriving global fintech (financial technology) and blockchain (the tech on which cryptocurrencies run) hub. This should be capitalised on further.

The growing cryptocurrency market has already provided tangible economic benefits to other major economies. Post-Brexit Britain will be uniquely placed to go even further and by embracing it, it could reboot the UK's financial services sector.

confidence, talent and activity away from UK financial services – and this is only likely to intensify in the coming months and even more so should the UK leave with no deal."

He continued: "London is – for the time being at least – the world's largest and most important financial hub. But its dominance is fading as Brexit-Britain flounders in uncertainty.

"How, then, to reshape and reinvigorate UK financial services in a post-Brexit era?"

"A major part of the answer must be cryptocurrencies. I believe cryptocurrencies could and should dramatically help change the fortunes of Britain's beleaguered financial services industry for three key



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Iran has long been secretly "enriching," in total violation of the terrible 150 Billion Dollar deal made by John Kerry and the Obama Administration. Remember, that deal was to expire in a short number of years. Sanctions will soon be increased, substantially!

@realDonaldTrump

02



A disappointing result, but good to see #TeamIndia's fighting spirit till the very end. India batted, bowled, fielded well throughout the tournament, of which we are very proud. Wins and losses are a part of life. Best wishes to the team for their future endeavours. #INDVSNZ

@narendramodi

03



Though they're a billion broken hearts tonight, Team India, you put up a great fight and are deserving of our love & respect. Congratulations to New Zealand on their well earned win, that gives them a place in the World Cup final.

@RahulGandhi

04



The great @msdhojni run out in his last innings.. lesson for life: sometimes the mind is willing not always the body! The better team on the day has won! #INDVSNZ

@sardesai Rajdeep

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

# business

## Gulf Air enhances Automated Communication with Emarsys

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air said it has started a strategic partnership with Emarsys, the largest independent marketing platform company in the world, to enhance its automated communication with customers through email and digital media platforms.

With this deal, Gulf Air

said it will be connected to the passengers before and post the flight experience with value-added and personalised communication.

Offered Emarsys features to Gulf Air will include hyper-targeted promotions, data-driven newsletters, personalised content for Falconflyer members and customer behaviour tracking.

## Secured Transactions Law workshops held

● Observers expect the law to positively impact the financial services sector

● Workshops were attended by lawyers and professionals from the banking sector.

TDT | Manama

In co-operation with the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB), the Central Bank of Bahrain and The Judicial & Legal Studies Institute organised two specialised workshops on the Secured Transactions Law.

The workshops aimed to provide in-depth awareness and understanding of the Secured Transactions Law, which is based on the legal model adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

The event introduced participants to lending opportunities that may become available under the draft secured transactions law. It also shed light

on the types of assets that can be taken as collateral, how to take security right and make it enforceable against third parties as well as the enforcement provisions within the law in the event of the debtor's default.

A number of legal and other experts spoke at the workshops including David Carey, legal adviser at the US Department of Commerce and a specialist in commercial law development, Joseph U Schürer, lawyer at Kirkland & Ellis International, based in Chicago and Jae Sung Lee, a legal expert from UNCITRAL, the legal body of the UN system for international trade law.

This was in addition to Blake Candler, a legal expert on commercial law development (CLDP) at the US Department of Commerce and Dr Jameel Alalawi, Senior Legal Advisor at the EDB.

Observers expect the law to positively impact the financial services sector in several ways.

In particular, banks involved in the lending process and SMEs stand to benefit, as the law seeks to improve access to finance.

# NBB first to join eKYC

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain has become the first bank in the Kingdom to join the National eKYC (Know Your Customer) platform, the bank said in a statement.

The platform mandated by the Central Bank of Bahrain and operated by The Benefit Company will be used by all financial institutions to simplify and ease client onboarding and KYC maintenance requirements electronically.

The platform, a Cloud-based/Blockchain hybrid solution, provides financial institutions with the ability to retrieve and process client KYC and other data from the related bodies including Bahrain's Information and



NBB said it has been successfully transacting on the platform since it went live on 30 April 2019

eGovernment Authority (IGA). It will also provide international screening without the need for a physical presence, document verification or authentication. Commenting, Jean-Christophe Durand CEO of NBB,

said, "We are delighted to have been the first bank to come on board with this innovative project."

To take advantage, Nabeel Mustafa, Head of Network Management & Strategy at NBB said, customers can visit NBB's Main Branch and be on-boarded for a basic account without providing any documentation other than a signed consent form.

The introduction of the service for all customers across the Bank's branches will soon follow. The next phase of the project will include API integration and richer data to allow for more financial services to be provided to customers through the system.

## EU chief nominee hopes Britain will ditch Brexit

Brussels, Belgium

EU president nominee Ursula von der Leyen said yesterday she hopes Britain will abandon Brexit but warned London it must take responsibility for "sorting out" its tortured departure from the bloc.

Von der Leyen said the divorce deal agreed with Prime Minister Theresa May but rejected by British lawmakers was a good one, signalling that under her leadership the European Commission will be no more willing to renegotiate than before.

She insisted there would be no change to the Irish "backstop" and warned the two men vying to replace May, Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt, that the "tone and attitude" of Brexit were vitally important to future relations between Britain and



Ursula von der Leyen

the EU.

Both have pledged to renegotiate the Brexit deal to get better terms or leave without one -- but the EU has been adamant it will not reopen the text.

Three years after the shock referendum vote to quit the bloc, Brexit remains a highly divisive issue in the UK and von der Leyen said that while she still hoped Britain would stay, London must act to end the impasse.

"Though I still hope you remain, it is in our interests to have you sort things out. We have an agreement -- which hasn't been signed on both sides -- and we have the backstop," she said in response to a question from a British MEP at a hearing with centrist deputies at the European Parliament.

"I think it's a good deal but it is your responsibility and your noble task to sort things out," she added, in her first public comments on Brexit since being nominated as commission president.

Von der Leyen, nominated by EU national leaders last week to take over from Jean-Claude Juncker on November 1, the day after Britain is due to leave, was wooing MEPs ahead of a confirmation vote in the European Parliament next week.

## American Airlines says MAX grounding hit 2Q profits

New York, United States

American Airlines said yesterday the grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX reduced second-quarter earnings by \$185 million even as the company raised a key revenue benchmark because of strong consumer demand.

American, which has 24 of the MAX planes in its portfolio, previously estimated that the grounding would hit 2019 earnings by \$350 million.

The carrier has extended its grounding to September 3 due to uncertainty over when the plane will be returned to service after two deadly crashes.

## Al Salam Bank holds internship induction ceremony



Interns and officials posing for a group photograph during an induction ceremony held at the Sheraton Hotel Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Al Salam Bank-Bahrain held an induction ceremony at the Sheraton Hotel Bahrain on July 2nd to welcome 26 Bahraini university students to its 13th annual summer internship programme.

