

**Beyonce, Jay-Z surprise with joint album**

Music's most famous couple Beyonce and Jay-Z pulled a surprise by releasing a joint album late Saturday, a long-rumored collaboration that celebrates their marital passion. **P16**

# THE DAILY tribune



Profligate Brazil held **20** SPORTS

SPORTS **19** Mexico stuns champs

SPORTS **18** Belgium determined

**Relief ready for Hodeidah**

Riyadh

The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) has readied an urgent response plan as the Yemeni Army, backed by the Saudi-led coalition, tightens its grip on Hodeidah.

The plan involves sending specialized medical teams to the port city, and intensifying humanitarian and relief aid, Dr Abdullah Al Moallem, director for health and environmental aid at KSRelief, said yesterday.

The army took control of Hodeidah's airport on Saturday, and is continuing an offensive to liberate the city from Iran-backed Houthi militants.



His Majesty's Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Affairs and Bahrain Olympic Committee President His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa hosted an Eid Al Fitr entertainment event for the families and children of the martyred servicemen affiliated with the Bahrain Defence Force and the Ministry of Interior. Shaikh Nasser paid tribute to Bahrainis for their dedication and sacrifices for the sake of their homeland, to protect the security and stability of the Kingdom and confront terrorists.

**Protests in Greece as Macedonia renamed**

Athens

Greek protesters have clashed with riot police while a historic deal to end a 27-year name dispute was signed.

The demonstration came as the foreign ministers of Greece and Macedonia signed a preliminary accord to rename the country the Republic of North Macedonia.

A woman was hit on the head by a rock and a man was treated for breathing problems during the clashes.

The trouble broke out when about 500 demonstrators waving Greek flags tried to approach the signature ceremony on the banks of Lake Prespa.

**The Bahraini who swam around Kaaba 77 years ago**

● Mecca has seen many large floods, but according to historians, it is never high enough for someone to swim, except for two incident, one from the Islamic era, and one 77 years ago.

TDT|Manama

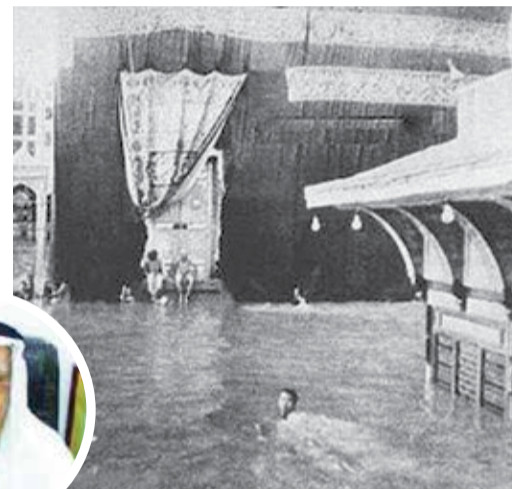
A report on a Bahraini whose faith and courage made his country proud 77 years ago dominated social media yesterday.

Ali Al Awadhi became a proud symbol of the Kingdom as he performed Tawaf (circumambulating the Kaaba), during the 1941 flood which caused the Kaaba to be surrounded by water.

The pictures from 77 years ago show Al Awadhi in the water, which measured up to more than a meter and a half high, in front of Maqam Ibrahim, as well as his brother and friend sitting by the door of the Ka'ba in the back.

Al Awadhi, who passed away in 2015, has previously said that he was about 12-years-old studying in Mecca, when the heavy rain persisted for an entire week without any interruptions.

He said that he went to the Meccan Sanctuary with his brother and two of his friends, as well as his teacher, when they found the place completely flooded. Al Awadhi, who used to swim often, said



A 1941 picture shows Al Awadhi swimming in front of Maqam Ibrahim.

he suggested performing Tawaf around Kaaba by swimming for their pilgrimage to count.

As quoted from the Islamic prophet Muhammad's biography, the first person to perform Tawaf swimming was the sahabi (the prophet's companion) Abd Allah Al Zubayr. Others who swam around the ka'ba include scholar Badr Al Din bin Jama'a, who dove every time he approached the stone to kiss it.

Performing Tawaaf by swimming is a rare form of worship. Mecca has seen many large floods, but according to historians, it is never high enough for someone to swim, except for two incident, one from the Islamic era, and one 77 years ago.

# Blast after blast

54 dead, over 200 wounded in two attacks in the past two days in Jalalabad, eastern Afghanistan

● The Taliban have steadily expanded their presence in recent years, seizing a number of districts across the country and carrying out near-daily attacks on Afghan security forces.

Kabul

A suicide bomber struck in Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad yesterday, killing at least 18 people in the second attack in as many days targeting Taliban fighters, security forces and civilians celebrating a holiday ceasefire. The Taliban later rejected an extension to the ceasefire.

Najibullah Kamawal, director of the provincial health department, said another 49 people were wounded in the attack, which struck a crowd of people



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as they left the governor's compound. Saturday's attack, which also took place in Jalalabad, killed at least 36 people and wounded 65, according to the official.

No one has claimed the attacks, but they appear to be the work of the Islamic State group, which is not included in the ceasefire and has clashed with the Taliban in the past. The local IS affiliate has a strong presence in the province.

The bomber on Saturday targeted a gathering of Taliban fighters

who were celebrating a three-day truce coinciding with the Eid Al Fitr holiday.

The Taliban have steadily expanded their presence in recent years, seizing a number of districts across the country and carrying out near-daily attacks on Afghan security forces. But over the past two days Taliban fighters could be seen celebrating the truce alongside Afghan troops and other people in a number of locations.

KILLED BY DEAD

**Indonesian killed by his mother's falling coffin**

Jakarta

An Indonesian was killed when his mother's coffin fell from a funeral tower and crushed him during a service on the island of Sulawesi, police said Sunday.

Samen Kondorura, 40, died Friday when pallbearers lost their footing while carrying the coffin up a bamboo ladder in the Parinding valley in North Toraja district, local police said.

The casket fell as the group ornately carved tower where the deceased is placed before



elaborate traditional funeral rites.

elaborate traditional funeral rites.

"As the mother's coffin was being raised to the lakkian, suddenly the ladder shifted and collapsed, the coffin fell and hit the victim," Julianto Sirait, chief commissioner of the Tana Toraja resort police, said.

Video from the scene, which has gone viral online, shows the ladder slip just as the casket enters the tower, sending the men tumbling several meters to the ground where the victim is struck by the coffin.



When ethnic Torajans die, local residents hold elaborate funerals that can last for days and involve music, dance and the sacrifice of water buffalo.

Horrified onlookers rush to the men's aid but Kondorura died later in hospital.

Sirait said the accident happened because the ladder was not properly reinforced but the family has declined to press charges.

The body of Kondorura is now resting alongside his mother Berta, he added.

When ethnic Torajans die, local residents hold elaborate funerals that can last for days and involve music, dance and the sacrifice of water buffalo.



03 Smelly barn, ruined lives

05 Man to testify against wife in infant torture case

06 Quota call for women in upcoming polls



## Labour minister visits Elderly Care Home



Mr Humaidan interacts with elderly at the Care Home

● The minister affirmed the Government's keenness on supporting elderly people and providing them adequate health, housing, social and legal services, in cooperation with the private sector.

Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister, and Chairman of the National Committee for the Elderly, Jameel Humaidan yesterday visited National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) Elderly Care Home in Isa Town to share Eid Al Fitr joy with the el-

derly there and spread happiness among them.

He presented the elderly people gifts marking the Eid Al Fitr and inquired about their health, living conditions and needs and wished them health and long life.

The minister affirmed the Government's keenness on supporting elderly people and providing them adequate health, housing, social and legal services, in cooperation with the private sector.

Mr Humaidan pointed out that the inauguration of the Elderly Services Office at the Abdulla bin Yousif Fakhro Community Centre is in line with the Labour and Social Development Ministry's continuous efforts to deliver the best services for the elderly in order to ensure them the requirements of decent life.

## Housing Ministry starts distributing Busaiteen units

Move follows the directives of HRH the Crown Prince; beneficiaries thank leadership



Mr Al Hidan addresses beneficiaries at the ministry office

● The Housing Ministry had contacted the beneficiaries to report on the third day of Eid Al Fitr to finalise procedures for their units.

Manama

The Housing Ministry yesterday started distributing the units of Busaiteen Housing Project to beneficiaries.

The move follows the order of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to distribute 5,000 housing units, within the

directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to meet the citizens' needs, and in line with the efforts of the government, led by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, to continue implementing its action plan.

The Housing Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Housing Policies and Services Khalid Abdulrahman Al Hidan said the distribution marks the third day

of Eid Al Fitr.

He added that the ministry had contacted the beneficiaries to report on the third day of Eid Al Fitr to finalise procedures for their units.

He pointed out the ministry's commitment to dedicating all its capabilities to carry out the order of HRH the Crown Prince to distribute all the housing units as scheduled by receiving the beneficiaries in successive organised

batches until end of August.

Al Hidan pointed out that the distribution procedures took place smoothly and amid citizens' happiness. He also noted that the housing services directorate had presented a documentary on the main legal and technical guidelines defining the legal and financial provisions included in the contract and which have to be complied with.

The beneficiaries extended

thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier for their care and follow-up on the housing services to provide decent housing for Bahraini families.



Disney's characters took the stage for a spectacular performance in the much-awaited 'Disney On Ice presents Passport to Adventure', which began on Saturday. The show will run for five days, until Wednesday and is held at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre. The show features some of Disney's favourite characters including Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse, Simba, Timon and Pumbaa from The Lion King; Ariel and Sebastian from The Little Mermaid; Peter Pan, Wendy and Tinker Bell from Peter Pan; as well as royal sisters Anna and Elsa from Frozen. Tickets are available at Bahrain City Centre and onmanama.platinumlist.net with prices ranging from BD10 to BD 85 depending on the tier.



# BIG STORY

## big story

# Smelly barn, ruined lives

Enjoying a good breeze seems to be distant dream for residents of Al Hamala neighbourhoods



Residents fear barn could cause health issues in the area.



Foul smell caused by the slaughterhouse is making lives of residents horrible.

● The residents say many notices were issued to shut down the slaughterhouse, but its management is paying no heed to those orders.

● All norms are flouted at the slaughterhouse. Dead cows are left in the open. It's a breeding ground for rodents and insects, residents say.

TDI|Manama  
Mohammed Bahar

**A**n awful smell have been sweeping through some of the neighbourhoods in Al Hamala, plaguing residents for a long time now.

Despite many complaints, the authorities haven't implemented any control measures to stop the noxious odour caused by a barn and a slaughterhouse in the area.

The residents say many notices were issued to shut down the slaughterhouse, but its management is paying no heed to those orders.

Ms Sandro, an American national, who lives in the area, said, "I don't have



**My house is very much near to the barn and I can't describe my ordeal. My compound has become a haven for rats and reptiles. No to mention of the annoying noise made by cows.**

MR ABDELHAKAM



**I don't have a problem with a slaughterhouse here. But it should comply with health and environment requirements or else it could lead to the spread of many diseases or epidemics.**

MS SANDRO



Children don't play outdoors due to foul smell.

a problem with a slaughterhouse here. But it should comply with health and environment requirements or else it could lead to the spread of many diseases or epidemics."

"The current situation is unbearable, because of the pervasive smells of cow dung, or dead animals, as well as disturbing animal sounds around the clock," she said.

Safwat Abdelhakam, an Egyptian na-

tional, said he chose Al Hamala for its distinct calmness and now he plans to move out of the area as he is unable to put up with the stink.

"My house is very much near, say for instance 20 to 25 meters away from the barn and I can't describe my ordeal. My compound has become a haven for rats and other reptiles. No to mention of the annoying noise made by cows. My children are not even able to concentrate on

their studies," he bemoaned.

Mr Abdelhakam said the villagers "will have to escape to some other place if the authorities are not finding a right solution".

Rania, another resident in the area, said there are plans to open a new mosque in the area. "But how can someone peacefully pray discarding this stink?" she asked.

"All norms are flouted at the slaugh-

terhouse. Dead cows are left in the open. It's a breeding ground for rodents and insects. We are seriously worried about over children's health."

May Al Rumhi, also a resident in the area, said no-one there uses outdoor facilities at their housing compounds. "Children can't play outside. If authorities don't take action our lives are done here. The slaughter house should be immediately moved from this place."



Despite several notices, the slaughterhouse continues to function in the village.



# Initiative to stop youngsters from radicalising, on way

To be implemented in co-operation with legal and security bodies, study centres and universities

● Dr Shaikh Abdulla said he considered Iran as the first patron of radical fundamentalism in the region.

● He said the initiative is of great significance since 49 per cent of Bahrain's young population is under the age of 29 years.

TDT|Manama

A national initiative with an intention to stop youngsters in the Kingdom from subscribing to extremist ideologies will be implemented soon, it was learnt. Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Chair-



**Extremist ideologies are instilled in the youth at some religious institutions and through some platforms and we must deal them with courage ensuring no terrorist is born in this country.**

DR SHAIKH ABDULLA

man of the Board of Trustees of the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies and Foreign Ministry Undersecretary, said the plan will be carried out in co-operation with institutions, legal and security bodies, study centers, universities, educational institutions and civil society in the Kingdom.

He said the initiative is of great significance since 49 per cent of Bahrain's young population is under the age of 29 years.

"All religions emphasise on tolerance and coexistence. But the danger lies in targeting the young with extremist ideologies," he said.

He highlighted the adverse effects of political, religious and intellectual extremism, praising Saudi Arabia's efforts to address intellectual extremism through the so-called "advocacy initiative".

Dr Shaikh Abdulla was speaking in the last episode of Youth Council Programme on Radio Bahrain when he made this remark.

"Extremist ideologies are instilled in the youth at some religious institutions and through some platforms and we must deal them with courage ensuring no terrorist is born in this country."

Dr Shaikh Abdulla said he considered Iran as the first patron of radical fundamentalism in the region, stressing that Bahrain has suffered a lot from the interference of Iran in its internal affairs along with funding and training of terrorist groups and organisations.

For his part, the Director of Public Information and Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior, Brigadier General Mohammad Bin Dayna, said the ministry has established the Joint Centre for Combating Terrorism in 2004 itself. "The ministry will launch several initiatives during the coming period, including 'advocacy initiative' of Saudi Arabia."

