

**Rita Ora wants to bag more acting roles**

Singer Rita Ora wants to continue with her acting career after the success of the "Fifty Shades of Grey" movie franchise, and says she would like to do a horror film.

P16

THE DAILY **tribune**



Taylor Swift handles concert malfunction with ease 16 SHOW

SPORTS 17 Pacquiao wants more

**Spotlight on anti-graft steps**  
 Manama

The team in charge of implementing the United Nations (UN) Convention Against Corruption held its first meeting yesterday.

The session was attended by officials representing entities in charge of implementing Chapters II and V - "Preventive Measures" and "Asset Recovery". Judges and experts were also present.

The director-general of the General Directorate for Anti-Corruption, Economic and Electronic Security commended the role of the team in highlighting Bahrain's efforts to implement the UN covenant.

The Anti-corruption crime directorate acting director highlighted the requirements for implementing the convention.

**US rejects EU plea over Iran**

New York

The US has rejected pleas from the EU to grant exemptions to European firms from the sanctions on Iran that will start to be reinstated next month.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin wrote in a letter that they wanted to exert "unprecedented" pressure on Tehran. Waivers will only be given on national security or humanitarian grounds.

President Donald Trump ordered that the sanctions be re-imposed in May after abandoning a nuclear deal with Iran.

The UK, France and Germany - which were also parties to the 2015 accord, along with Russia and China - pledged to continue abiding by their commitments.

**Mighty motherhood**



Anita Areli Ramirez Mejia, an asylum seeker from Honduras separated from her six year-old son Jenri near the Mexico-US border, is reunited with him in Harlingen, Texas. US President Donald Trump signed an executive order ending his policy of separating migrant families at the border a few days ago. More than 50 children have been reunited with their families, but the process has been slow and difficult.

**More steps needed to cut fiscal deficit, IMF tells Bahrain**

TDT|Manama

Bahrain needs a comprehensive package of reforms to reduce its fiscal deficits over the medium term, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said.

"Despite planned fiscal consolidation measures, fiscal deficit is projected to continue over the medium term," IMF's Executive Board said in a report yesterday.

The IMF emphasised the need to "introduce direct taxation, including a corporate income tax, while containing the public wage bill" and said Bahrain's exchange rate peg to the dollar "remains appropriate for the economy."

The country's economy is forecast to grow 3.2 per cent this year, according to the IMF.

The fund, while praising Bahraini authorities continued efforts for fiscal reforms, warned against risks



from tighter global financing conditions and delays in fiscal adjustments.

Structural reforms are also needed in Bahrain's business environment, according to IMF, which recommended boosting productivity and competitiveness

through more privatisations and adopting public-private partnerships to fund the projects that are in the pipeline.

Greater female participation in the country's workforce is another step in improving the country's businesses environment, the IMF noted.

Meanwhile, the IMF raised its growth forecast for the world's top crude exporter Saudi Arabia, citing higher oil prices.

In its World Economic Outlook update, the IMF said the Saudi economy would grow by 1.9pc in 2018, up 0.2 percentage points from its April projections.

**Love at fourth sight**

Trump showers praise on Putin in his fourth meeting with the Russian President since his presidency

● **Trump's handling of a joint news conference in Helsinki stirred a wave of condemnation in the United States, where the White House has struggled for months to dispel a suggestion that Trump was unwilling to stand up to Putin.**

● **At the news conference, Trump was invited by reporters to offer any criticism of Russia but he repeatedly declined.**



Trump and Putin shake hands as they meet in Helsinki.

Helsinki

Standing side-by-side with Vladimir Putin, US President Donald Trump yesterday refused to blame the Russian leader for meddling in the US 2016 election, casting doubt on the findings of his own intelligence agencies and sparking a storm of criticism at home.

On a day when he faced pressure from critics, allied countries and even his own

staff to take a tough line, Trump spoke not a single disparaging word in public about Moscow on any of the issues that have brought relations between the two powers to the lowest ebb since the Cold War.

Instead, he denounced the "stupidity" of his own country's policy, especially the decision to investigate election interference following the conclusions drawn by

US intelligence agencies.

A prosecutor announced an indictment three days ago of Russian spies for hacking into Democratic Party networks.

Trump's handling of a joint news conference in Helsinki stirred a wave of condemnation in the United States, where the White House has struggled for months to dispel a suggestion that Trump was unwilling to stand up to

Putin.

His performance was denounced as "treasonous" by a former CIA chief and US Senator John McCain called meeting with Putin a "tragic mistake," although some other Republicans were more cautious.

Asked if he believed US intelligence agencies, which concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 election in an effort to help him defeat Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton, he said he was not convinced.

"I don't see any reason why it would be" Russia, Trump said. "President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today."

In one response, the Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, a Trump nominee approved by Congress, said in a statement, "We have been clear in our assessments of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and their ongoing, pervasive efforts to undermine our democracy, and we will continue to provide unvarnished and objective intelligence in support of our national security."

Hours after the Helsinki summit, Trump tweeted, "I have GREAT confidence in MY intelligence people."

EYE FOR AN EYE

**Mob slaughters nearly 300 crocodiles in revenge killing**

Jakarta

A mob of villagers has killed nearly 300 crocodiles at a sanctuary for the animals in the Indonesian province of West Papua.

The slaughter was in retaliation for a local man thought to have been killed by one animal from the site. Officials and police said they were not able to stop the attack and may now press charges. The killing of a protected species is a crime that carries a fine or imprisonment in Indonesia. The local villager was killed



All 292 reptiles at the sanctuary were slaughtered by the mob.

on Friday morning while gathering vegetables on the crocodile farm's breeding sanctuary.

"An employee heard someone screaming for help, quickly went there and saw a crocodile attacking someone," the head of Indonesia's Natural Resources Conservation Agency in West Papua said.

After the funeral on Saturday, several hundred angry locals went to the sanctuary, armed with knives, shovels, hammers and clubs. Local media cite officials saying the mob first attacked the office of the crocodile farm and then went on to slaughter all 292 reptiles at the sanctuary.



02 BD15m to boost drugs stock

03 Govt's pension reform proposals 'frustrating'

05 Glimpse of hope for 'stateless family'



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His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received an academic delegation from Thailand, led by Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Vice-President Dr Chutamas Satasook at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday. The Premier hailed the visit of the Thai delegation which epitomises strong and outstanding relations between the two friendly countries. He described solid ties of cooperation and friendship between Bahrain and Thailand and their perpetual growth at all levels as a reflection of mutual understanding and coordination.



HRH the Premier chairs the Cabinet in the presence of HRH the Crown Prince.



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# BD15m to boost drugs stock

Premier directs Finance Minister and Health Minister to ensure medicine stocks

● The session approved two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between Bahrain and France on cooperation in security and high education fields.

Manama

The Cabinet chaired by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, yesterday directed to allocate BD15 million to purchase 650 types of medicines and boost drugs stocks at the Salmaniya Medical Complex and health centres.

The session reviewed the roads, sanitation and buildings projects during the second quarter of this year.

According to a memorandum presented by the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister, 69 projects, costing BD 138m, are being implemented, 37 projects, worth BD50m, had their tenders awarded, and 24 projects, worth BD32m, have been put out

**138**  
million Bahraini dinars is the estimated cost of 69 different projects implemented by the Works Ministry.

to tender.

The projects include mainly the implementation of the BD7m-first phase of the reclamation of the Muharraq Ring Road linking Diyar Al-Muharraq and Busaiteen, the BD 1.5m Halat Bu Maher road revamp, the construction of the Health Ministry's BD 11.5m long stay care centre in Muharraq and the BD3m Sanabes road revamp.

The session approved two memoranda of understanding (MoU) between Bahrain and France on cooperation in security and high education fields, as recommended by the Ministerial Committee for Legal Affairs, and highlighted in the memoranda presented by the Deputy Premier and committee chairman.

The first MoU aims to strengthen security cooperation and coordination between the two countries in combating terrorism and its funding, in line with their commitment to international conventions and in

order to achieve their common interests.

The second MoU is on cooperation between Bahrain's High Education Council and the French High Education, Research and Innovation in high education in order to enhance their academic relations.

The Cabinet endorsed another MoU between Bahrain's Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) and the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, represented by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas).

Under the MoU, approved based on a recommendation by the the Ministerial Committee for Legal Affairs, and highlighted in the memoranda presented by the Deputy Premier and committee chairman, the two sides will enhance their cooperation in marine sciences, marine environment, biodiversity and pollution.

The session reviewed a draft-law, prepared based on proposals by the Council of Representatives, on caring for, training and employing people with special needs, and another on amending the Penal Code promulgated by Decree-Law 15/1976.

The two bills were referred to the Council of Representatives, along with a memorandum on the government's opinion on them.



# BIG STORY

## big story

# Govt's pension reform proposals 'frustrating'

Lawmakers vow 'no compromise' on proposals that could go against the interests of citizens

● The Cabinet, next week, is expected to discuss the proposal in order to strike an agreement between the Legislative and Executive branches.

● According to the government's vision, the minimum age for retirement should be 55 years beginning 2023, applicable for both male and female employees.

TDT|Manama  
Thamer Tayfour

A number of MPs continue to reject the Government's views on amending the retirement law, stressing that they wouldn't allow anything against the citizens' interests.

MP Adel Hameed told Tribune that there is a parliamentary consensus on rejecting any amendments to the Pension Law that are not in the interest of citizens, and that the government's vision of reforming the pension system is frustrating and should not be passed.

He pointed out that the government's amendment proposals haven't come at the right time. "There is an increase in the prices of goods and taxes on the citizens. This situation leads to frustration, and everyone should wait before imposing any law that affects the income and finances of people."

Mr Hameed, a member of the joint parliamentary committee of the Parliament and Shura Council, revealed that the committee will present its views to the Government on Wednesday and that these views will be presented in a written format.

Mr Hameed stressed the need to return the proposals to the House of Representatives (Parliament) before the adoption of any amendment to the Pension System because it is of utmost importance and something that affects all citizens and their lives.

On Sunday, the government presented a copy of the government's official vision to the Parliament and Shura Council on the public and private pension system. The government's vision includes gradually raising the early retirement age within next five years.

According to the government's vision, the minimum age for retirement should be 55 years beginning 2023, applicable for both male and female



The joint committee meeting was the first step towards consensus on pension reforms.



“With increasing cost of living, the proposals are against the interests of citizens.”

MR HAMEED



“How can we agree to something that could be detrimental to 90pc of employees?”

MR AL DOSARI

**2,000**  
Bahraini dinars has been agreed upon as the maximum pension cap.

employees.

The vision includes the re-insurance for foreigners in the public and private sectors, in order to increase the solvency of pension funds, aiming to guarantee its sustainability.

It also proposes to limit the annual increase in pensions to only seven years after the retirement, which means the pension-

ers will have tough time after that dealing with inflationary pressures.

According to the government's vision, the new amendments to the pension law will cover 90 per cent of existing employees in the private and public sector while 10pc of employees who completed 25 years of service in the private sector

are to be excluded.

For his part, MP Hamad Al Dosari told Tribune that members of the House of Representatives will meet on Wednesday to discuss the government's views on the law of retirement, stressing that they will reject anything that would adversely affect the earnings of citizens.

The proposal to unify the re-



The earlier draft had already been rejected by the House of Representatives.



**The joint committee has agreed to make no changes to housing allowances.**

retirement age for both men and women at 55 years before gradually increasing it to 60 years is totally unacceptable as it would badly affect citizens' lives.

"How can we agree to something that could be detrimental to 90pc of employees? Why the annual increase in pension be limited to only seven years? These are unacceptable things." At the last meeting of the joint

committee of the members of House of Representatives, the Shura Council and the Government, it was decided that the cap for inflation support be fixed at BD1,200.

The committee had also agreed to set a BD2,000 limit on pensions in the interest of benefitting the pensioners.

With regard to the financial support, the committee agreed on four conditions; BD150 allowance for those earning less than BD300 in pension; BD100 in allowance for pensioners earning between BD301 and BD700; BD75 for the BD701-BD1,000 category and BD50 in allowance for the above category earning up to BD1,200.

Meanwhile, when it comes to housing allowances, the committee has agreed to make no changes in the eligibility criteria.

The Cabinet next week is expected to discuss the proposal in order to strike an agreement between the Legislative and Executive branches.



# Waste management draft to be ready by next month

Bahrain now generates 2.2 million tonnes of waste a year

● We have a huge amount of waste that is being generated and it is steadily increasing as the population grows, he warned.

**TDT|Manama**  
**Mohammed Zafran**

The final draft for Bahrain's new waste management strategy will be finalised by next month, it was learnt.

The preparation of the new strategy for waste management is in its final stages and the draft plan, which has taken almost six months to prepare, will be finalised by next month, said Bob Doig, a waste management adviser to the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning.

Mr Doig also works with Estidama - a waste management centre which comes under the Works Ministry.

According to him, following the finalisation of the draft, six months will be required to fully implement the strategy.

"It takes six months to formulate the strategy and six months for it to be implemented. The draft is being



The Kingdom is one of the biggest per capita waste generators in the world.

**899,000**

tonnes of trash were collected in the first five months of 2018.

that is being generated and it is steadily increasing as the population grows, he warned.

Reducing the waste produced in the country is an important part of the project, he said.

"We certainly want to reduce the waste generated in the country. But this can take some time and we are setting realistic targets for it."

According to the latest statistics from the Ministry, 899,000 tonnes of trash were collected in the first five months of 2018.

The ministry said that Bahrain now produces 2.2 million tonnes waste a year, which means every resident/citizen generates two tonnes of waste annually.

According to statistics, Bahrain's household produces more waste than the country's commercial, industrial and green waste combined.

“It takes six months to formulate the strategy and six months for it to be implemented.”

MR DOIG

prepared right now. We need to involve every stakeholder including the private sector, Ministry of Health and environment protection organisations. By next month we will have the final draft."

Speaking about the objectives of the

new strategy, he said, "We are looking at all types of waste and trying to look at ways of not just treating it but also to prevent it, reduce it and recycle. We are looking at where it comes from and where it goes," he said.

We have a huge amount of waste

## 'Dream come true' for Bahraini start-up owner

● Sheikh Al Asfoor underlined in his statement that "providing opportunities to establish and nurture youth projects is a top priority for JWD's management, as it is a cornerstone of its investment vision".

**TDT|Manama**  
**Muhannad Mansour**

After being sacked from his job as a customs clearance agent at a private company back in 2016, Abu Amin began washing cars outside his house, located in Marquban village in Sitra.

The man started from zero and earned the necessary amount to buy car-washing equipment and other materials, after manually washing cars for a couple of months.

Abu Amin didn't only provide a living for his three-member family, but also attracted ten unemployed Bahraini youth



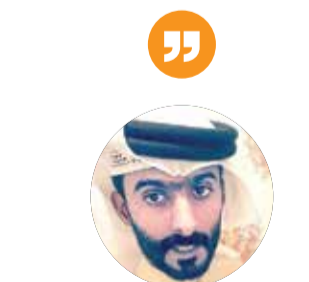
Abu Amin (second from left) and Sheikh Al Asfoor during the meeting yesterday.

from Sitra to work with him and quickly strengthened his clients' list to include customers from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

As the business rapidly expanded and the numbers of clients soared, Abu Amin told Tribune that washing cars outside his house wasn't practical anymore.

He pleaded for assistance from the concerned official departments, such as Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry, JWD and the Sunni Endowments, to provide him with a land so he could rent with a reasonable price and officially establish a registered carwash.

JWD contacted Abu Amin on the same day his story was published on the third page of Sunday's edition of Tribune and a meeting was held yesterday with him.



I hope this is the first step towards a bright future for me and my friends.

ABU AMIN

Attending the meeting was JWD Chairman Sheikh Mohsen Al Asfoor, JWD Acting Director Ali Khamis and other JWD officials.

The directorate said in a

statement released yesterday that "Sheikh Al Asfoor welcomed the man and praised his entrepreneurship efforts". Sheikh Al Asfoor also said Abu Amin is "an honourable model of the hardworking Bahraini youth".