The students are currently completing their respective majors at the University of Bahrain and other local and international private universities. Over the next two months, they will undergo comprehensive training within key departments of the bank.

Welcoming the interns, Al Salam Bank's Head of Human Resources and Administration, Muna Al Balooshi, said: "Thanks to the practical feedback we received from previous participants, we are able to consistently improve the programme, which now includes

an intensive career planning and development session."

The bank has run its summer internship programme since 2007 and has welcomed more than 300 interns to date. This year, the programme includes a one-day workshop with

Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) Center for Leadership & Management lecturer Manal Al Khan. Besides, representatives from KPMG will conduct a technical session. The programme will also include a visit to Bahrain Fintech Bay.

# Greek PM promises tax cuts

● The current framework negotiated with creditors holds Greece to a primary budget surplus of 3.5 per cent to 2022

Athens, Greece

Greece's new conservative Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said yesterday he would honour a pledge to cut tax that could impact the country's tight fiscal targets.

Addressing his first cabinet meeting since winning an election on Sunday, the leader of the New Democracy party said a "tax bill with the first cuts we have promised" would be submitted by the end of the month.

Starting in 2020, Mitsotakis has promised to cut a hated property tax called ENFIA -- brought in by a previous New Democracy-led government during the economic crisis -- by 30 percent over two years.

He has also offered to reduce income tax thresholds and to gradually cut tax on business profits by eight percent.

"There isn't a day to lose," the 51-year-old Harvard graduate and former McKinsey consultant said, handing ministers a roadmap to December and telling them they would be "continuously evaluated".

During the election campaign, Mitsotakis said he planned to persuade Greece's creditors to accept the easing of tight fiscal targets with "a comprehensive reforms package".



Greece's new Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis (C) poses with the Government's Vice-President Panagiotis Pikrammenos (R) and Greece's Finance Minister Christos Staikouras (L) for a group photo after the government's first cabinet meeting following general elections at the Greek parliament in Athens

“We must keep our commitments, this is the only way I know to gain credibility”

EUROGROUP CHIEF MARIO CENTENO TOLD REPORTERS IN BRUSSELS.

The current framework negotiated with creditors by the previous leftist Syriza government holds Greece to a primary budget surplus of 3.5 per cent to 2022 -- but the conservatives

say that target stifles growth.

Mitsotakis, who has promised to "resurrect" the heavily-taxed Greek middle class, maintains that New Democracy enjoys "enough goodwill in Brussels" to win over the creditors.

But just hours after his victory on Sunday, eurozone finance ministers warned the new government to stick to the country's strict public spending commitments.

"We must keep our commitments, this is the only way I know to gain credibility," Eurogroup chief Mario Centeno told reporters in Brussels.

In May, leftist former premier Alexis Tsipras had announced a batch of tax cuts that both the

Bank of Greece and the country's creditors said could affect agreed fiscal targets.

According to government sources, 40 percent of new ministers are not professional politicians and include technocrats who gave up careers abroad to "help rebuild the country".

The new parliament will convene on July 17, and the new government will be submitted to a vote of confidence on July 22, Mitsotakis said.

His party has a comfortable majority of 158 MPs in the 300-seat parliament.

The first cabinet meeting was nationally televised, but Mitsotakis said future ones would not be open to the media.

# British inventor Dyson pays \$54m for Singapore penthouse



Although pro-Brexit, James Dyson moved his company's headquarters from England to Singapore after Britain's decision to leave the EU in 2016

Singapore

June 20.

British billionaire inventor James Dyson has paid a reported \$54 million for Singapore's biggest, most expensive penthouse: a three-floor residence with a rooftop terrace, private pool, and jacuzzi.

His electric appliance company, known for its bagless vacuum cleaners, hand dryers and fans, announced this year it was shifting its global headquarters from England to the city-state to be closer to Asian markets.

The company also plans to produce electric cars there, as part of its expansion east after Britain's decision in 2016 to leave the EU.

The Brexit-backing tycoon purchased the 21,000 square foot (1,960 square metre) "super penthouse" for almost Sg\$74 million (\$54 million), Singapore's Business Times newspaper reported, without citing a source.

A land title document seen by AFP lists Dyson and his wife Deirdre as joint tenants of the 99-year leasehold property, with the sale registered on

June 20. The company confirmed Dyson, 72, had bought a property in the city.

The luxury home at Wallich Residence sits on the top three floors of a 64-storey, 290-metre high tower -- the tallest in Singapore -- which is in the business district and has panoramic views over Singapore, including popular waterfront area Marina Bay.

It has five bedrooms, each with their own en-suite bathroom, a private garden and a viewing deck on the 62nd floor, according to a sales brochure for the property.

It also has a private lift, storage for 600 bottles of wine, and a round-the-clock dedicated butler service.

The cost is below a price tag of over Sg\$100 million originally sought for the property.

A Dyson spokesman declined to give details of the purchase but told AFP: "Given the decision to locate the headquarters in Singapore and the growing focus of the company's business in the region, of course James Dyson has bought a property there."

## Uber launches helicopter service



Uber's new helicopter service, Uber Air, makes its debut in New York, lifting off from Manhattan's financial district to JFK airport. The service will offer approximately 8-10 rides a day to Uber's platinum and diamond customers. The ride takes about 8 minutes and costs between \$200-\$225 depending on the time and demand.

## ArcelorMittal to cut 2,000 jobs in South Africa

● The group, the world's largest steelmaker, employs a total workforce of 8,800 in South Africa

Johannesburg, South Africa

Global steel giant ArcelorMittal said yesterday it could slash nearly a quarter of its workforce in South Africa in a bid to curb costs as it expects to fall into the red in the first six months of this year.

"A large-scale restructuring is contemplated, and it is anticipated that in excess of 2,000 positions may be affected," ArcelorMittal said in a statement.

The group, the world's largest steelmaker, employs a total workforce of 8,800 in South Africa.

The proposed job cuts are certain to pile more pressure on the government of Cyril Ramaphosa which is battling a weak economy and near record unemployment of more than 27 percent.

South Africa's banks, mining and construction sectors have signalled mass layoffs as gross

The steelmaker is scheduled to publish detailed first-half results next month

domestic product contracted by 3.2 per cent in the first three months of 2019.

ArcelorMittal said that "due to the difficult domestic economic environment, the South African steel industry continues to face significant challenges."

Certain costs "that are not within the company's control

such as high electricity, rail, port, and primary raw material costs have contributed to these challenges," it said.

ArcelorMittal -- which supplies more than 70pc of South Africa's steel -- said that it expects to turn in a loss for the first six months, triggering a sharp drop in its share price.

"Headline earnings for the period (are expected) to decrease by at least 650 million rand (\$46 million) to a headline loss," the statement said, noting that in the corresponding year-earlier period it booked a profit of 54 million rand.