Brig Gen Dayna also rapped Al Jazeera Channel for using its platform for promoting terrorist organisations including Al Qaeda and Daesh.

## 3,000 non-Muslims attend Eid Open House



Special activities were arranged for children at the open house.



Special sessions were held on understanding the values emphasised by Islam.

TDT|Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

Thousands of non-Muslims attended the Eid Open House in Al Fateh Grand mosque in the past two days

Accepting the public invitation of Al Fateh Islamic Centre to join Muslims for Eid celebrations, around 3,000 non-Muslims visited the Grand Mosque in Juffair on the second and third day of Eid.

According to centre, the open house is being held with the aspiration of promoting peaceful coexistence and to spread the joy and spirit of Eid to non-Muslims.

Ghada Khafaghy, a spokesperson for the center told Tribune that the open house is made possible by the volunteers. "Since we have only five official tour guides, volunteers play an important role. We are depending mainly on them. We have around 100 volunteers who come to us whenever they have time. We have had a good number of volunteers committed to the open house."

Describing the tour, she said, "First we let them wear the Arabic traditional clothes to let them enjoy the experience. Whoever is not dressed appropriately for the mosque can change into this. But it is not necessary if they are already well dressed. But most people try the clothes on for

**Our goal is not to convert anyone to Islam, that is not what we do, our responsibility is just to share the message of our religion with others and to promote the idea of understanding and bridging the gap.**

GHADA KHAFAGHY

the experience."

"We have a section for children, such as for drawing, balloon shaping, arts and crafts, and anything kids like. Secondly we let them take a tour of the

mosque, we tell them about the basic things about the mosque itself. Then we have corners, we have a section to teach them about Muslim prayer, a section about Quran, a section for Arabic calligraphy and more."

She added the centre was working along with Discover Islam for the event. "Discover Islam has sent some volunteers, they also provide us with books."

### Misconceptions

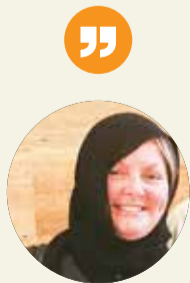
Removing misconceptions about Islam and Muslims is one of the positive outcomes of the open house, she said.

"Our goal is not to convert anyone to Islam, that is not what we do, our

responsibility is just to share the message of our religion with others and to promote the idea of understanding and bridging the gap. But if any such cases of conversion come to us, we will still help them by connecting them to Discover Islam."

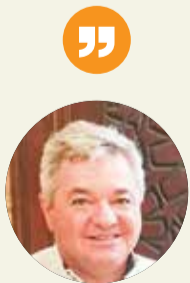
"I think one of the main outcomes of the open house is that non-Muslims have their misconceptions about Islam removed from their mind. Just yesterday I had a gentleman who told me that he was always worried about what Muslims think of him. He did not seem entirely comfortable around Muslims, I explained to him the reality, and how Islam teaches kindness towards others and assured him that he should feel welcomed," she said.

### Non-Muslims share views on Eid Open House



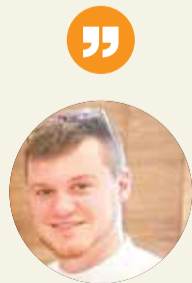
**I feel very welcome here, people are friendly and I have learned a lot about Muslims during Ramadan.**

MICHELLE



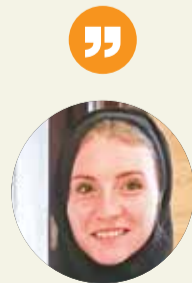
**You feel quite calm and safe during the holy month of Ramadan. It feels like a month for family bonding.**

RODNEY



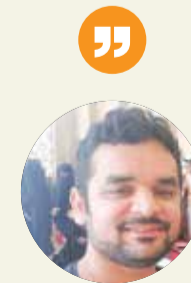
**Hats off to those who were fasting when the temperatures were very high. I don't know how they managed.**

GEORGE



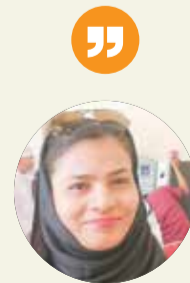
**Being in Bahrain during Ramadan has helped me understand Muslims better. It has been a great experience.**

TANYA



**I got to know the levels of dedication Muslims maintain during the holy month. It's been really impressive.**

GAURAV



**At Eid Open House, I learnt about Islam and Quran and the significance of the holy month of Ramadan.**

SHILPI



The parents of three juvenile delinquents were summoned by the Family and Child Prosecution yesterday. The boys allegedly bullied and assaulted another child who is around 10-year-old in Hamad Town. A video showing the attack had gone viral with many demanding legal action against them.

# Man to testify against wife in infant torture case

15-month-old baby girl was admitted to a hospital with second-degree burns in her private parts

● **The accused said the infant's hand got hurt after she fell down while trying to walk, but her version was not trusted by husband who reported the incident to police.**

● **Her statement was, however, dismissed and she was referred for trial for torturing and causing harm to her infant.**

TDT|Manama

A husband of a woman accused of torturing their own infant will take the stand on September 5, 2018, to testify against her.

The 26-year-old Arab woman was arrested after she allegedly tortured her infant girl.

The 15-month-old girl was admitted to a hospital with second-degree burns in her private parts, behind her thighs, legs as well as a fractured humerus and a subdural hematoma. And it was the 27-year-old woman's husband who lodged the case against his wife, accusing her of beating and causing harm to their infant.

The couple have two children; a seven-year-old boy and the victim.

"My client is married to the defendant and they have a seven-year-old boy and a girl aged one year and three months," the husband's lawyer Khalifa Al Shajra, said in his statement.

"He had previously filed a case against his wife after their infant's hand got broken. But his family intervened and the

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On the day of the second incident, the husband returned home and found the infant fully covered in a blanket. And the accused told him that she was suffering from fever. It was only later that he realised the infant suffered burns after being scalded with hot water.

MR AL SHAJRA

case got cancelled.”

The woman said that the infant's hand got hurt after she fell down while trying to walk, but her version was not trusted

by her husband who reported the incident to police.

"On the day of the second incident, the husband returned home and found the infant fully covered in a blanket. And the accused told him that she was suffering from fever. It was only later that he realised the infant suffered burns after being scalded with hot water," the lawyer said.

"The infant was already facing 10 per cent disabilities because of the torture she had undergone at the hands of her mother."

"I was trying to shower her and accidentally turned on hot water tap. I tried to treat the burns with tea and olive oil," the woman told prosecutors.

Her statement was, however, dismissed and she was referred for trial for torturing and causing harm to her infant.

## Jail term cut for theft convict

TDT|Manama

The High Criminal Appeals Court has reduced the sentence awarded to a man found guilty of theft from five to three years.

The defendant along with his accomplice is said to have attempted theft inside a vehicle on January 28, 2015.

After committing theft, they burnt the car to erase traces of crime.

However, police officers eventually tracked them following extensive investigations launched after the vehicle was recovered.

"My client challenged the verdict issued against him because he affirms he is innocent. When this incident happened he was already detained in connection with a different case," the appellant's lawyer Maha Jaber said in court.

## Focus on success of hospitality sector

● **The event will feature Bahrain's first regional culinary competition judged by Michelin Star chefs.**

● **More than 10,000 visitors are expected to attend the four-day expo.**

TDT|Manama

Bahrain's largest gathering of industry thought leaders, restaurant owners and hospitality specialists will be held in October.

Under the Patronage of Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Bahrain hospitality and Restaurant Expo 2018 will be held from 14th to 17th October at Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre.

According to the organisers, the event is aimed at elevating the industry in Bahrain and it will provide participants with an opportunity to network, explore business opportunities, and showcase their ideas, services and products to a targeted audience.

Organisers said that the expo will also serve as a platform to showcase innovations and success stories within the Kingdom's and the region's hospitality and restaurant sector.

CEO Culinaire & Beyond CEO Leena Al Mannai told Tribune that around 10,000 visitors are expected for the event. "I'm de-

lighted to see that restaurants, hotels, manufacturers, suppliers and distributors in Bahrain and from neighbouring countries looking forward to our First International Hospitality & Restaurant Expo 2018, taking place from 14th-17th October 2018 under the patronage of HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa," she said. "We're expecting around 10,000 visitors, a mélange of experiences and a noticeable impact on the hospitality ecosystem at large," she added.

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We're expecting



around 10,000 visitors, a mélange of experiences and a noticeable impact on the hospitality ecosystem at large

MS AL MANNAI

In its official statement about the event, the organiser Culinaire & Beyond stated that global experts are expected to participate in the event, "It caters to a global community, and will attract a diversified group of participants, including industry leaders and entrepreneurs.

"Through the engaging and interactive forum, participants will be given the opportunity to hear from global pioneers in the industry, learn from skilled professionals, hear thought provoking opinions, and contribute to panel discussions.

"The forum programme will incorporate academic and professional guidance, celebrity chef input and exposés, and local and global perspectives focusing on both the hospitality and restaurant sectors," Culinaire & Beyond stated.

### Competition

The four day expo is packed with activities, starting with a dialogue session on the 14th to exchange ideas, developments and trends focused on the Hospitality & Restaurant sectors.

The second, third and fourth day will include programmes including Bahrain's first Regional Culinary Competition judged by Michelin Star Chefs and Food critics. The participation criteria is that one needs to be an executive chef and above. According to the organisers, the competition is aimed at creating a foundation of an authentic and original Khaleeji Culinary competition.

## Council to close all illegal garages in Hoorah

TDT|Manama  
Harpreet Kaur

The Capital Secretariat Council will soon close all garages in Hoorah.

All garage activities in Hoorah and Maan Bin Zaedah Avenue will be shut down, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Capital Municipal Council Mazen Al Umran told Tribune yesterday.

"For the past few years, all spare parts shops in the area are not just selling spare parts but also repairing cars, where the cars come and park in the middle of the road causing a major traffic jam at the entire stretch of the avenue."

"These workshops are not licensed to repair or fix anything other than selling spare parts. Further, it has come to our notice that these shops in the name of selling car accessories, are changing oil, tyres and filters in the middle of the road for hours."

The council has issued notice to all these shops. "A one-year time frame will be given to these shops and if they want to continue as repairing shops they will have to reallocate to services area. This has been an ongoing issue and we plan to address it now."

He also added that the council has closed down the municipal office in Tubli. "With the expansion of the municipal office in the Capital, it has been decided to merge the centre with the main head office to ensure smooth work flow."

# Quota call for women in upcoming polls

Only special reservation can bridge the gender gap in politics

● On the performance of female MPs in the current council, she said they have been able to raise a number of issues concerning women.

● She stressed the goal of the BWU is to empower women and to

highlight the importance of their participation in elections.

TDT|Manama

**E**lectoral quota for women is a must to ensure that women in the Kingdom attain legislative strides, said chairperson of Bahraini Women Union (BWU) Badriya Al Marzouq.

She explained that a few women running for the electoral process doesn't mean the entire women community has been empowered politically.

She stressed that the goal of the BWU is to empower women and to highlight the importance of their participation in elections to change the views of voters towards women and increase the number of votes. "Women politicians are as good as men politicians. This



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**Women politicians are as good as men politicians. This equality should be underscored during the electoral process.**

MS AL MARZOUQ

equality should be underscored during the electoral process." Ms Al Marzouq said the

through workshops or seminars and awareness lectures on the importance of women's participation in the upcoming elections and the their role in decision-making.

On the performance of female MPs in the current council, she said they have been able to raise a number of issues concerning women including increasing the number of breastfeeding hours for women in the private sector.

## Bahrain Summer Festival begins today

Manama

**T**he Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (Baca) will today launch this year's Bahrain Summer Festival which will run until August 18. Held under the slogan "Muharrag Capital of Islamic Culture", the 10th edition of the Bahrain Summer Festival is returning with a thrilling consecutive two-month programme.

The annual festival, which has become one of the most anticipated events throughout the region due to its reputation of exciting lineups of live shows and multi-cultural family-friendly entertainment, will be filled with various performances along with artistic activities and creative workshops.



Many musical events will be held as part of the festival.

The festival, which will be located in Nakhool Tent at the historical Arad Fort, will offer a variety of children's activities and workshops. Nakhool and

Nakhoola, the adventurous duo and faces of Nakhool Tent, will welcome all families and friends daily from 5 pm to 9 pm except Sundays.



Many cultural programmes have been lined up.

## Mosaic to enthrall visitors

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**This was an initiative by Art Reach who approached the council with the idea of making a mosaic in the Capital.**

MR ALUMRAN

TDT|Manama  
Harpreet Kaur

**A** new mosaic has been made near the Al Fateh Highway and the Dolphin Park. It was made by Art Reach in association with Almoayed Contracting.

Speaking to Tribune, Capital Secretariat Council Vice Chairman Mazen Ahmed Alumran, said, "We have been working for quite long to create a mosaic



maze in an area where a lot of people go to and spend time."

"This was an initiative by Art Reach who approached the council with the idea of making a mosaic in the Capital."

"The art mural is very strategically placed as it is right opposite to the seafront. This initiative came from creating a concept, which is something totally different."

## World Heritage Young Professionals Forum begins

TDT|Manama

**T**he World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2018 began yesterday at the Bahrain Fort Museum under the theme "Protecting Heritage in an Ever-Changing World."

Delegates from the Paris-based Unesco World Heritage Centre, and more than 30 youth professionals from around the globe attended the opening ceremony.

The forum that runs until June 26, aims to transmit the values of World Heritage, highlighting the potential that World Heritage education may have for facilitating sustainable development.

It is addressed to young professionals who are invited to reflect upon the complexity of preserving heritage in a constantly evolving world with the help of international experts.

Addressing the ceremony, Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (Baca) Museums Director Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmad Al Khalifa, said that hosting the international event enhances the Kingdom's status as a regional and global center of civilisation.

The forum is held on the sidelines of the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee Manama is hosting from 24 June to 4 July 2018, to be patronised by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.



The participants at the forum.

# business

## Egypt's Suez canal posts record high revenue



Fishermen travel on a boat in front of a container ship in the Suez canal at Ismailia port city, northeast of Cairo, Egypt February 27, 2017. REUTERS/Amr Abdallah Dalsh/File Photo

● **Egypt under President al-Sisi invested in an expansion of the Suez Canal which began in 2014**

Reuters|Cairo

Egypt's revenue from the Suez Canal for the 2017-2018 financial year rose 11.5 percent to a record high \$5.585 billion (4.20 billion pounds), the canal authority said in a statement on its website on Sunday. Revenue a year earlier was \$5.008 billion, it said.

