

**Tributes pour in for Aretha Franklin**

Tributes have poured in for the beloved and iconic singer Aretha Franklin from friends, musicians, politicians and fans after the legendary "Queen of Soul" died aged 76.

P16

Elon Musk admits exhaustion as Tesla tweet storm deepens

THE DAILY **tribune**



Scarlett becomes world's highest paid actress 16 SHOW

WORLD 13 Chinese bombers likely training for US strikes

**Imran Khan to begin premier's innings on tough political pitch**

Islamabad

Members of Pakistan's freshly elected national assembly voted in favor of Imran Khan to take the country's most powerful position as its new Prime Minister crushing his opponent Shahbaz Sharif yesterday.



Imran Khan was picked by Pakistan lawmakers in the National Assembly as the Prime Minister.

Khan, chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) received an impressive 176 seats in the 342 seat lower house of parliament. His rival Sharif, younger brother of imprisoned ex-Premier Nawaz Sharif and president of Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) received 96 seats.

The result announcement by the speaker of the house

rattled lawmakers of PML-N sparking a loud protest against Khan's victory as unacceptable repeatedly chanting "Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif" who was judicially ousted from the premiership last year and is serving time in prison on corruption charges.

*In the eye of the storm*



Bahraini yoga expert Fatima Al Mansoori with members of a family whose house got collapsed in a landslide as she she visited the flood-hit areas in the Indian state of Kerala. The death toll in the flood-hit state has jumped to 385. The death toll from 10 days of floods in the state nearly trebled in the last 24 hours. Over three lakh people are living in relief camps across the state and a red alert was sounded in all 14 Kerala districts. All three wings of the armed forces have been pressed into action for a massive rescue operation.

**Saudi pledges \$100m to stabilise north Syria**  
Riyadh

Saudi Arabia has contributed \$100 million to help reconstruct areas of north-eastern Syria formerly held by Daesh.

The Kingdom said the contribution would go toward a campaign by the Global Coalition to Defeat IS to "stabilise" the former Daesh bastion and help ensure the militants cannot re-emerge as a threat.

The United States, which leads the coalition, expressed its thanks and appreciation to Riyadh.

"This significant contribution is critical to stabilization and early recovery efforts," a State Department spokeswoman said.

**Iran under more pressure**

Washington strategy aims to change Tehran's behaviour through diplomatic and economic pressures

● The group will be headed by Brian Hook as the State Department's Special Representative for Iran.

● The US has laid out a long list of activities it demands Tehran changes, including halting support for the Syrian government and the Lebanese Hizbollah movement.



For nearly 40 years the regime in Tehran has been responsible for a torrent of violence and destabilising behaviour against the United States, our allies, our partners and indeed the Iranian people themselves.

POMPEO

Washington

A new high-level team to focus US and international efforts to increase diplomatic and economic pressure on Iran was announced by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

The Iran Action Group will drive Washington's "maximum pressure" strategy to change Tehran's behaviour, including potentially sanctioning other countries which trade with the country. The group will be headed by Brian

Hook as the State Department's Special Representative for Iran. Hook, currently director of policy planning at the State Department, was in charge of the failed effort to get support from US allies for Washington's

decision in May to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal.

"For nearly 40 years the regime in Tehran has been responsible for a torrent of violence and destabilising behaviour against the United States, our allies, our partners and indeed the Iranian people themselves," said Pompeo.

"Our hope is that one day soon we can reach a new agreement with Iran. But we must see major changes in the regime's behaviour both inside and outside its borders."

The US has laid out a long list of activities it demands Tehran changes, including halting support for the Syrian government and the Lebanese Hizbollah movement, shutting down its nuclear development program, and freeing detained Americans.

"This team is committed to a strong global effort to change the Iranian regime's behaviour," Hook said.

LIFE FROM LITTER

**Fisherman battles poverty with plastic-bottle boat**

Gaza

With hundreds of empty plastic bottles collected from the shores of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, fisherman Muath Abu Zeid has turned litter into a floating source of income.

The Palestinian father-of-four used glue and old nets to bind the bottles into a small fishing boat that he hopes will help him support his family.

Simple but effective, the 700-bottle craft is capable of carrying up to eight people out to sea, according to its 35-year-old skipper.



Palestinian fisherman Muath Abu Zeid, second from left, whose boat is made of 700 empty plastic bottles.

A broad slab of wood lashed to the top serves as a seat, allowing Abu Zeid to row a few hundred meters out from shore — far enough to go fishing. It takes him about eight hours

to pull in between five and seven kg of sardines, mullet and other small fish with his rod.

He sells his catch to passersby on the nearby corniche, making between 20 and 40 shekels (\$5-\$11) a day.

Muath's two younger brothers — Mohammed, 23, and Ashraf, 20 — accompany him on his daily excursions. Neither were able to find work elsewhere.

"I'm a house painter but because of the difficult situation I'm unemployed," said skipper Muath, a descendent of refugees from a village near Jaffa in present-day Israel.

"So this boat has been a life-

60pc is the youth unemployment in Gaza, according to World Bank.

saver for me and my family." Under a crippling Israeli blockade for more than a decade, Gaza suffers 44 per cent unemployment, rising to a "staggering" 60pc amongst the young, according to 2017 World Bank figures.



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04 Fun day for disabled students aboard HMS Ledbury

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# Saudi services to pilgrims lauded

Minister raps Qatari authorities for attempting to politicise Hajj pilgrimage

● The minister lauded the great service provided by Saudi Arabia to enable pilgrims to perform their rituals easily and comfortably, wishing the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques a successful Hajj season.

Manama

Information Affairs Minister and Board of Trustees Chairman of the Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD), Ali Al Romaihi, has asserted that the “tremendous efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia to ensure the success of the Hajj season every year is an extraordinary success story of which both the Arab and Muslim nations are proud.”

“The world pays homage to Saudi Arabia and admires its great Haj achievements, as well as accurate planning and implementation,” he also said in a statement to the “Al Sharq Al Awsat” newspaper.

Mr Al Romaihi highlighted Saudi Ara-

bia’s special care for the holy sites, as well as keenness to harness all its official capabilities and human potentials to remove all obstacles and difficulties the Hajj or Umrah pilgrims may face.



**The world pays homage to Saudi Arabia and admires its great Haj achievements, as well as accurate planning and implementation.**

MR AL ROMAIHI

The minister lauded the great service provided by Saudi Arabia to enable pilgrims to perform their rituals easily and comfortably, wishing the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques a successful Hajj season.

Commenting on the Qatari authorities’ prevention of the Qatari people from performing Hajj, Al Romaihi stressed that the “Qatari regime is more keen on its sports teams’ participation in sporting events in Saudi Arabia, than on its people’s performance of the fifth pillar of Islam Hajj”.

Mr Al Romaihi pointed out that “the Qatari regime has been committed to participating in a number of sports events in Jeddah, Abu Dhabi and Manama, and has used non-Qatari aircraft to transport its sports teams there, but prevents its people from performing the holy pilgrimage, using Qatar Airways as a mere pretext to carry on its deplorable attempts to politicise Hajj”.

The minister emphasised that such “a flagrant step is no longer accepted by the brotherly Qatari people, whose citizens are proud of Islam, their Arab identity and their close relations with sisterly Saudi Arabia”.

## Shaikh Mohammed tweets support for flood victims

HH Sheikh Mohammed  
@HHSheikhMohd

Follow

UAE and the Indian community will unite to offer relief to those affected. We have formed a committee to start immediately. We urge everyone to contribute generously towards this initiative.



2:11 PM - 17 Aug 2018

Dubai

Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, yesterday highlighted the need to support the flood-hit victims in the Indian state of Kerala.

In his tweet, he highlighted the contributions by Keralites to the country and the need to help the state recover from the catastrophe.

Earlier, the UAE leadership sent cables of condolences to Indian President Ram Nath Kovind.

UAE President Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan extended his sympathy to President Kovind and to the families of the victims and wished the injured speedy recovery, state news agency WAM reported.

Kerala’s government has described the crisis - among the worst in decades - as “extremely grave” as it launched rescue operations to help thousands who remain trapped by floodwaters.

Kerala, famed for its pristine palm-lined beaches and tea plantations, is battered by the monsoon every year but this year’s damage has been the worst in decades.

## Saudi issues 1,720,680 Hajj visas

Riyadh

The Saudi diplomatic missions have completed the issuances of visas to pilgrims from different nationalities to perform the Hajj rituals this year.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it has issued more than 1.7 million visas

for this year’s Hajj through its diplomatic missions, including temporary missions in countries where Saudi does not have any diplomatic missions or permanent consult.

In a statement to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Undersecretary for Consular Affairs Tamim Al Dosary, at the ministry said that a total 1,720,680 visas have been issued for this year’s Hajj season.

## Rare honour for BNA

Muscat

Bahrain News Agency (BNA) has won the best Arab news agency award during the 10th edition of the Arab Tourism Media Awards 2018, held in Oman recently.

The award-distribution ceremony was organised by the Arab Centre for Tourism Media (ACTM), under the patronage of Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Rowas, adviser to His Majesty the Sultan for Cultural Affairs, with the participation of more than 55 journalists and media professionals specialised in the field of tourism

from all over the Arab world.

An Arab Tourism Media Conference, including many plenary sessions, was held on the sidelines of the ceremony.

Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO)’s Director-General, Dr Abdulaziz Othman al Twaijri, former Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organisation, Dr Taleb al Rifai, and Chairperson of Petra National Trust and Unesco Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural Heritage, Princess Diana Firas, attended the conference as guests of honour.

## Revamp work at 25 public schools on track

Manama

Twenty-five government schools across Bahrain are undergoing maintenance works to be ready for the new school year 2018-2019.

The Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry is carrying out the plan which was agreed with the Ministry of Education under the 2028 school maintenance programme.

“The maintenance work aims to ensure the safety of the

**1.8**  
million Bahraini dinar has been allocated to conduct comprehensive maintenance work at public schools in the Kingdom.

school buildings, and lengthen their life span and improve the internal environment,” said

maintenance director Huda Mirza.

She revealed that BD1.8 million were allocated to conduct the comprehensive maintenance programme, which covered this year twenty-five schools across Bahrain.

She announced the revamped schools would be handed over to the Ministry of Education before the beginning of the new school year 2018-2019, adding that maintenance work started on the 5th of August.

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# BIG STORY

## big story

# New campus in five years

Students, faculty members welcome the move to shift College of Engineering campus from Isa Town to Sakhir

TDI|Manama

Finally there is a big relief for students of the College of Engineering as the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning has begun work on the project to entirely relocate its campus from Isa Town to Sakhir.

Sources say the work, which is expected to cost the government BD35 million, will be completed within five years. The move comes after 32 years of the opening of the college in Isa Town.

There has been a lot of complaints about the lack of facilities at the present campus.

Speaking to Tribune, Abdul Bader Khonji, head of the college said that the buildings have grown old and need huge maintenance works.