## India gets its first fully-fledged electric car

● India is forecast to become the world's most populous nation within a decade

● The market share of electric vehicles is now just 0.06 percent, compared with 39 percent in Norway

Mumbai, India

Motorists in India can now buy a fully-fledged electric car after Hyundai unveiled a model that can travel 452



The Kona Electric SUV will cost \$36,000

kilometres (281 miles) on one charge.

The Kona Electric SUV will cost \$36,000 -- more than three times the price of the cheapest combustion-engine SUV and more than eight times dearer than a regular saloon car.

But its improved range will address one of the major concerns among customers in India, where there is a shortage of charging stations, Hyundai Motors Managing Director SS Kim told the *Press Trust of India*.

India is forecast to become the world's most populous nation within a decade, and although last week the government unveiled new tax incentives, manufacturers say that there is no

clear roadmap to get more EVs on the roads.

The market share of electric vehicles is now just 0.06 percent, compared with 39 percent in Norway, according to government figures cited by Bloomberg News.

"We think more can be done by the government to accelerate adoption of EVs in India," Kim said.

Local firms Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra previously launched electric vehicles, but only with limited ranges or not for commercial sale.

Currently there are fewer than 7,000 on India's roads, many of which are imported. In China

by contrast, 455,571 electric vehicles were sold in the first half of 2019 alone.

India is home to 22 of the world's 30 most polluted cities, according to Greenpeace, with industrial emissions, car fumes and smoke from burning crops creating a toxic cocktail.

Poisonous air killed 1.24 million Indians in 2017, according to a study published last year by Lancet Planetary Health, which said tens of millions of people face serious health risks.

India currently generates about two-thirds of its electricity with coal and gas, making it the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases.

# Property firms bolster Dubai market

● Emaar Properties highest since May

● Aldaar Properties up on government projects

● Nine of 11 Saudi banks gain

● Kuwait surges for tenth day

Reuters

Dubai stocks rose sharply yesterday as all real estate shares gained, while banks drove the Saudi market higher amid rising oil prices and after EFG Hermes forecast higher second quarter profit for Saudi lenders.

Oil prices rose more than 2 per cent after industry data showed US inventories fell more than expected and as major US producers evacuated rigs in the Gulf of Mexico before a storm.

The Dubai index closed 1.2pc higher with Emaar Properties, its largest listed-developer, surging 3.5pc to its highest in two months.

Emaar Properties has been



Traders on the floor of Bahrain Bourse (file)

rising since Monday after its Egyptian subsidiary Emaar Misr Development initially agreed with El Nasr Housing and Development to settle a dispute on Uptown Cairo land.

The Saudi index added 0.6pc with Al Rajhi Bank rising 0.7pc and National Commercial Bank increasing 1.4pc.

Investment bank EFG Hermes

predicted 7.6pc growth year-on-year in second quarter profit for the kingdom's financial sector.

The kingdom's largest food products company Savola Group moved 0.8pc up. On Tuesday, the firm said it had raised 1 billion riyals (\$266.65 million) in Islamic bonds.

In Qatar, the index increased 0.5pc with Qatar National Bank

adding 1.7pc. The Gulf's largest lender posted a 4pc increase in first-half net profit after the market closed.

Kuwait's index was up 0.6pc, continuing its winning streak for the 10th straight session triggered by an MSCI decision that it would move Kuwaiti equities to its main emerging market index in 2020.

## Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.6pc	8,906 pts
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.1pc	5,027 pts
DUBAI	▲ 1.2pc	2,687 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.5pc	10,551 pts
EGYPT	▼ 0.6pc	14,013 pts
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.1pc	1,540 pts
OMAN	▼ 0.3pc	3,813 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.6pc	6,767 pts

Kuwait has outperformed its Gulf peers in anticipation of the MSCI move, gaining over 28pc year-to-date.

The Abu Dhabi index edged up 0.1pc, led by a 1.2pc rise in Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, and a 2pc increase in Aldar Properties.

The latter was awarded 5 billion dirhams (\$1.36 billion) of development projects from the Abu Dhabi government.

Bank of Sharjah bounced back 5.5pc, ending three straight sessions of losses set off after posting a steep fall in first-quarter profit.

Egypt's blue-chip index declined 0.6pc with Eastern Company dropping 2.3pc, while Ezz Steel plunged 9.7pc after earlier this week swinging into first quarter loss.

## India car sales fall for eighth month in a row

New Delhi, India

India recorded an eighth successive month of falling car sales yesterday, with June seeing a 25 per cent decrease, adding to a multi-day slump in Indian stocks.

Industry data showed passenger vehicle sales falling 17.5 per cent last month year-on-year to 225,732 units, with domestic car sales off 25pc.

Sales of motorcycles dropped 9.6pc to 1.1 million, according to figures from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) quoted by the Press Trust of India.

The slide has been blamed on weak consumer sentiment in Asia's third-biggest economy, with growth slowing in recent quarters and falling behind that of China.

The slump in demand has forced carmakers to halt production, with Mahindra & Mahindra shutting down its plant for 13 days in June.

## Bombardier lays off 550 workers

Montreal, Canada

The Canadian group Bombardier announced Wednesday it will lay off 550 employees from its Thunder Bay, Ontario plant, cutting the site's workforce in half. The company said the decision was unavoidable because a contract to build tramways and streetcars for the city of Toronto was winding up.

## Row between founders hits shares in IndiGo parent

Reuters | Bengaluru/ Mumbai

An escalating dispute between IndiGo's co-founders sparked falls in its parent firm's shares yesterday as investors fretted about the potential impact on India's largest airline.

InterGlobe Aviation lost close to \$1 billion in market value on concerns that the row would distract the budget carrier, which has gained from Jet Airways' collapse.



"SpiceJet and other airlines may view this as an opportunity to strike and gain market share from the leader," Shriram Subramanian, founder of proxy advisory firm InGovern, said.

InterGlobe shares closed down 10.74% at 1398.05 rupees, while those of low-cost rival SpiceJet climbed as much as 9% at one point, closing 2% up on the day.

"It has already led to some loss of shareholder value. The promoter dispute may also end up with a loss of business and

market leadership," Subramanian said. "This is likely to drag on and that is the problem for minority investors."

IndiGo co-founder Rakesh Gangwal on Tuesday alleged violations of corporate governance rules at the parent group and asked the country's securities regulator to intervene.

The move could mean a previously reported spat between Gangwal and co-founder Rahul Bhatia was escalating.

## France to halt pay-outs for homeopathy

Paris

France will stop reimbursing patients for homeopathic treatment from 2021, the health minister said in an interview published, after the national health authority argued the alternative medicine had no proven medical benefit. French Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said the refunds paid -- currently 30 per cent of the treatment -- will be phased down to 15pc in 2020 and then to zero in 2021.

# US federal reserve chairman strongly hints rate cut is coming

● Powell reiterated that he would not step down should President Donald Trump attempt to fire him

● Powell said many central bankers believed the case for lower rates "had strengthened"

Washington, United States

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell yesterday left the door open to an interest rate cut this month, pointing to uncertainty about trade frictions and global growth.