The financial year has not yet finished, however. Egypt's fiscal year runs from July 1 to the end of June.

The canal authority did not explain why it had released figures ahead of the end of the fiscal year.

It announced on Saturday increased revenue in May,

and predicted a record yearly figure, attributing this to increased international trade and improvements in the shipping industry.

Egypt under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi invested in an expansion of the Suez Canal which began in 2014, one of the former military commander's mega-projects designed to revive an ailing economy and restore the country's place as an important trade hub.

Egypt's finances were hit badly by unrest that followed a 2011 popular uprising which toppled longtime leader Hosni Mubarak. Critics have slammed some projects, including the Suez expansion, as a waste of money.

Cairo is also imposing a raft of harsh austerity measures tied to a \$12 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which some economists say are helping get the economy back on track, but which have hit ordinary Egyptians hard.

## Russia, Saudi to seek OPEC output increase

Crucial Opec meeting on June 22 to debate on lifting the 18-month-oil output cap

● **OPEC and Russia decided together in 2016 to cut their supply in order to push prices**

AFP, Bloomberg| Moscow

Russia and Saudi Arabia will ask OPEC to hike production by 1.5 million barrels a day in the third quarter of 2018, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak has said.

OPEC and Russia decided together in 2016 to cut their supply in order to push prices up following a crash induced by a global crude production glut.

An oil production shortfall in Iran and Venezuela has changed the scenario for the two countries and members of the oil cartel.

Novak said Moscow and Riyadh "propose increasing production in the third quarter by 1.5 (million bpd)," according to RIA Novosti news agency.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) shakes hands with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during their meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow. Yuri Kadobnov / AFP (File photo)

"We are only proposing this for the third quarter. In September we will review the situation in the market and decide the future course."

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Novak met Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman before the opening World Cup match in Moscow.

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) will meet on June 22 to decide on the future course of action on oil production quota. At the meeting in Vienna, Opec members will debate whether to lift the 18-month-old production cap to stabilize prices.

Since 2017, an OPEC agreement on production cuts has allowed oil prices to rise but there are fears that renewed American sanctions on Iran and a fall in output in crisis-hit Venezuela could disrupt supply.

**Hedge funds upbeat**

After two months of cutting bets on rising prices, hedge funds are feeling optimistic again as OPEC prepares to meet. Whether that optimism is warranted remains an open question. Falling output from Iran and Venezuela briefly had analysts touting the possibility of \$100-a-barrel oil ahead, and hedge funds boosted

wagers on a price rebound in the week ending on Tuesday. Since then, though, a push by Saudi Arabia and Russia for production increases ahead of next Friday's OPEC meeting has injected an uncertain new element into the picture, pushing futures in London down 4 percent over two days.

"Traders are uncertain about how broad these production increases will be. It's hard to trust the numbers, especially when Saudi Arabia was recently talking about \$85-\$100 oil being pleasing to them," said John Kilduff, a partner at Again Capital LLC.

“We are only proposing this for the third quarter. In September we will review the situation in the market and decide the future course”

ALEXANDER NOVAK  
RUSSIAN ENERGY MINISTER

## BIS wants tighter rules for funds offering credit and fintech

● **The BIS, a forum for the world's central banks, said in its annual report on Sunday**

Reuters| London

Regulations introduced after the financial crisis a decade ago to smooth out banking booms and busts should be extended to funds that provide credit, or shadow banks, and fintech firms, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said on Sunday.

The introduction of "macroprudential" policy requiring banks to build up separate "countercyclical" buffers of capital if credit markets become frothy was a core crisis-era innovation.



The headquarters of BIS in Basel. REUTERS/Arnd Wiegmann

The buffers can be released if loans begin turning sour and maintain resilience of the financial system to shocks - a departure from the traditional "microprudential" focus on the stability of individual banks.

The BIS, a forum for the world's central banks, said in

its annual report on Sunday that macroprudential tools devised so far might still not be effective enough in dealing with risks from other financiers, such as asset management funds. These funds are known as shadow banks because they also offer credit. The business has grown

significantly since the crisis as more tightly regulated banks rein in lending to ease the capital charge burden.

The Financial Stability Board, based at the BIS in Basel, Switzerland, said in March that shadow banking from open-ended bond funds, hedge funds, money market funds and other types of funds rose 7.6 percent to \$45.2 trillion in 2016.

The rise of "fintech" or use of apps on smartphones to innovate in financial services such as payments, might also shift the nature of risk and require a new arsenal of macroprudential instruments, the BIS said.

Existing regulation of asset management was geared mainly towards soundness of individual funds and consumer protection, and failed to fully incorporate how actions by one fund could affect others, the BIS said.

## \$7bn Thai state assets transferred to King Vajiralongkorn

● **All shareholdings will now be held in the king's name and crown property assets**

Abu Dhabi| The National

Thailand's Crown Property Bureau said its assets are now held in the name of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, clarifying how a legal change last year affects billions of dollars of holdings. The law enacted in 2017 means that "Crown Property Assets" are to be transferred and revert to the ownership of the king and that the bureau's investments "will now be held in the name of His Majesty", the bureau said on its website. All shareholdings will now be held in the king's name and crown



**King Vajiralongkorn ascended to the throne in 2016 after the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej**

property assets will be subject to tax, a change from the bureau's exempt status, according to the statement. The full value of the bureau's real estate and other holdings isn't clear. Its stakes in Siam Commercial Bank and Siam Cement are worth more than \$7 billion combined, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

## Malaysia power shift hits China's infra projects



Mahathir Mohamad (C) celebrates with leaders of his coalition following the 14th general elections in Kuala Lumpur. - (File photo- AFP)

### ● Kuala Lumpur's previous regime, led by scandal-mired Najib Razak, had warm ties with China

AFP | Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia was once a loyal partner in China's globe-spanning infrastructure drive but a new government is now pledging to review Beijing-backed projects, threatening key links in the much-vaunted initiative.

Kuala Lumpur's previous regime, led by scandal-mired Najib Razak, had warm ties with China and signed a string of deals for Beijing-funded projects, including a major rail link and a deep-sea port. But the long-ruling coalition was unexpectedly turfed out of power last month by voters disgusted at allegations of corruption and angered at rising living costs. Critics say many agreements lacked transparency, fuelling suspicions they were struck in exchange for

help in paying off debts from a financial scandal which ultimately helped bring down Najib's regime. The new government, led by political heavyweight Mahathir Mohamad, has pledged to review Chinese deals seen as dubious, calling into question Malaysia's status as one of Beijing's most cooperative partners in its infrastructure push.

China's ambitious initiative to revive ancient Silk Road trading routes with a global network of ports, roads and railways -- dubbed "One Belt, One Road" -- was launched in 2013 and is the economic crown jewel of President Xi Jinping's presidency.

Malaysia, along with Beijing ally Cambodia, were seen as bright spots in Southeast Asia, with projects in other countries often facing problems, from land acquisition to drawn-out negotiations with governments. "Malaysia under Najib moved quickly to approve and implement projects," Murray Hiebert, a senior associate from the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told AFP.

# France, Germany close to eurozone reform pact

● An agreement could be finalized on Tuesday, when Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron are scheduled to meet near Berlin

● An agreement is close at hand, Le Maire said on Twitter after talks with his German counterpart in Hamburg

AFP | Paris

Paris and Berlin are very close to an agreement on eurozone reform after months of divisions, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire has said.

"An agreement is close at hand," Le Maire said on Twitter late Saturday after final negotiations on the subject with his German counterpart in the northern German city of Hamburg.

The minister added that he hoped an agreement could be finalized on Tuesday, when German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron are scheduled to meet near Berlin.

Paris and Berlin are racing to bridge the gap between Macron's vision of grand European Union reforms and Chancellor Angela Merkel's more prudent approach by a crunch eurozone summit on June 29.

"There are two or three remaining issues" to sort out, a European source close to the negotiations told AFP. "But



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron (File photo)



Germany and other northern European states have balked at Macron's calls to give the eurozone its own big budget, fearing the more fiscally prudent north will have to pick up the tab for overspending by the more profligate south

these are clearly defined and limited."

The source added that "real progress had been made on the sensitive issues that remained to be decided, especially regarding the eurozone budget."

Germany and other northern European states have balked at Macron's calls to give the eurozone its own big budget, fearing the more fiscally prudent north will have to pick up the tab for overspending by the more profligate south.

Earlier this month, Merkel made some concessions, agreeing to support Macron's call for an investment fund to help poorer European countries catch up in the areas of science,

technology and innovation.

But the size of the fund remains a major bone of contention, with Merkel saying it should be "at the lower end of the double-digit billions of euros range," while Macron has called for a budget amounting to "the equivalent of several points of the GDP of the eurozone."

The French president is on a drive to reconcile Europeans with the EU after years of austerity and mass migrant flows have helped fuel the rise of anti-immigrant and nationalist parties.

He has championed EU reform proposals such as a common finance minister and budget.

## Invest in North Korea: Money pit or golden opportunity?

● Trump showed Kim a movie of high-speed trains and soaring tower blocks -- pitching a future for Pyongyang it gives up its weapons

AFP | Pyongyang

Donald Trump dangled the carrot of foreign investment in front of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at their nuclear summit, but analysts say few will want to put money into one of the highest-risk business environments in the world.

The US president showed Kim a movie of bright lights, high-speed trains and soaring tower blocks -- pitching a future that could be possible if Pyongyang gives up its weapons.

Optimists say that with mineral wealth, cheap labour, and a helpful geographical location, the North has huge potential.

But the history of overseas firms who have tried to set up operations in the isolated, impoverished country is a long and sorry one. Rules that can change on a whim, bills that are never paid, and the threat of expropriation hang over foreigners who step into the wildest of wild east investment destinations.

For now, dozens of restric-



In a photo taken on June 17, 2018 a scorekeeper sits at a computer during the Pyongyang Open annual International Table Tennis Federation match in Pyongyang. / AFP PHOTO / Ed JONES

tions apply under the various sanctions regimes imposed on the North over its nuclear ambitions.

Joint ventures are banned by the UN Security Council, the European Union blocks financial transfers of more than 5,000 euros, and US regulations mean international banks are loath to enable transactions of any kind -- so much so that even humanitarian organisations struggle to fund their activities.

And even if they are lifted, there are major challenges to working in the North.

Infrastructure is poor, and analysts say corruption is widespread.

Crucially, said a diplomatic source in Pyongyang, "legal guarantees for business are very weak".

### Huge cultural gaps

During the Sunshine Policy, a previous period of warmer ties, South Korean conglomerate Hyundai poured hundreds of millions of dollars into a tourist resort for Southerners to visit the scenic Mount Kumgang. But the trips came to an abrupt

halt when a North Korean soldier shot dead a woman from the South who strayed into a forbidden zone.

Many South Korean firms set up operations in the joint-venture Kaesong Industrial Complex where they employed cheap labour from the North, but Seoul closed the project in 2016 over Pyongyang's weapons programmes.

Egyptian telecom firm Orascom poured hundreds of millions of dollars into setting up the North's first mobile phone network, Koryolink, only for the

“I am taking all the hits. I am being paid in a currency that doesn't get exchanged very easily, I have put a lot of money and built a hotel and did a lot of good stuff there”

NAGUIB SAWIRIS  
ORASCOM OWNER

government to set up a rival operator of its own.

The company was also unable to get its money out.

"I am taking all the hits," Orascom's billionaire owner Naguib Sawiris told Bloomberg last month. "I am being paid in a currency that doesn't get exchanged very easily, I have put a lot of money and built a hotel and did a lot of good stuff there."

Construction giant Lafarge-Holcim last year disposed of its stake in a North Korean cement plant for an undisclosed sum, nursing significant losses.

"Governance is weak, information is lacking and there are huge cultural gaps with local partners," said Geoffrey See, founder of Choson Exchange, a

non-profit that trains entrepreneurs and economic policymakers in the North.

The most successful foreign firms in the North, he added, focus on trading activities to avoid having assets in the country that are vulnerable to seizure.

Kim undoubtedly wants to make his country better off. He declared earlier this year that having completed the development of his nuclear arsenal, "socialist economic construction" was now his top priority.

State media's coverage of the Singapore summit included extensive pictures of the prosperous city-state, a port, and even Kim's motorcade passing a Cartier advert -- images that would not have been shown in the past.

It was an indication of "permissible aspiration", said an Asia-based diplomat.

The highly secretive North has been quietly bringing in reforms for several years, allowing private traders to operate in informal markets, giving state-owned enterprises some freedoms to operate, and turning a blind eye to private company operations.

The moves are reminiscent of China's "reform and opening" under Deng Xiaoping, which propelled the country from a basketcase to the world's second-largest economy.



# UK's May pledges 20 billion pound for healthcare post-Brexit

Announcement for more cash for National Health Service a message to 48pc of Britons who voted in 2016 to remain in EU

● **May said spending in England would increase to an extra 20 billion pounds by 2023/24. The pledge drew immediate scepticism,**

Reuters | London

British Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday pledged to increase funding for the National Health Service by 20 billion pounds (\$26.57 billion) after Brexit, funded by money no longer spent on membership of the European Union and possible tax rises.

The announcement of more cash for the NHS, a regular issue at elections, comes after a row in parliament over Brexit highlighted the fragility of May's minority government.

May said spending in England would increase to an extra 20 billion pounds by 2023/24. The pledge drew immediate scepticism, with critics saying the



Theresa May

plans lacked detail and questioning whether leaving the EU would actually save money.

"As we leave the European Union

and stop paying significant annual subscriptions to Brussels, we will have more money to spend on priorities like the

NHS," May said in a post on her Facebook account.

"But to give the NHS the funding it needs for the future, this Brexit dividend will not be



**As we leave the European Union and stop paying significant annual subscriptions to Brussels, we will have more money to spend on priorities like the NHS. But to give the NHS the funding it needs for the future, this Brexit dividend will not be enough. As a country, we need to contribute a bit more in a fair and balanced way**

THERESA MAY

enough. As a country, we need to contribute a bit more in a fair and balanced way."