The directorate is an administrative body that's in charge of mosques, maatams (religious and community centres) and other properties and assets endowed to these establishments. It handles the rent and revenue of such properties.

Sheikh Al Asfoor underlined in his statement that "providing opportunities to establish and nurture youth projects is a top priority for JWD's management, as it is a cornerstone of its investment vision".

He instructed the concerned departments in the directorate to assist Abu Amin by provid-

ing him with a list of the lands available and suitable for the establishment of his project, in accordance with the investment formulas and mechanisms followed by the directorate.

### Good Initiative

Tribune spoke to Abu-Amin following the meeting to learn more about his next step. "This is a good initiative from the directorate's side. It reflects their concern about the Bahraini youth and their interest. I was told in the meeting that the directorate would list the lands under its supervision in Sitra and get back to me within few days, so I could choose which is suitable to establish my project. I hope this is the first step towards a bright future for me and colleagues," Abu Amin said.

## Reconciliation agreement between dad, sons cancelled

**TDT|Manama**  
**Ali Tarif**

The High Criminal Court has ordered the cancellation of the reconciliation agreement signed between a man and his sons, because they were below the legal age at the time of inking it.

The duo took their father to court for convincing them to sign the agreement, through which he deprived them some of their financial rights, according to court files.

The pair later found that they were fooled by their father and they filed a lawsuit to rescind the agreement.

"My clients were minors at the time they signed the reconciliation agreement. Their father initially presented the agreement in front of another court which ruled in his favour.

"But today the court reversed the initial ruling after noticing that they were minors when the agreement was signed," the plaintiffs' lawyer Ibtisam Al Sabagh said.

The court's ruling stated that the agreement must be deemed invalid because the plaintiffs weren't of legal age to give up their rights.

It also underlined that the father had exploited his sons to push them towards signing the agreement despite the fact he was aware of their age.



## Cooperation stressed



Education Ministry Undersecretary for Resources and Services Dr Mohammed Mubarak Juma'a yesterday received Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) Culture and Arts Director General Shaikha Hala bint Mohammed Al Khalifa and discussed with her cooperation between the Education Ministry and BACA. The Education Ministry Undersecretary informed Shaikha Hala about the ministry's main development programmes and the efforts to broaden the scope of student-oriented artistic and cultural activities.

# Drug lord ran smuggling network from prison cell

Six members of the racket on trial at High Criminal Court

● The other members of the network include a father-son duo, two Nigerian citizens as well as the drug lord's brother.

● The racket was busted after one of the Nigerian men landed in police net at Bahrain International Airport trying to smuggle in three kilograms of shabu.

TDT|Manama  
Ali Tarif

Experiences generally refine humans, but this wasn't the case with a drug lord serving a 10 year imprisonment for running a drug smuggling racket.

Court details say he continued to operate the racket from behind bars after being

“**We were alerted that one of the Nigerians would arrive in the Kingdom on April 19. We made special arrangements to arrest him.**”

POLICE OFFICER

sentenced for the same crime.

The Bahraini man was earlier found guilty of selling drugs in the Kingdom and inside the prison he led the network smuggling shabu using a mobile phone that was smuggled into the jail, the court documents say.

The other members of the network include a father-son duo, two Nigerian citizens as well as the drug lord's brother.

The racket was busted after one of the Nigerian men landed in police net at the Bahrain International Airport trying to smuggle in three kilograms of shabu.

During questioning, he turned on his accomplices, and police officers were shocked to learn that the network was managed by the drug lord through a phone that was smuggled inside the prison.

“We received communication that the drug lord was operating a smuggling racket. We immediately tried to validate that information. We learned that he was coordinating with some men from Nigeria,” a police officer involved in dismantling the network revealed to prosecutors.

“We were alerted that one of the Nigerians would arrive in the Kingdom on April 19, 2018. We made special arrangements to arrest him. He was arrested carrying more than three kilograms of shabu and 177 grams of marijuana hidden inside his bag,” he added.

The Nigerian man revealed to police officers that he was supposed to deliver the illegal drugs to a Bahraini man, and he offered to cooperate to arrest other members of the racket.

“We released him purposefully to hand-

**3**  
kilograms of shabu were seized from the Nigerian man.

over the drugs to the Bahraini man. As he took drugs from the Nigerian man, we pounced on him. Subsequently, all other members of the racket were arrested,” the police officer said.

The Bahraini man, who was a part of the network, told prosecutors that the drug lord was working with him in the same company in 2007 before they began smuggling drugs.

The six men are on trial at the High Criminal Court for running a drug smuggling network. Their first hearing is scheduled to be on September 9.

## I will behead you, IS man tells cops

● The defendant was among 24 men who were convicted of joining IS in Bahrain.

TDT|Manama  
Ali Tarif

An alleged member of the Islamic State (IS) has lost his appeal against a month's imprisonment for threatening police officers.

The defendant was put on trial in a separate case other than being an IS member after he pledged to behead officers who went to arrest him.

He was charged with threatening the Ministry of Interior's employees while trying to carry out their duties.

The defendant was among 24 men who were convicted of joining IS in Bahrain.

The defendants received jail terms between 10 and 15 years and all of them had their Bahraini nationality revoked.

# Glimpse of hope for 'stateless family'

TDT|Manama  
Muhannad Mansour

Hope has been restored for a five-member stateless family that has been living in the Kingdom without any legal documents for more than 30 years.

This comes as the Indian Embassy here informed the family yesterday that their matter is being processed with top prominence at the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi.

Born to an Indian father and Sri Lankan mother, the four siblings (three sisters and one brother) have been living in difficult conditions as they have no identity proof except for birth certificates they obtained from the Health Ministry here.

The second eldest daughter Sumaya Yadijah, 30, told Tribune yesterday that she had visited the embassy yesterday to follow up on her request to issue passports for her and her siblings.

As reported yesterday by Tribune, Ms Yadijah handed over a written plea to India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj while she inaugurated the new Indian Embassy complex in Seef District on Saturday.

The woman told that conveying her plea to the



A screenshot of the video showing Ms Yadijah speaking to Ms Swaraj.

minister was her last resort, claiming that her repeated requests to the Indian Embassy as well as the Sri Lankan embassy were denied due to lack of identity verification and other supportive documents.

However, she told the minister promised her that their matter will be looked into and hopefully solved.

“I was told by an embassy staff there that our matter has been referred to the concerned department in the External Affairs Ministry in Delhi. He told me not to worry and to wait for the embassy's call. I have waited for three long and difficult decades without a passport. I would wait another year if I have to. I'm happy that

“**I was told by an embassy staff there that our matter has been referred to the concerned department in the External Affairs Ministry in Delhi.**”

MS YADIAH

our status is finally looked into by the Indian authorities,” Ms Yadijah told.

As reported yesterday, Ms Yadijah, her three siblings and their mother are living in a miserable condition and merely surviving on donations and whatever she and her younger sister earn from working as part-time housemaids.

Adding to the suffering, their mother was diagnosed with kidney failure a few years ago and undergoes dialysis three times a week, a process that costs BD225 a week.

The stateless siblings weren't able to enroll in a school or receive proper medical attention. It was until recently that the Central Informatics Organisation (CIO) issued exceptional temporary identity cards for them, on humanitarian grounds.

سوليدرتي  
SOLIDARITY  
Al Ahlia Insurance  
Solidarity Bahrain B.S.C

### CHANGE OF EXISTING PLACE OF BUSINESS

This is to notify the public that Solidarity Bahrain B.S.C ("Company") office located in Flat/Shop No. 44, Building 122, Road 1605, Block 316, Manama Center Area will be moved to Seef Tower 7th Floor, Building 2080, Road 2825, Block 428, Al Seef Area.

For further enquiries, please call customer service center on +973 1713 0000 or visit the website www.solidarity.com.bh



**CSR Initiative**

Seef Properties donated BD15,000 to Shaikh Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Trust Fund. The Vice Chairman and CSR Committee Chairman of Seef Properties, Dr Mustafa Al Sayed, handed over the donation to the representatives of the Charity, Mona Al Balooshi and Wedad Al Mosawi in the presence of the Chief Executive Officer of Seef Properties, Ahmed Yusuf. The donation comes in line with Seef Properties' continuous efforts to contribute towards community causes that leave a lasting and positive imprint on the society at large.

**Minister meets top UN official**

Cabinet Affairs Minister Mohammed Al Mutawa held a meeting in New York with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in charge of International Migration Louise Arbour. The meeting was attended by the Bahrain Labour Market Regulatory Authority's (LMRA) Chief Executive Officer, Head of the National Committee Against Human Trafficking, Ausamah Al Absi. It was on the sidelines of Bahrain's ongoing preparations to attend the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development.

# 40,000 non-Muslims visited Grand Mosque last year

Spreading messages of peace, love and peaceful coexistence our main aim, Mosque official say

**TDI**Manama  
**Mohammed Zafran**

**A**l Fateh Grand Mosque received 40,000 non-Muslim visitors from 120 countries in the past year, it was revealed.

The number of visitors is increasing year-by-year, Ahmed Al Fateh Islamic Centre coordinator Farahat Al Kindy told Tribune.

He said that the the number of visitors have increased dramatically since 1999, when only 2,000 visitors were welcomed.

"The increase was gradual, in 1999 we only had 2,000 visitors but as more crew ships began coming to Bahrain and as the US Navy presence got larger, we started to have a lot more visitors.

"It has gradually increased year-by-year. Last year's 40,000 visitors were one of the highest we have ever recorded.

"In 2016, we have had 35,000 visitors. We are happy to have a high number of visitors every year."

"The tourism agents contribute a great deal to increasing the number of visitors. They coordinate with us and



The Grand Mosque hosts Eid Open House every year.

direct the tourists here.

"The tourism authority is the one that is advising the agencies to bring more tourists here.

"We actually do not do much advertising to gain more visitors. In spite of this, the number of visitors have been increasing."



**The visitor section has trained more than 100 volunteers to assist in handling the visitors especially during the peak season.**

MR AL KINDY

**Volunteers**

The mosque only has a few full-time staff and so nearly 100 people have volunteered to give the visitors a tour of the mosque.

"It is impossible for the official staff to give tours to all visitors by ourselves so

we rely heavily on volunteers. Recently we hosted a reception for our volunteers to acknowledge and appreciate their contribution to our activities and programmes. We have more than 100 volunteers who regularly assist in major events such as the Eid Open Houses and the Cruise ship tourist programmes."

"Most of the volunteers come from different backgrounds and speak several languages. The main languages spoken are English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Hindi, Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Urdu, Sinhalese, Tamil and Malayalam," he said.

"The Ahmed Al Fateh Centre visitor's section is dedicated to spreading the message of peace, love and peaceful co-existence between all peoples and welcomes all non-Muslim expatriates and tourists who wish to visit this great architectural marvel.

"Currently there are only six staff employed in the section. In order to handle the increasing number of visitors, the visitor section has trained more than 100 volunteers to assist in handling the visitors especially during the peak season from November until May each year and on special occasions."

# Blaze-hit workers get timely help from social workers

**TDI**Manama  
**Harpreet Kaur**

**S**ocial workers yesterday provided aid to distressed labourers who lost everything in a blaze that destroyed their accommodation facility.

A blaze that was extinguished by the Civil Defence at a Labour camp in Salmabad on July 14 had left labourers stranded with all of their supplies lost.

They received an emergency package yesterday from the social workers of Migrant Protection Workers Society.

A social worker, Khatib Zuhair Ahmed, Head of Labour Safety and Welfare Commit-



A society worker offers help to labourers.

tee of the Migrant Protection Workers Society, told Tribune, "The society distributed

emergency packages, basic toiletries as well as clothes to approximately 35 labour-

ers as most of them, had lost their money, clothes and all their belongings in the fire. As soon as these labourers settle down the society will provide them with beds and mattresses."

"Moreover if our budget permits we would provide the labourers with air conditioner and refrigerators. In summer a lot of fire occurs due to an electric short circuit and overload wherein safety awareness is the need of the hour among the labourers with which situations like these can be prevented."

"If anyone wishes to help these labourers they can approach the society directly," Khatib Zuhair Ahmed added.

# Man sets carpentry on fire over unpaid salaries

**TDI**Manama  
**Ali Tarif**

**A**n Arab carpenter showed his anger by setting the carpentry on fire after he was allegedly not paid his salaries.

The 53-year-old was entitled to receive BD273 from his employer, but he caused more than BD300,000 worth of damage by burning the property which is located in Sitra, according to court files.

"I came to Bahrain in 2017, but due to difficult working conditions and late salaries, I filed a case against my employer at the Ministry of Labour. My complaint was solved, but my employer stopped paying my salary from January 2018 until April," the accused said.

"I filed another complaint

and the Labour Court again ordered my employer to settle my dues," he added.

According to the court documents, the Labour Court ordered in his favour, and his employer gave him a cheque for BD273.

"The cheque bounced because there wasn't sufficient balance in the account. After a few days, I received a call from my employer who mocked me over the bounced cheque. At that point, I decided to take revenge," the 53-year-old man said.

He lived up to his pledge by torching the carpentry before he surrendered to police.

The defendant will be tried before the High Criminal Court on grounds of arson.

He will stand before the court on September 9, 2018.



# business

## Middle East Medical Center opens its 4th facility at BIW

MEM-BIW will provide medical care services to people working at Hidd industrial area

TDI|Manama

The Middle East Hospital Group has opened its 4th medical facility at Bahrain Investment Wharf (BIW), in Hidd Industrial Area.

Lizhyamma Kurian inaugurated the facility in the presence of Jeeben Kurian, Executive Director of VKL Power, Eng. Abdulla Jamal Alabbasi, Director-Technical Affairs-BIW, officials, dignitaries and the staff of MEH-MEM Group.

MEM-BIW will provide the much-needed medical care services to a large number of people working in business establishments and industrial houses in



Lizhyamma Kurian, wife of Dr Varghese Kurian, Chairman & Managing Director of VKL & Al Namal Group, inaugurating the Middle East Hospital Group's 4th medical facility at Bahrain Investment Wharf, in Hidd Industrial Area. Jeeben Kurian, Executive Director of VKL Power, Abdulla Jamal Alabbasi, Director - Technical Affairs, Dr Sai Giridhar, Executive Director, Middle East Hospital Group, Dr Ammar Alanaisi, General Manager - Middle East Medical Center- Hidd, and Bennet Devadhas, HR - Middle East Medical Center - Hidd, are also seen

the BIW area, Bahrain International Investment Park (BIIP) and the Salman Industrial City, in addition to the workers residing in the labour camps in Hidd Industrial area.

There has been no medical facility in the area and MEM-BIW is the first facility providing high-quality medical services in this vicinity.

The facility will provide immediate medical care, GP and specialist consultations, outpatient treatment procedures, observation care and dental services along with primary diagnostic services.

Speaking on the occasion, Eng. Abdulla Alabbasi said that quality medical services were an integral part of industrial townships. He congratulated the team of Middle East Hospital Group, Al Namal Group and VKL Holdings Chairman Dr Varghese Kurian for his vision to provide high-quality medical services, following the NHRA standards.

At present, Middle East Hospital Group of Hospitals and Medical Centers has four facilities located strategically in Manama (MEH-Segaya), Salmabad (MEM-Salmabad) and Hidd (MEM-Hidd) and Bahrain Investment Wharf (MEM-BIW Hidd Industrial area). The facilities and the dedicated highly qualified team of doctors make the Middle East Hospital Group an ideal choice for the comprehensive medical care of families, nationals and expatriates, corporate houses and companies for the employees as well.

The Middle East Hospital & Medical Center is extending their services to all parts of Bahrain, with the next multi-speciality medical facility coming up in Riffa. The facility will commence operations by the end of 2018. The group plans to open medical centres in Janabiya, Aali, And Hamad Town and work has commenced establishing these projects in 2019.

## Gulf Air employees honoured for outstanding performance



The Gulf AIR employees who were honoured for outstanding performance

TDI | Manama

Gulf Air has honoured its top employees at a ceremony held at the airline's Muharraaq headquarters. The employees were honoured under its "High Flyer" award scheme rolled out recently to recognise outstanding

performance.