In his highly-anticipated testimony to Congress, Powell also reiterated that he would not step down should President Donald Trump attempt to fire him.

And in remarks welcomed by Wall Street, Powell said many central bankers believed the case for lower rates "had strengthened" last month given the rising "crosscurrents" in the economy.

Investors took this as a clear signal a cut in the benchmark lending rate will be announced

at the Fed's next meeting July 30-31. The broad-based S&P 500 stock index on Wednesday hit 3,000 for the first time before pairing gains somewhat.

For the moment, a rate cut also should satisfy Trump, who has been putting intense and constant pressure on the Fed to cut the benchmark interest rate and boost the economy, repeatedly criticizing Powell on Twitter and in public comments.

After raising the key borrowing rate nine times since 2015 as the economy expanded, most recently in December, the Fed last month opened the door to a rate cut amid signs of slowing.

Powell repeated that sentiment in his prepared statement to the House Financial Services Committee, saying the central bank "would act as appropriate to sustain the expansion."

And he said that in the weeks since the June policy meeting "it appears that uncertainties around trade tensions and concerns about the strength of the global economy continue to weigh on the US economic outlook."

At the same time, price measures watched closely by the Fed continue to run well below its two percent target.



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell



The law clearly gives me a four-year term and I fully intend to serve it

JEROME POWELL

### 'I would not do that'

"Inflation pressures remain muted," he said. "And there is a risk that weak inflation will be even more persistent than we currently anticipate."

Powell has brushed off Trump's attacks, saying the Fed

does not pay attention to politics.

Under questioning from committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters, Powell said he would rebuff a demand from Trump that he resign.

"Of course I would not do that," Powell said. "The law

clearly gives me a four-year term and I fully intend to serve it."

And in his prepared remarks, Powell said that, in the wake of Trump's aggressive trade policies, especially with China, businesses and farmers now "report heightened concerns" about the US economy.

Meanwhile, disappointing growth in China and Europe raised fears a weak global economy could affect US growth and this has contributed to slowing business investment and waning confidence, he said.

Although the US economy expanded by a solid 3.1 percent in the first three months of the year, the Fed chief said that growth was based on factors, like exports, "that are not generally reliable indicators of ongoing momentum."

The Fed still believes the US economy will post solid growth, as labor markets remain healthy. But Powell pointed to other domestic concerns that need to be addressed, including "high and rising federal debt."

In addition, he said, the "relative stagnation of middle and lower incomes and low levels of upward mobility for lower-income families are also ongoing concerns."

## SHOW

## OASIS JUFFAIR

**1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW**

\*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA  
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM  
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 2.45 + 11.30 PM  
DAILY AT (ATMOS): 10.15 AM + 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM  
DAILY AT (VIP): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM  
DAILY AT (3D): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

**2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW**

\*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM. + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM

**3-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)**

\*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK  
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.45 AM. + 12.45 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 PM  
DAILY AT: 2.15 PM

**4-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)**

\*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN  
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

**5-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)**

\*WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD  
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

**6-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY)**

\*TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON  
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 7.00 + 12.00 MN

**7-ANNA (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)**

\*SASHA LUSS, HELEN MIRREN, LUKE EVANS  
DAILY AT: 4.30 + 9.30 PM

**8-KABIR SINGH (15+) (HINDI/DRAMA/ROMANTIC)**

\*SHAHID KAPOOR, KIARA ADVANI, ARJAN BAJWA  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM

## CITYCENTRE

**1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW**

\*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA  
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.30 + 4.15 + 7.00 + 9.45 + (12.30 MN + 1.00 AM THURS/FRI)  
DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM  
DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN  
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 10.15 AM + 1.00 PM  
DAILY AT VIP (I): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM  
DAILY AT VIP (II): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM  
DAILY AT (3D): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

**2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW**

\*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

**3-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)**

\*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM  
DAILY (3D): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

**4-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)**

\*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

**5-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)**

\*WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD  
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

**6-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)**

\*MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHAMED THARWAT  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM. + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

**7-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY)**

\*TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON  
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

**8-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)**

\*KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

**9-ANNA (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)**

\*SASHA LUSS, HELEN MIRREN, LUKE EVANS  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN

**10-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)**

\*ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM

**11-CHILD'S PLAY (18+) (HORROR)**

\*AUBREY PLAZA, GABRIEL BATEMAN, BRIAN TYREE  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN

**12-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY)**

\*VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS  
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM

**13-POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)**

\*RYAN REYNOLDS, JUSTICE SMITH, KATHRYN NEWTON  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.15 + 9.30 PM

**14-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**

\*BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN  
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM

**15-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)**

\*RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD  
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

**16-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)**

\*AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR  
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM

## SEEF (II)

**1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW**

\*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA  
DAILY AT: (12.45 MN THURS/FRI.)

**2-PLAY OR DIE (18+) (THRILLER/ HORROR) NEW**

\*CHARLEY PALMER ROTHWELL, ROXANE MESQUIDA, LAETITIA CHAMBON  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 3.30 + 7.30 + 11.30 PM

**3-I'LL TAKE YOUR DEAD (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW**

\*AIDAN DEVINE, AVA PRESTON, JESS SALGUEIRO  
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 5.30 + 9.30 PM

**4-CLARITA (15+) (FILIPINO/HORROR/DRAMA) NEW**

\*RICKY DAVAO, ALYSSA MUHLACH, JODI STA. MARIA  
DAILY AT: 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

**5-ASTERIX: THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION (PG) (ANIMATION/ ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW**

\*CHRISTIAN CLAVIER, GUILLAUME BRIAT, ALEX LUTZ  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 PM

**6-PAVAROTTI (PG-13) (DOCUMENTRY) NEW**

\*SPIKE LEE, PRINCESS DIANA, LUCIANO PAVAROTTI  
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM

**7-MALAAL (PG-15) (HINDI/ ROMANTIC) NEW**

\*MEEZAAN JAFRI, SHARMIN SEGAL, BADRI CHAVAN  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN

**8-HUME TUMSE PYAAR KITNA (PG-15) (HINDI/THRILLER/ROMANTIC) NEW**

\*JUHI CHAWLA, PRIYA BANERJEE, KARANVIR BOHRA  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.15 + 7.30 + 11.45 PM

**9-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)**

\*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK  
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM

**10-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)**

\*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN  
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM

**\*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN**

DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

**11-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)**

\*WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD  
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

**12-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)**

\*MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHAMED THARWAT  
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN

**13-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY)**

\*TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON  
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM

**14-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)**

\*KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE  
DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM

**15-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)**

\*ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP  
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.30 + 10.00 PM