May said the spending increase was equivalent to a 3.4 percent funding increase in real terms. Independent experts say it needs even more than that to improve. The idea of a "Brexit dividend" is also contested. The independent Institute for Fiscal Studies think tank highlighted government analysis showing public finances would weaken by 15 billion pounds per year after Brexit, and paying Britain's EU divorce bill would eat up any savings initially.

In media interviews, May said her finance minister would set out plans before a government spending review expected next year. She said the increased contribution from taxpayers would be done in a "fair and balanced" way. She did not answer directly when asked whether borrowing might increase. The announcement is timed to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS, which delivers free access to care for everyone living in Britain. It



**The announcement is timed to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS, which delivers free access to care for everyone living in Britain**

aims to foster unity in the government and the country after two years of bitter divisions over Brexit. But it is also seen as a political risk. During eight years in power, May's Conservative Party has made fiscal discipline its core message. Any departure that involves tax increases could upset core voters and open it up to criticism from Labour Party.

## ECB and European banks under pressure on cross-border mergers push

Abu Dhabi | The National

Shared urgency has been stymied by politicians from Germany and others who want to make sure closer ties don't expose them to excessive risks from other countries

The European Central Bank and the lenders it oversees are running out of time in their push for rules to foster cross-border mergers.

European Union regulations need to change so consolidation makes financial sense, the ECB and firms say. But their shared urgency has been stymied by politicians from Germany and smaller states who want to make sure closer ties don't expose them to excessive risks from other countries.

Euro-area leaders meet at the end of this month to discuss further integration of the currency zone, including the so-called banking union intended to remove barriers to expansion. They're unlikely to make progress on crucial elements of the plan, including a common deposit insurance system. And they won't have many more chances to hammer out a deal before next spring, when EU elections and a changing of the guard in Brussels mean lawmaking grinds to a halt until the end of the year.

"Banking union is not in place, and there are not yet enough benefits for banks to consider merging," said Pauline Lambert, a bank analyst at Scope Ratings. While some steps have been taken, thorny issues like deposit protection need to be tackled.

## 'The bigger cryptocurrencies get, the worse'

● **For any form of money to work across large networks it requires trust in the stability of its value and in its ability to scale**

Reuters | London

Cryptocurrencies are not scalable and are more likely to suffer a breakdown in trust and efficiency the greater the number of people using them, the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) said yesterday in its latest warning about the rise of virtual currencies.

For any form of money to work across large networks it requires trust in the stability of its value and in its ability to scale efficiently, the BIS, an umbrella group for the world's central

banks, said in its annual report. But trust can disappear instantly because of the fragility of the decentralized networks on which cryptocurrencies depend, the BIS said.

Those networks are also prone to congestion the bigger they become, according to the BIS, which noted the high transaction fees of the best-known digital currency, bitcoin, and the limited number of transactions per second they can handle.

"Trust can evaporate at any time because of the fragility of the decentralised consensus through which transactions are recorded," the Switzerland-based group said in its report.

"Not only does this call into question the finality of individual payments, it also means that a cryptocurrency can simply stop functioning, resulting in a complete loss of value."



Representations of the Ripple, Bitcoin, Ethereum and Litecoin virtual currencies are seen on a PC motherboard in this illustration picture, February 14, 2018. REUTERS/Dado Ruvic/Illustration

The BIS' head of research, Hyun Song Shin, said sovereign money had value because it had users, but many people holding cryptocurrencies did so often purely for speculative purposes.

"Without users, it would simply be a worthless token. That's true whether it's a piece of paper with a face on it, or a digital token," he said, comparing virtual coins to baseball cards or

Tamagotchi.

The dependency of users on so-called miners to record and verify crypto transactions is also flawed, according to the BIS, requiring vast and costly energy use.

It has issued a series of warnings this year after an explosive rise in cryptocurrency values attracted a wave of followers.

Agustin Carstens, general manager of the BIS, has described bitcoin as "a combination of a bubble, a Ponzi scheme and an environmental disaster." [nL8N1PV5KS]

The BIS has told central banks to think hard about the potential risks before issuing their own cryptocurrencies.

No central bank has issued a digital currency, though the Riksbank in Sweden, where the use of cash has fallen, is studying a retail e-krona for small payments.

## WALL STREET WEEK AHEAD

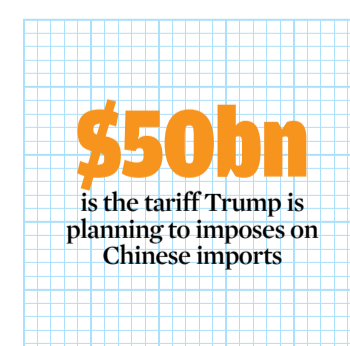
## Fund managers turn to financials as trade woes rise

● **Fund managers from firms including AllianceBernstein, Causeway Capital Management and Janus Henderson are adding to**

Reuters | New York

The rising tensions over global trade policy are prompting some top-performing international fund managers to look for the companies that can emerge as winners.

Fund managers from firms including AllianceBernstein, Causeway Capital Management and Janus Henderson are adding to positions in companies ranging from Italy's largest bank to China's largest e-commerce company, all in hopes of avoiding the fallout from a global trade war. Chief among the corporate attributes fund managers are now looking for are either a strong domestic business that would not be significantly affected by import tariffs, or a dominant market position, or intellectual property that would prompt customers to continue



to buy its goods regardless of additional taxes. "The impact of a tariff is becoming a bigger factor in our decision-making," said



George Maris, a portfolio manager of the \$2.2 billion Janus Henderson Global Select fund.

Maris, who said that he has

been "tactically" trading more than usual because of the threat of tariffs, has increased his position in companies such as Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holdings Ltd that are dominating their domestic markets. "Secular growth stories overwhelm the threat of increased trade frictions every time," he said. U.S. President Donald Trump said he was pushing ahead with hefty tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese imports on Friday, and the smoldering trade war between the world's two largest economies showed signs of igniting.

# Worst summer for Italy

*The only energy left in politics is the energy of national assertion, which Italians will not be able to vent on the soccer field this year*



TIM PARKS

Things can change. In the 37 years that I have been living in Italy, I have watched nine World Cup tournaments. The Italian team was always there. In 1982 and 2006 it won. In 1994, in the United States, it lost the final on penalties to Brazil. In 1990, as host, it crashed out in the semifinals to Argentina. True, on other occasions it failed abjectly in the group stages. True, some years it left qualification for the competition to the very last game. But no one doubted it would win that game. No one doubted that a country that invests so much money and emotional energy in soccer, a country with so much flare, talent and sheer devilish cunning, would come good when it counts. But we were wrong. Italy's national soccer team is not in Russia for this year's World Cup. "The worst summer ever for Italian men," a recent head-

line in Corriere della Sera declared: no World Cup and nothing to do on the beach but talk politics.

Because here, too, something has changed. Along with nine World Cups, in my time in Italy I have seen 26 governments form and dissolve. Some were theoretically a little right-wing and some hypothetically a little left, but all were essentially moderate, centrist and proudly European, falling into line with NATO and the European Union and the World Bank and, God bless us, Uncle Sam, on every major issue: sending troops here and there, as required — not many, but some — allowing their territory to be used to house missiles and launch military strikes, dutifully struggling to meet the endless conditions laid down by Brussels for membership in the euro club.

True, some prime ministers resisted more than others; one thinks of Bettino Craxi's objections to nuclear warheads in Sicily in the mid-1980s. True, there has been plenty of gamesmanship on display, Italy being one of the countries most frequently reprimanded for breaches of European regulations. Still, no one doubted that in the

**Italy's soccer players were unlucky to find themselves in a qualifying group with the exceptional Spain, and unlucky again to be drawn against a tough, determinedly physical Sweden in a playoff where absolutely nothing went right.**

end, Italy would always straighten up and behave. Again we were wrong. The 27th government of my life here has declared war on a range of fronts: Russian sanctions, European immigration regulations and fiscal austerity. "Italy first" is the slogan of Matteo Salvini, the head of the nationalist Lega party and the undisputed strongman of the new administration.

So, are the causes that led Italy's national team to fail and Italy's people to abandon their traditional po-

litical parties the same? No. Italy's soccer players were unlucky to find themselves in a qualifying group with the exceptional Spain, and unlucky again to be drawn against a tough, determinedly physical Sweden in a playoff where absolutely nothing went right. It was not a particularly talented team, but there are many worse playing in Russia.

Italian voters opted for Salvini's Lega and Beppe Grillo's utopic 5-Star Movement — its central policy is to guarantee a "citizenship income" to all — after nearly 20 years of frustrating economic decline and rising unemployment, a period more or less concurrent with membership of the euro and made all the more dramatic by the arrival of waves of African migrants on the country's southern shores. The overwhelming perception is that the European Union has done very little to alleviate this specifically Italian difficulty.

But however different the underlying causes of the sporting "catastrophe," as Italians like to call it, and the installation of an aggressively nationalist government, it is hard not to see disquieting connections. For a well-behaved member country of the supposedly

benevolent, politically correct European Union, international sport, and particularly soccer, offers a rare occasion for the unrestrained expression of national identity. One can say what one likes about fragile Italian nationhood, but when the national team wins a World Cup game, the celebrations are extraordinary. There are hordes of scooters streaming flags, little girls and old ladies mad with joy, rivers of wine and grappa, revelers blaring horns into the early hours, wives and their mothers-in-law reconciled, southerners and northerners united in triumphant embrace. And all the better when the victim of Italian success is a dominant neighbour. To beat West Germany in the final in 1982 and France in 2006, those were moments of collective jubilation. Any notion that national feeling is a thing of the past was revealed as pious wishful thinking.

Meantime, the rhetoric of European Union politics moves insistently in the opposite direction. Responsible leaders of the Union's less powerful member states must constantly remind their electorates that the major fiscal decisions are made elsewhere; their hands



A man shaking hands

are tied. Hence no to present an effective man, is to reform President France to defy the Minister and Salvini. The only comes the nation, the will not

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

## Need new antibiotics



A failing supply chain along with a lack of investment in new antibiotics is already causing major health problems across the world, and this will only get worse. With new viruses like Nipah causing deaths, the medical community should step up research on developing new antibiotics.

We need greater investment in early-stage drug research, and market-entry rewards that pay researchers based on the quality of the drug.

WHO has published its first ever list of antibiotic-resistant "priority pathogens" — a catalogue of 12 families of bacteria that pose the greatest threat to human health.

The list was drawn up in a bid to guide

and promote research and development (R&D) of new antibiotics, as part of WHO's efforts to address growing global resistance to antimicrobial medicines.

The list highlights in particular the threat of gram-negative bacteria that are resistant to multiple antibiotics. These bacteria have built-in abilities to find new ways to resist treatment and can pass along genetic material that allows other bacteria to become drug-resistant as well.

It is high time the medical communities across the world, from China to the US, get together and work on developing new antibiotics capable of dealing with new set of dangerous bacterias.

VM Alex

## Tackling our planet's problems

*As of today, space is a big business and last year the global space sector was estimated to be worth \$330 billion.*



SIMONETTA DI PIPPO

In the sixty years since the space age began with the launch of Sputnik-1, the first artificial satellite, humankind has achieved remarkable progress in the exploration and use of outer space. This would not have been possible without international cooperation.

With more and more countries, organisations and companies accessing space and its economic and societal benefits, international cooperation to ensure the safe, secure and sustainable use of outer space now and in the future is more crucial today than ever before. That is why diplomatic efforts at the United Nations to drive forward such cooperation are so vital.

From 18 to 21 June, the world will gather in Vienna for UNISPACE+50, the first United Nations global space summit of the twenty-first century, organised by the United Nations Office for

Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).

This will be only the fourth time in history that government representatives join heads of space agencies, policy-makers, industry representatives and other stakeholders at the United Nations on a large scale. Our top priority will be to look for ways to use space to improve lives around the world and protect our planet.

A lot has changed since the first UNISPACE conference was held in 1968. Today, space is big business. Last year the global space sector was estimated to be worth \$330 billion. Access to space is also growing rapidly. Over 70 United Nations Member States now have established government space agencies.

This is complemented by an ever-increasing number of private companies and industry. In 2017, a year in which the world placed over 450 new satellites — a record number — in orbit, commercial entities conducted just under half of all launches.

All this activity is being fuelled by the fact that space is now a cornerstone of our modern society. We rely on space science and technology in a number of



A view of the USSR exhibit organized at the Outer Space Conference.

1940

The "Finest Hour" speech is delivered by Winston Churchill.



1953

The Egyptian revolution of 1952 ends with the overthrow of the Muhammad Ali dynasty and the declaration of the Republic of Egypt.

1953

A United States Air Force C-124 crashes and burns near Tachikawa, Japan, killing 129.

1984

A major clash between about 5,000 police and a similar number of miners takes place at Orgreave, South Yorkshire, during the 1984-85 UK miners' strike.



...owers expletives on a Italian football team member.

...there is little they can do. ...more and more, the only way ...nt yourself to the people as ...ive leader, rather than a yes ...o talk of a determination to ...the European Union — as ...nt Emmanuel Macron of ...has done — or better still, to ...European Union, as Prime ...r Viktor Orban of Hungary ...vini in Italy are both doing ...y real energy in politics be ...he energy of national asser- ...kind of energy the Italians ...be able to vent on the na-

...tional team this year. ..."Italy's not for bowing its head," is ...a typical tweet from Salvini. It's also ...typical soccer talk. Unsurprisingly, ...Salvini has been involved in a spat ...with one of the rare black members ...of Italy's team, Mario Balotelli, who ...has accused Italian fans of failing ...to identify with black players. The ...new government is adamant it will ...not grant citizenship to hundreds ...of thousands of immigrants "merely" ...because they have grown up in Ita- ...ly. We are in for a period of painful ...social conflict, at the end of which

...perhaps we may remember why it ...once seemed wise to relegate cer- ...tain emotions to the stadium.

...The good news, perhaps, is that ...the Italian women's soccer team has ...qualified for the Women's World ...Cup in 2019, for the first time since ...1999. But one thing that has not ...changed is that national identity ...tends to be invested in men's teams, ...not women's. Salvini is all testos- ...terone.

(Tim Parks is a Booker prize nominee novelist, writer and translator)

# Problems from outer space

...bal space sector was estimated to be worth \$330 billion



...e Messehall in Vienna in connection with

From 18 to 21 June, the world will gather in Vienna for UNISPACE+50, the first United Nations global space summit of the twenty-first century, organised by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).