“We suffer from a lot of problems here at the Isa Town campus. There is an acute shortage of classrooms and students spend most of their time commuting between Isa Town and Sakhir.



The new location of the College of Engineering

**35** million Bahraini dinars is the estimated cost for completely relocating the campus.

“The parking of vehicles is another big issue here. There are two institutions - University of Bahrain and the College of Engineering and there is not enough space for parking vehicles for both students and faculties. The parking area is sandy and unpaved.”

Mr Khonji said there are also

administrative problems including the issue of registration with the college being run in two campuses.

Ahmed Saeed, representative of the College at the University of Bahrain Student Council, said talks regarding the shifting of campus had begun over ten years ago, but nothing hap-

pened in reality.

“We are hearing it for a long time now. The talks about relocating the campus started doing rounds when Dr Riyadh Hamza assumed the presidency of the university.”

The relocation will solve many issues. It will offer students a better environment to

learn, he added.

About a year ago, Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam Khalaf met Dr Hamza to discuss the plans over shifting the campus and the cost for the first phase of the project was calculated to be somewhere in the neighborhood of BD 17m.

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**The buildings have grown old and need huge maintenance works.**

MR KHONJI

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**Talks began over 10 years ago, but nothing has happened in reality.**

MR SAEED



**ROLEX**

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# Bahrain relief pours to flood-hit Kerala

TDT|Manama  
OP Sreesadan

Expatriates in the Kingdom are extending their help to the Indian state of Kerala which is reeling under the worst flood devastation in its history.

More than 350 people have been killed as a result of the flood, with 85,000 people displaced and 14 districts placed on high alert.

"Kerala is experiencing an unprecedented situation due to heavy and continuous downpour and resultant floods and natural calamity. The state mechanism is effectively engaging in the damage control. We need enormous help and liberal support from the NRI community across the globe," Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said yesterday.

Thousands of people have been rendered homeless and many buildings have been destroyed in the worst floods in nearly a century.

The Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS), one of the oldest and largest leading socio-cultural organisations on the island, is gearing up to extend support to the Kerala government for their



Relief materials collected by the KMCC.



Bahrain-based Padav, a family collective, with the relief materials they collected.

activities to save people from this unprecedented calamity.

The BKS has postponed their Onam celebrations, which were slated to start from August 21.

"We are getting a lot of response from the expatriates here requesting help for their relatives in Kerala who are stranded in different locations in due to severe floods," said BKS Acting-President Dileesh Kumar V S and

General Secretary M P Raghu.

"The BKS 24-hour helpline received 25 calls on Thursday and our volunteers in Kerala have distributed aid to the flood-hit areas in the districts of Wayanad, Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Kottayam," they said.

Bahraini yoga expert Fatima Al Mansoori has visited the flood hit areas and the refugee camps in Kerala.

"They appreciated that someone is there to listen, hold their hand and feel their suffering. Some of them even hugged me," Fatima told Tribune.

"Bahrain-based Padav, a family collective, has collected clothes for the people who are affected by floods and this will be sent to Kerala by cargo today," said a representative Badaruddhin.

Almost all expatriate socio-cultural organisations have cancelled their Onam and Eid celebrations in support of Kerala flood victims.



**The BKS 24-hour helpline received 25 calls on Thursday and our volunteers in Kerala have distributed aid to the flood-hit areas in the districts of Wayanad, Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Kottayam**

BKS OFFICIALS

The board of directors of SNCS informed that they have cancelled Onam and Chathayam celebrations in view of the catastrophe back home.

Leading money transfer, foreign exchange and payment solutions brands, UAE Exchange and Unimoni, have waived service fee on remittances to Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund

in the wake of the catastrophic floods in Kerala.

The initiative, which enables the global Indian diaspora to contribute to the relief efforts, follows a personal contribution of two crore rupees made by the Group Chairman and noted UAE-based businessman and philanthropist, Dr BR Shetty, to help those affected by the floods.

In these difficult times, as part of Bahrain Financing Company's (BFC) corporate social responsibility, rupees 35 lakh will be donated to the Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund to support the state and people of Kerala.

National carrier Air India and its low-cost arm Air India Express, said their flights scheduled to depart from the Kochi airport, which has been shut down till August 26 due to floods, will operate from Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode.

"Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre (KMCC) Bahrain has shown its strong solidarity with those affected with heavy floods by collecting around 500 kg dress in 31 cartons, which will be sent today," said KMCC Bahrain President S V Jaleel.

Indian Youth Cultural Congress - Bahrain (IYCC) is collecting relief materials including bedsheets, blankets and sanitary napkins at collecting points in Riffa, Sitra, Isa Town, Muharraq, Hidd, Arad, Salmabad, Tubli, Um Al Hassam, Budaiya, Saar and Hamad Town. Bahrain Malayali Business Forum and Youth Wing also distributed food in the relief camps in Malappuram.

Bahrain's national carrier Gulf Air said its flights to and from Cochin have been cancelled due to the closure of Cochin International Airport where operations are temporarily suspended until further notice.



Fatima Al Mansoori at a relief camp in Kerala.

## Fun day for diff-abled students aboard HMS Ledbury

TDT|Manama  
Harpreet Kaur

Eleven differently abled students from Bahrain-based rehabilitation centres were invited by non-profit initiative, Bahrain for All (BHR4All) to spend a fun day onboard HMS Ledbury alongside the UK Naval Support Facility (UKNSF) in Mina Salman Port.

The visit gave the opportunity to the students and their helpers to get real hands-on experience where activities like manning the ship's cannon and getting fully kitted out in diving equipment along with the working of firefighting equipment were taught.

Furthermore, they were shown the nerve centre of the ship, the operations room, and experienced naval communications by using the ship's internal radios. The day finished off with a well-deserved lunch ashore the UK Naval Support Facility (UK NSF) at Mina Salman.

"Days like this are extremely impor-

tant. Number one, these young adults are part of our society and they have every right to see what goes on out there and it's vitally important for them to feel part of the community," founder of BHR4All, Nivedita Dhadphale told Tribune.

"We're delighted that they are being treated exactly the same as everyone else, just like they would on a school outing to learn something new. Activities on this ship kept all the students engaged and curious as well as giving them a chance to interact with people from different walks of life.

"We have a mix of Down syndrome, autistic, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability and others in these students, all of who were made to feel part of the team and because they enjoyed themselves so much, they will remember the experience. It's been just fantastic. We're deeply grateful to all involved.

"The children were overjoyed with the visit and even asked us to book a bus again to take them there. They were



A British naval officer with students aboard HMS Ledbury.

all very engaged and the activities were interactive as in the crew allowed them to actually do things, which made it more entertaining and also practical in terms of remembering the experience.

"Moreover between July and August, we arranged a medical check-up at AMH (American Mission Hospital), we conducted the Health and Wellness Programme and now the ship visit. Also, Bahrain for all team is currently finalizing a project between Hotel Concierge Group and Ceram Dental where the details will be revealed soon.

"We hope to plan more visit for special abilities and other students in the future by working closely with the UKMCC (United Kingdom Maritime Component Command) who have been extremely co-operative and reached out to us.

"A few months ago, we a team from



**HMS Ledbury is the oldest of the eight Hunt-class mine countermeasures vessels, which was commissioned in the year 1981.**

the UKMCC visited Hidd rehabilitation centre for a celebration at the end of the term, thus we will continue working with them as much as we can to provide exposure to our kids.

"We are actively involved in giving special children and young adults exposure to many different things. They have every right to be treated equally in society by all and they benefit from interacting with people from all walks of life and seeing and doing different things.

"A perfect example is the summer camp, where in just 12 sessions the kids had improved, mobility, lost weight; for those who needed to, learned good eating habits and improved coordination and balance. Over the weeks their confidence improved which meant that they were all ready to try out new tasks and exercises.

"I think it is important for them to have the opportunity to gain new experiences throughout their lives. People with different abilities are vulnerable members of society and it is up to all of us to together ensure that they have a good quality of life and most importantly see, learn and experience as much as possible," Nivedita added.

Lieutenant Commander Claire Thompson, the Commanding Officer of HMS Ledbury, said this was a great opportunity for the sailors to interact with the students. "HMS Ledbury has been out here for a number of years; although my crew has just arrived. We spend most of our time at sea as part of the Royal Navy's enduring presence in the Arabian Gulf. For the sailors alongside, this is a really good way of showing the local community what we do."

"We've worked with Bahrain4All in the past, but we wanted to take things just that one step further. It wasn't just about raising money, which we have done previously, but more about involving people and giving them a nice day out.

Mick Parkinson, a RAF airman based ashore, who helped organise the visit, said the unit will continue to support many local charity initiatives.



A student being briefed on various equipment and facilities.



A student enjoys handling an equipment.



# Court renews detention of 14 terrorist cell members

Cell formed by Iran to carry out terrorist activities across the Kingdom

● The court files reveal that the cell was formed by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard with an aim to bring many terrorist organisations under one umbrella.

● The cell members were allegedly in possession of about 42kg of high explosive C4 and TNT, more than 757kg of urea nitrate, Kalashnikovs, pistols, bullets and a number of magnetic and manual bombs.

TDT|Manama  
Ali Tarif

**F**ourteen accused of being part of an Iran-linked terror organisation have had their detention renewed by 30 days.

The suspects were among the 115 accused of running the terror cell dismantled in an extensive operation carried out by in cooperation by various security agencies of the Kingdom.

According to the Interior Ministry, the special operation succeeded in thwarting a number of terror acts along with the arrest of 115 suspects.

The roles of the suspects in the terror group ranged from planning and co-ordinating attacks, manufacturing and transporting explosive devices to rioting at various places across the

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**The cell wanted to target police officers and police patrols as well as other important oil and vital locations in a bid to hit the Kingdom's security and economy.**

PROSECUTORS

to bring many terrorist organisations under one umbrella.

It is believed that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard had been financing and providing training to the members of the organisation apart from supplying weapons and explosives.

The cell wanted to target police officers and police patrols as well as other important oil and vital locations in a bid to hit the Kingdom's security and economy, Prosecutors say.

The cell members were allegedly in possession of about 42 kg of high explosive C4 and TNT, more than 757 kg of urea nitrate, Kalashnikovs, pistols, bullets, a number of magnetic and manual bombs, a number of anti-personnel and armoured vehicles shells and mortar shells as well as other deadly devices.

Kingdom, the ministry had said.

The court files reveal that the cell was formed by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard with an aim

## Decision-making delay over pension reforms rapped

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**A delay in making decisions would badly affect the citizens, especially people belonging to lower-income groups.**

MR FAKHRO

TDT|Manama

**D**elay in making decisions and devising plans with regard to pension reforms in the Kingdom will affect citizens very badly, opined Shura Council First Deputy Head Jamal Fakhro.