**16-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY)**

\*VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM

**17-POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)**

\*RYAN REYNOLDS, JUSTICE SMITH, KATHRYN NEWTON  
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM

## SEEF (I)

**1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW**

\*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA  
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 12.15 + 12.45 + 2.30 + 3.00 + 3.30 + 5.15 + 5.45 + 6.15 + 8.00 + 8.30 + 9.00 + 10.45 + 11.15 PM. + 11.45 PM

**2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW**

\*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

**3-ONE DAY: JUSTICE DELIVERED (PG-15) (HINDI/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW**

\*ANUPAM KHER, KUMUD MISHRA, ESHA GUPTA  
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM

**4-AND THE OSKAR GOES TO (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW**

\*TOVINO THOMAS, ANU SITHARA, NIKKI RAE HALLOW  
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM

## SAAR

**1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW**

\*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA  
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.30 + 3.30 + 5.15 + 6.15 + 8.00 + 9.00 + 10.45 PM + 11.45 PM

**2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW**

\*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 3.15 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

**3-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)**

\*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 PM

**4-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)**

\*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN  
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM

## AL HAMRA

**1-OH BABY ( ) (TELUGU) NEW**

\*SAMANTHA AKKINENI, NAGA SHOURYA, LAKSHMI, RAO RAMESH  
FROM FRIDAY 5th  
DAILY AT: 12.00 NOON

**2-AND THE OSKAR GOES TO (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW**

\*TOVINO THOMAS, ANU SITHARA, NIKKI RAE HALLOW  
DAILY AT: 3.00 + 9.00 PM

**3-RAATCHASI (PG-13) (TAMIL) NEW**

\*JYOTIKA, HAREESH PERADI, SATHYAN  
FROM THURSDAY 4th AT 7.30 PM ONWARD  
DAILY AT: 6.00 + (12.00 MN. THURS/FRI)

## WADI AL SAIL

**1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW**

\*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.00 + 1.00 + 2.45 + 3.45 + 5.30 + 6.30 + 8.15 + 9.15 + 11.00 PM + 12.00 MN

**2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW**

\*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK  
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

**3-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)**

\*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 PM

**4-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)**

\*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN  
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

**5-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)**

\*WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD  
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

**6-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)**

\*MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHAMED THARWAT  
DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.00 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

## MOVIE PREVIEW

## Dwayne, Jason back with high-intensity fights in 'Hobbs &amp; Shaw'

'Hobbs & Shaw' trailers pack in the international action with fast cars and high-intensity fight scenes

**F**ast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (internationally known as Fast & Furious: Hobbs & Shaw) is an upcoming 2019 American buddy cop action comedy film directed by David Leitch, with a screenplay written by Chris Morgan and Drew Pearce, based on a story by Morgan. It is a spin-off from The Fast and the Furious franchise featuring two characters, Luke Hobbs and Deckard Shaw, in the leading roles. The film will star Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Idris Elba, Vanessa Kirby, and Helen Mirren and is scheduled to be released on August 2, 2019 by Universal Pictures.

Picking up where The Fate of the Furious left off, DSS federal agent Luke Hobbs and former SAS operative turned mercenary Deckard Shaw, two men who intensely dislike each other, are forced to team up to stop a new threat emerging from Brixton Lore, a cyber-genetically enhanced international terrorist



Jason Statham, Idris Elba and Dwayne Johnson in a scene from 'Hobbs & Shaw'

who created a deadly virus that could threaten the human race, leaving Hobbs and Shaw to form their own team to save the human race and the whole world. In November 2015, Vin Diesel

announced in an interview with Variety that potential spin-offs for The Fast and the Furious series were in the early stages of development.

In October 2017, Universal

Pictures announced a spin-off film centered around characters Luke Hobbs and Deckard Shaw and set a release date of July 26, 2019, with Chris Morgan returning to write the script. Variety



**'Hobbs & Shaw' takes place two years after the events of The Fate of the Furious (2017)**

reported that Shane Black was being considered to direct the film. The announcement of the spin-off provoked a response on Instagram by Tyrese Gibson, criticizing Johnson for causing the ninth Fast & Furious film to be delayed for another year. In February 2018, Deadpool 2 director David Leitch entered talks to direct the film. In April 2018, Leitch was confirmed as the director for the film and added David Scheunemann as a production designer.

In July 2018, Vanessa Kirby was cast in the film to play an MI6 agent and Shaw's sister, along with Idris Elba to play the main villain role in the film. In October 2018, Eddie Marsan joined the cast of the film. In November 2018, Eiza Gonzalez joined the cast of the film. In January 2019, Johnson revealed that his cousin and professional wrestler Roman Reigns would appear in the film as Hobbs' brother. Additionally, he announced that Cliff Curtis, Josh Mauga, and John Tui would also portray the brothers of Hobbs. Helen Mirren was also confirmed to be reprising her role from The Fate of the Furious.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

URGENTLY REQUIRED, Building Maintenance Supervisor with Diploma of Civil Engineer or Technician. Email CV to info@masterconstco.com Contact No. 3602 0329.

# celebs



Lady Gaga

## Found the superhero within me by looking in mirror: Lady Gaga

Los Angeles

**L**ady Gaga says her experiments with make-up began in her youth when she would see her mother put on her “bravest” face and go to work every day. The Oscar-winning singer, whose real name is Stefani Germanotta, said growing up she never felt beautiful and battled with the idea of beauty.

“When I was young, I never felt beautiful. And as I struggled to find a sense of both inner and outer beauty, I discovered the power of make-up.

“I remember watching my mother put her make-up on every morning, basking in the glow of her power to put on her bravest face as the hard working woman she was. I then began to experiment with make-up as a way to make my dreams of being as strong as my mother become true,” Gaga wrote on Instagram on Tuesday.

The “Born This Way” hit-maker said she invented ‘Lady Gaga’, her stage name, and found the courage to be her own superhero.



Camila Cabello

## Camila Cabello goes blonde in latest track ‘Find U Again’ with Mark Ronson

Los Angeles

**A**fter taking fans on a steamy ride with ‘Senorita’, American-Cuban singer-songwriter Camila Cabello is back with a new track ‘Find U Again’ with Mark Ronson, in which she sports a stunning platinum blonde bob with bangs look, which is significantly different from her usual hairstyle.

Shot in monochrome, Cabello’s latest music video begins with a random female being informed about the bounty on Cabello after which she sketches her face as described on the call. Among all the bounty hunters, Mark Ronson is the one who makes it first to the club where Cabello has adopted the new look justifying her club-singer character. She is all geared up to flee away from those hunters but ends up going up with Ronson as the two fall in love.

The video is directed by Bradley and Pablo. Prior to releasing this lively track, the ‘Havana’ singer recently dropped ‘Senorita’ in collaboration with Shawn Mendes and the duo’s chemistry was all to fall for.

On the other hand, it wasn’t long ago that Mark Ronson released his fifth album ‘Late Night Feelings’ which features his collaborations with Miley Cyrus, YEBBA, Alicia Keys, King Princess to name a few.