...ways in our everyday lives. It ...helps us navigate when we are ...driving and enables us to call ...our friends and families around ...the world.

...Satellite technology can even ...help track endangered species ...like rhinoceroses to protect ...them from poachers, or provide ...imagery and data to farmers to ...help them monitor their crops, ...improve their yield, and avoid ...food shortages. Space is an in- ...valuable tool for achieving sus- ...tainable development across the ...globe, and so it is important that ...everyone can access and enjoy

...the benefits that space brings ...to us all.

...In light of this, UNISPACE+50 ...will be a timely opportunity for ...the world to both reflect on our ...achievements in space over the ...past six decades and to look to ...the future.

...At UNISPACE+50, United Na- ...tions Member States will en- ...dorse a resolution that calls for ...strengthened international co- ...operation in the peaceful use ...of outer space and the global ...governance of outer space ac- ...tivities, and which encourag- ...es coordination to ensure that ...space science, technology and ...applications serve the Sustain- ...able Development Goals.

...In the 21st century, space is ...essential to all of humankind, so ...it is important that the interna- ...tional community works together ...on the future of space activities. ...We at UNOOSA are looking for- ...ward to welcoming the world to ...UNISPACE+50 and providing such ...a valuable platform under the ...umbrella of the United Nations ...to ensure that space benefits ev- ...eryone, everywhere, for genera- ...tions to come.

(Simonetta Di Pippo is the Director of United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs)



TOP  
5  
TWEETS

01



Today, while we celebrate fatherhood, our country is systematically ripping children from the arms of their parents. What will we allow our nation to become?

@SallyQYates

02



I feel like if we had proper border security and law enforcement until now none of this family separation talk would have to happen in the first place.

@PardesSeleh

03



Take a minute to send a message to someone for whom today is hard. Those without dads, husbands, those who yearn to be dads.

@bethanyshondark

04



Is Patrice Evra seriously saying Fifa would only take the goal off Pogba but wouldn't Messi or Ronaldo?? Seriously? It was an own goal.

@GregOK

05



Happy #FathersDay to Hall. This is the first one without my dad, made especially poignant by knowing how he loved to watch every single World Cup game.

@GaryLineker

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

## Karak Break

# Playing Ping Pong with customers!



MOHAMED ISA

Last week, I told you about how an ATM Machine withheld my credit card and BD20 in cash deposit to remove the block placed by the bank to incentivise me to make the minimum payment of BD7! Then, I talked about the inconvenience I had to go through calling the Customer Service Centre and visiting the branch to collect my card. Let's continue with the story. Of course, more inconvenience!

When I received my credit card from the customer service staff, I asked him: "What shall I do about the missing BD20 and the block on my card?" He replied: "Unfortunately, I cannot do anything about it. Please call the Credit Call Centre to follow up on this." I continued: "Can't you make a note in your system to inform them about my case in order to avoid making more calls." He replied: "No." I thought this was so strange: "Aren't we in the Digital Age and Employee Empowerment? Maybe not in this bank."

After a few days, I called the Customer Service Call Centre again. I had to go through the dreaded ritual of pressing



Message to the Bank: We don't like Ping Pong. And if you insist, we will not last for long!

many numbers to speak to a "real" person. They informed me that I had to go to the Branch again to make an incident report about my case. I told the representative I did not want to go through the inconvenience of visiting the Branch. She told me: "Then, you can report this using the Online Banking Service." I thought: "This is much better."

I logged in to my account and clicked on "Contact Centre" and then "Send Message." This is when then system surprised me. It asked me to use my "Online Physical Security Key" in order to send the message to the Bank. This Bank has an advanced online security arrangement. Most of the online functions require me to use this Key to protect me from hackers. However, I was not carrying this Key with me. So, more inconvenience!

I called the Customer Service again. And when a "real" person spoke, I retold the story of my life. I asked her: "Why do I have to use the Security Key to be able to send a message to the Bank? I do not see any risk neither on me nor on the bank for doing this. What shall I do now to remove the block from my credit card?" She told me: "Since this is a credit card issue, it is better to contact the Card Centre." And I did. They told me: "Please contact the Service Centre." And by this, the Ping Pong continued.

Message to the Bank: We don't like Ping Pong. And if you insist, we will not last for long!

(Mohamed Isa is an Award-Winning Speaker & Best-Selling Author. Reach him at: mohamed@3dspeaking.com.)

WORLD  
world**Turkish cargo ship sinks off Croatia, crew evacuated**

AFP | Zagreb

A Turkish-flagged cargo ship was sinking off the Croatian coast yesterday and its 13-member crew was being taken off with no pollution detected for now, the Croat transport ministry said. The evacuation of the crew started at 0405 GMT and no one was injured.

The ship was sinking north of Vis island in the centre of the Adriatic, a ministry statement said.

**Japanese princess to watch World Cup**

Reuters | Moscow

Japan's Princess Takamado will arrive in Russia today to watch her national team compete in the soccer World Cup, the Kyodo news agency reported, marking the first visit to Russia by a Japanese royal in over 100 years.

Relations between Moscow and Tokyo are currently strained over the roll-out of a U.S. missile system and Moscow's move this year to deploy warplanes.

**Manager of China aircraft carrier builder under graft probe**

AFP | Beijing

China has launched a corruption investigation into the general manager of the state-owned firm responsible for building aircraft carriers, a potential complication in ambitious plans to modernise its navy.

Sun Bo is being probed for "suspicion of serious breach of the party discipline and the law," Communist Party watchdog the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in a brief online statement.

**Indonesian killed by his mother's falling funeral coffin**

AFP | Makassar

An Indonesian was killed when his mother's coffin fell from a funeral tower and crushed him during a service on the island of Sulawesi, police said yesterday.

Samen Kondorura, 40, died Friday when pallbearers lost their footing while carrying the coffin up a bamboo ladder in the Parinding valley in North Toraja district, local police said. The casket fell as the group hoisted it onto a lakian, a carved tower.

**Battles rage as UN holds crisis talks in Hodeida**

UN envoy hold talks amid warning that offensive could spark humanitarian crisis

● Nearly 4,500 households have been displaced in Hodeida province

AFP | Al Duraihmi

Yemeni pro-government forces, backed by Saudi Arabia, battled Houthi militia around the key port city of Hodeida yesterday, as a top UN envoy held crisis talks with the insurgents in the capital.

Saudi Arabia and its allies in a regional military coalition on Wednesday launched an offensive aimed at retaking the Red Sea city of Hodeida, home to the country's most valuable port which is controlled by the Iran-backed Huthis.

The United Nations has warned the offensive could spark a fresh humanitarian crisis in a country already hit by war and impending famine, sending its envoy for Yemen to the capital Sanaa in a bid to come to a solution with the rebels. The Huthis, who accuse the UN of bias, however said there were major obstacles to any peace talks shortly after meeting with envoy Martin Griffiths on Sunday.

The United Nations and relief



A displaced Yemeni family sit in a classroom of a school after evacuated from a village near Hodeidah airport amid fighting between government forces and Houthi fighters in the Red Sea port city of Hodeidah yesterday

organisations have warned that an all-out assault on Hodeida by the Saudi-led coalition, which commands a massive joint air force, would put hundreds of thousands of people at risk.

Nearly 4,500 households have been displaced in Hodeida province so far this month, the UN said Sunday.

Yemen's military forces have closed in on areas south and west of the port, pushing closer to an airport just south of the docks, sources in the army said. More than 70 percent of

imports to all of Yemen pass through the docks of the Hodeida port.

The army on Saturday claimed it had seized the defunct Hodeida airport, which has been in Houthi hands since 2014.

The Shiite rebels, however, denied the claim in a statement on their Saba news agency on Sunday.

They have also reported Saudi air strikes on Houthi outposts across Hodeida, with the insurgents' representative Hisham Sharaf pointing to the raids as

a major obstacle to peace talks.

The highway between Hodeida and the government-held port of Mokha was cut off Friday in battles between the two warring sides, disrupting precious supply lines to the military.

The fighting is already nearing densely populated residential areas, rights groups have warned, and aid distributions have been suspended in the west of the city.

At least 139 combatants have been killed since the launch of the operation on Wednesday.

**Three still in hospital after taxi hits crowd near Kremlin**

AFP | Moscow

Three people were recovering in hospital yesterday after a taxi ploughed into pedestrians just steps from Moscow's Red Square during the World Cup in Russia.

Saturday's incident has focused attention on security at the planet's most watched event.

More than 600,000 foreign tourists are expected to descend on Russia during the June 14 to July 15 showpiece.

Colourful crowds of fans from the 32 participating nations have been congregating by Red Square to snap pictures of the Kremlin for the past week.

Moscow police underscored their sensitivity to the case by taking the unusual step of releasing a video of the taxi driver telling investigators he had meant no harm.

"I never violated anything in the Russian Federation," the man said in a pleading voice.

"And everything was fine at work. Everyone respected me."

Authorities identified him as 28-year-old Kyrgyz national Anarbek Chingiz.

He was shown telling police that he had been working for 20 hours and was planning to go home to rest after picking up one more customer.

**'The noise is not so bad'**

Harri Patel became Heathrow Airport's closest neighbour when he and his family decided to live on the airport's perimeter 23 years ago

DailyMail | Heathrow

A homeowner who watches aircraft roar down the runway from his kitchen window has no problem living next to Europe's busiest airport, saying the noise is not so bad. Harri Patel became Heathrow Airport's closest neighbour when he and his young family decided to trade in their two bedroom house in the suburbs for one on the airport's perimeter 23 years ago.

The 63-year-old does not mind his noisy neighbour despite a constant stream of airliners, including Jumbo jets, landing or taking off throughout the day.

He said: 'I love this house.

There is nothing difficult about living here.'

The father-of-two and his wife Josh, 60, fell in love with the end-of-terrace house just 300 yards from Heathrow's Terminal Four because it was big enough for his family.



**Harri does not mind his noisy neighbour despite a constant stream of airliners**

**Israeli ministers back ban on filming soldiers**

AFP | Jerusalem

Israeli ministers yesterday backed a draft law carrying a jail term of up to 10 years for those who film or photograph soldiers with harmful intent, the justice ministry said.

Critics say the law, which will now face a series of parliamentary debates, could be a threat to free speech.

The ministerial committee on legislation endorsed the bill against "people who film, photograph or record soldiers performing their duties in order to demoralise soldiers and Israeli civilians".

The draft law would give courts the power to imprison those found guilty for five years, although a 10-year sentence would apply to defendants convicted of trying to "harm the state's security".

The same prison terms would apply to people sharing such images or recordings on social media or through traditional media.

Explanatory notes of the bill say that local "anti-Israeli" NGOs, as well groups affiliated with the "Boycott, Divestment,



The draft law would give courts the power to imprison violators for five years

Sanctions" (BDS) movement, spend days around "soldiers eagerly awaiting activity that could be documented in a biased way and used to defame them." The BDS movement leads a global campaign against Israel, targeting the country's economy, art scene and sports.

"Most of these organisations are supported by foundations, organisations and governments with a clear anti-Israel agenda, which use this biased content

to harm Israel and its security," the notes said.

An Israeli soldier was recently released from prison after serving nine months behind bars for shooting dead an injured Palestinian, an act which was caught on video by a human rights group and spread widely online. The draft law was sponsored by the nationalist Yisrael Beitenu party led by Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman.

## Trump lawyer calls for inquiry on Mueller probe

AFP | Washington

Donald Trump's personal lawyer yesterday called for an investigation into special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe, claiming it was tainted from the outset under former FBI director James Comey.

"We want the Mueller probe to be investigated the way the Trump administration has been investigated," Rudy Giuliani said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Giuliani's comments were the latest in a barrage of attacks on the probe by the president and his lawyers as Mueller appears to be nearing a conclusion to his investigation.

## Suspect dead, 20 hurt in shooting at US arts festival

AFP | New York, United States

At least 20 people were hurt early yesterday in a shooting at an all-night arts festival in Trenton, the state capital of New Jersey, that also left one suspect dead, a local prosecutor said. "Multiple individuals opened fire" inside the festival venue shortly before 3:00 am, Mercer County chief prosecutor Angelo Onofri told reporters.

A 33-year-old man, one of the suspects, was killed, and another was taken into custody, he said.

## Guatemala volcano search called off

AFP | Guatemala City

Authorities yesterday called off a search for the nearly 200 people missing since Guatemala's Fuego volcano erupted earlier this month, devastating the surrounding countryside.

Officials have confirmed the deaths of 110 people as a result of the volcanic eruption on June 3, but another 197 people remain unaccounted for. A spokesman for the government's civil protection agency, David de Leon, said the agencies involved decided to end the search "due to the fact that the area is uninhabitable and of high risk."

## Aquarius migrants step ashore in Spain

AFP | Valencia, Spain

The 630 migrants whose rescue sparked a major migration row in Europe arrived in the Spanish port of Valencia yesterday after a turbulent week that saw Italy and Malta turn them away. The Aquarius sailed into Valencia harbour about 0830 GMT with 106 migrants on board to applause from police, health workers and translators waiting on the pier.

# 31 killed in bomb blasts in Nigeria

Two blasts ripped through the town of Damboa in Borno



The attack is the latest example of Boko Haram's continued threat to Nigeria

AFP | Kano, Nigeria

Suspected Boko Haram jihadists killed at least 31 people in a twin suicide bomb attack on a town in northeast Nigeria, a local official and a militia leader said yesterday.

Two blasts ripped through the town of Damboa in Borno state on Saturday evening targeting people returning from celebrating the Eid al-Fitr holiday, in an attack bearing all the hallmarks of Boko Haram.

Following the suicide bombings, the jihadists fired rocket-propelled grenades into the crowds that had gathered at the scene of the attacks, driving the number of casualties higher.

"There were two suicide attacks and rocket-propelled grenade explosions in Damboa last night which killed 31 people and left several others injured,"

said local militia leader Babakura Kolo.

Two suicide bombers detonated their explosives in Shuwari and nearby Abachari neighbourhoods in the town around 10:45 pm (2145GMT), killing six residents, said Kolo, speaking from the state capital Maiduguri, which is 88 kilometres (55 miles) from the town.