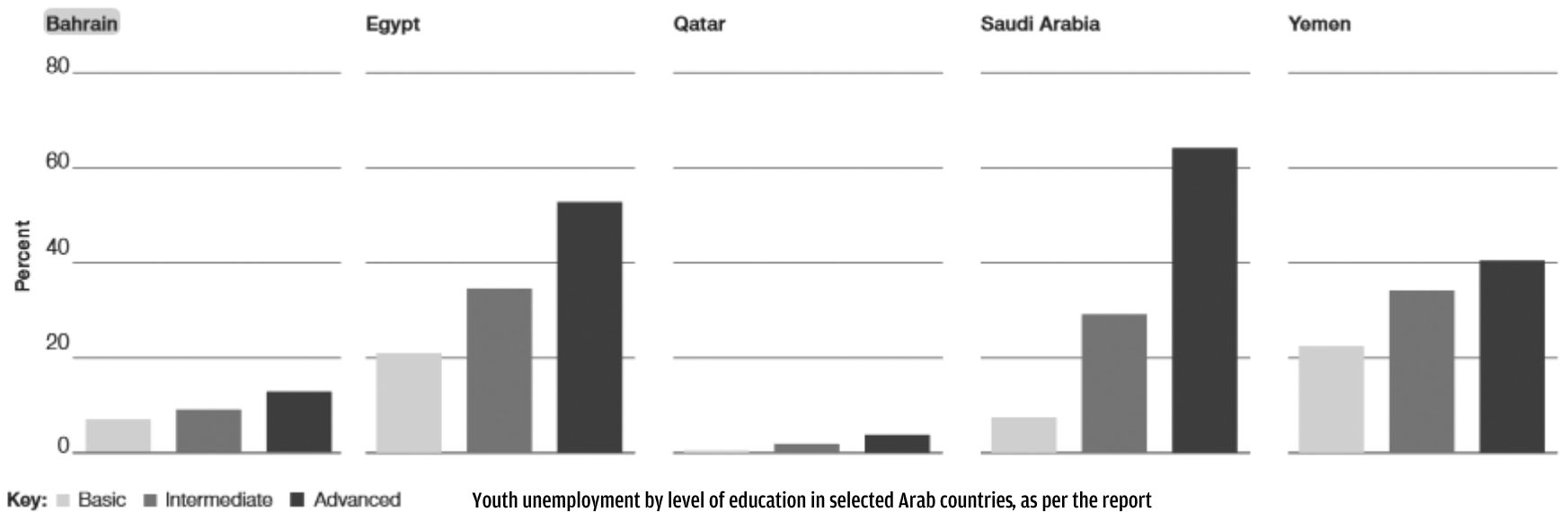
In a statement to our sister paper Al Ayam, he denied that the Shura Council team taking part in the talks to reform pensions asked the parliament team to reconsider their views to reach a solution.

“What we need is a speedy decision-making process. We don't have much time and need to respond to the government's proposals. This is not a personal work but a formal work and we need to act on time.”

He said the team of parliamentarians hasn't put forward any proposals and time is running out.

“A delay in making decisions would badly affect the citizens, especially people belonging to lower-income groups and we should not allow this to happen.”

## Business healthy ecosystem study offers high ranking for Kingdom



TDT|Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

**B**ahrain's healthy business ecosystem has received a high ranking in a recently released study.

Compiled by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Economic Forum and the World Bank. The study ranked Bahrain as the fourth best in the Middle East region.

This is according to Arab Competitiveness Report 2018, which analysed countries based on components such as startups' skills, technology use, cultural support, risk acceptance, innovation and human capital.

Apart from the Arab Competitiveness Report, Global Competitiveness Report was also released which ranked Bahrain 44th. In the Arab region, the UAE was ranked first (17th world wide), while Qatar came second (25th globally) followed by Saudi Arabia (30th globally) and Oman (62nd globally).

“Bahrain ranks 44th overall. The country presents a favorable business environment with a good institutional framework (23rd) and modern infrastructures (33rd). Its macro-economic environment (108th, with a large fiscal deficit) is one of its main weaknesses, together with its small market size (90th globally) and the smallest in the region), which is only partially balanced by its openness to international markets,” the study said.

“Technological readiness is the area where the country has improved the most

since 2007, closing the gap with respect to OECD countries. Innovation and higher education and training have also improved significantly and Bahrain has reduced its distance from the most advanced economies globally.

“On the other hand, the situation has deteriorated in terms of financial market development and macroeconomic environment, in line with most other countries in the region,” the report added.

The report praised the initiatives taken by Bahrain such as the Flexi Permit. “In recent years many governments have been implementing additional restrictions on

foreign workers in the form of increased visa fees, larger quotas for nationals, and outright bans in some sectors.

“The two-year flexible work permit (Flexi Permit) implemented by Bahrain represents a positive exception and a step in the right direction. The scheme allows, under certain conditions, expatriates to reside and work in the country for a renewable period of two years without a sponsor; they are thus able to choose one or multiple employers,” the report stated.

Ausamah Al Absi, the Chief Executive Officer of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority said that Flexi Permit empowers

the worker, gives flexibility to the market, “and addresses all the historic shortcomings of a legacy system that has outlived its economic and social relevance in the age of Uber”.

In a joint statement, Børge Brende President, World Economic Forum and Philippe Le Houérou stated that the Arab world is at a critical juncture. “Ambitious economic and social reforms bring great economic promise to the region and at the same time we continue to see fragility and persisting inequalities that can potentially erode social cohesion.

“Within a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, the world is moving from a unipolar system of governance toward a multipolar and multi-conceptual order grounded in competing sets of values and precarious friction points.

“In this context, much of the hope in the region rests on the imperative of constructing a social contract between the population and the state that is based on a more competitive and open economy, with a dynamic and entrepreneurial private sector offering employment prospects for the region's youth.

“The swiftly spreading Fourth Industrial Revolution—a dramatic change that involves a range of new technologies that are fusing the physical, digital, and biological worlds, impacting all disciplines, economies, and industries—provides new opportunities that can support growth.

“In this context, entrepreneurship and diversification will be key to enabling Arab societies to thrive and prosper in the coming decades,” they said.

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**Flexi Permit empowers the worker, gives flexibility to the market, “and addresses all historic shortcomings.**

MR AL ABSI

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**Entrepreneurship and diversification will be the key to enable Arab societies to thrive and prosper in the future.**

MR BRENDE



# business

## New York University makes tuition free for all medical students

New York, United States

New York University said Thursday it would offer all its current and future medical school students free tuition in an effort to tackle soaring debt levels and encourage more applicants. The move -- which it said was financed by the generosity of the university's "trustees, alumni, and friends," amounts to a reduction of \$55,018 in annual fees, regardless of financial needs or academic merit.

It does not cover living and administrative costs averaging \$27,000 a year.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, the median debt of a graduating medical student in the US is \$202,000 -- while 21 per cent of doctors who graduate from a private school such as NYU face over \$300,000. NYU said it is the only top 10-ranked medical school in the US to offer such an initiative

## Canada inflation surges

Ottawa | Canada

Canada's inflation rate surged to 3.0 per cent in July, fuelled by rising global prices for crude oil, according to government data released yesterday.

The year-over-year increase in consumer prices was the largest since September 2011, and follows a 2.5pc rise in June of this year. Analysts had expected it to remain flat.

Statistics Canada cited continued strength in energy prices for the increase. Gasoline (+25.4 percent) and fuel oil and other fuels (+28.1 percent) were the main contributors to inflation.

## Merkel expects tough talks with Putin

Berlin, Germany

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she expected tough talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin today on issues from the Syria and Ukraine conflicts to energy cooperation. But she stressed it was crucial to maintain a "permanent dialogue" with Moscow, especially ahead of a possible summit on the Syria conflict that could also include the leaders of Turkey and France. Merkel will host Putin from 1600 GMT at the govt retreat in Meseberg castle, where they will only give statements and not hold a press conference.

# Turkey ready to act if US imposes more sanctions

Brunson's detention since October 2016 on terror-related charges has sent the lira tumbling.

- US warned more sanctions unless the pastor is released

- Turkish court rejected another appeal to release pastor

- The lira had rebounded slightly

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

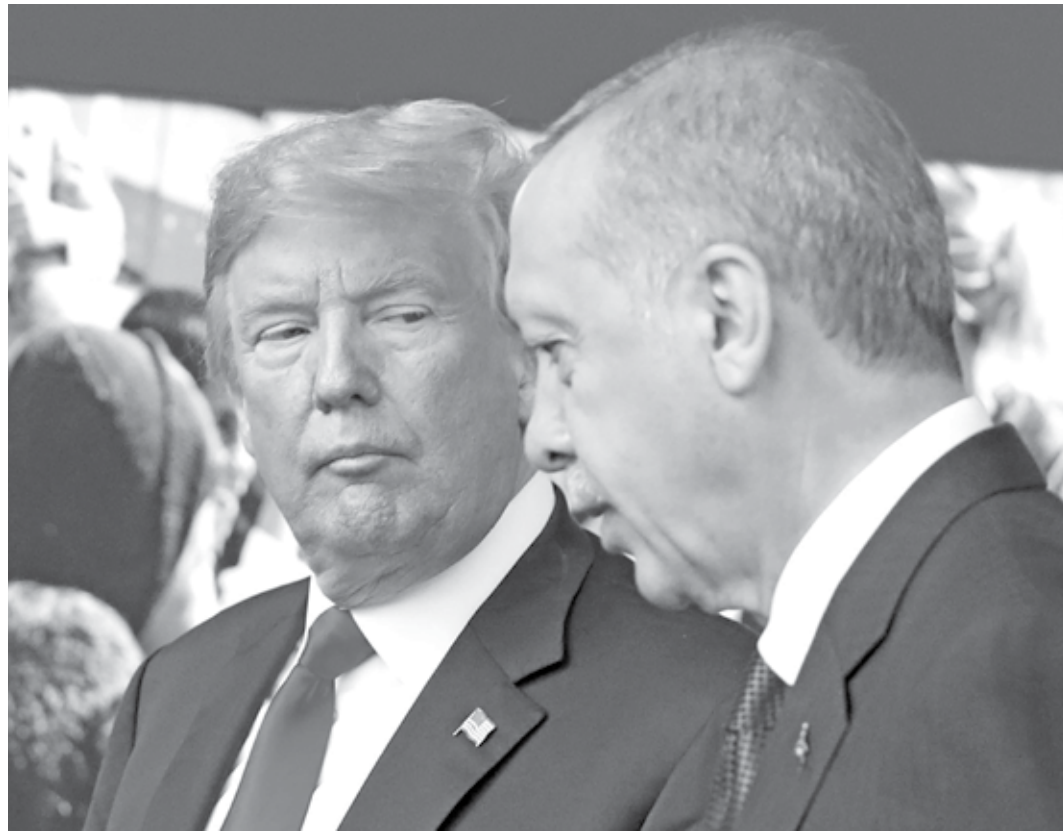
Turkey yesterday threatened to respond if the United States levied further sanctions over the detention of an American pastor which has sparked a diplomatic standoff and battered the Turkish currency.