Mark Ronson

## Returning to ‘Grey’s Anatomy’ would be distracting for fans: Katherine Heigl

Los Angeles

**“G**rey’s Anatomy” alum Katherine Heigl says she is unsure about coming back to the hit medical drama as it would have a jarring effect on the fans.

Heigl, who played Dr Izzy Stevens for the first six seasons, left the ABC show in awkward circumstances following a series of disagreements with creator Shonda Rhimes and the writing team.

“I don’t know. I don’t know if I would or if I wouldn’t. I almost feel like that would almost be distracting again to what they’ve done with that show in the seven years since I left... and what that’s become and what it is to the fans now,” the actor told Entertainment Tonight when asked about a possible return.



Katherine Heigl

## Gina Gershon, Wallace Shawn say working with Woody Allen is ‘dream come true’

Los Angeles

**T**he cast of Woody Allen’s upcoming rom-com sang praises of the director and shared their delight on being a part of the film.

“It’s a beautiful script; a dream come true,” Entertainment Weekly quoted Gina Gershon while addressing reporters at a press conference in San Sebastian, Spain, called by Allen.

Wallace Shawn, another actor onboard Allen’s project said, “He discovered me and there’s a special magic about filming with him once again; it’s something very beautiful. It’s his dream and we walk through that dream.”

This conference comes amidst Allen’s USD 68 million lawsuit against Amazon Studios for terminating a four-movie deal and also shelving the release of his film ‘A Rainy Day in New York’.

Amazon’s move came after allegations of sexual molestations surfaced against the director.

Referring to these allegations, Gershon added, “These are crazy times; one has to analyze the situation and decide how you feel. I’m delighted to be part of this team.”

Allen’s upcoming rom-com will mark his 51st film and addressing the press, he told that he has no plans to retire as of now.



Nicole Kidman

## Nicole Kidman to executive produce ‘Crime Farm’

Los Angeles

**N**icole Kidman is all set to executive produce drama series “Crime Farm” for Warner-Media’s upcoming streaming service.

The show, described as a “love story”, is based on forensic homicide experts and real-life cou-

ple Selma and Richard Eikelenboom, reported Variety.

The couple’s marriage thrives on their all-consuming investigations into the depravity of the world’s most notorious criminals. As a seminal case upends the paradigm of their relationship, their unique, unconventional and sometimes dangerous arrangement stretches the boundaries of marriage and science to the limit.

The show will be written and executive produced by Janine Sherman Barrois, best known for serving as shworn on TNT series “Claws”.

## Almost like being prisoner: Mariah Carey on her first marriage

Los Angeles

**A**merican singer-songwriter Mariah Carey opened up about her first marriage with Tommy Mottola, former Sony music mogul who is 20 years elder to her as well as the different men in her life.

“It was almost like being a prisoner,” Fox News quoted her as saying in an interview with Cosmopolitan.

“You might want to picture a child bride. There was a conscious effort to keep me as this all-American, whatever that means, girl. It was very controlled. There was no freedom for me as a human being,” she added.

The couple broke up after eight

years of their marriage.

Carey also spoke about her love life and revealed that she prefers younger men and added that she has only been with ‘five men’ in her life.

“I haven’t had that many [lovers], but there has been a variety pack,” Carey revealed.

She added, “I’ve only been with five people in my life, so I’m kind of a prude, honestly, compared to most others in the field.”

Discussing her 2016 New Year’s eve performance mishap where her ear monitor stopped working following which she had to stop her performance midway.

Carey said that only her true fans stood by and added, “If people think that’s the worst thing that’s ever happened to me, then first of all, they haven’t studied my career well enough.”



Mariah Carey

## Ariana Grande opens up about grief over Mac Miller, “highly unrealistic” Pete Davidson romance

Los Angeles

**S**inger-songwriter Ariana Grande opened up about her past relationships and personal turmoil in her latest interview. Grande spoke about everything from the Manchester bombing to the death of her ex-boyfriend Mac Miller and her romance with comedian Pete Davidson in an interview with Vogue, as cited by Variety.

The 26-year-old singer went on to discuss the process of healing while remaining in the spotlight and the process behind her last two widely successful albums ‘Sweetener’ and ‘Thank U, Next’.

During her interview, Grande paused in several moments to briefly cry, once when speaking about her recent experience of head-

lining Coachella music festival and how it reminded her of Miller, and later when dis-

cussing the bombing that happened during her Manchester concert in May 2017.

The star candidly said, “I’m a person who’s been through a lot and doesn’t know what to say about any of it to myself, let alone the world. I see myself onstage as this perfectly polished, great-at-my-job entertainer, and then in situations like this I’m just this little basket-case puddle of figuring it out.”

Grande spoke about her famous response to a tweet that claimed Miller was arrested for drunk driving because of the breakup the two went through, to which she fired back, “shaming and blaming a woman for a man’s inability. Let’s please stop doing that.”

That tweet, she said, came from “a place of complete defeat.”



Ariana Grande



Mac Miller



Pete Davidson

## SPORTS

# Federer, Nadal set-up Wimbledon blockbuster

● Roger Federer racked up his 100th match win at Wimbledon

● Novak Djokovic crushes Goffin to make ninth Wimbledon semi-final

AFP | London

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal set up a Wimbledon semi-final blockbuster on Wednesday, 11 years after their epic 2008 title duel which is widely regarded as the greatest Grand Slam final ever played.

Eight-time champion Federer racked up his 100th match win at Wimbledon and reached his 13th semi-final with a 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Japan's Kei Nishikori.

The 37-year-old will be playing in the semi-finals of a major for the 45th time.

Nadal, the two-time champion, made the last-four for the seventh time and 32nd at the Slams, by beating Sam Querrey 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.

Friday's semi-final will be the pair's 40th meeting and third at Wimbledon after Federer won the 2006 and 2007 finals before Nadal swept to his famous 2008 triumph.

The other semi-final will see four-time champion and top seed Novak Djokovic tackle Roberto Bautista Agut, the 23rd Spaniard who has made the last-



Roger Federer of Switzerland plays a forehand

four at a major for the first time.

Federer is also the oldest man to make the semis of a major since Jimmy Connors at the 1991 US Open.

"We have a lot of information on Rafa and so does he about us. I know people always hype it up in a big way," said 20-time major winner Federer.

"They did that again in Paris this year (when Nadal won their semi-final in straight sets). I'd love to play against him here at Wimbledon.

"But I go about it like every other match."

Nadal, who was also champion in 2010, broke Querrey six times, sent down 10 aces and 44 winners in a convincing display which will give him great hope of beating Federer for the 25th time.

Djokovic reached the Wim-

bledon semi-finals for the ninth time, racking up his 70th career win at the All England Club in the process.

The defending champion hit back from a break down in the first set to carve out a commanding 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 win over 21st seed David Goffin of Belgium.