"No one needs to be told this is the work of Boko Haram," Kolo said.

A local government official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, confirmed the death toll.

"The latest death toll is now 31 but it may increase because many among the injured may not survive," said the official.

"Most of the casualties were from the rocket projectiles fired from outside the town minutes

after two suicide bombers attacked," he said.

The attack is the latest example of Boko Haram's continued threat to Nigeria and the Lake Chad region, said Ryan Cummings, Africa analyst at the Signal Risk consultancy in South Africa.

"Boko Haram still maintains both the intent and operational capacity to launch mass casualty attacks in parts of northeastern Nigeria," Cummings said, despite the government's repeated claims that the group is on the back foot.

The use of the rockets is "particularly conspicuous," Cummings said, as it "indicates that the sect continues to have access to military-grade weaponry." "The Boko Haram insurgency is not showing any immediate signs of" easing, said Cummings.

## Miniature railway to reopen



A council has terminated its contract with the operators of a miniature railway after a mass walkout by volunteer staff brought the service to a standstill

Dailymail | Dorset

A council has terminated its contract with the operators of a miniature railway after a mass walkout by volunteer staff brought the service to a standstill.

The Poole Park miniature railway in Dorset was ground to a halt in April when more than 40 members of unpaid staff resigned after a row with the attraction's management.

Now, nearly two months after staff initially walked out, Poole Council has terminated its deal

with the railway's operators.

The railway was run by the Friends of Poole Park, and its subsidiary, the Poole Park Railway Community Interest Company. The Friends of Poole Park was founded around 17 years ago and successfully managed the railway for most of that time.

According to volunteers problems began to arise after the current chairman, Michael Collins, took over in recent years.

Disagreements were common and the situation came to

a head on April 25 when more than 40 members of staff went on strike, bringing the railway to a shuddering halt.

At the time, the official line on the Friends of Poole Park Railway's website cited 'seasonal track maintenance' for the ongoing closure, which left hundreds of families disappointed.

Now the council say they had undertaken thorough process when awarding the firms the contract but added that safe operation of the railway was their prime concern.

## Greece, Macedonia sign historic deal

AFP | Otesevo, Macedonia

Greece and Macedonia yesterday signed a historic preliminary agreement to rename the small Balkan nation the Republic of North Macedonia, ending a row that has poisoned relations between the two neighbours since 1991.

"This is a brave, historic and necessary step for our peoples," said Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.

"We are here to heal the wounds of time, to open a path for peace, fraternisation and growth for our countries, the Balkans and Europe," he said.

"Our two countries should step out of the past and look to the future," said Macedonia Prime Minister Zoran Zaev.

"By signing the agreement... we have really moved mountains," he stressed.

But as the two countries' foreign ministers signed the deal Greek protesters clashed with riot police, who beat them back with tear gas near the small village of Pisoderi, 25 kilometres away from the ceremony. Six policemen and six protesters were injured, police said, as around 500 demon-



Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev

strators waving Greek flags tried to approach the signature ceremony.

The accord aims to start unravelling one of the world's longest diplomatic disputes, which began 27 years ago with Macedonia's declaration of independence but whose roots date back centuries.

"The time has come again to sing happy songs in the Balkans," Tsipras said.

Zaev and several of his ministers arrived by speedboat at the picturesque fishing village of Psarades under a sunny sky, on the southern bank of Lake Prespa, one of the natural boundaries between the two countries. Tsipras and Zaev embraced on the village dock and were treated to a standing ovation by gathered dignitaries. Nimetz, who turned 79 on Sunday, and was given a birthday cake, has been trying to broker a solution since 1994, first as a US envoy and subsequently on behalf of the United Nations.

**”**  
We are here to heal the wounds of time, to open a path for peace, fraternisation and growth for our countries, the Balkans and Europe

GREEK PM ALEXIS TSIPRAS

## Australian artist Parr emerges alive from burial



Mike Parr

Reuters | Hobart

An Australian performance artist who was buried in a steel container under a busy road for 72 hours as part of a so-called dark arts festival was released from his self-imposed prison yesterday. Mike Parr, a 73-year-old performance artist whose creative endeavors typically explore physical limits, was entombed in the mini-shipping container late on Thursday and the road was resealed above him.

Oxygen was pumped into the container where Parr had access to water, reading and writing material, a heater and a distress button in case anything went wrong - but no food. He was equipped with a

bucket for sanitary use.

The burial act was part of the Dark Mofa Festival on the island state of Tasmania. It was designed to highlight violence perpetrated by colonialists against Aboriginal communities, the festival said on its website.

Dark arts festivals showcase artwork and performances that often celebrate ancient rituals. The festival has attracted controversy for placing inverted red crosses across Hobart, Tasmania's capital, prompting some Christian groups to denounce the installations as satanic. Parr's previous performance art included wrapping himself up in fusewire, then setting it alight, and sewing up his face.

# WORLD

## features

# Mount Everest, the high-altitude rubbish dump

*At least 600 people have scaled the world's highest peak so far this year alone*



This picture taken on May 21, 2018 shows discarded climbing equipment and rubbish scattered around Camp 4 of Mount Everest

AFP | Tibet

**D**ecades of commercial mountaineering have turned Mount Everest into the world's highest rubbish dump as an increasing number of big-spending climbers pay little attention to the ugly footprint they leave behind.

Fluorescent tents, discarded climbing equipment, empty gas canisters and even human excrement litter the well-trodden route to the summit of the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) peak.

"It is disgusting, an eyesore," Pemba Dorje Sherpa, who has summited Everest 18 times, said. "The mountain is carrying tonnes of waste."

As the number of climbers on the mountain has soared -- at

least 600 people have scaled the world's highest peak so far this year alone -- the problem has worsened.

Meanwhile, melting glaciers caused by global warming are exposing trash that has accumulated on the mountain since Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay made the first successful summit 65 years ago.

Efforts have been made. Five years ago Nepal implemented a \$4,000 rubbish deposit per team that would be refunded if each climber brought down at least eight kilogrammes (18 pounds) of waste.

On the Tibet side of the Himalayan mountain, they are required to bring down the same amount and are fined \$100 per kilogramme if they don't.

In 2017 climbers in Nepal brought down nearly 25 tonnes



**Mount Everest was first named Peak 15 and measured at 29,002 feet in 1856**

of trash and 15 tonnes of human waste -- the equivalent of three double-decker buses -- according to the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC).

This season even more was carried down but this is just a fraction of the rubbish dumped each year, with only half of

climbers lugging down the required amounts, the SPCC says.

Instead many climbers opt to forfeit the deposit, a drop in the ocean compared to the \$20,000-\$100,000 they will have forked out for the experience.

Pemba shrugs that many just don't care. Compounding the problem, some officials accept small bribes to turn a blind eye, he said. "There is just not enough monitoring at the high camps to ensure the mountain stays clean," he said.

### Inexperience

The Everest industry has boomed in the last two decades.

This has sparked concerns of overcrowding as well as fears that ever more inexperienced mountaineers are being drawn by low-cost expedition operators desperate for customers.

This inexperience is exacerbating the rubbish problem, warns Damian Benegas, who has been climbing Everest for over two decades with twin brother Willie.

Sherpas, high altitude guides and workers drawn from the indigenous local ethnic group, carry heavier items including tents, extra oxygen cylinders and ropes up the mountain -- and then down again.

Previously most climbers would take their own personal kit like extra clothes, food, a sleeping bag as well as supplemental oxygen. But now, many climbers can't manage, leaving the Sherpas to carry everything.

"They have to carry the client's gear so they are unable to carry down rubbish," Benegas said. He added that operators need to employ more high-altitude

workers to ensure all clients, their kit and rubbish get safely up and down the mountain.

Environmentalists are concerned that the pollution on Everest is also affecting water sources down in the valley.

At the moment the raw sewage from base camp is carried to the next village -- a one-hour walk -- and dumped into trenches.

This then "gets flushed downhill during the monsoon into the river", said Garry Porter, a US engineer who together with his team might have the answer. They are considering installing a biogas plant near Everest base camp that would turn climber poo into a useful fertiliser.

Another solution, believes Ang Tsering Sherpa, former president of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, would be a dedicated rubbish collection team.

## Meet the animals 'predicting' winners of World Cup in Russia



Achilles the cat

Globalnews | Moscow

**T**he 2018 FIFA World Cup is underway, and in addition to goals and excitement on the field, that also means a host of animals looking to carve out a reputation for themselves as accurate predictors of match results.

These creatures will be looking to follow in the tentacle-steps of Paul the octopus, who correctly chose the winners of every match he predicted during the 2010 World Cup in Germany.

### Achilles the cat

The opening game of the World Cup between hosts Russia and Saudi Arabia was widely expect-

ed to be a tight affair, but Achilles knew better.

Resident of the Hermitage museum in Saint Petersburg, Achilles, who is hearing-impaired, correctly predicted a Russian victory, Euronews reported. The Russians went on to earn a thumping 5-0 victory.

The clairvoyant cat also predicted an Iranian victory over Morocco, according to Russian news agency TASS. That prediction also turned out to be legitimate, with a Moroccan defender scoring an own goal in the dying moments of the game to hand Iran a 1-0 victory on Friday.

Achilles' deafness may aid in his predictive abilities, according to his veterinarian Anna Kondratyeva.

The cat reportedly garnered a

100 per cent record in predicting the results of 2017 Confederations Cup soccer games in his hometown last year.

### Cleopatra the tapir

The city of Nizhny Novgorod will also have its own resident clairvoyant in the form of Cleopatra, a Brazilian tapir who calls the Limpopo Zoo her home.

The pig-like herbivore has predicted that Sweden will defeat South Korea in Nizhny Novgorod's first game on Monday. Her most high-profile assignment will be a quarter-final match on July 6.

### Nelly the elephant

Easily the largest creature involved in predicting World Cup results is Nelly, an eight-year-old



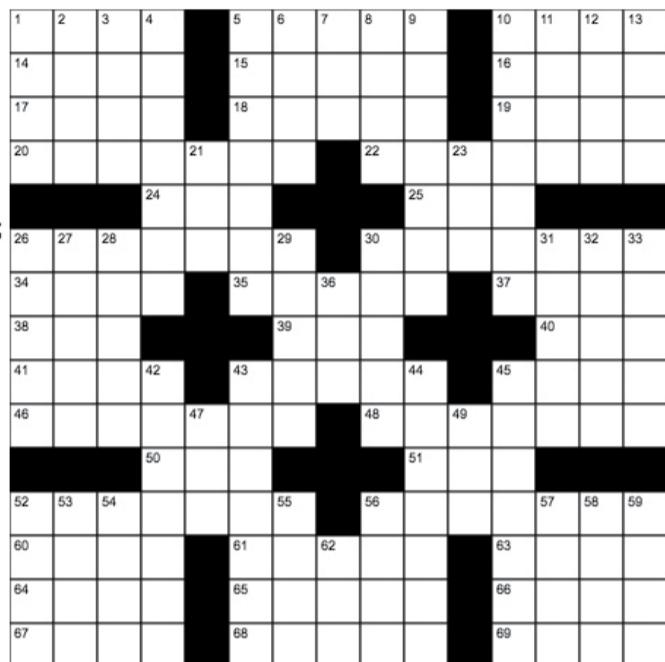
**Paul the Octopus correctly chose the winners of every match he predicted in 2010 world cup**

African elephant who lives in the Serengeti Park zoo in Hohenhausen, Germany.

The prophesying pachyderm was given a soccer ball and an opportunity to kick the ball into one of two nets, one marked Germany and another Mexico.

# entertainment

## CROSSWORD



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



52- Evergreen oak; 56- Fragment; 60- On the main; 61- Stun gun; 63- "A Death in the Family" author; 64- Robert of "The Sopranos"; 65- Iota preceder; 66- PC alternatives; 67- Workout count; 68- Slippery as \_\_\_; 69- Lodge members;

### Down

1- Super Bowl XXXIV champs; 2- Cream-filled cookie; 3- Letters, e.g.; 4- Registers; 5- Paperboy; 6- Amo, amas, \_\_\_; 7- Sea plea; 8- \_\_\_ girl!; 9- Lee side; 10- Gift; 11- "Le Roi d'Ys" composer; 12- Utah city; 13- \_\_\_ Only Just Begun; 21- "Rocky \_\_\_" (1982); 23- LAX posting; 26- Taxi's ticker; 27- Silly; 28- TV producer Michaels; 29- More pleasant; 30- Arm bones; 31- Smidgens; 32- Grammarian's concern; 33- Windows predecessor; 36- Ages; 42- Makes beloved; 43- Boat race; 44- Open-minded; 45- For Americans, it's always last; 47- Likewise; 49- "Miss Saigon" setting; 52- Lion's den; 53- \_\_\_ of Man; 54- Prez's backup; 55- Actress Madeline; 56- Nerve network; 57- I've Got \_\_\_ in Kalamazoo; 58- Bottle part; 59- Hardy lass; 62- Get it?;

### Across

1- Capital of Italy; 5- Like Fran Drescher's voice; 10- Agricultural implement; 14- Irish island group; 15- Chew the scenery; 16- Describes a gently cooked steak; 17- Golda of Israel; 18- Squander; 19- Mtn. stat; 20- One playing alone; 22- Inspiring awe; 24- Women's \_\_\_; 25- Devoured; 26- 1000 times 1000; 30- Radioactive, metallic element; 34- Slaughter of baseball; 35- Give up; 37- Throw; 38- It paves the way; 39- Jailbird; 40- Bit; 41- Feminine ending; 43- Kidney-related; 45- Palm starch; 46- Go in again; 48- Nasal cavities; 50- Man's best friend; 51- Ingot;

## BEETLE BAILEY



## SUDOKU

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

### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

### 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



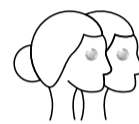
### Aries

You may be a little bit disappointed to find out that the people you think so highly of are in fact mere reflections of your own personality. The planetary alignment is trying to teach you to believe in yourself. You just lack confidence.



### Taurus

There's a great day ahead of you. You'll be blessed with the ability to solve problems, and others will come looking for you today. You'll listen, understand, and express empathy. You'll be wise enough to find solutions to any issues they present to you.



### Gemini

Do you feel like your life hasn't changed a bit over the past few weeks? You feel that certain things need to change but you do nothing but sit there. Today, there will be a lot of influences that could incite you to be a little more foolhardy. You don't usually like to take risks, but if you do it, you'll be greatly satisfied.