As Turkey's government sought to reassure markets after the lira had been sent into a tailspin by the deepening spat, Washington said the next raft of sanctions could be on the way.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin warned Thursday that the United States would impose more sanctions unless pastor Andrew Brunson, described by US President Donald Trump as a "hostage", was released.

Turkey's Trade Minister Ruhsar Pekcan responded to the new threat on Friday.

"We've already responded based on the World Trade Organisation rules and will continue to do so," Pekcan was quoted as saying by the state-run An-



US President Donald Trump (L) talks to Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (R) as they arrive for the NATO summit

adolu news agency. Brunson's detention since October 2016 on terror-related charges has soured relations between the two NATO allies and sent the lira tumbling.

The lira, which earlier this week traded at well over seven to the dollar, had rebounded slightly over the last three days but on Friday it lost nearly five percent of its value and was quoted at 6.1 against the dollar.

Trump on Thursday tweeted: "Turkey has taken advantage of the United States for many years. They are now holding our wonderful Christian Pastor, who I must now ask to represent our Country as a great patriot hostage." He said: "We will pay nothing for the release of an innocent man, but we are cutting back on Turkey!"

**'Moderately convincing'**

## Court rejects another appeal to free pastor

Ankara | Turkey

A Turkish court yesterday rejected another appeal to free US pastor Andrew Brunson, whose detention has sparked a major crisis in Ankara's ties with Washington, his lawyer said. The court ruled

that Brunson would remain under house arrest, rejecting the third such request, lawyer Cem Halavurt told AFP, saying he would appeal again in 15 days.

Brunson, who was detained in October 2016 on terror and espionage charges, faces 35 years in jail if convicted.

Late last month, he was moved from prison to house arrest for health reasons.

The pastor's detention has soured Ankara's relations with Washington, with US President Donald Trump threatening more punitive action unless Brunson is released.



US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin warned Thursday that the United States would impose more sanctions unless pastor Andrew Brunson, described by US President Donald Trump as a "hostage", was released

**Turkey has taken advantage of the United States for many years. They are now holding our wonderful Christian Pastor, who I must now ask to represent our Country as a great patriot hostage**

DONALD TRUMP

The latest US announcement came after Turkish Finance Minister Berat Albayrak, the son-in-law of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, sought to soothe markets during an un-

precedented teleconference on Thursday with hundreds of foreign investors from the United States, Europe to Asia.

He said Turkey would emerge "stronger" from the currency crisis and ruled out an IMF bailout. William Jackson, chief emerging markets economist at London-based Capital Economics said in a note that Albayrak gave a "moderately convincing performance" during the call.

But he suggested that Turkish "policymakers only really seem to have done the minimum needed".

"Even in his call with investors, Albayrak said the fall in the lira was out of line with fundamentals, not acknowledging why confidence in Turkey evaporated," he said.

"And he seemed to downplay the risks in the corporate and banking sector posed by large foreign currency debts. These could still crystallise over the coming weeks and months, potentially making the crisis more acute."

# Trump advocates ending quarterly earnings report

- Recommends six month reporting system

- The move, Trump said, could help create jobs

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump said yesterday he has ordered stock market regulators to look into ending the requirement for businesses to issue quarterly

earnings reports.

Asking the Securities and Exchange Commission -- an independent agency -- to move to twice-yearly reporting could help create jobs, Trump said on Twitter.

"In speaking with some of the world's top business leaders I asked what it is that would make business (jobs) even better in the US. 'Stop quarterly reporting & go to a six month system,' said one. That would allow greater flexibility & save money," he tweeted.

"I have asked the SEC to



Donald Trump

study!"

The SEC was created in 1934

**In speaking with some of the world's top business leaders I asked what it is that would make business (jobs) even better in the US. 'Stop quarterly reporting & go to a six month system,' said one**

in the midst of the great depression and requires publicly-trad-

ed companies to issue quarterly and annual earnings reports to keep the public informed on their operations and financial situation.

The securities law that created the SEC requires public reports, but the agency has some leeway to interpret the law in setting regulations.

The SEC consists of five commissioners appointed by the president, although there currently are only four in place, three named by Trump. No more than three can be from any one party.



# Elon Musk admits exhaustion as Tesla tweet storm deepens

● Tesla produced only slightly more than 100,000 vehicles last year

● Company has been struggling to boost production of its Model 3, which is less expensive

● Musk in talks with Saudi fund and others for funding for going private

● The news shocked investors who did not see it coming

Washington, United States

Entrepreneur Elon Musk has acknowledged exhaustion from overwork, as he deals with a reported probe by regulators into a plan divulged on *Twitter* to take his auto company Tesla private.

"This past year has been the



Tesla founder Elon Musk

most difficult and painful year of my career," Musk told the *New York Times* in an interview Thursday. "It was excruciating."

The paper said the electric car company's swashbuckling boss choked up at times during the interview as he talked about working marathon hours trying to meet production deadlines.

Musk, who founded Tesla in 2003 to push cars into a new tech era, said he saw last week's

tweet -- which included an assurance that funding for going private was secured -- as an attempt to be transparent.

The news sent Tesla shares soaring so much that trading was suspended in New York.

It shocked investors, market analysts and reportedly even Tesla board members who did not see it coming, as well as attracting the attention of regulators.

Tesla shares fell this week on

reports by Fox Business and the *New York Times* that the US Securities and Exchange Commission has subpoenaed Musk to talk about the tweet.

Normally such a major announcement -- taking a huge company private -- would be explained in detail beforehand to regulators.

He and other board members are preparing to meet with SEC officials as early as next week,

the *Times* said. Musk acknowledged that no one read his *Twitter* post before he sent it, but said he did not regret it. "Why would I?" he said.

Going private?

On Monday, the Tesla boss explained in a blog post that his much scrutinized statements about financing were based on his conversations with Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund and other investors.

Taken unawares, the firm's board said this week that it has formed a special committee to consider going private.

If delisted, Tesla could operate without requirements for financial reports and other pressures of a publicly traded firm. But it could also lose visibility and limit its ability to raise capital.

Musk told the *Times* that board members had not complained to him about his tweet.

But the paper said he later told them through a spokesperson that Antonio Gracias, Tesla's lead independent director, had

in fact contacted him to discuss the *Twitter* post.

Musk added he had agreed not to tweet again about taking the firm private unless he had discussed it with the board. The tycoon has caused controversy by turning to his *Twitter* following of more than 22 million to vent frustrations in recent months.

In one bizarre moment in July, Musk labeled a British cover a "pedo" -- or pedophile -- after the rescuer dismissed the Tesla chief's idea for bringing 12 trapped Thai boys to safety in a miniature submarine.

The *Times* report said board members had raised concerns over his "workload but also about his use of Ambien", a sleeping drug.

Musk responded to speculation that his comment that he wanted to launch the buyout at \$420 a share was an oblique reference to cannabis counter-culture.

"But I was not on weed, to be clear. Weed is not helpful for productivity," he told the *Times*.



The tycoon has caused controversy by turning to his *Twitter* following of more than 22 million to vent frustrations in recent months.

## Trump threat to security clearances of critics

President Donald Trump revoked the security clearance of former CIA Director John Brennan, citing a constitutional responsibility to protect classified information.

The Associated Press reports that Trump cited "erratic conduct and behaviour" by President Barack Obama's CIA director as justification for revoking Brennan's security clearance. Trump also accused Brennan of "lying"

and "wild outbursts." At a news conference last month in Finland, Trump stood alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin and openly questioned US intelligence agencies' conclusions that Moscow tried to influence the 2016 election in his favour. Afterwards, Brennan criticised Trump's performance as "nothing short of treasonous" and accused him of being "wholly in the pocket of Putin."



■ **John Brennan**  
Ex-CIA chief's security clearance revoked after calling Trump's summit with Russian President **Vladimir Putin** "nothing short of treasonous"



■ **James Comey**  
Trump fires FBI Director and revokes security clearances in May 2017 over bureau's probe into Russia's involvement in Trump election campaign



■ **James Clapper**  
Former intelligence chief says Watergate scandal "pales in comparison" to Russia collusion inquiry dogging Trump presidency



■ **Michael Hayden**  
Former Director of National Security and past CIA Director slams Trump over his immigration policy of separating mothers and children



■ **Susan Rice**  
Ex-National Security Adviser writes in July that U.S. has "so much to lose and so little to gain" from Trump-Putin summit in Finland



■ **Andrew McCabe**  
Security clearances deactivated after Trump sacks Deputy FBI Director, days before he can retire with full pension benefits



■ **Sally Yates**  
Acting Attorney General is fired in 2017 after refusing to enforce Trump's travel ban on residents of several Muslim countries



■ **Peter Strzok**  
FBI agent working on **Robert Mueller's** Russia probe is fired from bureau over anti-Trump text messages sent to FBI lawyer



■ **James Baker**  
FBI General Counsel resigns after being abruptly reassigned in December 2017, amid scrutiny over his involvement in Russia probe

Pictures: Associated Press, C-Span

© GRAPHIC NEWS

## Lack of funding leaves world's roads in disrepair, says report

Road quality highest in the United Arab Emirates with Singapore in second place

Paris, France

In an age of austerity and budget cutbacks, the deadly bridge collapse in Genoa, Italy, has put the spotlight clearly on the lack of public funding for road networks across the globe, from France and Germany, to the United States and beyond.

A report by the World Economic Forum published late last year found that, out of 137 countries, road quality was highest in the United Arab Emirates, with Singapore in second place.

Switzerland came third. Among its European partners, the Netherlands followed in fifth place, France in seventh, Germany 15th, Italy 45th and Belgium 46th.

In France, a recent government-commissioned audit found that one out of every three bridges is in need of repair.

In Belgium, around 80 bridges, viaducts and tunnels have been placed under heightened scrutiny due to their state of disrepair, according to a *De Standaard* newspaper report.

In Germany, "it's only a matter of time before a similar catastrophe happens," the head of the DIW economic think-tank, Marcel Fratzscher, said on national radio.

In Bulgaria, the EU's poorest member whose infrastructure is notoriously dilapidated, Prime Minister Boiko Borissov has called for the renovation of all of the country's bridges.

In the United Kingdom, public debate about the state of the country's roads tends to focus



In the UK, more than 3,000 bridges were found not fit to carry the heaviest vehicles (Representative picture)

more on potholes than on the condition of tunnels and bridges. The RAC Foundation however published a report last year which found that more than 3,000 bridges were not fit to carry the heaviest vehicles.

The US Transportation Department estimated last year that more than two thirds of American roads and nearly 143,000 bridges were in need of urgent repair or improvement.

### UAE

ranks first in terms of road quality in the list of 137 countries across the globe, says the report by the World Economic Forum

Budget cutbacks

In Spain, where motorways and fast roads are relatively new, the Spanish Road Association AEC expressed concern, particularly about the state of the regional road networks, which has deteriorated as a result of successive budget cutbacks following the 2008 financial crisis.