In a ruthless display, Djok-

ovic reeled off 15 of the last 17 games to secure a place in the semi-finals of the majors for the 36th time.

'He was everywhere'

Next up is Bautista Agut, who made his first Grand Slam semi-final with a 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Argentina's Gui-

## Murray and Williams' Wimbledon dream over

AFP | London

Andy Murray and Serena Williams' mixed doubles dream team came unstuck at Wimbledon on Wednesday when the star pairing were knocked out by the top seeds.

The pair lost 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 to Bruno Soares of Brazil and Nicole Melichar of the Unit-

ed States, who progress to the quarter-finals.

The third round match was played out on the 4,000-seater Court Two sunken bowl -- a rare appearance outside the Centre Court and Court One big show courts for the likes of multiple former champions Murray and Williams.



Andy Murray (R) and Serena Williams react after the match

Sagan wins fifth stage, Alaphilippe retains lead



Hansgrohe rider Peter Sagan of Slovakia celebrates winning the stage

AFP | Colmar, France

Slovakia's Peter Sagan kept enough strength in reserve in the hills of Alsace to win a reduced bunch sprint for his 12th overall Tour de France stage win on Wednesday.

France's Julian Alaphilippe held onto the leader's yellow jersey and even had a tilt at the stage win with a downhill charge after the final climb.

Alaphilippe, who was cheered throughout by French fans again Wednesday, will start leader for Thursday's first real mountain test that concludes with a tough summit finish in the Vosges.

"My legs are killing me," said Alaphilippe, who took the overall lead on Monday with a gun-slinging offensive from 15 kilometres.

"Tomorrow is going to be a huge test, for me and everyone," said the 27-year-old former soldier.

Sagan's win will be popular with armchair fans as the charismatic former triple world champion, and six-time green sprint jersey winner, had had two near misses so far.

"I try every day, and then one day you get it," said the burly Sagan.

## Bahrain in final preparations for Volleyball U21 Championship

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's junior national volleyball team have begun their final preparations for the upcoming FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship 2019.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is set to host the global competition from July 18 to 27 at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa.

Bahrain's national team will be the same as the one that played in the recent Asian Volleyball Confederation Western Zone Qualification Tournament for the Asian Men's U23 Volleyball Championship.

The Bahrainis, who are all 21 years old or younger, were hugely successful in the qualifiers, which were also held in the country. They took first place amongst the six participating nations and secured one of three berths in the continental event, which is scheduled for next month.

The juniors now turn their focus to the world championships. The squad is being guided by Bahraini head coach Yousuf Khalifa and his staff. The players include Mahmood Alhussain



Bahrain players in action during training

Mohammed, Sayed Al Abbar, Jawher Fares, Saif Yusuf Saif, Mohammed Abdulla, Mohammed Haroona, Hassan Haider, Jasim Matrook, Hussain Thamer, Hasan Abdulla, Sayed Jaffer and libero Husain Sultan.

Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) President Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa expressed his delight with the ongoing work being done ahead of the competition.

Shaikh Ali especially praised the Bahrain Olympic Committee

(BOC), under the presidency of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports First Deputy President HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for their unparalleled support of the event.

Shaikh Ali also spoke highly of BOC Secretary General Mohammed Al Nusuf, who has given great attention and follow-up to all details regarding Bahrain's organisation of the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship 2019.

Shaikh Ali said that staging

the global tournament cements Bahrain's place as one of the sport's most trusted host nations of international-level volleyball events.

The BVA has arranged only the very best for the competition, and they are now in the final stages of their completion.

A total of 16 countries representing five confederations under the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) are competing in Bahrain. They have been divided into four groups of four countries each for the tournament's opening stage.

Bahrain are in Pool A along with China, Morocco and Puerto Rico. Pool B is composed of Cuba, Argentina, Egypt and South Korea. Pool C includes Russia, Iran, the Czech Republic and Tunisia. Pool D consists of Italy, Canada, Brazil and Poland, who are the defending champions.

Bahrain are playing in the tournament for the fourth time. Aside from the years they hosted, the nationals also competed in 1989 when they event was held in Greece.

## Brave president says London debut will change the sport

TDT | Manama

The fastest-growing MMA promotion in the world is set on taking over Europe and changing the sport of mixed martial arts in the process. BRAVE Combat Federation will hold an exclusive, invite-only show in London, on July 25th, designed to connect the highest level of celebrities, influencers, politicians, and businessmen to the sport of mixed martial arts.



BRAVE CF president Mohammed Shahid speaks to the press

And BRAVE CF president Mohammed Shahid has talked about details of the show, explaining that the promotion is looking to showcase the sport in a different light, and to a new audience, and that this strategy will empower mixed martial arts in Europe and in the world, changing it for the better.

"When we go to London, we're going to showcase an event capable of connecting people, and we will make sure mixed martial arts is never looked at the same. We want to change perceptions about the sport, we want everyone to see MMA as something that can bring people together. Mixed martial arts is not only a great and exciting sport, not only the most global sport out there, not only the fastest-growing, but it is also a sport that has equal power, that can bring government, business, advertisers and revenue-generating industries under one roof, into one sport", commented Shahid.

# Kiwis shock India

New Zealand survive Jadeja scare to stun India in World Cup semi-final thriller

● **New Zealand triumph by 18 runs to reach Sunday's final at Lord's against either England or Australia**

● **India's top three of Sharma, Kohli and Rahul each out for one**

AFP | Manchester

New Zealand stunned India to reach their second successive World Cup final as they survived Ravindra Jadeja's late heroics to clinch a thrilling 18-run win at Old Trafford yesterday.

It was a superb display by the underdog Black Caps, who came into the match on the back of three straight defeats by Pakistan, Australia and England and only qualified for the semi-finals on net run-rate, while India topped the 10-team group stage.

New Zealand will face the winners of Thursday's second semi-final between Australia -- the team that beat them in the 2015 final -- and hosts England in Sunday's title match at Lord's.

"We had to ask a lot of questions. We knew if we created pressure we'd have a chance because it wasn't an easy pitch to score on," New Zealand's man-of-the-match Matt Henry said.

"We pride ourselves on always giving ourselves a chance. They have world-class finishers and we knew we'd have to bowl them out to win. It's special to be going to Lord's on Sunday."

Two-time world champions India lost key batsmen Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul for just one run each.

They slumped to five for three in pursuit of a target of 240 and were 24 for four when Dinesh Karthik was out.



Matt Henry of New Zealand celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of KL Rahul of India

New Zealand pacemen Henry (three for 37) and Trent Boult (two for 42) did the damage with the new ball.

Shell-shocked India captain Kohli admitted his team had paid the price for the dismal start to their innings.

"It's tough, 45 minutes of bad cricket put you out of the tournament. It's hard to come to terms with but New Zealand deserve it. They put us under pressure and came through in the key moments," Kohli said.