Gulf Air Chief Executive Officer Krešimir Kucko and Deputy Chief Executive Officer Captain Waleed Abdullhameed Al Alawi, alongside members of the airline's executive management team including Gulf Air Director of Human Resources Nouf ALSowaidi, congratulated

the honoured staff. The honoured staff included members of Gulf Air's maintenance, technical, marketing, sales, human resources and operations departments.

"Employees are the backbone of any organisation, and never more so than at the Kingdom's national carrier. Our airline's

growth and success is directly linked to our workforce's individual and collective growth and success. I am delighted to recognise you all - representatives from across the organisation's various departments, who have tirelessly worked and excelled in their fields," said Kucko.

## BCCI delegation explores business avenues in Thailand



The BCCI delegation with a Thai official

TDI | Manama

As part of a high-level Bahraini business delegation to Thailand, board members of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Abdulhakeem, Al Shemeri and Ahmed Al Saloom explored

Bahraini-Thai business cooperation with top Thai officials and business owners.

Investment and partnership potentials in the food sector were highlighted, with special emphasis on the Halal food industry and projects on food security.

### NOTICE

With regard to the cancellation of Licensed

#### Securities Broker - Dealer license of "A-Level Brokers W.L.L."

With reference to the Resolution of the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain No. (26) of 2018 pertaining to the cancellation of Licensed Securities Broker - Dealer license of "A-Level Brokers W.L.L." issued on 29<sup>th</sup> Ramadan 1439H, corresponding to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Central Bank of Bahrain hereby provides notice that the Licensed Securities Broker - Dealer license of "A-Level Brokers W.L.L." issued on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2011, registered under commercial registration no.79487-1 has been cancelled, with effect from the date of issuing and publication of the above resolutions in the Official Gazette.

### NOTICE

With regard to the cancellation of the licenses of

#### "Licensed Securities Broker-Dealer" and "Licensed Securities Clearing Member" of "Evermore Global (Bahrain) B.S.C. (c)"

With reference to the Resolution of the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain No. (28) of 2018 pertaining to the cancellation of the licenses of "Licensed Securities Broker-Dealer" and "Licensed Securities Clearing Member" of "Evermore Global (Bahrain) B.S.C. (c)" issued on 29<sup>th</sup> Ramadan 1439H, corresponding to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Central Bank of Bahrain hereby provides notice that the licenses of "Licensed Securities Broker-Dealer" and "Licensed Securities Clearing Member" of "Evermore Global (Bahrain) B.S.C. (c)" issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011, registered under commercial registration no.79270-1 has been cancelled, with effect from the date of issuing and publication of the above resolutions in the Official Gazette.



## 7th HRM summit from Nov 27-29

TDT | Manama

The 7th Annual Human Resources Management Summit 2018 will be held from November 27-29 at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel.

Entitled "HRM Summit 2018", the three-day event will feature top notch speakers, an HR Excellence Awards Gala Dinner and three parallel post-conference workshops.

Topics will cover the latest advancement in the areas of employee engagement, talent management, HR strategies, recruitment and retention strategies, team work and the impact of change management on employers, employees, businesses and ministries.

This event will be a great opportunity to meet key-decision makers from both the private and public sectors. The latest trends, economic slowdown and its effect on GCC job market, global best practices and success stories in the field of HR and strategic management will be presented during the event.

HRM Summit 2018 is an integrated networking event that is focused on providing deep insights into the human resources development and management life cycles, with particular emphasis on the application of international best practices tailored to the Middle East market.

It is the region's leading event dedicated to the specialized needs of a fast developing marketplace.

# Academic year begins at Beacon Private School

TDT | Manama

Beacon Private School, Al Hidd, has opened its doors to students for the next academic year after obtaining the Ministry of Education approval to register students from kindergarten level to the fourth grade, Mohammed Dadabhai, Chairman of Dadabhai Group, has announced.

"We thank the Minister of Education and all the distinguished officials of the Ministry for their keen support. We are committed to all standards and directives in order to meet all requirements of the school toward the achievement of our goal to provide a qualitative addition in the field of education and the preparation of a generation geared to keep pace with the developments of the twenty-first century," he said.



Mohammed Dadabhai



Samir Chammaa

"The school is ready along with its academic and administrative staff to implement its philosophy of education through its future vision of research-based education and to develop independent learners in an environment that fosters respect and accountability and stimulates innovation and invention at the highest levels of

critical thinking and close collaboration among all partners in the learning process through the implementation of an International Curriculum," said Samir Chammaa, head of the consultancy and development committee of Beacon Private School. "The school will abide by all educational laws and regulations in the Kingdom and

meet the requirements of membership of international bodies and organizations, especially the International Baccalaureate Diploma and the Common Ground Collaborative (CGC) which was established in 2014 as an independent institution through which education and education experts share experiences and keep pace with the latest developments in the field of education," he said.

Chammaa added: "I have just returned with the school administrative team from "Common Ground Collaborative (CGC)" in the US after attending a conference other training workshops will be organized for the educational and administrative staff and parents of the students' on the Educational System of CGC schools which is a global network of educators, innovators and partners.



Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Sameer Nass with the Charge d' Affairs of the German Embassy to Bahrain Martin Loetzer and Chairman of the German Business Round Table Prof. Bernd Hofer during a meeting held at Bait Al Tijjar. The meeting explored investment opportunities in education, health, and tourism, and underlined the need to activate the Bahraini-German Joint Business Council to spur liaison between members of the business community. BCCI officials Mohammed Al Kooheji, Aref Hejris, Dr Waheeb Al Khaja, Abdulhakeem Al Shemeri, Ahmed Al Saloom, and Sonia Janahi were present

## Egypt parliament bill to monitor social media

AFP|Cairo

The Egyptian parliament yesterday approved in a final reading a bill that would allow authorities to monitor social media users with the aim of combatting "fake news", the legislature said. The bill was backed by two thirds of parliament's 596 members and it will now be sent to President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to be ratified. Under the new law, people whose social media accounts have more than 5,000 followers could be placed under the supervision of Egypt's Supreme Council for Media Regulations. This would encompass websites, blogs and personal accounts.

The council would be authorised to suspend or block any personal account which "publishes or broadcasts fake news or anything (information) inciting violating the law, violence or hatred". The government newspaper Al-Ahram published on its portal details of the bill, including an amended article concerning the detention of journalists and a new one the import of satellite transmitters.

## CrediMax prize winners announced

TDT | Manama

CrediMax has announced the name of its May and June winner for its 2018 "WE GIVE THE MAX" campaign. Ebrahim A. Rasool Esbai won the Lexus ES 350, the prize for the month of May. Ahmed Salman won the 1kg gold bar, the prize for the month of June.

The upcoming prize for the month of July will be a Lexus ES 350 model 2018. For every accumulated BD300 spent, the cardholder will be eligible to enter the raffle draw and get a chance to win a Lexus ES 350 or 1 KG Gold Bar the following month. The cardholders can also double their chance when using their cards outside Bahrain.



Al Salam Bank's 12th batch of summer interns with Anwar Murad, First Deputy CEO of Al Salam Bank-Bahrain and Muna Al Balooshi, Group Head of Human Resources and Administration (center), during an induction programme held at the Sheraton Hotel. 21 young Bahrainis, 14 female and 9 male students were inducted to the internship programme this year. The students are currently completing their respective majors at the University of Bahrain as well as at other local and international private universities. The interns will undergo a two-month-long intensive training programme in retail banking, Shari'a compliance, operations, risk management, HR and corporate communications amongst others

## Alba organises workshop for its management-level personnel



Aluminium Bahrain management staff

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), in line with its commitment to develop and prepare its management for the future, is organising a workshop 'Thriving in VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous) World' for its vari-

ous management level personnel at the Alba Club.

Presented by the well-known Professor Rangaraj Ramanujam from Vanderbilt University, USA, the workshop is being held for Alba's executive management and managers on July 16 and 17, 2018 and for the 2nd Line and

1st Line Management during the week at Alba Club.

The workshop focuses on the importance of self-management, decision making and handling the stress of managing in a VUCA world, with a special focus on business cases and examples of Fortune 500 companies in over-

coming obstacles and achieving success and growth.

Speaking about the 'Thriving in VUCA World' workshop, Alba's Chief Executive Officer Tim Murray said:

"Success is where preparation and opportunity meet. In the ever-changing world of to-

day, it is vital for our people to understand the changing business environments and move forward with new ideas in order to succeed in tomorrow's world. Through this workshop, we aim to prepare our junior leaders to successfully navigate and build the necessary mind-set and ca-

pabilities to thrive in a VUCA world."

Professor Rangaraj is an experienced academic, researcher and writer in the fields of managing teams, leadership, identifying causes of operational failures and the mechanics of the decision making process.



## EU warns Airbnb to obey rules or risk fines

AFP| Brussels,

The European Union yesterday warned holiday rental site Airbnb to bring consumer terms in line with the bloc's rules or risk financial penalties.

The European Commission, the executive arm of the 28-nation EU, said it found that some of Airbnb's pricing and other terms failed to meet EU guidelines.

"Airbnb has now until the end of August to propose detailed solutions on how to bring its conduct in compliance with EU consumer legislation," the commission said.

Brussels said the firm failed to meet EU guidelines on price transparency, with some prospective customers seeing prices increase as they proceeded with making a reservation.

## US challenges counter-tariffs at WTO

AFP| Washington

The United States has launched challenges at the World Trade Organization to hit back at the major trading partners who have retaliated against President Donald Trump's tariffs on metals and goods from China. Washington opened separate disputes against China, the European Union, Canada, Mexico and Turkey, challenging the counter-tariffs they have since imposed on American farm exports and machinery, the office of the US Trade Representative said in a statement.

Despite outrage from EU, Canadian and Mexican authorities, the White House says alleged unfair trade by these economies justifies Trump's stinging tariffs -- but retaliation is not.

"The actions taken by the president are wholly legitimate and fully justified as a matter of US law and international trade rules," US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in a statement.

"Instead of working with us to address a common problem, some of our trading partners have elected to respond with retaliatory tariffs designed to punish American workers, farmers and companies." Lighthizer said the counter-tariffs breached the member states' WTO obligations.

# Bank stocks lift Gulf indices

TAQA, Dana Gas buck trend as lower oil prices weigh; Emaar Properties rises in Dubai

Reuters| Dubai

Most Gulf markets ended yesterday in positive territory with Saudi Arabian, Qatari, and Abu Dhabi indexes all gaining 1 percent or more as the second quarter earnings reporting season got under way and despite a drop in oil prices.

Abu Dhabi's main index added 1.1 per cent with support also from telecom shares. First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) closed up 2 percent, Emirates Telecom (Etisalat) up 1.8pc, and Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB) up 1.6 percent.

ADIB reported on Monday a 3.8pc second-quarter profit rise to 572.7 million dirhams.

Energy shares weighed with Dana Gas falling 1.9pc and Abu Dhabi National Energy (TAQA) closing 2.4pc lower as the oil market slipped on potential pro-



Gulf indices gained one per cent as second quarter earnings season got underway. - Reuters (File photo)

duction increases from Russia and other oil producers.

Qatar's benchmark index added 1.1pc with petrochemicals,

metals and fertiliser producer rose 1.2pc and Vodafone Qatar Industries Qatar closing 4.7 percent higher.

Saudi Arabia's index closed up 1pc. Al Rajhi Bank rose 1.9pc,

### Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 1.0%	» 8,491
DUBAI	▲ 0.7%	» 2,919
ABU DHABI	▲ 1.1%	» 4,747
QATAR	▲ 1.1%	» 9,340
KUWAIT	▲ 1.0%	» 5,390
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.6%	» 1,352
OMAN	▼ 0.2%	» 4,449
EGYPT	▼ 1.2%	» 15,656

while National Commercial Bank rose 1.7pc, and Samba Financial Group edged up 2.7pc.

Developer Jabal Omar fell 1.4pc.

In Dubai, Emaar Properties closed up 2.8pc while Emaar Malls fell 0.5pc. Emaar Malls said after the market closed it had appointed former Marks & Spencer executive Patrick Bousquet-Chavanne as its new CEO.

## Oil falls 4pc to 3-month-low

Reuters| New York

Oil prices slumped 4 percent yesterday, with Brent reaching a three-month low, as Libyan ports reopened and traders eyed potential supply increases by Russia and other producers.

Brent crude futures fell \$3.09 to \$72.24 a barrel, a 4.1 per cent loss, by 11:34 a.m. EDT (1534 GMT), while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude decreased \$2.74, or 3.9 percent, to \$68.27 a barrel.

Brent's dive put it at its lowest level since mid-April.

Supply outages in Libya, a labor dispute in Norway and unrest in Iraq all helped to push oil prices higher late last week, though prices still fell for a second straight week.

"The complex has wasted little time in offsetting Friday's gains as the specter of increasing production out of Saudi Arabia, Russia and the US has come under increased focus now that Libyan ports appear to be reopening," Jim Ritterbusch, president of Rit-



Representative picture

terbusch and Associates said in a note.

Russia and other oil producers could raise output by 1 million barrels per day (bpd) or more if shortages hit the market, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak told reporters on Friday.

Also weighing on futures were reports that the U.S. could tap its Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which would add supply to the market.

Production in Libya remained under threat. While its ports are reopening, output at Libya's giant Sharara oilfield was expected to fall by at least 160,000 bpd after two workers were abducted by an unknown group, the National Oil Corporation said on Saturday.

On July 11, the NOC said four export terminals were being reopened after eastern factions handed over the ports, while a lengthy shutdown at El Feel oilfield in the southwest also ended.

**\$72.24**

a barrel was the price of Brent crude futures by 1534 GMT

## IMF warns of rising risks to global growth amid trade row

AFP| Washington

The global economy is still expected to grow at a solid pace this year, but worsening trade confrontations pose serious risks to the outlook, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday.

The IMF's updated World Economic Outlook (WEO) forecast global growth of 3.9 percent this year and next, despite sharp downgrades to estimates for Germany, France and Japan.

The US economy is still seen growing by 2.9 percent this year, and the estimate for China remains 6.6pc, with little impact expected near term from the tariffs on tens of billions of dollars in exports the countries have imposed on each other so far.

"But the risk that current trade tensions escalate further -- with adverse effects on confidence, asset prices, and investment -- is the greatest near-term threat to global growth," IMF Chief Economist Maurice Obstfeld said.

The fund warns growth could be cut by a half point by 2020 if tariff threats are carried out.

Although the global recovery is in its second year, growth has "plateaued" and become less balanced, and "the risk of worse outcomes has increased," Obstfeld said in a statement.

### 'Disenchantment'

The report comes as US President Donald Trump has imposed steep tariffs duties on \$34 billion in imports from China, with another \$200 billion coming as soon as September, on top of duties on steel and aluminum from around the world including key allies.

China has matched US tariffs dollar for dollar and threatened to take other steps to retaliate, while US exports face retaliatory taxes from Canada, Mexico and the European Union.