In the wake of the collapse of the decades-old Morandi bridge in Genoa, Italy, which killed 38 people, Italy's hardline euro-sceptic Interior Minister Matteo Salvini accused the European Union of prioritising balanced budgets over safety, austerity over public need.

Germany, which has a budget surplus, has frequently been called on by the likes of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to be "more energetic" in its public investment.

In 2018, the government earmarked 3.9 billion euros (\$4.4 billion) in investment for roads and bridges. The DIW think-tank calculates that closer to 10 billion euros is needed.

In France, the government-commissioned audit recommends substantially boosting funds for the maintenance and modernisation of national roads, compared with the annual average of 666 million euros earmarked between 2007 and 2017. French Transport Minister Elisabeth Borne said in May she intended to spend one billion euros, compared with 800 million euros in 2018 and 700 million euros in 2017.

US President Donald Trump has announced plans to spend \$1.5 trillion on infrastructure, but no concrete details for the roll-out of such plans have so far been forthcoming.



## Google employees protest over China search engine

Washington, United States

Hundreds of Google employees have signed a protest letter over the company's reported work on a censor-friendly search engine to get back into China. The New York Times said Thursday.

The employees are demanding more transparency so they can understand the moral implications of their work, said the Times, which obtained a copy of the letter.

It has been signed by 1,400 employees and is circulating on the company's internal communications system, the newspaper said, quoting three people who are familiar with the document.

## Brazil must let Lula run in October vote: UN panel

Geneva, Switzerland

The UN Human Rights Committee ruled Friday that Brazil's imprisoned leftist leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva cannot be disqualified from upcoming presidential elections because his legal appeals are ongoing.

The committee issued the finding following an urgent request filed by Lula's lawyers on July 27.

In a statement, the panel "requested Brazil to take all necessary measures to ensure that Lula can enjoy and exercise his political rights while in prison, as (a) candidate in the 2018 presidential elections."

Lula, a two-term former president who is serving time behind bars for corruption, is currently leading the polls for the October vote.

## US sanctions Myanmar

Washington, United States

The US government yesterday hit four Myanmar military commanders and two military units with punitive sanctions, accusing them of "serious human rights abuses" and "ethnic cleansing" in violently expelling minority Rohingya from their homes.

Military and border guard commanders Aung Kyaw Zaw, Khin Maung Soe, Khin Hlaing, and Thura San Lwin were accused of leading violent campaigns against the Muslim Rohingya in Rakhine state as well as minorities in Kachin and Shan states.

"Burmese security forces have engaged in violent campaigns against ethnic minority communities across Burma, including ethnic cleansing, massacres, sexual assault, extrajudicial killings, and other serious human rights abuses," said Sigal Mandelker, Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence in the US Treasury.

# Benetton, more than just pullovers

AFP | Paris, France

Italian company Benetton, perhaps best known for its bright-coloured sweaters and hard-hitting advertising campaigns, has received a lot of unwanted publicity this week in the wake of the deadly bridge collapse in Genoa.

The Benetton family is the biggest single investor in Italian infrastructure group Atlantia, which operates the motorway on which the collapsed Morandi bridge was situated.

In the hours following the disaster,

which killed 38 people, photoshopped pictures of the rubble appeared online superimposed with the words "United Colors of Benetton".

Italy's Deputy prime minister Luigi Di Maio, mentioning Benetton by name, said that the money collected on toll roads should be reinvested in maintenance, "but in fact they share out the profits and then bridges collapse."

The Benetton family's holding company, Edizione, last year booked annual revenue of 12.1 billion euros (\$13.8 billion) from a business empire that stretches far beyond trendy tops and toll roads.

### Clothing

Back in the 1960s, three Benetton brothers, Luciano, Carlo and Gilberto, along with their sister Guiliiana launched a homemade production line in Ponzano Veneto, a village near Venice. Their sweaters proved popular items in local stores and a brand was born.

Their signature soft wool jumpers made in a variety of colours quickly seduced the masses.

The company went from strength to strength especially between 1982 and 2000 -- its fame fuelled by daring ad campaigns by Italian photographer Oliviero Toscani, such as a 1989 poster which featured a black woman breastfeeding a white baby.

But for over a decade the brand has battled dwindling sales.

In 2017, following heavy losses, Luciano Benetton announced he was coming out of retirement at the age of 83 to retake the reins of the company.

The benetton group also owns the Sisley brand.



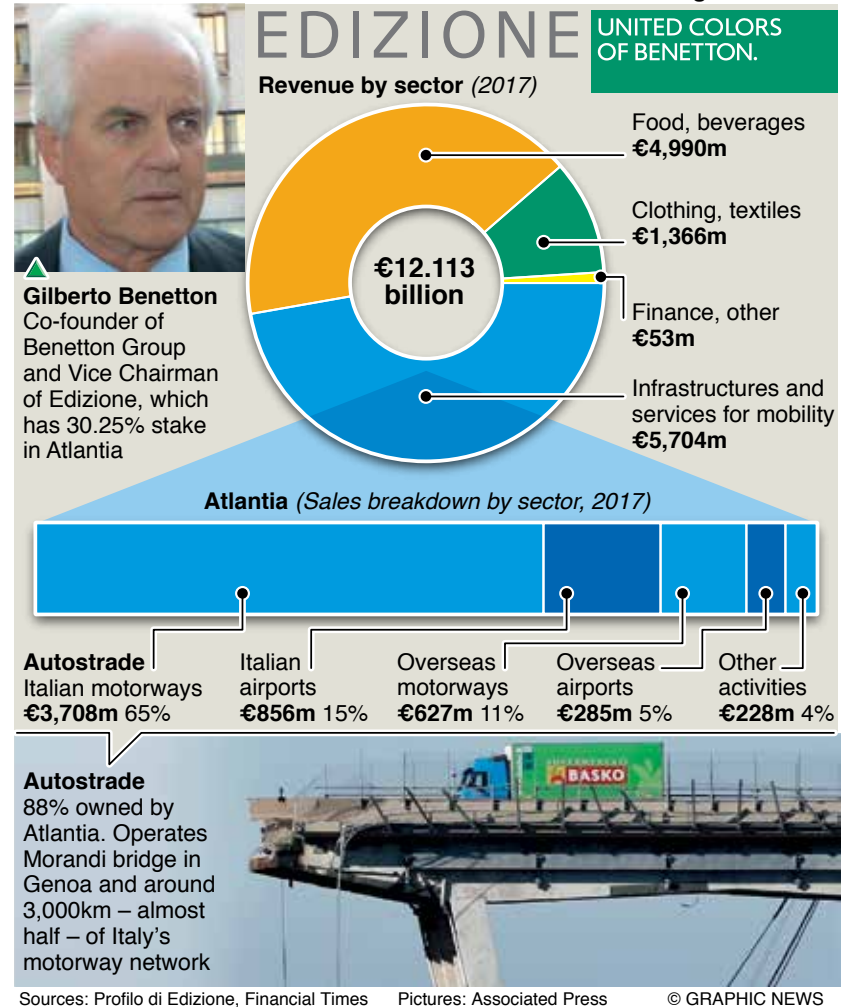
This handout file picture released by Studio Leoni on August 16, 2018 and taken in 1965

### Infrastructure and transport

Less well-known to the general public, the group generates the biggest share of its revenue, 5.2 billion euros, from its infrastructure and transport divisions.

## Benetton family's business empire

The Benetton family controls Edizione – one of Italy's most significant business groups – with interests spanning infrastructure, catering, telecoms and finance as well as their well-known clothing brand



With a stake of 30.25 percent, Benetton is the biggest single shareholder in Atlantia.

Atlantia's prime asset is Autostrade per l'Italia, which operates the A10 highway where a segment of the overpass collapsed on Tuesday.

Shares in Atlantia have slumped since, amid a barrage of criticism from the government and other quarters.

The government has accused iAutostrade per l'Italia of failing to invest in sufficient maintenance -- a claim the company denies -- and said it would seek to revoke its lucrative contracts.

Benetton also has major interests in a number of other companies in the sector, including Aeroporti di Roma, which runs Rome's two main airports, the Nice Cote d'Azur airport and Getlink, formerly Eurotunnel, which operates the Channel Tunnel between England and France.

### Telecoms

Benetton holds 29.9 percent of the Spanish Cellnex group, specialists in

telecoms and broadcasting technology.

### Catering

In 1995, the financial holding company Edizione branched out into the restaurant business, buying a majority stake in Autogrill, an Italian-based multinational food and drink company.

### Property and agriculture

Edizione also holds a portfolio of 112 properties -- 59 in Italy and the rest elsewhere in the European Union -- for the luxury retail market.

On the agriculture side, the Benetton family also owns the Rome-based dairy company, Maccarese.

Benetton also operates several agricultural companies in Argentina via the Argentine Southern Land Company.

### Finance

This year, Benetton has increased its stake in the Italian insurer Generali to 3.1 percent. It also has a 2.2-percent stake in Italian investment bank, Mediobanca.

## Plane slides off Manila runway causing delays

Manila, Philippines

A Chinese passenger jet slid off the runway as it landed at Manila airport in torrential rain forcing dozens of flight cancellations yesterday, as engineers struggled to remove the stricken aircraft.

The Xiamen Airlines plane, carrying 157 passengers and eight crew, landed on its second attempt before skidding onto the grass and ripping off its left engine late Thursday evening, airport general manager Ed Monreal said.

All on board were safely evacuated from the aircraft with no serious injuries.

But nearly 24 hours after the accident, rescue crews were still unable to remove the plane, forcing the airport to cancel take-offs and landings from the largest of its two runways.

An official statement said the runway would remain closed until around 5:00am Saturday (2100 GMT Friday) as two cranes were still being put in place to



A Xiamen Air plane sits on the grassy portion of the runway of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (courtesy of Time/AP)

lift the plane.

Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines spokesman Eric Apolonio said at least 67 local and international flights were cancelled on Friday.

He told AFP that recovery efforts were being hampered by recent heavy rains that had

softened the ground around the runway, making it difficult to lift the aircraft.

Four people suffered "superficial scratches" as they evacuated the Boeing 737-800 jet, which had flown to the Philippine capital from Xiamen in southeast China, airport general manager

Monreal said.

"With God's blessings all passengers were able to evacuate safely," Monreal said, adding the cause of the incident was under investigation.

The second runway for smaller aircraft remained open, but the authorities said the accident

has delayed thousands of passengers, including holidaymakers travelling ahead of a long weekend.

Footage from the main airport terminal showed hundreds of passengers still lined up as they sought to re-book their flights.