### Cancer

There is a fire burning deep inside of you. It gives you a lot of power and energy. People around you are receptive to this energy. Today a lot of your friends will thrive on your fire and be in the best of moods because of it. Don't try to hide your energy. If you do, it may disappear or it could even burn you.



### Leo

Enthusiasm and energy will be your allies today. Something different is in the air and inciting you to move forward. You will make decisions and go in new directions for your own good and for the good of the people around you. Your dynamism will have a beneficial impact on your family.



### Virgo

You're organized and rigorous. You plan everything. But with today's energy, you'll be inclined to let the day go by without keeping to a tight schedule. After all, not every day has to be a workday. You can worry easily, but don't let this get you down. Follow the people around you.



### Libra

A lot of people around you might think that you are a strong individual. For example, you stand up against wrongs in the established social order. You can also be a very constructive person. You try to improve the world around you. Today, you'll have all the time you like to meditate about the changes this world needs.



### Scorpio

You are worried that some of the people close to your heart might change. You have been watching and paying attention to subtle signs and changes for quite some time now. Today you will feel like a guide, and you will help those who might need you.



### Sagittarius

You've always been a loner. You tend to act on your own and you don't trust outside help. Over the last few weeks, however, you've managed to find people who have accepted you the way you are. It's as if you've found a refuge where you can escape reality.



### Capricorn

You've always felt the need to create. The simplest tasks can fulfil this need. You're even happy if you sketch on a small piece of paper. Over the last month or so you've been finishing a project close to your heart. Don't be afraid to show it off to your friends. People will be thrilled by your work. You deserve to feel proud of what you've achieved.



### Aquarius

Some people around you might think that you have never really matured, that you still have the mind of a child. It might not seem obvious at first, but your lighthearted attitude is also a sign of great wisdom. As with those who have truly committed to long-term romances, you will find out that you'll never lose your lightheartedness.



### Pisces

If you analyse your life, you'll see that it has completely changed over the past twelve months. You've matured as an individual and your actions have been beneficial to yourself and those around you. Try to make changes as often as you can. Don't stop now. You need to feel that your life is evolving all the time. There is no time to rest.





## SPORTS

## sports

## Hair today, gone tomorrow - Neymar sends message to fans

Reuters | Sochi, Russia

Neymar's new blonde 'spaghetti' haircut might have got tongues wagging in Russia but the world's most expensive player is hoping his footwork has the same effect when Brazil kicked off their World Cup campaign against Switzerland yesterday.

His on-off romance with a Brazilian soap opera star, his flamboyant social life and his endless new looks and haircuts have kept him in the news, which is exactly where he wants to be when he is not kicking a ball.

But that visibility has come with criticism and his latest haircut, a dyed blonde semi-perm, has provoked hilarity.

While some people suggested he had "dumped a bowl of spaghetti on his head", there were also memes doing the rounds in which he was com-



Brazil's Neymar during training

pared with Ronaldo, whose famous almost skinhead look in 2002 was roundly ridiculed. Neymar had an Instagram answer for that, posting another video for his detractors.

Taken while he sits back in a salon getting his locks washed, he looks at the camera and uttered only one word: "Shhh..."

## Lorenzo wins second straight MotoGP for Ducati



Ducati Team's Jorge Lorenzo celebrates with a hammer after winning the race

AFP | Montmelo, Spain

Ducati's Jorge Lorenzo powered from pole to claim victory in a second straight race at the Grand Prix of Catalunya on Sunday ahead of championship leader Marc Marquez and Valentino Rossi.

The three-time world MotoGP champion won at Mugello last time out in his first win for Ducati, and celebrated his win at Montmelo wildly after a race in which half the competitors failed to finish.

After seven of the season's 19 races, Lorenzo stands seventh

in overall standings on 66pts, with Marquez atop the pile on 115, followed by Rossi (88) and Maverick Vinales (77).

Lorenzo, who will quit Ducati to join up with Marquez at Honda next season, finished 4.479sec ahead of Marquez, with Rossi at almost 7sec.

Marquez and Suzuki's Italian rider Andrea Iannone briefly passed Lorenzo before the latter regained the lead and led through to the finish line.

"In claiming a second straight victory it's incredible to see how things can change so quickly," said Lorenzo.

## Toyota win Le Mans with Alonso

AFP | Le Mans

Fernando Alonso strung together a series of fast laps through the night to set up his Toyota to retake the lead on his 24 Hours of Le Mans debut just after dawn on Sunday.

The Spaniard put the Toyota No. 8 in position for Japanese co-driver Kazuki Nakajima to overtake stablemates Toyota No. 7, driven by Kamui Kobayashi, at 0620 local time (0420 GMT).

When Alonso took his second turn at the wheel at 0130,

the car was 2min 15sec behind No.7 after the car's third driver, Swiss Sebastien Buemi, had picked up a one-minute "stop and go" penalty for speeding in a temporary slow zone.

When Alonso handed over to Nakajima two and a half hours later, the two-time Formula One champion had closed the gap to 45 seconds, after once again demonstrating extraordinary ability to adapt, following two brilliant overtaking manoeuvres to claim lead during his first stint.

# Federer marks No 1 ranking in Stuttgart

He lifted his 98th tour-level title of his garlanded career

Reuters | Stuttgart

Roger Federer celebrated returning to the top of the world rankings by defeating Milos Raonic in the final of the Stuttgart Open on Sunday and lifting the 98th tour-level title of his garlanded career.

The 36-year-old, who by reaching the final had already guaranteed his return to world No.1, supplanting Rafael Nadal when the new rankings are released on Monday, continued his domination over the Canadian with a 6-4 7-6(3) victory.

Federer's 78-minute win, sealing his first Stuttgart triumph, was the perfect tonic for the Swiss in the build-up to defending his Wimbledon crown, having extended his unbeaten 12-month sequence in grass-court matches to 16.

"It's a great comeback for me," said Federer, who was playing his first tournament after an 11-week break, having sidestepped the entire claycourt season.

"I'm really happy. I thought



Switzerland's Roger Federer celebrates winning the final against Canada's Milos Raonic

it was a good final from my side. I think I played very well throughout the tournament, actually, having not played for a while.

"Maybe I was a little bit better on the bigger points. Of course I'm so happy to have won here, finally, in Stuttgart."

Federer, who beat Raonic en

route to winning Wimbledon last year, broke his opponent's powerful serve just once in the third game -- but that was a major feat in itself as the Canadian had entered the final having won all 41 of his service games.

With his own delivery proving unbreachable -- he dropped serve only twice all week -- it

**”**  
I'm really happy. I thought it was a good final from my side. I think I played very well throughout the tournament, actually, having not played for a while. Maybe I was a little bit better on the bigger points. Of course I'm so happy to have won here, finally, in Stuttgart

ROGER FEDERER

was enough for Federer to claim the first set.

In a decisive tiebreak after no breaks in second set, a double fault from Raonic at 3-4 paved way for Federer to claim 18th grasscourt trophy of his career.

## Chandimal charged with ball-tampering



Dinesh Chandimal

Reuters | Castries, St Lucia

Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal has been charged with altering the condition of the ball in the second test against West Indies, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said yesterday.

Angry Sri Lankan players refused to take the field on the third day of the match in St Lucia on Saturday, delaying the resumption of play for almost two hours, after the ICC said umpires Aleem Dar and Ian Gould had changed the ball and awarded West Indies five penalty runs.

"Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal has been charged for breaching Level 2.2.9 of the ICC Code of Conduct," the ICC tweeted.

The breach relates to changing the condition of the ball. The same charge was levelled against Australia batsman Cameron Bancroft who was caught on camera rubbing sandpaper on the ball against South Africa in March.

# Roy joy as England see off Australia again

Reuters | Cardiff, England

Explosive batting from Jason Roy and Jos Buttler helped England record their highest ever ODI score against Australia and fire them to a second successive win by 38 runs at Cardiff.

Roy's fifth ODI century and Buttler's unbeaten 91 propelled England to 342 for eight and although Shaun Marsh replied by also reaching three figures for the first time in an ODI for five years, the visitors were all out for 304 in the 48th over.

Another victory at Nottingham on Tuesday would clinch the five-match series for England and erase the embarrassment of their recent loss to Scotland in their opening white-ball game of the summer.

With captain Eoin Morgan ruled out before the start of play with a back spasm, England needed Roy to come out firing and the opener responded with a century from 97 balls.

His departure, to a sharp catch from Tim Paine moments after the keeper had been cut on the face by a ball that reared up, did not check England's momentum and Buttler took up the charge, finishing the innings with a boundary.

Australia were left to chase what would have been their highest ever ODI winning total. Although debutant D'Arcy Short briefly prospered with



England's Jason Roy and Australia's Marcus Stoinis during the match

### scorecard

England 342 for 8 (Roy 120, Buttler 91\*) beat Australia 304 (Marsh 131, Plunkett 4-53) by 38 runs

21, it was not until Marsh was joined by Ashton Agar (46) that he received proper support.

But after the pair put on 96 runs from 70 balls, Agar was smartly stumped off a Adil Rashid googly. Liam Plunkett then put an end to Marsh's superb innings on 131 from 116 deliveries to snuff out any lingering Australian hopes.

Plunkett ended with four wickets.

# Belgium determined

AFP | Sochi

Roberto Martinez can't wait to lead an outstanding Belgium side into the World Cup as they prepare to take on Panama in their opening game today.

A team who sit third in the FIFA rankings and who boast what is frequently labelled a golden generation featuring the likes of Eden Hazard and Kevin De Bruyne have come to Russia with a considerable weight of expectation on their shoulders.

They are strongly fancied to progress to the knockout phase as winners of Group G, despite being drawn alongside England, and so it would be a major upset if they slipped up in Sochi against a side making their World Cup debut.

Belgium's results under Martinez have been excellent, with last Monday's 4-1 friendly win over Costa Rica in Brussels meaning they are unbeaten in 19 matches going back almost two years, to the very start of the Spaniard's reign.

The prospect of facing England in Kaliningrad on June 28 is a mouthwatering one.

All going to plan for these sides, first place will be up for grabs. Then there are Martinez's past links to the Premier League and the presence of Thierry Henry and Englishman Graeme Jones on his coaching staff.

The majority of his squad either play or have played in England, but for now Martinez is only thinking about Panama.



## Belgium

With Vincent Kompany out and Thomas Vermaelen a doubt for Belgium, Dedryck Boyata should start at the heart of the back three. Axel Witsel looks set to get the nod ahead of Mousa Dembele in the middle of the park alongside Kevin De Bruyne. In attack, Roberto Martinez should start a front three of Eden Hazard, Romelu Lukaku and Dries Mertens, while Michy Batshuayi is a fitness concern.

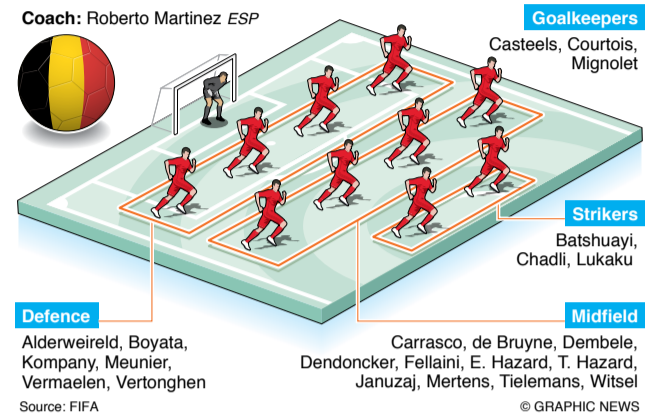
### Strengths

The front three, Eden Hazard, Romelu Lukaku and Dries Mertens, are of the highest quality and they are backed up by Kevin De Bruyne in midfield.

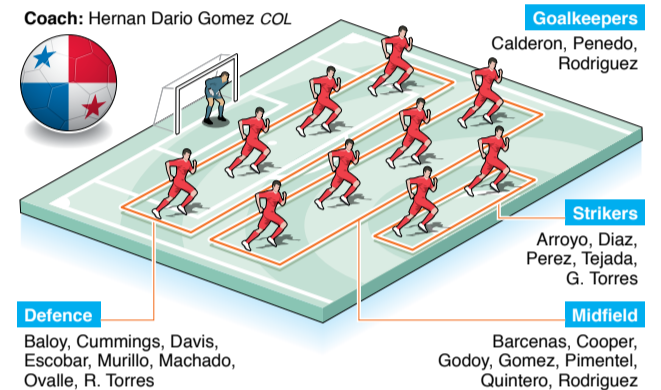
### Weaknesses

There may be some tension in the squad if they do not hit the ground running, with De Bruyne having criticised Martinez's tactics after last November's wild 3-3 draw with Mexico.

## Belgium World Cup squad



## Panama World Cup squad



## Panama

Roman Torres is carrying a slight knock coming into the meeting with Belgium, but should be fit to start here. Head coach Hernan Dario Gomez is expected to use a compact setup to try and frustrate Belgium.

### Strengths

This team will not give up without a fight. They will work hard, sometimes on the limits of the rules, as they showed in a friendly against Denmark in March.

### Weaknesses

Roman Torres, the forward who was arguably the star of the qualifiers, has been injured and will not travel to Russia in the best shape.

## Match Facts

- Belgium have won 9 of their last 10 WC matches.
- There have been over 2.5 goals scored in 8 of Belgium's last 10 WC games.
- Belgium have scored at least 2 goals in 9 of their last 10 WC matches.
- There have been over 2.5 goals scored in Panama's last 3 WC games.
- Belgium kick off their World Cup with a winnable meeting with Panama and they'll hope to lay down an early marker here. They've been in great form coming into the tournament and will look to carry that into the competition.
- Panama are hoping to spring an upset against Belgium, but will struggle against one of the fiercest attacks in the game.

They're World Cup preparation hasn't been ideal, with just one win in their last five, and they will be up against the ropes from the off when they face the Red Devils.

## PREVIEW

## Sweden

## vs South Korea

In the post-Zlatan Ibrahimovic era, Ola Toivonen and Marcus Berg are set to lead the attack for Sweden. Manchester United centre-back Victor Lindelof should partner Andreas Granqvist at the back. Head coach Janne Andersson has no injury issues here.