"An escalation of trade tensions could undermine business and financial market sentiment,

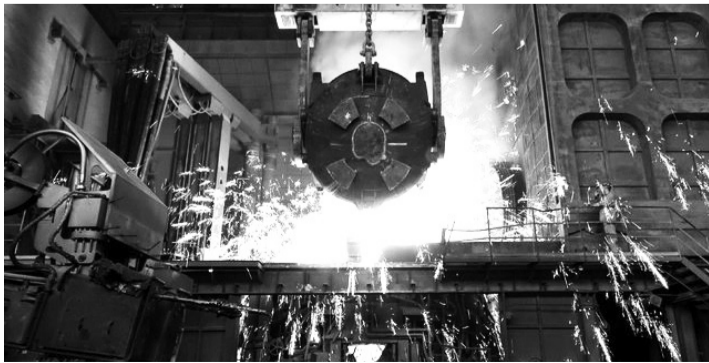
GDP GROWTH ESTIMATES	2018	2019
World	3.9 (0.0)	3.9 (0.0)
Advanced economies	2.4 (-0.1)	2.2 (0.0)
United States	2.9 (0.2)	2.7 (0.2)
Euro area	2.2 (-0.2)	1.9 (-0.1)
Germany	2.2 (-0.3)	2.1 (0.1)
France	1.8 (-0.3)	1.7 (-0.3)
Italy	1.2 (-0.3)	1.0 (-0.1)
Spain	2.8 (0.0)	2.2 (0.0)
Japan	1.0 (-0.2)	0.9 (0.0)
Britain	1.4 (-0.2)	1.5 (0.0)
Canada	2.1 (0.0)	2.0 (0.0)
Emerging & developing economies	4.9 (0.0)	5.1 (0.0)
Developing Asia	6.5 (0.0)	6.5 (-0.1)
China	6.6 (0.0)	6.4 (0.0)
India	7.3 (-0.1)	7.5 (-0.3)
Latin America and the Caribbean	1.6 (-0.4)	2.6 (-0.2)
Brazil	1.8 (-0.5)	2.5 (0.0)
Mexico	2.3 (0.0)	2.7 (-0.3)
Russia	1.7 (0.0)	1.5 (0.0)
Middle East and North Africa	3.5 (0.1)	3.9 (0.2)
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.4 (0.0)	3.8 (0.1)
World Trade Volume	4.8 (-0.3)	4.5 (-0.2)

denting investment and trade," the IMF report said. In addition, "higher trade barriers would make tradable goods less affordable, disrupt global supply chains, and slow the spread of new technologies, thus lowering productivity." The IMF said growth prospects are below average in many countries and urged governments to take steps to ensure economic growth will continue.

## China's GDP growth softens to 6.7 per cent in second quarter

Reuters| Beijing

China's economy expanded at a slower pace in the second quarter as Beijing's efforts to contain debt hurt activity, while June factory output growth weakened to a two-year low in a worrying sign for investment and exporters as a trade war with the United States intensified. The world's second-largest economy grew 6.7 per cent in the last quarter year-on-year - matching expectations - and



A man works at a steel plant in Liaoning province, China. - Reuters (File photo)



The intensifying trade conflict with the US will start to weigh on growth

LOUIS KUIJS  
HEAD OF ASIA ECONOMICS FOR  
OXFORD ECONOMICS, HONG KONG

looks set to meet the official 2018 growth target of around 6.5pc, though the trade row with Washington, a slowing property market and lower shipments have sharply increased the risks to the outlook.

"We expect growth in H2 to be challenged by the slow credit growth and softer real estate activity. Also, the intensifying trade conflict with the US will start to weigh on growth," Louis Kuijs, Head Of Asia Economics

for Oxford Economics in Hong Kong, wrote in a note. The second quarter GDP figure was slightly below the first quarter's 6.8pc, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Monday, with net exports a drag on overall first half economic growth.

As the trade tussle with Washington shows no signs of ebbing, more timely monthly activity data indicated growth was slowing at a faster pace going into the second half of the year.



# Defending global institutions f

*Dysfunction and paralysis within global institutions precedes Trump, but he is accelerating their demise and exacerbating the international fallout*



BARIA ALAMUDDIN

Coming out of a BBC interview in London last week, I was engulfed by vast crowds demonstrating against Donald Trump's visit to the UK. As a journalist, I was fascinated to discover what motivated people to participate: Many had been horrified at Prime Minister Theresa May's unseemly rush to invite him for an official visit. Yet, in this nation of etiquette and protocol, even leftist republican protesters were appalled at the disrespectful indignities heaped upon May and the Queen by this man, who, upon his arrival, conducted a newspaper interview designed to undermine the PM personally and torpedo her Brexit policy. Only 24 hours later, he stood shamelessly alongside May decrying this interview as "fake news."

Trump performed similar antics at the NATO summit: Brutally savaging German Chancellor Angela Merkel's immigration, energy and trade policies; but, after meeting face-to-face, described

their relationship as "tremendous." Trump lavishly praises dictatorial strongmen like Vladimir Putin, Rodrigo Duterte and Kim Jong Un, yet treats the world's most powerful women with excruciating contempt.

Meanwhile, Trump's warning that Europe risks "losing its culture" is an alt-right euphemism for the white, Christian West becoming diluted with Muslims. One can clearly discern the racist motivations behind his vicious attacks against London Mayor Sadiq Khan, as well as his "Muslim ban."

Trump was merely echoing previous US presidents when arguing that NATO members should increase military spending. However, his aggressive shock therapy approach risks killing the patient. These tactics aren't designed to strengthen NATO; the US president calculatedly undermines the alliance by inciting his supporters against it. Experienced Western leaders stoically tolerate these rhetorical hand grenades so Fox News viewers in Nebraska may enjoy their pound of raw flesh.

Rather than commending progress by NATO members toward the 2 percent military spending goal, or even taking credit; Trump unleashed a rant, impossibly demanding budget increases to 4 percent and darkly threatening



Trump and May before attending a joint press conference in London.

# Stigma of mental diseases making the

*The public discussion about mental health has become too focused on moderate*



LISA PRYOR

As public conversation about mental health has grown louder and busier in recent years, mental illness has become more than a category of disease with social and psychological dimensions. Especially in the case of depression and anxiety, mental illness has come to be seen as a proxy for what is wrong with the modern Western world.

Depression is like a Rorschach test: People see in it whatever they like, in order to make whatever point they like, about what they perceive to be the ills of society.

Blame for depression is found in capitalism, loss of religion, social media, processed food. Recently a book was released promising to tackle anxiety "for good" with a two-week sugar detox. Much good has come of the increased willingness to discuss mental disorders. There is greater acceptance than in the past that mental illness is real and common, and that when it arises, its causes are complex and cannot be explained away as weakness or lack of character. All of this is vital in reducing stigma, which in turn encourages people to step forward and seek help without shame.

But as a doctor who works in mental health, I think the direction of the conversation should give us pause. I

work in a public hospital where our patients include those with many conditions that have been slower to shed stigma, such as schizophrenia, mania, severe depression and personality disorders. This stigma differential is something I feel keenly when observing which diagnoses patients will or won't accept.

It is common for patients to resist a diagnosis with a psychotic component, insisting instead that what they really have is depression that should be treated with antidepressant medication rather than antipsychotics. They may describe themselves as having an anxiety disorder, when there is in fact a long-standing diagnosis of a personality disorder.

The conversation about mental health has become so focused on mild to moderate illness and stigma reduction that it does a disservice to people living with mental illness at the more debilitating end of the spectrum, fuelling misunderstanding of the nature and risks of these illnesses and under-resourcing of treatment.

Furthermore, the narrative that "mental illness does not discriminate" and "mental illness can happen to anybody," which has been important in tackling stigma, has had the unintended consequence of disguising the political and economic dimensions of the way that mental suffering, and the treatment of suffering, is unfairly distributed.

With so much of the recent focus of public discussion about mental illness based on celebrities — like the recent suicides of the designer Kate Spade



The greatest levels of mental distress are experienced by those in the most socioeconomically deprived areas.

and the food writer Anthony Bourdain — and so much attention on high rates of mental illness in the United States, people would be forgiven for thinking that mental illness is evenly distributed through the population or even disproportionately suffered by people in wealthy countries.

But far from the cliché that depres-

sion is a crisis of the wealthy West, depression is a global problem, and developing nations are not immune. World Health Organisation data show that the highest prevalence of depression by region is for women in Africa, at 5.9 per cent. Suicide is also a global problem. In 2015, 78pc of suicides occurred in low- and middle-income

countries. Suffering is compounded when the groups that are most in need of treatment for mental illness are the very groups who are less likely to receive it.

This is the case even within wealthy countries. Consider a recent article summarizing research in

I to psy ins hav be t

Australia high di remain mental tive Au author the lack increas the peo They els of m depres rience econo yet it w vantag to be r ment — session govern of prov This ple suf



1785

France limits the importation of goods from Britain.

1815

Napoleon Bonaparte surrenders to the British at Rochefort, France.

1898

U.S. troops under General William R. Shafter take Santiago de Cuba during the Spanish-American War.



1966

Ho Chi Minh orders a partial mobilization of North Vietnam to defend against American airstrikes.

# From White House sledgehammer



that the US could walk away from its NATO commitments if nations didn't acquiesce to his constantly shifting demands.

The Bush-Blair dismemberment of Iraq sowed the seeds of the anarchy ripping the Middle East apart today. We are still reeling from that eight-year reign of George W. Bush and the neocons; yet this US administration after just one year — with its vandalism of international institutions, the surrender of Jerusalem, policy confusion toward Syria, and open contempt for Islam — is like President Bush on steroids. Let's take our heads out of the sand: Trump could conceivably win an eight-year term; but what would the consequences be for the Middle East, for global institutions, for the world?

After the 9/11 attacks, it was NATO states that rallied around America, based on their ethos of collective self-defense. Faced with an aggressive Russia and an increasingly assertive and powerful China, these principles of mutual support can't be taken for granted. However, the threat to NATO is bigger than one US president. Trump is part of a wider current of nativist, illiberal tendencies bubbling away under the NATO umbrella; from encroaching authoritarianism and the throttling of democratic institutions in Poland and

**Rather than allowing themselves to be isolated and bullied - or pandering to Trump in the hope of a fair hearing - Merkel, May, Justin Trudeau and Emmanuel Macron must forge their own common agenda.**

Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkey to xenophobic populism in Hungary and Italy. In France, Germany and Spain, the far right has surged into the mainstream and is hungry for power. Along with their hostility to NATO's founding aspirations and their cosy relations with the Kremlin, these forces are diametrically opposed to the cosmopolitan, liberal values of Europe's traditional political classes, fuelling a polarized, poisonous atmosphere within Western institutions.

We know how Trump's Helsinki meeting with Putin will go: Trump will deferentially offer flattery and praise, will perform rhetorical cartwheels to avoid criticism, will

stoutly assert Russian non-interference in American elections, and will trumpet every dubious concession from Putin as proof of his deal-making genius. This is despite Putin's promises meaning nothing, and his ability to nimbly run circles round Trump.

Powerhouses of global decision-making — the G-7, NATO, the World Trade Organisation and the UN — have almost ceased to function. The issue for world leaders attending these summits is no longer the policy agenda, but managing fallout from predictable bouts of pique and sabotage from the US. This US administration is, meanwhile, about to discover the bitter consequences of its global trade war.

Dysfunction and paralysis within global institutions precedes the Trump administration, but it is accelerating their demise and exacerbating the international fallout. As the number of failing and conflict-wracked states continues to grow and liberal democracy is bludgeoned into decrepitude by the twin curses of authoritarianism and neo-fascism, who is there to prevent the lights of civilization and progress being snuffed out altogether?

America and Europe need one another but, with a hostile White House, European states can't afford to lapse into confused disu-

nity. Rather than allowing themselves to be isolated and bullied — or pandering to Trump in the hope of a fair hearing — Merkel, May, Justin Trudeau and Emmanuel Macron must forge their own common agenda. This doesn't mean provoking or opposing the US, but rather setting an example about how pragmatic and mature multilateral diplomacy should be conducted; presenting an enlightened and globalist bulwark against the irrational, illiberal, racist rantings of the populist far right. The US Republican Party and Congress must likewise step out of this administration's shadow and reassert the enlightened principles of the American constitution.

The world should not throw out the diplomatic rulebook simply because of one administration. However, if at any point Trump or his successor were so minded, they would find the institutions of multilateralism ready to welcome America back from self-imposed isolation into the community of civilized, law-abiding nations. Let us simply pray that the damage wrought upon the world until that moment isn't more than we can bear.

(Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.)

# The world sick

ate illness

It is common for patients to resist a diagnosis with a psychotic component, insisting instead that what they really have is depression that should be treated with antidepressant medication rather than antipsychotics.

access those services, or that they are unnecessary. No one would begrudge economically advantaged people accessing treatment for high blood pressure, or asthma, or sporting injuries, and nor should they be considered to be acting inappropriately for accessing treatment for mental illness. But it does point to a terrible unfairness that will never be rectified by public awareness and stigma reduction alone.

When it comes to the public conversation about mental illness, we need to inflect that conversation with nuance. After all, speaking of mental illness in blanket terms is no more useful than speaking about "illness" in blanket terms. There is a world of difference between the common cold, cancer and diabetes.

A nuanced discussion of mental health might include the fact that even within the diagnosis of depression there are degrees of severity, that other illnesses like psychosis deserve recognition, that there is an entire dimension of human suffering in the form of personality vulnerabilities and personality disorders that can be borne of trauma and that need much greater understanding and discussion.

But ultimately, raising awareness, that impotent entreaty of our time, is not enough. Greater funding is needed, and it needs to be targeted at the greatest suffering.

(Lisa Pryor, a medical doctor, is the author, most recently, of "A Small Book About Drugs" and a contributing opinion writer.)

## CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

# Let this friendship flourish



The growing ties between the Kingdom and India is a welcome news for the global community now being harmed by narrow-minded leaders like Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin and Erdogan. Both India and the Kingdom have been for centuries the land of tolerance with equal freedom for all faiths, all people. It is the humanity that serves the basic guiding principles in both nations. Both nations

can also excel in trade, especially in the service sector, considering the strong human resources wealth the Kingdom possess. Let this friendship cherish and flourish setting a model for other world countries to emulate. Two lands symbolizing love and tolerance coming together will offer great lessons to the world isolated by authoritarian leaders and their dividing ideologies.

**Mahendra Chowdary**

**TOP 4 TWEETS**

**01**

Russia's attack on the US & other democracies around the world transcends partisanship. Congress needs to get serious with our president about protecting our national security & elections from future international interventions.  
**@SenBlumenthal**

**02**

President Trump's press conference with Putin was an embarrassing spectacle. Rather than make clear that interference in our elections is unacceptable, Trump instead accepted Putin's denials and cast doubt on the conclusions of our intelligence community. This is not normal.  
**@SenSanders**

**03**

Meanwhile, the Kamikaze Brexiteers and Kamikaze Remainers are currently tearing each other to pieces in the Commons over who has the right to bring down Theresa May. Bliss it was in that dawn to be alive...  
**@DPJHodges**

**04**

At the end of our journey here in Russia I have to thank the @FIFACOM for their great hospitality and I enjoyed every minute with all the great legends that has been involved in all the events during this great @FIFAWorldCup big thanks to the FIFA president and all the FIFA team  
**@midoahm**

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



## world

**Turkish woman, held by Israel, returns home**

Istanbul, Turkey

A Turkish woman, held for over a month by Israel on charges of passing hundreds of dollars to a “terrorist” organisation, returned home to Turkey on Monday after her release.

Ebru Ozkan, 27, arrived overnight on a scheduled flight from Tel Aviv, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has already called Ozkan to pass on his best wishes after her return, said his spokesman Ibrahim Kalin, describing her incarceration as “unfounded”.

**At least 16 killed in Pakistan traffic collision**

Karachi, Pakistan

At least 16 people were killed when a truck crashed into a parked bus in southern Pakistan Monday, in the latest fatal collision on the country’s notoriously dangerous roads. The long haul truck slammed into the back of the bus, which was on stopped on the side of the highway with a flat tyre near the southern city of Hyderabad. Several passengers were on the side of the road during the incident as the driver sought help to change the tyre, while others were waiting inside the vehicle.

**UK’s Johnson returns as Telegraph columnist**

London, United Kingdom

After resigning as foreign minister last week over Prime Minister Theresa May’s compromise plan for Brexit, Boris Johnson is back at his old job as a columnist at the eurosceptic Daily Telegraph newspaper.

“He’s Back,” the paper said on its front page on Monday.

**Hero cave diver to sue Musk**

● Musk said the Thai rescue chief was not really in charge of the operation

Bangkok, Thailand | AFP

A British caver who helped rescue 12 boys from a Thai cave said yesterday he may take legal action against Elon Musk after the entrepreneur called him a “pedo”.