Nearly 24 hours after the accident, rescue crews were still unable to remove the plane, forcing the airport to cancel take-offs



# European, US equities retreat

● The rebound in the Turkish lira has been cut short

● Turkey vowed to respond to new sanctions

● Asian stocks rallied after a positive lead from Wall Street

AFP | London, United Kingdom

European and US stock markets moved lower Friday on investor concerns over Turkey and the ongoing trade war between China and the United States.

Asian stocks however rallied after a positive lead from Wall Street overnight, with dealers cautiously optimistic about upcoming US-China trade talks -- although worries festered over the future for emerging markets as a whole.

The rebound in the Turkish lira has been cut short by new threats by Ankara and Washington to impose more sanctions as the dispute over a jailed American pastor shows no sign of being resolved.

"Global trade worries have not disappeared ... as market participants prefer to regroup and strategize in this unorthodox US trade and foreign policy environment," said OANDA analyst Dean Popplewell.

"Emerging market worries are not going away any time soon."

## Further volatility ahead?

In Europe, London stocks were down 0.4 percent in afternoon trading, with Paris dropping 0.5



Traders work on the floor at the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange

## Key figures around 1530 GMT

New York - Dow Jones	▲ 0.1 percent at 25,595.00 points
London - FTSE 100	▲ 0.03 percent at 7,558.59 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30	▼ 0.2 percent at 12,210.55 (close)
Paris - CAC 40	▼ 0.08 percent at 5,344.92 (close)
EURO STOXX 50	▼ 0.2 percent at 3,371.30
Dollar/Turkish lira	▲ at 6.0926 lira from 5.8341 lira
Euro/Turkish lira	▲ at 6.9652 lira from 6.6438 lira
Euro/dollar	▲ at \$1.1411 from \$1.1377
Pound/dollar	▲ at \$1.2732 from \$1.2716
Dollar/yen	▼ at 110.49 from 110.90 yen
Tokyo - Nikkei 225	▲ 0.35 percent at 22,270.38 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng	▲ 0.4 percent at 27,213.41 (close)
Shanghai - Composite	▼ 1.34 percent at 2,668.97 (close)

percent and Frankfurt shedding 0.7 percent.

Wall Street opened lower, with the Dow slipping 0.05 percent in

the first minute of trading.

"For now, the possibility of a Sino-US trade deal has brought some calm to the market -- but

trade and currency wars remain," said Popplewell.

Negotiators from Washington and Beijing will meet later this month for the first publicly announced dialogue in weeks on their bitter trade dispute, which has seen both sides impose reciprocal tariffs on goods worth \$34 billion.

The news helped global markets regain composure after several days of volatility sparked by fears that Turkey's financial crisis could infect other economies. "Markets are optimistic but remain wary," said FXPro analyst Alexander Kuptsikevich.

"It is worth noting that the status of officials involved in the (US-China) negotiations is not very high, which eliminates the possibility of breakthrough decisions in the near future."

Tit-for-tat tariffs by the US and China on another \$16 billion of each other's goods are due to kick in next week, and President Donald Trump has threatened to go after even more Chinese imports in the future.

## Lira 'not out of woods yet'

Meanwhile, most commentators do not expect that the end is in sight to the Turkish currency saga.

"Concerns over the China-US trade dispute and the state of the Turkish lira remain undispelled," said City Index analyst Fiona Cincotta. While the Turkish lira had clawed back most of its losses on Friday and Monday, after shedding 20 percent of its value against the dollar, it began falling again on the new sanctions threats, dropping by five percent.

# Cryptocurrency scams on the rise: British watchdog

Reuters | London

Cryptocurrency scams are using images of celebrities and upmarket London addresses to hoodwink consumers into parting with cash, Britain's Financial Conduct Authority has said.

The warning, first made in June, was reposted on the FCA's website on Friday.

Cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin and ether are not regulated in Britain, and the FCA said it

has received a rising number of reports about investment scams that claim to offer high returns.

"UK consumers are being increasingly targeted by cryptocurrency-related investment scams," the FCA said in a statement.

"Cryptocurrency fraudsters tend to advertise on social media, often using the images of celebrities or well-known individuals to promote cryptocurrency investments."

The ads link to websites for

investments either using cryptocurrencies or traditional cash.

"The firms operating the scams are usually based outside of the UK but will claim to have a UK presence, often a prestigious City of London address," the FCA said.

Given that cryptocurrencies are not regulated, consumers are unlikely to get their money back, and are not protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, the watchdog said.

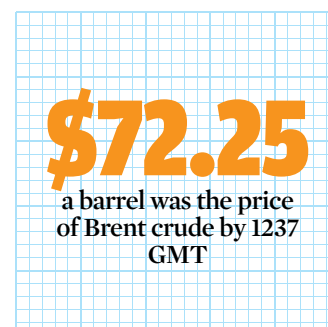
# Oil heads for weekly loss

Reuters | Tokyo, Moscow

Oil prices rose yesterday but were heading for yet another weekly decline as concerns intensified that trade disputes and slowing global economic growth could hit demand for petroleum products.

Brent crude oil futures LCOc1 were up 92 cents at \$72.25 a barrel by 1237 GMT, after rising over \$1 to hit a high of \$72.44 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures CLc1 rose 59 cents to \$66.05.

Brent was still heading for a 1-percent decline this week, a third consecutive weekly drop. WTI, meanwhile, is on track for



a seventh week of losses with a fall of more than 2pc.

The main drag on prices was the darkening economic outlook on the back of trade tensions.

# Gold set for biggest weekly fall in more than a year

Reuters | London

Gold recovered some ground yesterday as a weakening US dollar relieved pressure on prices, but the metal remained near 19-month lows and looked set for its biggest weekly fall since May 2017.

Gold has tumbled 14 percent from its April high as a rally in the greenback made dollar-priced bullion more expensive for buyers with other currencies.

Investors seeking a safe place to store assets amid trade dis-



putes and a Turkish currency crisis have preferred the dollar to gold, undermining the reputation of bullion as a safe haven.

But news of planned US-China trade talks and a partial recovery of Turkey's lira have steadied nerves slightly. From a 13-month high on Wednesday against a basket of peers, the dollar has weakened against the currencies of key gold markets the euro zone and China, helping gold regain its footing, said ABN AMRO analyst Georgette Boele.

"I expect the dollar to peak in the coming weeks ... Gold should



Gold has tumbled 14 per cent from its April high as a rally in the greenback made dollar-priced bullion more expensive

bottom out here," she said.

Spot gold was up 0.5pc at \$1,178.81 an ounce at 1345 GMT but down 2.6pc this week in its sixth consecutive weekly loss. On Thursday it touched \$1,159.96, the lowest since January 2017.

US gold futures were 0.2pc higher at \$1,186.40 an ounce.

In other precious metals, silver was up 0.5pc at \$14.68 an ounce and down 4pc this week, the biggest weekly loss since February. On Thursday it touched its lowest since February 2016.

# China punishes ratings agency

Reuters | Shanghai

One of China's biggest debt rating agencies has been punished by the securities regulator and a supervisory group under the central bank, in a rare rebuke that underscores Beijing's concern about credit risks at a time of slowing economic growth.

Dagong responded to the authorities' latest moves by apologizing for its risk management problems and said it would rectify its operations, according to a statement on its website [www.dagongcredit.com](http://www.dagongcredit.com)

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) said on Friday it would ban Dagong Global Credit Rating Co Ltd, one of the country's four big bond rating companies, from taking on new securities rating business for a year, and forbade it from replacing senior management during that period.

# Netanyahu questioned again

Jerusalem

Israeli police questioned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday over a case involving the country's largest telecoms firm, one of three corruption investigations in which he has been named as a suspect.

He has denied wrongdoing in all three.

Authorities allege Netanyahu awarded regulatory favours to Bezeq Telecom Israel in return for more positive coverage of him and his wife on a news website owned by the company.

Netanyahu, a conservative serving his fourth term as premier, said through a spokesman after around four hours of questioning that he was certain the probe, known as Case 4000, "has finally collapsed".

# Greece set to exit bailout

Athens

Greece exits the last of its three bailouts on Aug. 20 and hopes to be able to borrow again in international markets after a nearly nine-year debt crisis that shrank the economy by a quarter and forced it to implement painful austerity measures.

Since the debt crisis exploded in early 2010, four successive governments have fought to keep bankruptcy at bay, relying on the biggest bailout in economic history, more than 260 billion euros lent by Greece's euro zone partners and the IMF.

However, the economy, which shrank by 26 percent in the crisis years, has started to grow, tourism is booming and unemployment is slowly coming down - to 19.5pc from a peak of almost 28pc.



# SOCIETY



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza received in his office Polemaris Consulting Company Chairman Riyad Hassan Al Rahma and its Executive Director, Hassan Riyad Al Rahma. The two sides discussed the possibility of benefiting from the services of the company in the field of information systems.



Bahrain Airport Services Company (BAS) honored 13 employees who successfully completed a project. Salman Al-Mahmeed, CEO of the BAS said: "In the time of commercial changes around the world, it is important to have a team that is flexible and can adapt to change."



Rotary Club Sulmaniya held a regular lunch meeting at the Golden Tulip Hotel. Amal Kooheji presented an inspirational project which helps young job seekers, showing them the wide range of potential jobs available.



Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) held a meeting to condole the demise of former Indian Prime Minister AB Vajpayee.



Atal Bihari Vajpayee thrice served as the Prime Minister of India, first for a term of 13 days in 1996, then for a period of eleven months from 1998 to 1999, and finally, for a full term from 1999 to 2004.



Anwarul Islam Madrassa in Hidd celebrated the 72nd Independence Day of India.



Al Hilal Hospital and Medical centers in association with the Pakistani community in Bahrain celebrated the Independence day of Pakistan at Al Hilal Medical center-Riffa.



The Pakistan Muslim League- N Bahrain celebrated the Pakistan Independence Day.



Society



Completed a one-year specialized accounting and tax training course. On this occasion the need for qualified cadres in the field of accounting becomes important".



In collaboration with Bokhowa Group, Saar Mall held a workshop was by Dr. Simon Galpin, the managing director of the EDB. The "Invest in Bahrain" workshop was put together for the summer training program that is being held in Saar Mall.



India.



Mata Amritanandamayi Seva Samiti Bahrain organized Pitru Tharpan ( paying homage to ancestors) in which more than 600 people attended.



Independence Day in a style. Murad Al Wazir, (HOC & Acting Ambassador of Pakistan Embassy was the Chief Guest. The guests were welcomed by Nadeem Hafeez, (General Secretary PMLN Bahrain).



WORLD

# '385 lives lost'

Panicked pleas for help as Kerala flood toll triples to 324

More than 321 centimetres (126 inches) of rain has fallen in Idukki, a hilly district in central Kerala

- More than 100 bodies found in a day
- Thousands still trapped
- Fresh alert issued for torrential rain
- 6,000 are still waiting to be saved.
- Almost 200,000 people made homeless across the state
- 10,000 kilometres (6,000 miles) of roads have been destroyed

AFP | Kochi, India

Troop reinforcements stepped up desperate rescue attempts in India's flood-stricken Kerala state yesterday after more than 100 bodies were found in a day and a half, taking the crisis death toll to 385.