"Our shot selection could've been better but otherwise we played a good brand of cricket and I'm proud of the way we played."

India, one of the pre-tournament favourites, were all but beaten at 92 for six when Jadeja came in to bat alongside MS

Dhoni.

The pair gave India hope during a World Cup record seventh-wicket stand of 116, all-rounder Jadeja boldly leading the way with 77.

Jadeja hit well-struck sixes off both Jimmy Neesham and left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner during a 39-ball fifty.

With 10 overs left, India were 150 for six and needing a further 90 runs off the final 60 balls of the innings.

Jadeja got them closer with a superb straight six off fast bowler Lockie Ferguson and, with five overs left, the target was down to 52.

But left-hander Jadeja's 59-ball innings, featuring four fours and four sixes, ended when he skyed Boult to New Zealand captain Kane Williamson.



**A devastating new-ball burst from Trent Boult and Matt Henry was ultimately decisive as in the nerve-shredding semi-final**

With India needing 31 off two overs, Dhoni uppercut Ferguson for six to the delight of the massed ranks of India fans in the crowd.

But going for a second run to keep the strike, the 38-year-old Dhoni, India's 2011 World

Cup-winning captain, was just run out by Martin Guptill's direct hit for 50 off 72 balls.

**Shock victory**

With 23 required off the last six balls, tailender Yuzvendra Chahal glanced Neesham for four.

But the match finished with three balls to spare when Chahal edged to wicketkeeper Tom Latham, a review confirming his dismissal and New Zealand's shock victory.

Sharma, who had already made a five hundreds at this tournament -- a record for a single World Cup, began the procession of top-order dismissals when he was caught behind off Henry.

Kohli fell next, lbw to a superb inswinger from left-armer Boult.

New Zealand (overnight 211-5)	
M. Guptill c Kohli b Bumrah	1
H. Nicholls b Jadeja	28
K. Williamson c Jadeja b Chahal	67
R. Taylor run out (Jadeja)	74
J. Neesham c Karthik b Pandya	12
Grandhomme c Dhoni b Kumar	16
T. Latham c Jadeja b Kumar	10
M. Santner not out	9
M. Henry c Kohli b Kumar	1
T. Boult not out	3
Extras (lb5, w13)	18
Total (eight wickets, 50 overs)	239
India (target 240)	
KL Rahul c Latham b Henry	1
R. Sharma c Latham b Henry	1
V. Kohli lbw b Boult	1
Pant c Grandhomme b Santner	32
D. Karthik c Neesham b Henry	6
H. Pandya c Williamson b Santner	32
MS Dhoni run out (Guptill)	50
R. Jadeja c Williamson b Boult	77
B. Kumar b Ferguson	0
Y. Chahal c Latham b Neesham	5
J. Bumrah not out	0
Extras (lb3, w13)	16
Total (all out, 49.3 overs)	221

India were then five for three when Rahul was brilliantly caught by a diving Latham after edging Henry.

Neesham then held a brilliant superb one-handed catch at backward point to dismiss Karthik off Henry.

Rishabh Pant holed out for 32 when he was caught at deep midwicket by Colin de Grandhomme following a lofted sweep off Santner, leaving India slipping towards an unexpected exit.

Earlier, New Zealand added 28 runs in the remaining 23 balls of their innings to finish on 239-8 after rain had stopped play on Tuesday.

Ross Taylor, who resumed on 67 not out, top-scored with 74 after Williamson had made a masterly 67 in awkward conditions.

## Morgan urges England to embrace World Cup 'dream'

AFP | Birmingham

England captain Eoin Morgan has urged his side to embrace their World Cup dreams as they prepare for Thursday's blockbuster semi-final against old rivals Australia.

Morgan can lead England to their first World Cup final since 1992 if they beat the holders at Edgbaston.

Advancing to Sunday's title match at Lord's would be the culmination of four years' hard work for Morgan and his squad after their dismal performance at the 2015 edition.

On the eve of the crunch clash, Morgan issued a passionate plea for his players to take pride in their achievements so far and to relish their moment in the spotlight rather than be weighed down by pressure.

"Sometimes I'm guilty of it,

you can lose sight of the position you're in and the fact you're living your dream," Morgan told reporters yesterday.

"I think it's possible to play with a smile on your face tomorrow."

Asked if the World Cup hosts were feeling excited, nervous or simply focused on the task at hand, Morgan added: "All of those things. But I think excitement probably should be the dominant one."

"Everyone is excited to play this semi-final. The fact that through the group stages getting to this stage looked unlikely, or was called into question, makes it even more exciting for us."

Morgan's side have established a proud recent record against Australia, winning 10 of the last 11 one-day internationals between the old rivals prior to this tournament.

**SEMI FINAL-2**

**ENGLAND** VS **AUSTRALIA**

**EDGBASTON CRICKET GROUND - EDGBASTON**

**TODAY 12:30 pm**

**ECB** **CRICKET AUSTRALIA**

Jonny Bairstow David Warner

- » Momentum is with England who are coming off two successive wins while Australia suffered defeat in their last match.
- » Australia have the psychological advantage of having crushed England when the two teams faced-off earlier in the tournament.
- » England have beaten Australia six times in their last seven ODI meetings and on the previous three occasions at this ground.

### England

England thrashed New Zealand by 119 runs at Chester-le-Street in their final league game to advance to the semi-finals. With 12 points, they finished third on the CWC 2019 points table having won six and lost three out of their nine matches. The hosts have been impressive with the bat in their last two games, scoring 337 versus India and 305 versus New Zealand. Against the Kiwis, their bowlers put up a clinical show as they bowled them out for just 186 in 45 overs.



Eoin Morgan

#### Probable XI

Jason Roy, Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root, Eoin Morgan (c), Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler (wk), Chris Woakes, Liam Plunkett, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood

#### Pitch Condition

300+ has been scored thrice in the last two matches at Edgbaston which shows how good this pitch has been for batting recently. Batsmen will look to target the short boundary on one side of the ground. The pitch is likely to favor pace bowlers more than spinners. The weather forecast does not look too good with frequent showers expected on Thursday as well as on Friday (reserve day). Temperature will be between 19 and 22 degrees Celsius while humidity will be around 65%.

### Australia

Australia have finished second on the CWC 2019 leaderboard with seven wins and two losses from their nine league matches. They went into their last game against South Africa at Manchester on the back of five consecutive wins but their winning run came to an end with a 10-run defeat. Their only other defeat in this World Cup came against India last month by 36 runs at the Kennington Oval in London. The Aussies did not have a great game with the ball last time as they allowed the Proteas to rack up a big score of 325 which was always going to be a tough ask on a slowing surface.



Aaron Finch

#### Probable XI

David Warner, Aaron Finch (c), Steven Smith, Peter Handscomb, Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis/Mitchell Marsh, Alex Carey (wk), Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Jason Behrendorff, Nathan Lyon