Tesla CEO Musk launched the extraordinary tirade against Vernon Unsworth without providing any justification or explanation, after the cave expert slammed his offer of a miniature submarine to extract the footballers from the Tham Luang cave as a “PR stunt”.

The “Wild Boar” team were rescued last week by an international team of divers through a narrow network of twisting, flooded tunnels.

Unsworth, who provided mapping knowledge of the cave to rescuers, said Musk’s prototype would have had “absolutely no chance of working”.

Musk responded Sunday in a bizarre series of tweets referring to Unsworth, without using his name, as “pedo guy”. “Pedo” is short for paedophile.

The entrepreneur doubled down on his claim, tweeting from his official account to more than 22 million followers: “Bet



British caver Vernon Unsworth gets out of a pickup truck near the Tham Luang cave complex (Courtesy of The National)



**Musk has been accused of suppressing unions at his Tesla factories, something which he vehemently denies**

ya a signed dollar it’s true”.

Musk later deleted the tweets and did not immediately respond to a request for comment through Tesla.

Unsworth said on Monday he had not reviewed the tweets in full and had only heard about them.

But asked if he would take legal action against Musk over the

allegation, Unsworth said: “If it’s what I think it is yes.”

The caver said he would make a decision when he flies back to the UK this week, but added that the episode with Musk “ain’t finished”.

**‘Life and death’**

Unsworth, who lives part of the year in Thailand, took part in the gargantuan 18-day effort to retrieve the 12 boys and their coach, a mission that ended on July 10 when the last five members were extracted.

The boys are all in good health and expected to be released from the hospital Thursday.

The boys got stuck in the cave after wandering in on June 23 after football practice only to find themselves trapped by rising floodwaters.

Musk had proposed using “a tiny, kid-size submarine” featur-

**Rescue divers given diplomatic immunity**

AFP | Sydney, Australia

Two Australian divers who helped extract the young football team trapped in a Thai cave obtained diplomatic immunity before the rescue in case it failed, national broadcaster ABC reported Monday.

Anaesthetist Richard Harris and his diving partner Craig Challen, both cave diving specialists, played key roles in the rescue.

Their participation came after negotiations between Australian and Thai authorities accorded them diplomatic immunity to protect them from possible prosecution if anything went awry during the treacherous mission, ABC reported, citing an official source.

Australia’s foreign affairs department declined to confirm or deny the report, referring questions about the planning and implementation



A member of the “Wild Boars” Thai youth football team being moved on a stretcher during a rescue operation inside the Tham Luang cave in Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in Mae Sai district.

of the rescue to Thai officials.

The mission was “absolutely life and death” and the cave diving specialists were uncertain if they would be able to successfully save all 12 boys and their coach, Challen told local media after returning home.

“It wasn’t dangerous for us, but I can’t emphasise enough how dangerous it was for the kids,” he told Perth’s Sunday Times.

ing technology from his space exploration firm to evacuate the boys, and travelled to Thailand with a prototype last Tuesday.

Musk’s tweets attacking Unsworth prompted condemnation from those who took part in the mission to save the boys.

Claus Rasmussen, a Danish

national and instructor at Blue Label diving in Phuket, called the allegations “inappropriate” and praised Unsworth’s role in the rescue.

“He was one of the driving forces in getting everything done and clarifying for us divers what was going on,” he said.

**Five European countries to take in migrants: Italy**

AFP | Rome, Italy

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on Sunday said five European countries had agreed to take in 250 of the 450 migrants aboard two EU border agency vessels.

“Even Spain and Portugal will take 50 migrants each, as France, Germany and Malta have already done,” Conte said in a tweet.

Despite the controversy over who would take the migrants, Conte authorised the disembarkation of all 43 women and 14 children on board.

The migrants were allowed to leave the two ships in the southern Sicilian port of Poz-

zallo, a report by the AGI agency said quoting sources close to the premier.

Earlier Sunday, Germany agreed with Italy to take in 50 migrants after Rome requested that its EU peers take some of the migrants stranded off the Italian coast. A German government spokeswoman said in a statement that “Germany and Italy have agreed that, in view of the ongoing talks on intensified bilateral cooperation on asylum policy, Germany is ready to take in 50 people”.

Conte had contacted his 27 EU peers to remind them that they had agreed at their end-of-June summit on the need to share the migration burden.

**Turkey acquits top journo**

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

An Istanbul court yesterday acquitted one of Turkey’s most prominent political journalists in a long-running case on espionage charges dating back to an arms interception on the Syrian border in 2014.

Erdem Gul, the Ankara bureau chief of the opposition Cumhuriyet daily, was acquitted by the Istanbul criminal court, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

Gul had in May 2016 been sentenced to five years in jail and his then editor-in-chief Can Dundar to five years and 10 months for revealing state secrets over their front page story which alleged Turkish



Erdem Gul (Courtesy of Arab News)

secret services sought to deliver arms to Syria rebels.

Despite spending time in pre-trial detention, neither was sent to jail immediately and both walked free pending appeal.

But in a hugely complex process, Turkey’s top appeals court in March quashed both convictions, saying that Gul

**Gul had in May 2016 been sentenced to five years in jail**

should be acquitted but Dundar given a stiffer sentence of up to 20 years. A retrial then commenced.

The cases of Gul and Dundar have now been separated and Dundar remains on trial.

Gul is still working in his job for Cumhuriyet but Dundar left Turkey for Germany shortly after the initial verdict, saying he refused to put his head “under the guillotine”.

**Barack Obama visits Kenyan home to launch youth centre**

AFP | Kogelo, Kenya

Former US president Barack Obama recounted fond memories of his family home in Kenya on a visit yesterday to launch a state-of-the-art youth centre run by his half-sister.

Obama is on his first trip to Kenya since he was president in 2015, when he was unable to visit his ancestral home as his jet was too big to land in the western city of Kisumu, he recalled.



Obama (C) with his step-grandmother Sarah (2R) and half-sister, Auma (L) during the opening of the Sauti Kuu Resource Centre

“It is a joy to be back with so many people who are family to me, and so many people who claim to be family. Everybody’s a cousin!” he joked, to hoots of laughter from the audience.

After a visit to the home of his step-grandmother Sarah Obama in the village of Kogelo, where his father was born and is buried, Obama recalled his first trip to Kenya at the age of 27.

From Nairobi he took first a “very slow train” and then a bus

with “some chickens in my lap and some sweet potatoes digging into my side”. Then he had to pile into a matatu -- a minibus taxi -- “even more crowded than the bus”, before a long walk to “Mama” Sarah’s house.

He remembered having to catch a chicken for dinner, which he was “a little squeamish” to kill himself, visiting his father’s grave and bathing outdoors.

“And I looked up at the stars

and... it gave me a sense of satisfaction that no five-star hotel could ever provide,” he said.

Obama was speaking at the launch of the Sauti Kuu (Swahili for “Strong Voices”) centre set up by his half-sister Auma Obama. He said that looking back on those memories, he “couldn’t be prouder of what my sister has built”. Auma said the state-of-the-art centre would give local youth access to books, internet and sporting activities.



## Scotland chosen as site for first British space port

London | United Kingdom

The UK Space agency said Sunday that it had chosen a peninsula on Scotland's north coast as the site of the country's first space port.

"Scotland is the best place in the UK to reach in-demand satellite orbits with vertically launched rockets," the agency said in a statement.

According to the head of the agency, Graham Turnock, the new space port will "help kick-start an exciting new era for the UK space industry".

## Huge drugs haul intercepted in Bali

Denpasar | Indonesia

Bali police said yesterday they had intercepted a huge haul of Australia-bound cold relief tablets that contained a key ingredient for making illicit drugs.

Some 600,000 pseudoephedrine tablets being sent from South Korea to Australia were found during a stopover on the Indonesian resort island, they said.

The bust happened in January but was announced Monday.

Bottles of the pills, weighing nearly 140 kilograms (310 pounds) in total, were labelled as health food, authorities said.

## Thailand retrieves final body in boating disaster

Phuket | Thailand

Thailand has recovered the last body after a boating accident killed dozens of Chinese tourists this month off the southern resort island of Phuket.

The Phoenix was carrying 105 people -- mostly Chinese -- when it sank on the way back from a popular snorkeling spot on July 5.

Divers and the navy spent more than a week retrieving bodies, some from inside the boat, as outraged relatives waited for news.

## Italy's Salvini calls to welcome Russia

Moscow | Russia

Italy's far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said during a visit to Moscow on Monday that he wanted to see EU sanctions against Russia dropped "by the end of the year".

Salvini said he would use any means possible to convince European partners to scrap sanctions brought in over Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and subsequent activity in the east of Ukraine.

Salvini also said Russia's return to the G7 would be "absolutely legitimate".

# The beast challenger!

● Little is known about the features of the Senat

● Experts say Putin's limo features 'an armoured capsule'

● Powered by a twin-turbocharged 4.4-litre Porsche-developed V8 engine

Daily Mail

President Vladimir Putin rolled into his Helsinki summit with President Trump with a new ride that can compare to the Secret Service-operated 'Beast'.

The Russian strongman arrived in the back of his brand new Aurus Senat limousine in only the second time it has been used since his inauguration earlier this year.

Little is known about the features of the Senat save that it can be fully submerged in water while keeping the occupants safe, and runs on tyres reinforced with steel to stop them going flat.

Meanwhile The Beast features night vision cameras, tear gas cannons, a completely sealed main compartment capable of withstanding a chemical attack, and several pints of the President's blood for emergency transfusions.

Automobile expert Vyacheslav Subbotin told the Zvezda TV channel that Putin's limo features 'an armoured capsule' which can withstand gunshots



'The limo has its unusual gear shift. It is automatic, and it's hybrid with a generator that can work both as an electric engine and as a generator.'



US President Donald Trump



Trump arrives in the US official state car also known as "The Beast"



Vladimir Putin arrived in Helsinki inside his new presidential limousine, the Aurus Senat



Putin waves to crowd

and landmine blasts.

On the communication system, he said: 'The system is internal, it is built entirely on our satellites and is completely in-built into the car which is incredibly important. The car will stay in touch under any circumstances.'

'The defence system is also top level; should there be a chemical attack, the car can shut its windows and remain for long time underwater, just like a submarine. 'The limo has its unusual gear shift. It is automatic, and it's hybrid with a generator that can work both as an electric engine and as a generator.'

The body is covered in 15 millimetres of armour plating with a reinforced chassis ensuring the body will not fall apart under stress.

'The body of the car is Russian invention as despite its size and heavy protection it turned out to be quite light.'

'The construction deals really well with torsion and bending,

there was a lot of strong boron-containing materials used. The car is almost seven metres long, it is a very serious work indeed.'

Russia began developing the Senat limo as part of a family of vehicles dubbed Kortezh in 2012 and has so far spent \$300million on the project, according to The Drive.

The vehicle measures 23ft long, which is slightly longer than The Beast, but is lighter, weighing in at 6.5 tons.

Given how much it weighs the vehicle almost certainly features armour plating and a reinforced chassis to withstand bomb blasts, though Russia has not revealed any of these details.

The Senat is powered by a twin-turbocharged 4.4-litre Porsche-developed V8 engine and will replace the adapted Mercedes-Benz Pullman limousine which Russian presidents have used since 1994.

Inside, the limousine is decked out with white leather

seats and wood detailing and features a large Russian coat of arms stitched into the door.

It also features a digital dashboard and on board multimedia system. Russia is also developing four-door and minivan concepts based on the limousine which will be sold to the public, some of which featured in Putin's motorcade.

According to the Financial Express, the car was jointly developed with German firms Porsche and Bosch along with Moscow-based Central Scientific Research Automobile & Engine Institute.

It reportedly gets 592 horsepower. Russian leaders traveled in a Russian-made ZILS under Soviet Times, and later in Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

It wasn't immediately known what security capabilities it has, but 'the Beast' has puncture resistant tires, armored plating, protection from bio chemical attack, and a sealed gas tank.

Meanwhile The Beast is a sev-

en-seat black limousine which is designed to give Mr Trump the ultimate protection.

It can be turned into a sealed panic room with oxygen tanks, night-vision camera and reinforced steel plating said to be able to resist bullets, chemical attacks and bombs.

The Cadillac has Kevlar-reinforced tyres and steel rims that can keep the vehicle moving even if the tyres have been destroyed.

Bottles of the president's blood type are carried on board in case of a medical emergency, and a satellite phone enables communication to be maintained from anywhere in the world.

As well as being able to defend the president, the car also features a host of attacking capabilities, such as a pump-action shotgun and a tear gas cannon.

The new Russian vehicle is just one of many ways Putin is using symbolism to boost his public image at the summit.

## Former Spanish king's ex-mistress says he laundered

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Spain's former king Juan Carlos is once again in the spotlight after his former mistress claimed he was involved in money laundering, sparking calls for an investigation.

The scandal broke after two Spanish websites published recordings attributed to Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein in which she alleges Juan Carlos tried to hide money transfers and used her name to buy property in Monaco and Morocco.

The German aristocrat, who is based in Monte Carlo, also said he told her he had moved money into the account of a cousin, Alvaro d'Orleans Bourbon, in Switzerland.



Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein was the former king's lover (Courtesy the Times)



Juan Carlos

In the recordings, which were released online last week, she claims he also pocketed money from a high-speed train contract

with Saudi Arabia, saying he wanted money to divorce his wife Sofia and marry her.

Several royal experts said the voice in the recording was indeed that of Sayn-Wittgenstein.

She has not denied that the voice in the recording is hers, instead issuing a statement denouncing a smear campaign.

Royal expert Pilar Urbano, who has written several books about the royal family, said the content was "so obscure, so vague that it begged for more light" to be shed, lending "credibility" to the claims. Spain's far-left Podemos party has demanded a probe into the activities of Juan Carlos, who is now 80.

**Spy chief to speak**

Juan Carlos abdicated in 2014, two years after he outraged Spaniards by going elephant hunting in Botswana with Sayn-Wittgenstein at the height

of the country's recession.

The monarchy's reputation was further tarnished when his youngest daughter Cristina was accused in a corruption probe targeting her husband.

The Socialist government has appealed for "calm" and said it first wanted to "hear" from secret service chief Felix Sanz Roldan. In a further embarrassment, the woman in the recordings is speaking with retired police chief Jose Manuel Villarejo, who is currently under investigation for money laundering.

The conversation is mostly in Spanish with snatches of English. "Corinna does not have this level of Spanish but she can read," said Romero, who has met her several times.



# WORLD

## features

# Changana is their mother tongue

*In Mozambique, classes come alive in local languages*



Residents of the northern Mozambique village of Alua react as they watch a cartoon during a break of a live broadcasting of the Football World Cup quarter final match organised by the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development with Mozambican organisations as part of Cinarena

AFP | Manhiça, Mozambique

**'They express themselves'**

About 50 children sit on a bare classroom floor in front of their teacher in what could be any lesson in Mozambique, except that they are not learning in Portuguese, the country's official language.

The class is being taught in Changana, a local language spoken in southern Mozambique and in the capital Maputo that is closely related to Tsonga spoken across southern Africa.

Wearing backpacks and surrounded by a pile of books, the children aged six and seven are gripped by the teacher's every word -- a concentration level almost impossible to achieve in Portuguese.

"Kids are breastfed by mums speaking Changana and grow up until the age of five speaking Changana," Helena Joaquina Arguenha, their teacher at Mitilene primary school in the rural district of Manhica, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) from Maputo, told AFP.

"It is very important that the children learn in their native language because it opens up the kid to learn more."

Arguenha has taught at the government school for six years, but only last year started teaching in Changana as part of a Food for Knowledge (FFK) project funded by US aid and the local action group ADPP Mozambique.

Almost all teaching in Mozambique is in Portuguese -- a legacy of the country's colonial era before independence in 1975 -- but the majority of Mozambicans speak one of more than 40 local languages.

The ministry of education said that only 10 percent of children start school knowing Portuguese but now around 1,300 primary schools out of 13,000 offer some bilingual teaching.

In Arguenha's class, only one child spoke Portuguese at the start of the year.