### Match Facts

- There have been under 2.5 goals scored in Sweden's last 3 WC games.
- Much of this match is riding on the outcome of Germany-Mexico in the Group F opener on Sunday and both Sweden and South Korea will hope to secure a crucial three points.
- Sweden haven't won in five and haven't scored more than one goal in a match since an 8-0 win over Luxembourg last October, while South Korea have won only one of their last six matches, losing four of those.
- We could witness a low-scoring affair here, which Sweden could edge.

South Korea head coach Shin Tae-yong could name a 4-2-3-1 setup with Son Heung-min behind Kim Shin-wook in the final third. Hwang Hee-chan may start out wide in this instance, though he too could feature up front. Shin Tae-yong has no pressing injury issues here.

Some of the teams we played against were ranked top 15 in the world and they didn't allow us many chances to score from but neither did we allow them to get many chances

ANDREAS GRANQVIST SWEDEN CAPTAIN

I think the history will help us in terms of understanding what we can improve upon and what we can do

GARETH SOUTHGATE ENGLAND MANAGER

We always do this as a nation - expectations are low and as soon as we get to the World Cup. If a World Cup cannot inspire a nation, then I'm not sure what can

DAN ASHWORTH ENGLISH FA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

## Tunisia

## vs England

Saif-Eddine Khaoui started both of Tunisia's warm up matches and appears to have edged Wahbi Khazri in the pecking order. Naim Sliiti will either start on the left flank or up front for Nabil Maaloul's side on Monday night.

### Strengths

Wahbi Khazri has had an outstanding season on loan at Rennes from Sunderland and will lead the attack.

### Weaknesses

Injury to the squad's most creative player, Youssef Msakni, has left a huge creative gap for Nabil Maaloul to fill in attacking midfield.



### Strengths

Several players have picked up pleasing high-pressing habits from managers such as Jürgen Klopp and Mauricio Pochettino while Harry Kane is lethal up front.

### Weaknesses

The three-man defence favoured by Southgate nowadays has not been tested in competitive games against the toughest opposition.

## Match Facts

- England have kept a clean sheet in 9 of their last 11 WC matches.
- England have won 6 of their last 7 matches.
- Tunisia are undefeated in their last 8 matches.
- England have won with a 1 goal margin in their last 3 matches.
- Tunisia impressed during a 1-0 defeat to Spain in their final warm-up match and will offer England a close contest on Monday.
- There were positives to take from England's warm-up matches but they still haven't put together a complete 90-minute performance.
- England have faltered at this stage of the World Cup before but Gareth Southgate will be aiming for four points at the very least before they face Belgium in their final group game.



# Mexico stuns champs

Hirving Lozano goal takes Mexico past luckless Germany

AFP | Moscow

Defending champions Germany crashed to the first defeat in their opening game of a World Cup since 1982 as Hirving Lozano's clinical finish earned Mexico a shock 1-0 victory yesterday.

The highly-rated PSV Eindhoven forward struck the winner on 35 minutes after a blistering counter-attack at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow as Mexico beat Germany for just the second time in history.

Germany's preparations for the tournament were plagued by poor results and controversy, and their problems were magnified in the Russian capital, leaving their proud record of never being eliminated in the group stage of a World Cup already in danger.

Joachim Loew started eight of the nine 2014 World Cup winners in his squad, with Mesut Ozil returning from a knee injury and Manuel Neuer back in goal following his lengthy absence for the Group F clash.

Jerome Boateng's build-up to the finals was also hampered by a groin injury, but the Bayern Munich centre-back was on the alert inside 60 seconds to thrust himself desperately in front of a Lozano effort.



Mexico's Hirving Lozano celebrates scoring their first goal with Andres Guardado

A remarkably open start saw Timo Werner sprint in behind the Mexico defence before dragging across the face of goal, while Mats Hummels shot straight at Guillermo Ochoa after a botched clearance.

Neuer held well twice in quick succession, first from a long-range Hector Herrera strike and then again to keep out Hector Moreno's header, as Mexico at-

tacked the Germany backline with regularity.

Carlos Salcedo nearly diverted a teasing cross into his own net, while Timo Werner hit tamely at Ochoa when an unmarked Julian Draxler appeared better option.

Mexico continued to threaten, Miguel Layun narrowly unable to latch onto a through ball, but their goal arrived 10 minutes before the break as Germany

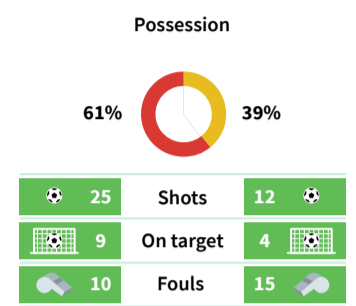
were again sliced apart.

After Sami Khedira lost possession, Javier Hernandez triggered a lightning counter before finding a charging Lozano, who cut inside a covering Ozil and lashed low inside Neuer's near post to spark deafening roars from sizeable Mexico support.

Germany hit back, Toni Kroos rattling the crossbar with a 25-yard free-kick that needed the

GERMANY 0 1 MEXICO

Hirving Lozano (35')



fingertips of a scrambling Ochoa to keep it out, but Mexico barely clung on to their advantage.

Marco Reus was introduced on the hour as Loew sought to invigorate a struggling side, while 39-year-old Rafael Marquez became just the third player to feature at five World Cups as he was brought on the tighten Mexico's defence.

Joshua Kimmich's acrobatic overhead kick looped onto the roof of the net, with substitute Edson Alvarez then blocking bravely to thwart Draxler.

Reus also hammered a volley over from a narrow angle before a frenetic finale saw Julian Brandt, just on for Werner, smack the outside of the post with a thunderous effort from 20 yards.

GROUP F

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
Mexico	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Korea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0

factbox

- It was only the second defeat in an opening match at the World Cup finals for Germany (and West Germany until 1994). The first came against Algeria in 1982 - when the Germans still managed to reach the final
- After a draw with Uruguay in 1986, Germany had won their opening game in each of the last seven World Cups
- Germany had won every one of their previous tournament openers at European Championships and World Cups since Joachim Loew took over as coach in 2006
- Germany had scored 20 goals in their previous four opening matches at World Cups



Mexico deserved the win. Our cover was often not good and we were left many times with just Jerome (Boateng) and myself in the back. We were warned days ago (in the warm-up games)

GERMAN DEFENDER MATS HUMMELS

# Captain fires Serbia to victory

Reuters | Samara, Russia

Aleksandar Kolarov produced a moment of captain's inspiration, curling home a superb free kick as Serbia got their World Cup Group E campaign up and running with a 1-0 victory over Costa Rica yesterday.

With Costa Rica proving a tough nut to crack, Kolarov stepped up to bury a 25-metre effort from wide on the right, lighting up an otherwise tight game in the southern Russian city of Samara.

Serbia had dominated against a Costa Rica side who had rarely threatened after a bright start, but chances were thin on the

ground until Kolarov made the breakthrough in the 56th minute.

With Brazil heavy favourites to win the group, which also features Switzerland, the vic-



Serbia's Sergej Milinkovic-Savic attempts an overhead kick

tory delivered a potentially vital three points for Serbia and left Costa Rica in a precarious position.

After a furious start in which Serbia's Aleksandar Mitrovic

COSTA RICA 0 - 1 SERBIA  
Aleksandar Kolarov (56')

had a header scooped off the line and Costa Rica's Giancarlo Gonzalez failed to convert two headed chances, the match settled into a more predictable pattern.

Serbia bossed the ball as their enterprising midfield, fusing the experience of Manchester United enforcer Nemanja Matic and the raw talent of Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, got on top.

The Lazio playmaker was Serbia's most creative influence, although his blushes were spared by the linesman's flag when he fluffed a first-half chance after racing through on goal.

I don't know if it's the biggest win in (Mexico's) history but doubtless it is one of the biggest for sure

MEXICO'S HIRVING LOZANO

WORLD CUP PREDICT AND WIN

Football is unpredictable! Of the three matches yesterday, only three readers could predict at least two correct answers. And the lucky winner is Hubert Satheesh

Winner will be contacted



THE DAILY tribune  
NEWS OF BAHRAIN

PREDICT & WIN  
A Gift Pack from Coca-Cola

DAY 5, 18th JUNE 2018

SWEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOUTH KOREA	<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAW	<input type="checkbox"/>
BELGIUM	<input type="checkbox"/>	PANAMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAW	<input type="checkbox"/>
TUNISIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	ENGLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAW	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: ..... Mob: .....  
CPR No.: ..... Email: .....

Send a photo of the filled in form to whatsapp No. 33609505 or email: mail@newsfobahrain.com.  
Alternatively you can participate in the contest on our website www.newsofbahrain.com  
Winner's photo will be published in The Daily Tribune.  
Entry should be submitted before 2pm



# Profligate Brazil held

Coutinho's superb goal was cancelled out by Switzerland's Zuber

AFP | Rostov-on-Don, Russia

Brazil's bid for a sixth World Cup got off to a slow start as Switzerland withstood an early onslaught to snatch a 1-1 draw in Rostov-on-Don yesterday.

Brazil's tag as pre-tournament favourites looked justified in a dominant first-half capped by Philippe Coutinho's wonder strike to open the scoring.

However, Brazil paid for their failure to kill the game off when Steven Zuber powered home an equaliser from Xherdan Shaqiri's corner five minutes after the break. The pressure will now be on Brazil to kickstart their campaign when they face Costa Rica on Friday.

Coutinho had been handed a central role behind Neymar, on his first competitive game for four months, Gabriel Jesus and Willian in a line-up filled with attacking intent from coach Tite.

The five-time world champions went about their task of erasing the memories of a 7-1 thrashing by Germany on home soil four years ago purposefully early on.

Paulinho passed up a glorious chance when his scuffed effort from close range was turned behind by Yann Sommer.

It seemed a matter of time before Brazil's pressure paid dividends and the opener arrived in stunning style on 20 minutes.



Switzerland's midfielder Blerim Dzemaili (L) and Brazil's forward Philippe Coutinho compete for the ball

Barcelona's record signing picked up a loose ball on the edge of the area and in trademark fashion bent the ball crashing in off Sommer's far post. Neymar looked bright despite his lack of match practice as he teased the Swiss defence provoking yellow cards for Stephan Lichtsteiner, Fabian Schar and Valon Behrami.

However, Brazil failed to build on their lead as Thiago Silva and

Jesus headed off target from dangerous corners and were made to pay early in the second-half.

Switzerland had offered barely any attacking threat before leveling when Zuber took advantage of a gaping hole in the heart of the Brazilian defence to head home Shaqiri's corner.

Forced back onto the front foot, Brazil turned to Neymar for a moment of inspiration but he could

only blast into side-netting before Coutinho sliced wide with a much simpler opportunity than the one from which he opened the scoring.

Brazil were unhappy that Zuber wasn't penalised for a slight push on Miranda for the equaliser and felt hard done by again when Jesus tumbled under a challenge from Manuel Akanji inside the area with Mexican referee Cesar Ramos unmoved.



Vladimir Petkovic's men focused on Neymar - who was fouled 10 times across 96 minutes

Tite's men ended as they had begun with a series of chances for a late winner as Neymar and Roberto Firmino headed straight at Sommer before Miranda dragged a shot inches wide.

And deep into stoppage time Schar's outstretched leg turned a goalbound effort from Silva wide as Swiss held out for a vital point.

## Swiss give Neymar rough treatment

Goal |

The name on everybody's lips heading into Brazil's World Cup opener against Switzerland on Sunday was an unsurprising one: Neymar.

The Paris Saint-Germain star was a doubt for the tournament in Russia not too long ago after fracturing his metatarsal in the Ligue 1 encounter with Marseille back in February and only recently returned to full training.

Neymar's injury problems did not stop him from scoring both in his return to action against Croatia as well as against Austria, but Brazil boss Tite admitted during his pre-match news conference that the 26-year-



Brazil's forward Neymar reacts after being tackled by Switzerland's midfielder Valon Behrami

old was not in peak condition yet.

"Neymar is not 100 per cent," he stated at the Rostov Arena.

"But he is very privileged physically, his sprinting capacity and his speed is really impressive, he hasn't lost that. He's not 100 per

cent yet, but he's good enough to play very well."

Both parts of Tite's message had clearly registered with the Swiss as they did everything within their power to keep the PSG man quiet.

Valon Behrami needed a mere four minutes for his first foul on Neymar, only to repeat the trick 10 minutes later, much to the annoyance of the Brazil No.10.

Referee Cesar Ramos took action at the half-hour mark when Stephan Lichtsteiner brought down Neymar on the edge of the box, but Switzerland continued to bully the former Barcelona man at every opportunity, with Fabian Schar and Behrami both going into the match official's book too.

### factbox

- Brazil failed to win their opening match at the World Cup for the first time since 1978, when they drew 1-1 with Sweden; they had won nine in a row between 1982 and 2014.
- Switzerland have lost only one of their last 23 matches (W16 D6), a 2-0 defeat to Portugal in October 2017.
- Brazil have failed to win any of their last three World Cup matches (D1 L2), their

- worst winless run since June 1978, when they went four games without a win.
- Switzerland haven't lost their opening World Cup match in any of their last five tournaments (W2 D3).
- Five of Philippe Coutinho's 11 goals for Brazil has been from outside the box.
- Brazil have conceded 10 goals from the last 13 shots on target they have faced at the World Cup.

### Today's match



FIFA WORLD CUP  
RUSSIA 2018

Group F  
**Sweden vs South Korea**

(3:00 PM)

Group G  
**Belgium vs Panama**

(6:00 PM)

**Tunisia vs England**  
(9:00 PM)



Fans turned out in good numbers to cheer for their teams in the Fifa World Cup match at Adhari Park. There is prediction contest during every match to win gifts including 25 BD Adhari Park rides vouchers

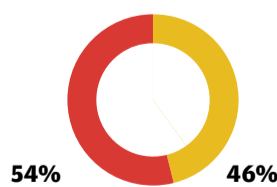
### BRAZIL 1 1 SWITZERLAND

Philippe Coutinho (20')

Steven Zuber (50')



Possession



20	<b>Shots</b>	6
4	<b>On target</b>	2
12	<b>Fouls</b>	19

Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1  Serbia	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
2  Brazil	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
3  Switzerland	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
4  Costa Rica	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0