The state has been battered by record monsoon rainfall in recent days and is "facing the worst flood in 100 years", chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said.

In a Twitter statement released by his office, he said there had been "324 lives lost", a tripling of the death toll in the last 24 hours.

Vijayan added that 223,139 people have been moved to more than 1,500 relief camps.

With thousands still trapped, power and communication lines down and fresh alerts of further torrential rain, authorities warned of even more trouble ahead.

More than 30 military helicopters and 320 boats are attempting rescues across Kerala, which is suffering its worst floods in nearly a century, officials said.

Extra troops have been sent in and local fishermen have also joined the operation with their boats.

Thousands of people have been rescued so far, according to authorities, but they believe more than 6,000 are still waiting to be saved.

More than 321 centimetres (126 inches) of rain has fallen in Idukki, a hilly district in central Kerala -- which since June 1 has been one of many areas now virtually cut off, according to the India Meteorological Department.

The floods have risen in the past 10 days. And with no end in sight to the deluge, people all over the state of 33 million peo-



Indian passengers travel in a truck to a safer place as flood waters ravaged the National Highway 47 in Ernakulam district of Kochi



Indian army personnel evacuate local residents in a residential area at Aluva in Ernakulam district



Indian volunteers and rescue personnel evacuate local residents in a residential area at Aluva in Ernakulam district, in the Indian state of Kerala



Residents wade through flood waters to their marooned houses on the outskirts of Kozhikode district



Volunteering members of the Kerala Adventure Sports Club carry flood relief material in a vehicle in marooned villages on the outskirts of Kozhikode district

**385**  
is the latest official toll which is expected to climb as Kerala faces the worst flood in 100 years

in water in his house in Chennannur, another badly affected district, has also gone viral. Other messages have been sent from people trapped in temples and hospitals as well as in their homes.

"The chief minister has confirmed 164 deaths (since August 9). Around 100 people died in the last 36 hours alone," a Kerala government spokesman told AFP.

Local media reports predicted the toll would quickly mount amid unconfirmed reports of more deaths in landslides and people found drowned.

The Kerala government has said it faces an "extremely grave" crisis and state chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan warned of a new wave of rainfall hitting the battered region.

The gates of dozens of dams and reservoirs across the state have been opened as water levels reach danger levels. That has added to the submerging of many villages.

North and central Kerala has been worst-hit by the floods with the international airport in the main city of Kochi shut until at least August 26.

Almost 200,000 people made homeless across the state have moved into hundreds of relief camps but many of those are now threatened by the floods.

On top of tourist cancellations, Kerala's valuable rubber industry has been badly hit by the floods.

The government says 10,000 kilometres (6,000 miles) of Kerala roads have been destroyed or damaged along with thousands of homes.

News reports said electricity supplies to more than half the state have been cut. The state power company said that only one million people were affected, however.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was due to arrive Friday in Kerala, which is renowned for its palm-lined beaches and tea plantations.

The home ministry announced meanwhile that 868 people have been reported dead in seven Indian states including Kerala since the start of the monsoon in June.

ple have made panic-stricken appeals on social media for help, saying they cannot get through to rescue services.

"My family and neighbouring families are in trouble with flood in Pandanad nakkada area in Alappuzha," Ajo Varghese said in a Facebook post that quickly

spread.

**Neck deep in water**

"No water and food. Not able to communicate from afternoon. Mobile phones are not reachable and switch off. Please help... No rescue is available," he added.

A video of a man neck-deep



# Chinese bombers likely training for US strikes

The report by Pentagon details how Beijing is transforming its ground forces to “fight and win.”

● Chinese bombers are developing capabilities to hit targets as far from China as possible

● PLA is the largest standing ground force in the world

● China seeks to establish new bases in countries such as Pakistan

● Key to this expanding footprint is China’s “belt and road” initiative

AFP | Washington, United States



Representative picture (Courtesy of Hong Kong free press)

Chinese bombers are likely training for strikes against US and allied targets in the Pacific, according to a new Pentagon report that also details how Beijing is transforming its ground forces to “fight and win.”

The annual report to Congress, released Thursday, highlights China’s growing military, economic and diplomatic clout and how Beijing is leveraging this to rapidly build its international footprint and establish regional dominance.

In the case of China’s air power, the report states that Chinese

bombers are developing capabilities to hit targets as far from China as possible.

“Over the last three years, the PLA (People’s Liberation Army) has rapidly expanded its over-water bomber operating areas, gaining experience in critical maritime regions and likely training for strikes against US and allied targets,” the document states, noting how China is pushing its operations out into the Pacific.

In August 2017, six Chinese H-6K bombers flew through the Miyako Strait in the southwest

of the Japanese islands, and then for the first time turned north to fly east of Okinawa, where 47,000 US troops are based.

The PLA may demonstrate the “capability to strike US and allied forces and military bases in the western Pacific Ocean, including Guam,” the report says.

## Largest ground force

China is engaged in a decades-long build-up and modernization of its once-backward armed forces, and military leaders have set a goal of fielding a world-class military by 2050.

President Xi Jinping last year ordered the PLA to step up efforts, saying China needed a military ready to “fight and win” wars. The call has alarmed China’s neighbors, several of whom are embroiled in tense border disputes with the superpower.

According to the Pentagon, the PLA in April 2017 undertook a massive transformation of operational and tactical units as part of its structural reforms.

With nearly a million troops, the PLA is the largest standing ground force in the world.

“The purpose of these reforms



With nearly a million troops, the PLA is the largest standing force in the world

is to create a more mobile, modular, lethal ground force capable of being the core of joint operations and able to meet Xi Jinping’s directive to “fight and win wars,” the report notes.

China’s military budget for 2017 was about \$190 billion, according to the report, far behind the Pentagon’s annual budget of about \$700 billion.

When the Pentagon released its annual report last year, Beijing dismissed it as “irresponsible” in predicting that China would expand its global military presence by building overseas bases in countries like Pakistan.

This year’s report reiterates that China will seek to establish new bases in countries such as Pakistan.

Key to this expanding footprint is China’s “belt and road” initiative that seeks to bolster ties with other nations through lending and infrastructure deals.

## Thousands pay homage to late Indian leader

New Delhi, India

Thousands of mourners in white funeral dress escorted the coffin of three-time prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee through the Indian capital on Friday, showering his body in rose petals before his cremation.

Vajpayee, a poet and spell-binding orator respected across the political divide in India, died Thursday after a long period of declining health. He was 93.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who described Vajpayee’s passing as “a personal and irreplaceable loss”, led the procession through Delhi to the leafy cremation grounds near the sacred Yamuna River.

Senior cadres from Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), mourned alongside foreign dignitaries including Bhutan’s king and Afghanistan’s former leader Hamid Karzai.

## Trump to attend WWI parade in Paris

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday said he would attend a November celebration in Paris marking the end of World War I, hours after a military parade planned for the same time in Washington was postponed over soaring costs. Trump said he had in fact canceled that event, blaming local politicians for charging a “ridiculously high” price and vowing to “attend the big parade already scheduled at Andrews Air Force Base on a different date, & go to the Paris parade, celebrating the end of the War, on November 11th.”

## Fake bomb scare on plane

Athens, Greece

A bomb scare that forced a German passenger jet carrying 250 people to make an emergency landing on the Greek island of Crete was false, local police said Friday.

The plane took off from the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Hurghada on Thursday and was en route to the German city of Duesseldorf when the pilot requested an emergency landing over reports there were explosives on board.

However a security team including bomb disposal experts found “nothing suspicious” after inspecting the plane, a local police officer said Friday.

The Boeing 753, owned by German carrier Condor, was immediately evacuated after landing at an airport in the western Crete city of Chania, where passengers spent the night in a hotel.

The jet was expected to leave for Duesseldorf on Friday, a police source said.

## US man charged with killing pregnant wife, two toddlers

Washington, United States

A Colorado man who spoke of worriedly leaving the lights on for his pregnant wife and two small daughters when they failed to come home as expected has been charged with killing them.

Chris Watts, 33, was taken into custody Wednesday night and faces three counts of first-degree murder and three counts of tampering with a body in the Denver area of the western US state.

A TV station, Denver 7, said Watts has confessed to the bizarre killings. There was no immediate word on a possible motive.

The body of Watts’ 34-year-

old wife Shannan, who was 15 weeks pregnant, was found earlier Wednesday on the property of an oil company where the father used to work.

So were the bodies of their daughters Bella, 3, and Celeste, 4, Colorado Bureau of Investigation director John Camper told reporters Thursday.

The three had gone missing on Monday. Watts told TV station KMGH on Tuesday that he thought his wife had taken the kids to a friend’s house when she did not answer his text messages.

Watts also said his wife had come home from a business trip in the early hours of Monday and the couple had exchanged fraught words.

## Philippines urges US to return seized church bells

Manila, Philippines

Manila’s defence chief renewed calls yesterday for the return of church bells seized by the US military more than a century ago, urging Washington to relinquish what he called “trophy for atrocities”.

American forces took three bells from the Catholic church of Balangiga town in 1901 as war booty in what historians said was a particularly brutal military operation in the former US colony.

The US embassy in Manila announced earlier this month it would send them back but gave no timetable for their return, following a public campaign by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. But reports that some

US legislators would oppose the move prompted Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana to join calls for the bells to be brought home.

“We call on the American people not to allow the bells to serve as trophies for atrocities that were committed by both sides on Philippine soil a very long time ago,” he said in a statement.

“The return of the Balangiga Bells will be a strong indicator of the sincerity of the Americans in forging a lasting relationship.”

Duterte has demanded Washington give back the Balangiga bells during public tirades against Washington. The president urged their return during his State of the Nation address

last year: “Give us back those Balangiga bells. They are not yours. They are ours. They belong to the Philippines. They are part of our national heritage.” Two of the bells are installed at a memorial for US war dead in the state of Wyoming, while the third is with US forces in South Korea.

The Philippines, a Spanish colony for centuries, was ceded to the US in 1898 at the end of the Spanish-American War. The country gained independence from Washington in 1946.

The bells were taken during the brutal Samar campaign, which was launched about a month after Filipino rebels killed 34 US troops in Balangiga on September 28, 1901, according to the US Army War College.

## Rare ‘bamboo rat’ photographed at Machu Picchu

Lima, Peru

A rare rodent species known as a “bamboo rat” that lives around the Inca ruins at Machu Picchu in Peru has resurfaced after a decade of absence and been photographed for the first time.

A specimen of the rodent Dac-



A rare, little known species of rodent commonly called “bamboo rat”

tylomis peruanus was spotted by guards among bamboo trees at the citadel, which is surrounded by a protected area, said the National Service of Natural Protected Areas.

The last time the animal was recorded at Machu Picchu was in 2008.