But speaking in Changana, communication between teacher and pupils is fast and lively, with children throwing their hands up high to answer questions.

"In Changana the students are more creative, they understand better and they are not shy. They speak freely, they express themselves," Arguenha said.

"When it is in Portuguese they are very shy, they are scared to speak and hide themselves."

The NGO Associacao Progresso, which works to improve liter-



**Mozambique has the only national flag with a modern weapon on it. It shows a Kalashnikov AK47 with bayonet attached crossed with a hoe**

acy in the country, has first-hand experience of how much children struggle when they have to learn in a language they do not speak fluently.

"What often happens is that there is no communication because the teacher speaks Portuguese, but the student doesn't understand," said Alcina Siteo, education officer at Associacao Progresso.

"If you don't understand what is being taught, it is difficult to learn anything."

The Mozambican government has acknowledged the problem and in 2017 introduced reforms aimed at having classes taught in local languages, although some parents often want their chil-

dren to be taught exclusively in Portuguese.

They later switch to the official language at about the age of 10, after children have had time to learn it.

"We could see that these kids got better results than the kids who had monolingual, Portuguese teaching," Gina Guibanda, the government's director of primary education, told AFP.

"When the teacher in the class spoke a language that the kids had never heard spoken, for the kid that was horrible."

The UN education agency UNESCO has long encouraged mother tongue instruction in primary education, with research show-

ing that it is the optimal language for literacy and learning.

In the developing world, children are more likely to enroll and succeed in school. In particular, girls and rural children with less exposure to a dominant language stay in school longer and repeat grades less often if they learn in their native language.

**Specialist training needed**

Guibanda said training is the major problem holding local-language teaching back.

Many rural schools have no trained teachers to give lessons in local languages or any translated books.

Government policy is for teachers to have three years of training, but that has been cut down to one year due to budget shortages and the nationwide shortage of all teachers.

"It is not enough. Teachers graduate while still having a number of problems," said Francisca Samboca, education officer at Associacao Progresso.

"In reality, in all the rural areas these schools can only be found in the district capitals."

For Arguenha, the new approach was made easier because ADPP and FFK provided specialist training and materials in both Changana and Ronga, the other local language spoken around Maputo.

ADPP and FFK now work with 101 schools in four districts in Maputo province, with more than 5,000 children taking part in the programme and more than 67,000 books have been distributed.

But the difficulties for teachers switching between languages can not be estimated.

"In the beginning it was a challenge," said Arguenha. "I really needed to concentrate when using the material and I needed to use vocabulary I didn't normally use."

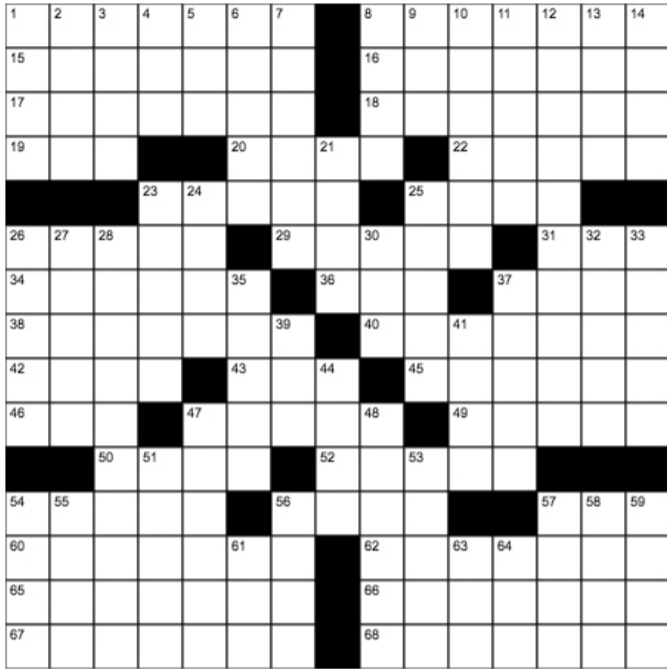


Residents of the northern Mozambique village of Alua



# entertainment

## CROSSWORD



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



bread; 56- Greek goddess of the earth; 57- Prefix with content; 60- Spendthrift; 62- Striped; 65- Person to whom property is transferred; 66- Vientiane native; 67- Communication; 68- Extend;

### Down

1- "Critique of Pure Reason" author; 2- Ornamental case; 3- Writer Janowitz; 4- Second-century date; 5- Coal scuttle; 6- Putting to work; 7- Old Testament book; 8- Action word; 9- Land in la mer; 10- Drinking cup; 11- One on track?; 12- Opponent; 13- Horn sound; 14- Miscalculates; 21- Autumn tool; 23- Some hybrids; 24- Imitator; 25- Attack from all sides; 26- Red fluorescent dye; 27- Appliance brand; 28- Clairvoyance; 30- Give \_\_\_ rest!; 32- Hopping mad; 33- Thick; 35- Govt. security; 37- Busy; 39- Bobby of hockey; 41- Cream-filled cookie; 44- Word form for "ten"; 47- Breastbones; 48- Butterish rice dish; 51- Pays to play; 53- Water nymph; 54- Did the butterfly; 55- Racer Yarborough; 56- Merriment; 57- Principal; 58- Rat-\_\_\_; 59- Carson's successor; 61- Hosp. readout; 63- Tacit assent; 64- DDE's bailiwick;

### Across

1- Condiment; 8- Oscillate; 15- Puzzled; 16- Bess's predecessor; 17- Ancient country in N Africa; 18- Nuclear-fission apparatus; 19- Acapulco aunt; 20- Workers' rights org.; 22- "Endymion" poet; 23- Molten material; 25- Floe; 26- Devour; 29- One on slopes; 31- Suffix for human; 34- Beaten egg dish; 36- Aliens, for short; 37- As to; 38- Italian seaport; 40- Eternal; 42- Supermodel Sastre; 43- Old California fort; 45- Expects confidently; 46- Henpeck; 47- Throat problem; 49- Lauder of cosmetics; 50- \_\_\_ Dogg; 52- Summer camp transport; 54- Biscuitlike quick

## BEETLE BAILEY



## WORD OF THE DAY

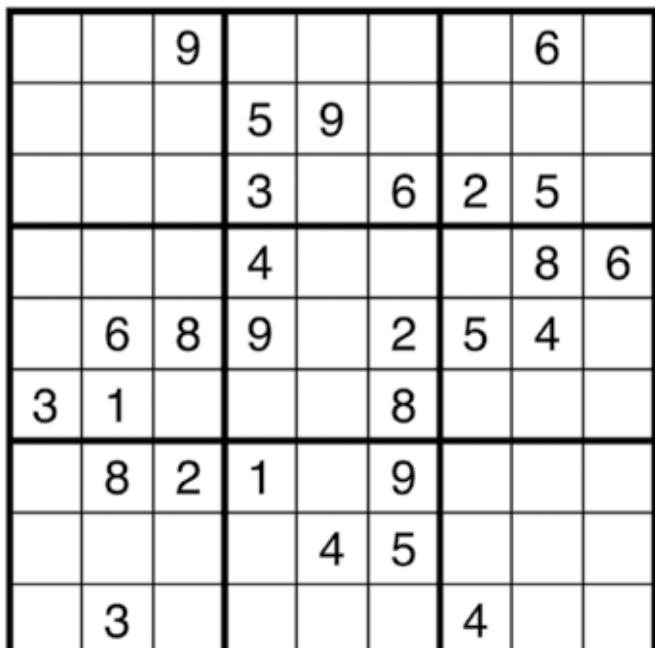
### Declivity

**Definition:**  
1 : downward inclination  
2 : a descending slope

### Did You Know?

Three different English words descend from *clivus*, the Latin word for "slope" or "hill"—with the help of three Latin prefixes. Declivity combines *clivus* with the prefix *de-*, meaning "down" or "away." Acclivity uses *ad-* (which changes its second letter depending on the root word), meaning "to" or "toward." Hence, an acclivity is an upward slope. The third word has a figurative meaning in English: *proclivity* makes use of the prefix *pro-*, meaning "forward," and this word refers to a personal inclination, predisposition, or "leaning."

## SUDOKU



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



### How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

## YOUR STAR TODAY



### Aries

If you were offered the opportunity to take a trip around the world, where you would see wonderful palaces and experience a timeless love affair, would you take it? The freedom would tempt you, without a doubt, but would it make you happy? Have you considered the possibility that you can create an environment here at home that gives you that same sense of freedom?



### Taurus

Today might be a bit difficult, because you aren't likely to be as productive as usual. You won't have much to say, and you'll feel sleepy and somewhat grumpy. In other words, it's the perfect day to go back to bed with that novel.



### Gemini

You certainly are in a strange mood today. True, things have been going smoothly for the past few days, but be careful not to fool yourself. "Pride comes before a fall," as the expression goes. You should be wary of the way you treat your lover now.



### Cancer

It will be as though you're in a new, hopeful world today. The people you meet will be cordial and caring, and the future will seem like a bright, attractive place to live. In other words, you feel as though you're living in a fabulous dream.



### Leo

Because your tendency recently has been to brood over everything, a day like this can't be anything but beneficial. It has been difficult for you to find material satisfaction of late, but today offers you a view into the world of the intangible and unreal.



### Virgo

There are days when you feel wonderful without being able to attribute the feeling to any real event. Of course, your rational mind will search for a reason for the happiness. If you count the number of times when you do things against your will or better judgment, it becomes obvious that logic and reason don't always apply to this world.



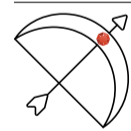
### Libra

The day ahead should be excellent. You've been searching for meaning behind recent events. No doubt there have been a lot of changes both at work and at home. You're bursting with new ambition. Today, you're likely to put all these experiences into the hopper, stir them up, and be grateful for the thrilling life you lead right now!



### Scorpio

You'll probably be perfectly in tune with the day ahead. Of course, there are days when it's tempting to run away from the reality of the moment and its hardships. At times like today, you're so compassionate that you find it easy to listen to others, and life is truly rewarding.



### Sagittarius

Don't even try to understand what's happening today, because you won't be able to fathom it. Collective currents of concern are imposing upon your life and you're powerless to stop them. Some soul searching may help.



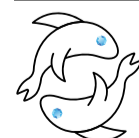
### Capricorn

This kind of strange day doesn't occur often. You no longer seem to know what you want. Work or time off? Redecorate your house or live in a beach shack? It's hard to communicate because you feel it's pointless to try to explain your point of view, especially when you don't know what it is.



### Aquarius

Do countries abroad represent real opportunities for you? This is a question that you'll soon have to answer. The grass may be greener on the other side of the world, but have you considered the possibility that it isn't? Could it be that the dream of working abroad is a convenient explanation for the dissatisfaction you feel at work?



### Pisces

Today won't be like most other days. Look around and you'll see that people either have their heads in the clouds, are depressed, or seem to be trying to keep up a good front. The planetary atmosphere is such that a lot of people - and you in particular - feel frustrated by an inability to realize their dreams. This is a difficult situation to be sure. Know that it will pass.



# SHOW

<b>SKYSCRAPER</b> (PG-13) (ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW ⊕ DWAYNE JOHNSON, NEVE CAMPBELL, PABLO SCHREIBER <b>CINECO (20)</b> (IMAX 3D): 2.30 + 7.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI) (VIP I): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 (VIP II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 (ATMOS): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 10.30 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI) <b>SEEF (II)</b> 11.15 AM + 12.30 + 1.30 + 2.45 + 3.45 + 5.00 + 6.00 + 7.15 + 8.15 + 9.30 + 10.30 + 11.45 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI) (3D): 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM <b>SAAR</b> 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 <b>WADI AL SAIL</b> 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM (3D): 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM	⊕ SANDRA BULLOCK, CATE BLANCHETT, ANNE HATHAWAY <b>CINECO (20)</b> 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM <b>SEEF (II)</b> 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM <b>SAAR</b> 2.00 + 6.30 + 11.00 PM <b>WADI AL SAIL</b> 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM	<b>AL ABLA TAMTAM</b> (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY) ⊕ YASMIN ABDULAZIZ, HAMDI ALMIRGHANI, BAYOUMI FOUAD <b>CINECO (20)</b> 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM <b>SEEF (II)</b> 1.00 + 5.00 + 9.00 PM	<b>RAMPAGE</b> (PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) ⊕ DWAYNE JOHNSON, JEFFREY DEAN MORGAN, WILL YUN LEE <b>CINECO (20)</b> 10.45 AM + 4.00 + 9.15 PM	<b>AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR</b> (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) ⊕ KAREN GILLAN, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., TOM HOLLAND <b>CINECO (20)</b> 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM	<b>THE LULLABY</b> (18+) (HORROR/DRAMA) NEW ⊕ BRANDON AURET, REINE SWART, DEANRE REINERS <b>SEEF (II)</b> 11.00 AM + 3.00 + 7.00 + 11.00	<b>THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF THE FAKIR</b> (PG-15) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW ⊕ DHANUSH, BERENICE BEJO, BARKHAD ABDI <b>SEEF (II)</b> 1.30 + 5.30 + 9.30 PM	<b>SOORMA</b> (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA/ROMANTIC/BIOGRAPHY) NEW ⊕ DILIJIT DOSANJH, TAAPEE PANNU, ANGAD BEDI <b>SEEF (II)</b> 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00	<b>MY STORY</b> (MALAYALAM) NEW ⊕ PRITHVIRAJ SUKUMARAN, PARVATHY, MUKUL DEV <b>SEEF (I)</b> 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM	<b>AL HAMRA</b> ON THURSDAY 12TH: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN FROM FRIDAY 13TH: 3.00 + 9.00 PM + (12.00 MN FRI)	<b>TAMIZH PADAM 2</b> (TAMIL) NEW ⊕ SHIVA ISHWARYA MENON, DISHA PANDEY <b>SEEF (I)</b> ON THURSDAY 12TH: 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM FROM FRIDAY 13TH: 2.00 + 8.15 PM <b>AL HAMRA</b> FROM FRIDAY 13TH: 12.00 NOON	<b>KADAIKUTTY SINGAM</b> (TAMIL) NEW ⊕ KARTHI, SATHYARAJ, SAIYYESHA, SATHYARAJ <b>SEEF (I)</b> FROM FRIDAY 13TH: 11.00 AM + 5.15 + 11.30 PM <b>AL HAMRA</b> FROM FRIDAY 13TH: 6.00 PM
<b>HOTELTRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER</b> (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/DRAMA) NEW ⊕ ADAM SANDLER, ANDY SAMBERG, FRAN DRESCHER <b>CINECO (20)</b> 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM (3D): 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM (DUBBED IN ARABIC): 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM <b>SEEF (I)</b> 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM <b>SAAR</b> 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 <b>WADI AL SAIL</b> 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM (3D): 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM (DUBBED IN ARABIC): 11.30 AM + 4.30 + 9.00 PM	<b>JURRASIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM</b> (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) ⊕ BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD, CHRIS PRATT, JEFF GOLDBLUM <b>CINECO (20)</b> 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 <b>SEEF (II)</b> 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM	<b>THE INCREDIBLES 2</b> (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE) ⊕ CRAIG T. NELSON, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, CATHERINE KEENER <b>CINECO (20)</b> 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM <b>SEEF (II)</b> 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM	<b>THE ESCAPE PLAN 2: HADES</b> (PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER) ⊕ SYLVESTER STALLONE, DAVE BAUTISTA, XIAOMING HUANG <b>CINECO (20)</b> 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM <b>SEEF (II)</b> 11.30 AM + 3.30 + 7.30 + 11.30 PM	<b>TAG</b> (18+) (COMEDY) ⊕ JEREMY RENNER, ED HELMS, JAKE JOHNSON <b>CINECO (20)</b> 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM	<b>TAXI 5</b> (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) ⊕ MALIK BENTHALA, BERNARD FARCY, RAMZY BEDIA <b>CINECO (20)</b> 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM	<b>DEADPOOL 2</b> (15+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) ⊕ RYAN REYNOLDS, JOSH BROLIN, MORENA BACCARIN <b>CINECO (20)</b> 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM	<b>ANT-MAN AND THE WASP</b> (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) ⊕ PAUL RUDD, EVANGELINE LILLY, MICHAEL PENA <b>CINECO (20)</b> (IMAX 3D): 12.00 + 5.00 + 10.00 PM 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI) <b>SEEF (II)</b> (1.00 AM THURS/FRI) <b>SEEF (I)</b> 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM <b>SAAR</b> 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM <b>WADI AL SAIL</b> 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM	<b>THE FIRST PURGE</b> (18+) (ACTION/CRIME/HORROR) ⊕ MARISA TOMEI, LEX SCOTT DAVIS, LUNA LAUREN VELEZ <b>CINECO (20)</b> 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM <b>SEEF (II)</b> 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN <b>SAAR</b> 11.45 AM + 4.15 + 8.45 PM <b>WADI AL SAIL</b> 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM	<b>OCEAN'S EIGHT</b> (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)		

## Sony's 'Hotel Transylvania' tops box office



'Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation' took an estimated \$44.1 million in ticket sales during its first weekend in North American theaters -AFP

AFP | Los Angeles

Sony's "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation" booked a stay at the top of the North American box office, taking \$44.1 million in ticket sales, according to industry estimates Sunday.

The animated fantasy comedy, whose voice cast includes Adam Sandler and Selena Gomez, follows Count Dracula and his family as they get away

from their hotel for their own vacation.

It swatted away last week's number one, "Ant-Man and the Wasp," in at second with takings of \$28.8 million over the three-day weekend, according to industry tracker Exhibitor Relations.

The 20th release in Disney's Marvel Cinematic Universe sees ex-con Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) languishing under house arrest in San Francisco after

being caught, as his shrinkable superhero alter-ego, fighting some of the other Avengers in "Captain America: Civil War" (2016).

Struggling to balance home life and Ant-Man duties, he's confronted by old flame Hope van Dyne (Evangeline Lilly), alias the Wasp, with an urgent new mission.

Third place went to Universal's new release "Skyscraper," with earnings of \$25.5 million.

## Taylor Swift handles concert malfunction with ease

IANs | Los Angeles

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift turned a technical failure on stage into a special spontaneous moment with fans.

The 28-year-old singer played a second show to her hometown crowd in Philadelphia as part of her Reputation Stadium Tour.

The Grammy winner was trying to perform "Delicate" as she was transported from one stage to another. In between singing



Taylor Swift became the youngest sole writer and singer of a no.1 country song through her single "Our Song"

the hit single, an unexpected malfunction occurred that even caught Swift by surprise, reports people.com

"I'm pretty sure I'm stuck up here. It's a nice view, though," said Swift.

After the song, Swift attempted to explain what happened.

Although Swift had an earpiece in, the only way she could communicate back to her team was to speak into her mic, letting the crowd in on every part of the unexpected moment.



Taylor Swift

## Rita Ora wants to bag more acting roles

IANs | Los Angeles

Singer Rita Ora wants to continue with her acting career after the success of the "Fifty Shades of Grey" movie franchise, and says she would like to do a horror film.

Ora took on the role of Mia Grey in the movie franchise, and garnered positive response. The "How we do" hitmaker confessed that acting, along with singing, has been a passion



Rita Ora

from an early age.

"I actually had my first acting role at the age of eleven in the movie 'Spivs'. I love acting. Acting is pretty much like a performance too," dailymail.co.uk quoted Ora as saying.

When asked what kind of genre she would lean towards in the future, Ora said she would "love to do a horror movie".

But she is practical when it comes to the next step in the acting business.

## Binoche, Hawke to star in 'La Verite'

IANs | Los Angeles

Actors Juliette Binoche and Ethan Hawke have been selected to star in Japanese filmmaker Hirokazu Kore-eda's directorial film "La Verite".

Kore-eda said his film "La Verite" will also feature actors Catherine Deneuve and Ludvine Sagnier, reports variety.com.

Being produced by French firm 3B and Kore-eda's Bunko, the film will be shot in

France in October and November.

The script of the film is based on a stage play which was written by Kore-eda nearly 15 years ago but never produced.

Binoche and Hawke will portray a married couple who return to France from the US when the wife's mother (Deneuve), a well-known actress, publishes her autobiography. During their reunion, various truths are revealed.



Juliette Binoche



SPORTS  
sports**Woods made to wait****Carnoustie, United Kingdom**

Former world number one Tiger Woods much-anticipated return to the Open after a two year hiatus will be a tardy one as his tee-time for Thursday's first round at Carnoustie is 1521 local time (1421GMT).

The 42-year-old -- three of whose 14 Major wins have come at the Open with his last in 2006 -- missed the previous two editions because of injury.

He will be partnered by Japan's Hideki Matsuyama and Scotland's recent Irish Open champion Russell Knox.

**Sri Lanka skipper, officials banned for 2 Tests, 4 ODIs****Colombo, Sri Lanka**

The International Cricket Council banned Sri Lanka skipper Dinesh Chandimal and two top officials for two Tests and four one-day internationals for breaching the spirit of the game.

Coach Chandika Hathurusingha, manager Asanka Gurusinha and Chandimal refused to take to the field for two hours during the second Test against the West Indies last month after the skipper was accused of ball-tampering. The trio were also given six penalty points each.

**Ozil to travel with Arsenal to Singapore****London, United Kingdom**

Mesut Ozil will travel with Arsenal for their pre-season tour of Singapore, the Gunners' new head coach Unai Emery confirmed on Monday.

Following the shock early exit of Germany from the World Cup, playmaker Ozil has been on holiday and has yet to return to pre-season training, with Emery instead working with those Arsenal players not involved in Russia 2018.

# Pacquiao wants more

● **Pacquiao now has a win-loss-draw record of 60-7-2**

● **Relishes another bout with Mayweather**

**General Santos, Philippines**

Manny Pacquiao said yesterday he was good for "two or three" more fights, naming Terence Crawford, Vasyl Lomachenko or Floyd Mayweather as possible opponents a day after winning a new world title.

The 39-year-old Filipino shrugged off renewed calls by friends including President Rodrigo Duterte to hang up his gloves after stopping World Boxing Association welterweight champion Lucas Matthisse, saying he would be "lonely" outside the ring.

Pacquiao flew back from Kuala Lumpur to his southern Philippine home town Monday, where a crowd of at least a thousand supporters waited for more than four hours to wave at or shake hands with him.

"I feel good for now. Boxing is my passion and I would be



Philippines' Manny Pacquiao (R) fights Argentina's Lucas Matthisse during their world welterweight boxing championship bout at Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur

lonely if I quit boxing," he told reporters.

"I believe I still have two or three fights left in me."

Pacquiao, already one of the greatest boxers in history with unprecedented world titles in eight weight classes, silenced some of his critics last weekend by pummelling the dangerous Argentine into submission by technical knockout in the seventh round.

It was the first knockout win in nine years for the rags-to-riches southpaw, who is now an elected Philippine senator but who lost his World Boxing Organization welterweight title to unfancied Australian Jeff Horn in Brisbane last year.

Pacquiao, now with a win-loss-draw record of 60-7-2, said he was enjoying his win and was not in negotiations at this time for his next bout. However he

said he would relish another bout with Mayweather, who beat Pacquiao on points in 2015 and later retired undefeated.

"If Mayweather comes back to boxing there is a possibility of a rematch," he said.

"But there are many other challenges, like Crawford, Lomachenko, Amir Khan and many others," he added.

The undefeated American Crawford beat Horn for the WBO

"

I feel good for now. Boxing is my passion and I would be lonely if I quit boxing

MANNY PACQUIAO

welterweight title last month, while Lomachenko holds the WBA super world lightweight title.

Pacquiao soaked up the adulation Monday as a brass band played and a police and military honour guard staged a welcome at the airport in the city of General Santos on Mindanao island.

"I'm a diehard fan of the senator. As you can see, I brought my baby along because I wanted to see a man who had made the Philippines proud," resident Bayra Malagat told AFP as she joined the welcoming crowds while cradling her two-year-old boy.

"We're here to see Manny. Hopefully we get a glimpse of him and get a photo, hopefully," Cieran Fox, one of two southern Philippines-based Irishmen in the welcoming crowd, said.

## Brave Belfast event highlights released

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation has officially released the event highlights from Brave 13 hosted in Belfast, United Kingdom for the fans.

The event is the first and only major sporting event hosted in Europe by a sports organisation based in Bahrain. Bahrain also became the only nation in the GCC to host an MMA event in Europe through the global mixed martial arts organisation found by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The event marked the first championship defence by the youngest champion in the promotion and only fighter from Philippines to defend a championship in Europe, Ste-



Cian Cowley

phen Loman. The videos are accessible in the official youtube channel and social media of Brave Combat Federation. The event highlights were released prior to the initiation of operations to broaden the distribution channels. The promotion was swarmed by an increased demand to air the events. Currently Brave is aired live through Abu Dhabi Sports, Combate, Fite TV, StarSat and VodaCom.

## Philippines top combat sport spot

● **President of Brave visits Ambassador of Philippines**

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave Combat Federation held a meeting with Alfonso Ver, Ambassador of Philippines to Bahrain.

The Bahrain based global mixed martial arts promotion has featured athletes from the Philippines in events hosted around the world including Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Brazil, India, Mexico, Jordan, Indonesia and the UK.

The exposure received for athletes from the Philippines and the successful championship title defence by Stephen Loman prompted the fans to demand an upcoming event by



Mohammed Shahid alongside Alfonso A Ver during embassy visit

the organisation found by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa in the Philippines.

Brave Combat Federation had hosted the first event in South East Asia in 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia and had announced growing interests to host more events in the region.

Bahrain hosts a sizeable expatriate community from the

Philippines and shares strong relations and mutually-beneficial ties between the Philippines.

Hosting Brave Combat Federation in the Philippines will ensure the growing interests in sports and media by the Kingdom of Bahrain under His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa to have a strong base in South East Asia.

## Halep stays on top as Djokovic back in top 10

**Pyeongchang, South Korea**

Novak Djokovic's fourth Wimbledon win propelled him back into the top 10 of the latest ATP rankings released yesterday.

Djokovic beat Kevin Anderson 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) to claim his fourth Wimbledon men's singles crown on Sunday, launching him 11 places to 10th in the rankings, ending an eight months top 10 exile. Spain's Rafael Nadal remains top of the table and has widened the gap over number two Roger Federer, who was eliminated by Anderson in a marathon quarter final. Meanwhile, Simona Halep retained the number

**Men ATP rankings:**

1. Rafael Nadal (ESP) 9310 pts
2. Roger Federer (SUI) 7080
3. Alexander Zverev (GER) 5665
4. Juan Martin Del Potro (ARG) 5395
5. Kevin Anderson (RSA) 4655 (+3)
6. Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) 4610
7. Marin Cilic (CRO) 3905 (-2)
8. John Isner (USA) 3720 (+2)
9. Dominic Thiem (AUT) 3665 (-2)
10. Novak Djokovic (SRB) 3355 (+11)

**Women WTA standings:**

1. Simona Halep (ROU) 7571 pts
2. Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) 6740
3. Sloane Stephens (USA) 5463 (+1)
4. Angelique Kerber (GER) 5305 (+6)
5. Elina Svitolina (UKR) 5020
6. Caroline Garcia (FRA) 4730
7. Garbine Muguruza (ESP) 4620 (-4)
8. Petra Kvitova (CZE) 4550 (-1)
9. Karolina Pliskova (CZE) 4485 (-1)
10. Julia Goerges (GER) 3980 (+3)

one spot in the latest women's rankings despite losing in the third round at Wimbledon, but below her the upsets at the grass-court major caused

turmoil. The biggest gainer was Serena Williams who reached the final in just the fourth tournament of her comeback.





# Joshua vs Povetkin

Britain's Anthony Joshua will defend his heavyweight titles against Russia's Alexander Povetkin

London, United Kingdom

Britain's Anthony Joshua will defend his World Boxing Association, World Boxing Organization and International Boxing Federation heavyweight titles against Russia's Alexander Povetkin at London's Wembley Stadium on September 22, promoter Eddie Hearn announced yesterday.

Povetkin is the mandatory challenger for Joshua's WBA title and a successful bout against the Russian would give the London

2012 Olympic champion greater freedom to choose his next opponent.

Joshua had been hoping to fight fellow unbeaten heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder, who holds the World Boxing Council belt, but he could yet face the American in April 2019.

"I can't wait to get back in the ring. The end of March feels a long time ago now," said Joshua, who beat Joseph Parker of New Zealand by unanimous points decision in Cardiff on March 31.

"Povetkin is a serious challenge that I will prepare meticulously for. He has serious pedigree and only a fool would underestimate what he brings to the table.

"Training hasn't stopped for me, but the next 10 weeks ahead will be intense both mentally and physically.

"I will push myself to breaking point to make sure I am in peak condition for another huge night for British boxing at Wembley Stadium on September 22nd."

Joshua, 28, won his first world title in 2016 and has made five defences, taking his record to 21-0 with 20 knockouts.

### Strongest in the world

Wilder, 32, improved to 40-0 with 39 knockouts when he knocked out previously unbeaten Cuban Luis Ortiz in the tenth round in Brooklyn, New York, on March 3.

Meanwhile Povetkin,

38, knocked out David Price on the undercard of Joshua's victory over Parker. He previously fought for the titles Joshua now holds in a 2013 defeat by Wladimir Klitschko.

"The battle for the world title has always been my goal," Povetkin said.

"I fought for the moment to face the strongest in the world and on September 22nd I get my opportunity.

"Anthony Joshua has four belts (including the lightly-regarded International Boxing Organization title) and I

want them all.

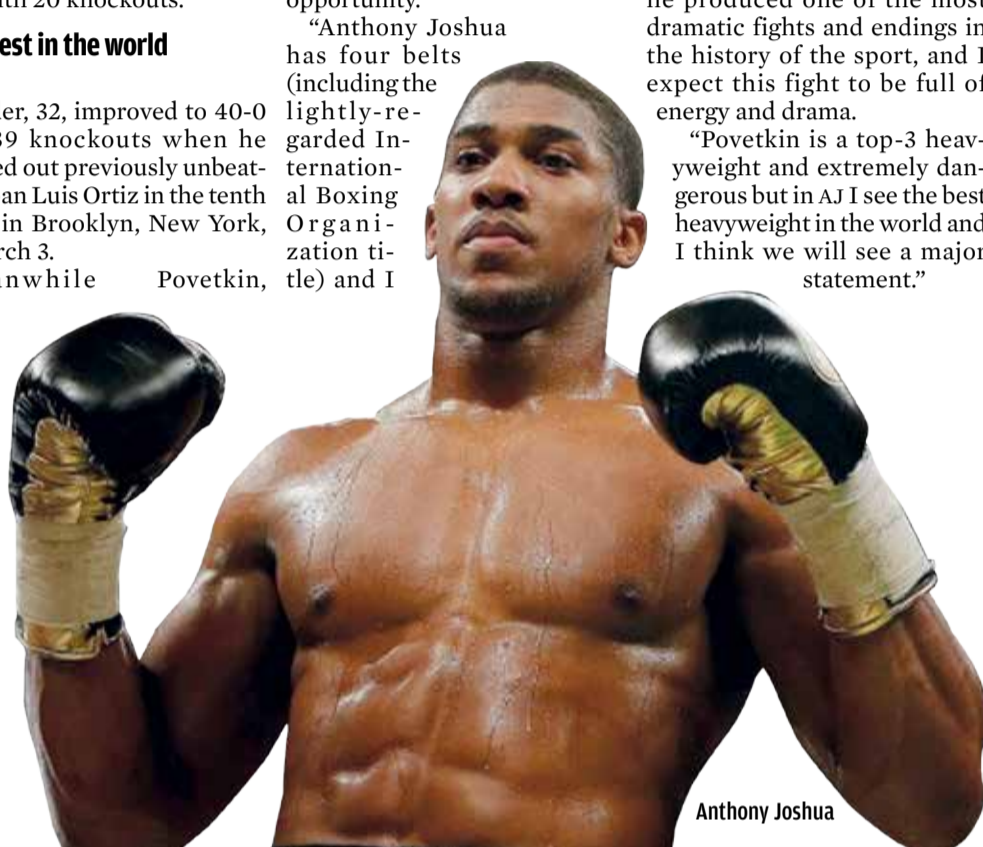
"I'm glad that our fight will finally take place. The meeting of two Olympic (super-heavyweight) champions (Povetkin won in 2004, Joshua in 2012) in the ring is destined to be a breathtaking event."

Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn added: "Last time (Joshua) was there (at Wembley against Klitschko, in April 2017) he produced one of the most dramatic fights and endings in the history of the sport, and I expect this fight to be full of energy and drama.

"Povetkin is a top-3 heavyweight and extremely dangerous but in AJ I see the best heavyweight in the world and I think we will see a major statement."



Alexander Povetkin



Anthony Joshua

## Zaman stars as Pakistan dominate Zimbabwe



Pakistan batsman Fakhar Zaman in action

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe | AFP

Accracked a career-best 117 as Pakistan dominated with both bat and ball to win the second of five one-day internationals against Zimbabwe by nine wickets yesterday.

Zaman's hundred was his second in ODI's after his barnstorming 114 in last year's Champions Trophy final against India. The win was also set up by Pakistan's seam attack, who bowled Zimbabwe out for 194.

Usman Khan took four wickets and Hasan Ali chipped in with three for 32 to bowl the hosts out, Pakistan's top order batsmen then capping a com-

manding performance.

Zimbabwe opted to bat first on another cold morning and were put under immediate pressure by the new ball, and in particular Khan.

He had both openers caught behind in his first spell, but Zimbabwe briefly rallied during a 62-run partnership between Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza and Tarisai Musakanda.

That was Zimbabwe's best stand, however, and when Khan took two wickets with consecutive deliveries in the 44th over the hosts were 166 for 7 and sinking fast. The in-form Zaman was named Player of the Series after the T20 tri-series in Harare.

## Juve fans give superstar Ronaldo rousing welcome

Rome, Italy | AFP

Juventus fans gave Cristiano Ronaldo a rousing welcome yesterday as the club prepared to unveil the superstar summer signing they hope will bring the Champions League trophy back to Turin.

Hundreds of fans gathered outside the Allianz Stadium in Turin from early morning singing "Ronaldo, bring us the Champions (League)" as the European competition's most lethal striker of all time made a brief appearance ahead of his medical Monday.

The 33-year-old emerged from the club's medical centre to sign autographs and shake hands amid raucous chants of his name before shooting back inside for further tests.

The five-times Ballon d'Or winner will be officially unveiled to the world's media, in which he will sign a four-year deal that will earn him a reported 30 million euros a season.

Ronaldo fever hit Turin after the announcement last week of his 100 million-euro (\$117 million) transfer from European champions Real Madrid, which Italian media reports will cost Juve a total of 350 million euros. Many of the youngsters who came out to greet their new hero were wearing Juventus shirts emblazoned with "Ronaldo" and the number 7, which have been selling like hot cakes in the city.



Ronaldo waves to supporters

120

Champions league goals scored by Ronaldo is more than anyone else in the history of the competition

1996

is the last time Juve have won the competition. They reached final in 2015 and 2017

Others wore t-shirts with the message "Bem-vindo" -- "welcome" in Portuguese -- which 5,000 shopkeepers put up on posters around the north-western Italian city ahead of Ronaldo's arrival late Sunday.

Juventus fans are hoping that Ronaldo's arrival will push them onto Europe's top table.

Fresh from their seventh Serie A title in as many years and

four straight domestic doubles, the Old Lady of Italian football have struggled to turn domestic dominance into European success as they strive for the continent's holy grail.

"Our hope is to win the Champions League that for now is the only objective that we've not been able to conquer," says Francesco, 38, from the Tuscan city of Pisa.

## Wimbledon's best quotes

London, United Kingdom

Wimbledon came to an end on Sunday, with Novak Djokovic winning the men's singles after Angelique Kerber was crowned women's champion on Saturday.

Here are a look at some of the best quotes from a dramatic fortnight at the All England Club:



”

Wind player? I'm coming from Kiel. It's always windy there

ANGELIQUE KERBER ON WHETHER SHE CONSIDERS HERSELF A GOOD "WIND PLAYER"



”

I hope this is a sign for Grand Slams to change. For us to be out there for that length of time. I really hope we can look at this, because at the end you don't feel great

KEVIN ANDERSON AFTER SURVIVING THE SECOND LONGEST SINGLES MATCH IN GRAND SLAM HISTORY TO BEAT JOHN ISNER IN THE SEMI-FINALS -- 6 HOURS AND 36 MINUTES



”

It's crazy. I had a really tough delivery and multiple surgeries and almost didn't make it to be honest. I couldn't even walk to my mailbox, so it's definitely not normal for me to be in a Wimbledon final

SERENA WILLIAMS ON HER LONG ROAD BACK AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO HER DAUGHTER IN SEPTEMBER AND THE COMPLICATIONS WHICH FOLLOWED



”

I make a mistake, I put my shorts the other way. You cannot force me to change my shorts in front of everybody. For me, that's not respectful

RAFAEL NADAL ON SHORTS REMOVAL ETIQUETTE



# USA dominates athletics

The USA were virtually unopposed in landing the platinum winners trophy on a final tally of 219 points

AFP | London

The United States of America recorded a comprehensive victory in the inaugural edition of the Athletics World Cup after dominating the second day of the event in London on Sunday.

It might have lacked the prestige and visibility of football's World Cup final earlier in Moscow, hindered by the absence of many of track and field's most recognisable names and an unfortunate clash of dates with the final of the greatest sporting show on the planet.

Yet reasonable crowds, compared to much of the Diamond League circuit, and a rapid format with audience appeal, is worth extending, according to IAAF president Sebastian Coe, with three nations understood to have expressed interest in staging the next scheduled edition in 2020.

"I've been very clear that I want new things to be tried," he said.

"They are not always going to work out from the word go but that can't inhibit us from going 'we tried, it didn't do everything so we go back to the same old thing'."

"There is a lot of work being done on the calendar and the Diamond Leagues. But while we're working that out, I didn't want the sport just to stop doing creative things."

"We will figure things out. They've already had interest in this from other cities. But I'm



The US team celebrate their win in the women's 4x400m relay during the Athletics World Cup team competition at the London Stadium in London

really pleased UK Athletics have taken up the challenge."

The USA were virtually unopposed in landing the platinum winners trophy on a final tally of 219 points.

They were well clear of Poland in second on 162 with the hosts consigned to third place when their men's 4x400 relay team were disqualified prior to the concluding event when first leg runner Cameron Chalmers pulled a hamstring in the warm-up.

Holding a 24-point advantage overnight, the Americans kept

extending their margin with Paul Dedewo running a personal best of 44.48 seconds to win the men's 400m.

Kenny Selmon took the men's 400m hurdles and Vashti Cunningham leapt to a season's best of 1.96m to reign in the women's high jump before their triumph was rounded off in the men's 4x400.

Elsewhere, Jamaica's Tyquendo Tracey recorded a lifetime best of 10.03 seconds to win the men's 100m with South Africa's world champion Luvo Manyonga taking victory in the men's

## Final standings

1. USA, 219 points,
2. Poland 162,
3. Great Britain and Northern Ireland 155,
4. Jamaica 153,
5. France 146,
6. Germany 137,
7. South Africa 135,
8. China 81

long jump with a leading effort of 8.51m.

However at the conclusion, it was the Americans who took a lap of honour amid the fireworks at the London Stadium which will also host the next leg of the Diamond League circuit next weekend.

And among those in action, there appeared to be a consensus that the Athletics World Cup is an idea that could be replicated or extended in the future.

"This sport needs one thing and that's more exciting events and this was certainly that," said Hendricks.

"I know it conflicted with the soccer World Cup but to have this chance to come together as a national team is really cool."

"Because what is great to have is competition when you have people in different vests competing against one another rather than just individuals in identical vests out there."

"And I think in future editions, you'll see this grow and more people will want to be there. And I know I'd want to be a part of it."



We will figure things out. They've already had interest in this from other cities. But I'm really pleased UK Athletics have taken up the challenge

SEBASTIAN COE, IAAF PRESIDENT



Vladimir Putin

## Russia targeted by 25 million cyber-attacks: Putin

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia was the target of almost 25 million cyber-attacks during the World Cup, President Vladimir Putin said, though he did not indicate who may have been behind the attacks.

"During the period of the World Cup, almost 25 million cyber-attacks and other criminal acts on the information structures in Russia, linked in one way or another to the World Cup, were neutralised," Putin said during a meeting on Sunday with security services.

The president, whose comments were reported by the Kremlin on Monday, gave no information on the nature or possible origins of the cyber-attacks.

"Behind this (World Cup) success lies huge preparatory, operational, analytical and information work, we operated at maximum capacity and concentration," said Putin.

Russia, which hosted the World Cup from June 14 to July 15 in 11 cities and 12 stadiums, has been repeatedly accused by Western countries of conducting cyber-attacks.



Fadhel Ateya Ebrahim



Dr Geetha Praveena Nair



Yohan Kudala

The Daily Tribune World Cup predict and win contest prizes were distributed yesterday at DT office in Zinj Pizza Hut Building (Ibrahim Plaza). The winners are Arif Iqbal Hossain, Yohan Kudala, GM Nicholas, Fadhel Ateya Ebrahim, Dr Geetha and Sameer Parker

## Kim wins John Deere in record-setting style



Michael Kim

Los Angeles, United States

Michael Kim made his long-awaited first US PGA Tour triumph a record-breaker Sunday, winning the John Deere Classic by eight strokes with a final-round 66.

The South Korean-born American finished with a 27-under total of 257 -- one stroke better than the previous tournament record set by Steve Stricker in 2010.

Kim also posted the tournament's largest margin of victory -- by four strokes -- since it moved to TPC Deere Run in 2000.

"I'm just really thankful and proud," said Kim. "I feel like I've been running on fumes the entire back nine. I'm just super-thankful, thankful to my parents, my team, my coaches ..."

A day after celebrating his 25th birthday, Kim punched his ticket to next week's Open Championship at Carnoustie. Italy's Francesco Molinari and Americans Joel Dahmen, Sam Ryder and Bronson Burgoon shared second on 265.

# It's 'just the beginning' for Mbappe-led France

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Kylian Mbappe and another supremely talented generation of French players may just be getting started after overcoming Croatia to win the World Cup in Russia.

While the 19-year-old is the poster boy for France's new crop of talent, the make-up of the squad suggests they have the youth and firepower to dominate international football for years to come.

The average age of a fine back four of Benjamin Pavard, Raphael Varane, Samuel Umtiti and Lucas Hernandez is just 23.

Ousmane Dembele, who cost Barcelona 105 million euros



France's forward Kylian Mbappe kisses the World Cup trophy after winning the Russia 2018 World Cup final football match between France and Croatia

(\$123 million), played for just two minutes in the knockout stages, while France's other goalscorers on Sunday, Antoine Griezmann, 27, and Paul Pogba, 25, are in their prime.

In scoring his fourth goal of the tournament and France's fourth of a 4-2 win in the World Cup final in Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium, Mbappe -- named young player of tournament -- became the youngest player since Pele to score in football's biggest match.

"I have a story to write, this is just the beginning," Mbappe warned the world. "I intend to go even further."

It is not the first time in Russia the lightning-quick Paris

Saint-Germain forward has drawn comparisons with the Brazilian great. In scoring twice against Argentina in the last 16, Mbappe became the first teenager since Pele to score multiple goals in a World Cup game.

After starring as a 17-year-old in 1958, Pele went on to win two more World Cups, and while Mbappe has much to do to match those feats, there is no telling how dominant a young French squad littered with world-class players can become.

Only Nigeria sent a younger group than Didier Deschamps' 23 to Russia yet France can boast serial winners at club level in Varane, Mbappe, Pogba and N'Golo Kante.





France's national football team players celebrate on the roof of a bus as they parade down the Champs-Elysee avenue in Paris.

# Party begins in Paris

AFP | Paris, France

The World Cup-winning French team returned home to a heroes' welcome yesterday as hundreds of thousands packed the Champs Elysees for their victory parade ahead of a presidential reception in the evening.

France overcame a determined Croatia team to win 4-2 in Sunday's final, with teenager Kylian Mbappe applying the coup de grace and cementing his place as a new global superstar at the age of just 19.

Millions of fans in France celebrated into the night, honking car horns and flying the tricolour flag while the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe were lit up in the national colours of blue, white and red.

Crowds began converging early Monday on the Champs Elysees, the gathering point for all national celebrations, for a parade by the team atop an electric bus expected to start in the early evening.

"We're so proud of this team, they have truly become our players," said Priscilla Lagneaux, 28, who was waiting



France's fans greet France's national football team players as they celebrate on the roof of a bus

with friends under a wilting sun on the avenue. "We had to see them, and also the Cup."

The players arrived to a raucous welcome at Charles De Gaulle airport northeast of Paris, including a "water salute" by the fire brigade which sprayed arcs of water over the Air France jet as it taxied to the gate.

Captain Hugo Lloris, flanked by coach Didier Deschamps, was the first to emerge from the aircraft, raising the famed golden trophy before heading down the stairs and onto a freshly laid red carpet.

After the parade France's newest idols will be welcomed at the Elysee Palace by Emmanuel Macron, whose office has already promised the Legion of Honour for the victors' "exceptional services" to the country.

## 'Champions of the world' -

In Paris, the metro system temporarily renamed six of its stations in honour of the key players, with the Victor Hugo stop -- named after the famed 19th-century writer -- becoming Victor Hugo Lloris after the team's goalkeeper.

Two stations were rebaptised in tribute to Deschamps, who captained the national side to its first World Cup victory, won on home soil in 1998.

Alongside Mario Zagallo and Franz Beckenbauer, he has become only the third man to win the World Cup both as a player and coach.

The team will have a private meeting with Macron and his wife Brigitte, and then they will enter the palace's gardens where Macron is expected to make a speech.

Afterwards guests will be treated to the beats of DJ Snake, who has worked with pop stars including Lady Gaga and is part of the Pardon My French collective of French DJs.

Macron had already celebrated with the team on Sunday -- even doing "dab" dance moves with players in a video that has gone viral -- after attending the final in Moscow.

Some analysts believe the 40-year-old centrist will benefit from the feel-good factor sweeping France, with Macron able to show a common touch after months of criticism from his opponents that he is distant and elitist.

## 'Bravo Vatreini': Croatians give heroes' welcome to WC squad

AFP | Zagreb, Croatia

Tens of thousands of Croatians gave a heroes' welcome to their team in Zagreb yesterday after the squad returned from Russia following their World Cup final defeat.

A crowd estimated at more than 100,000 thronged the capital's main square to see the players, led by captain and World Cup Golden Ball winner Luka Modric, parade through the streets on an open-top bus.

Cheering fans, many waving flags and wearing the famous red and white shirt of Croatia, held up banners celebrating the runners-up after their gallant 4-2 defeat by France.



**Croatia was unbeaten in the FIFA World Cup 2018 before the final against France**

"This is how Croatia is loved," read one banner. Another said: "We are few, but we believed and that is enough".

Many even skipped work to



Croatian national football team members step out from their Airbus 319 airplane in Zagreb International Airport

celebrate the team reaching their first ever World Cup final.

"I closed my office to welcome our heroes. I put a sign up reading 'Today, July 16, 2018', office closed due to our Vatreini ('the Fiery Ones' in Croatian)," doctor Sanja Klajic told AFP.

Earlier noisy fans awaited their side's appearance by singing a popular song "Play on my Croatia, when I see you my heart is on fire!" while watching the plane carrying the team progress to the capital on a giant TV screen. When the plane, accompanied by military jets and emblazoned with the logo "Bravo Vatreini" (good fire) flew overhead the crowd cheered and chanted "Hands up, hands up!"