The bamboo rat lives in sub-

tropical or wet tropical areas, according to Peruvian authorities.

It has also been reported at medium-altitude heights on the slopes of the Andes in northern Bolivia.

In Peru, the animal is on a list of creatures about which little is known because it is seen so rarely.



# WORLD

## features

# Never said goodbye

## Seven decades of separation in Korea

Seoul | South Korea

**W**hen Kim Kwang-ho fled advancing North Korean forces he expected to return home within days, so did not bother with a proper goodbye to his mother and brother. On Monday he meets his sibling for the first time in 68 years.

Now 81, Kim is one of a handful of Southerners to travel to the North's scenic Mount Kumgang resort next week for three-day reunions with family members separated by the turmoil of the Korean War.

Millions of Koreans were separated from their relatives by the 1950-53 conflict, which left the peninsula divided and all civilian communication banned between the two sides.

Since 2000, the Koreans have held 20 rounds of reunions, but time is running out for many ageing family members.

More than 130,000 Southerners signed up originally, most of whom have since died. The majority of the survivors are over 80 and the oldest participant this year is 101.

Close family connections across the border, like Kim and his brother or parent-child relationships, have become increasingly rare.

And some of those selected for this year's reunions -- the first in three years -- dropped out after learning their parents or siblings had passed away and they could only meet more distant relatives they had never seen before.

"I was so happy to hear my brother was alive," Kim said.

### 'I can't remember my mother's face'

But memories have faded over time.

Kim's father decided to flee, taking his four eldest children with him, when rumours circulated that the North Korean army was advancing on their village in far northern Myongchon county in late 1950.

Kim was 13 at the time, while his brother Kwang Il was nine -- a four-year gap that led to a lifetime apart.

"We thought we'd be away for only three days or up to a week, so women and young children were left behind to look after the house," Kim said.

Thinking they would be back soon, the refugees did not pack or take a single family photo with them.

Walking for hundreds of kilometres in the winter cold, with only the occasional lift from a passing car, they made their way south for several weeks as the US-led United Nations forces fell back.

In the end they were among some 100,000 refugees brought out in the Hungnam Evacuation, one of the US military's biggest-ever civilian rescues, which also saved the parents of South Korea's current president Moon Jae-in.

"When I got on the boat, I realised I will never be able to go back," Kim said.

The stinging pain of separation remains vivid in his heart and he chokes each time he is reminded of his mother.

But Kim, now aged and wrinkled, struggles to hold on to even a faint memory of the faces of his loved ones.

He recalls her crying after another of his bro-

**“**  
**We thought we'd be away for only three days or up to a week, so women and young children were left behind to look after the house**

KIM KWANG-HO



Kim Kwang-ho, 81, one of a handful of South Koreans to travel to North Korea's scenic Mount Kumgang resort next week for three-day reunions with their relatives separated by the turmoil of the Korean War, holding a photo of his South Korean family

ers was killed earlier in the war, but said: "There must be something wrong with my head because I can't remember what my mother looked like."

### 'We share the same blood'

The refugees made new lives for themselves in the South, and the family is large and successful -- Kim is a retired professor of preventive medicine in Seoul and two of his children are a doctor and a dentist.

But his father and older siblings -- who have all died over the years -- never talked about the family they had left behind in the North.

"Talking about it just made each other sadder," he said. "So we just held the longing in our hearts."

Kim himself had given up hopes of meeting Kwang Il again, expecting only to see members of the next generation who were babies when he left.

Instead the Red Cross -- which handles practical aspects of the reunions -- informed him that his two nephews had died aged 60 and his niece,



**Millions of Koreans were separated from their relatives by the 1950-53 conflict, which left the peninsula divided and all civilian communication banned between the two sides**

now 74, was paralysed and unable to attend, but his brother had survived.

"The first thing I'll do is thank him for being healthy and alive until now," he said.

Despite seven decades apart and his fading memories, Kim is confident he will be able to instantly recognise his kin.

"We share the same blood so I think we'll have some facial similarities at first glance," Kim said.

The brothers will have around 10 hours over the three-day reunion to make up for the lost years, and Kim refuses to think ahead to the moment when they will have to part ways again, this time in all likelihood for the final time.

But he laments that his older sister died 12 years ago and missed the chance to take part.

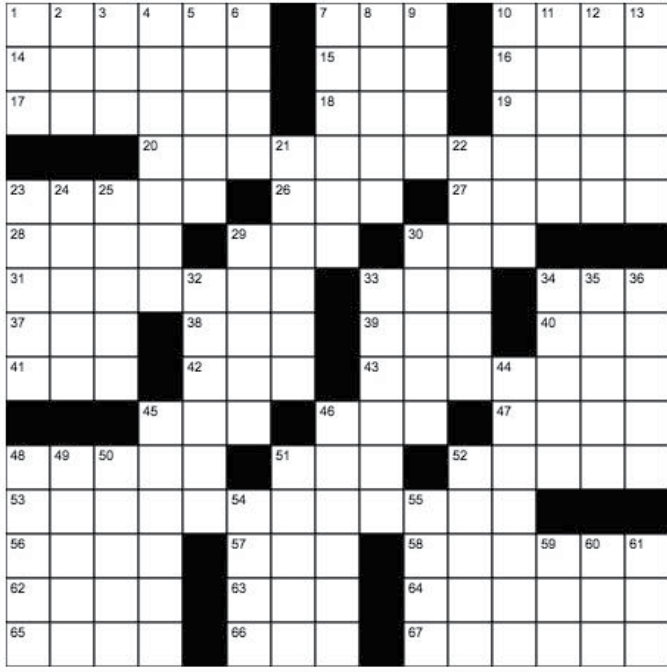
"If she was here, I would be able to share what I'm feeling right now because no one else knows," he said, adding that none of his children experienced the war or knew anything of the North.

"So I have no one to tell that I am happy or sad."



# entertainment

## CROSSWORD



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



resort; 51- Not emp.; 52- Fine and gauzy; 53- Removed bends; 56- One who has something coming?; 57- Future flounder; 58- Bikini tryouts; 62- Util. bill; 63- Classified items; 64- Nissan model; 65- Scarf; 66- PD investigator; 67- Woman's shoe style;

### Across

1- Feel pain; 7- Baby newt; 10- H.S. junior's exam; 14- New World songbird; 15- Deface; 16- Europe's highest volcano; 17- South American aquatic rodent; 18- Rage; 19- Element #10; 20- Capital of Utah; 23- Entrances; 26- Help; 27- Fungal infection; 28- \_\_\_ the crack of dawn; 29- \_\_\_-Magnon man; 30- Modern address; 31- Restrain; 33- Time to remember; 34- Old English letter; 37- Summer sign; 38- Call \_\_\_ day; 39- J. Hancock?; 40- Capote, to friends; 41- \_\_\_ kwon do; 42- Barbie's boyfriend; 43- Baby's ring; 45- Bro's sibling; 46- Father; 47- Caboose; 48- Colorado

### Down

1- Junior; 2- S.A. country; 3- In shape; 4- Norse god; 5- Sewing machine inventor Howe; 6- Actual; 7- Actor Estevez; 8- Unit of capacitance; 9- Difficult journey; 10- Writing instrument; 11- Beer mug; 12- Make \_\_\_ of (write down); 13- Country singer Tucker; 21- Plaid; 22- Online brokerage; 23- Culpability; 24- Sleep issue; 25- California-Nevada lake; 29- Quotes; 30- Exhorted; 32- Two-piece bathing suit; 33- Executor's concern; 34- Lucy's landlady; 35- Fantasy; 36- Rush; 44- Three-pronged weapon; 45- Quest; 46- Abhor; 48- Barbecue leftovers?; 49- Stone marker; 50- Gets nosy; 51- \_\_\_ Island; 52- Big parties; 54- Alum; 55- Political cartoonist Thomas; 59- Orch. section; 60- Singing syllable; 61- Plant juice;

## BEETLE BAILEY



## WORD OF THE DAY

### Thwart

#### Definition:

1 a : to oppose successfully : defeat the hopes or aspirations of  
b : to run counter to so as to effectively oppose or baffle : contravene

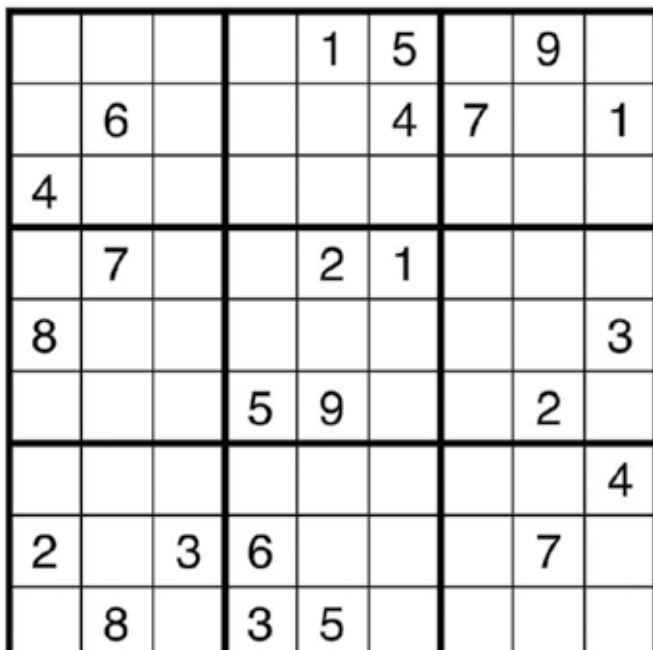
2 : to pass through or across

#### Did You Know?

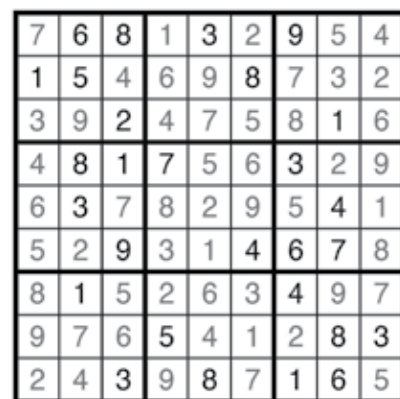
Thwart and its synonyms foil and frustrate all suggest checking or defeating another's plan or preventing the achievement of a goal. Foil implies checking or defeating so as to discourage future efforts ("the police

foiled the attempted robbery"), while frustrate suggests making all efforts, however vigorous or persistent, futile or ineffectual ("frustrated attempts at government reform"). Thwart usually indicates frustration caused by opposition ("the army thwarted an attempted coup").

## SUDOKU



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



#### How to play

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

## YOUR STAR TODAY



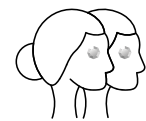
### Aries

You might find that someone close to you needs a hand today. They could be too proud to ask for help. Don't let that stop you. If you see a situation in which you can help, do it. Don't wait for an invitation or request. Simply assess the situation and do what you can.



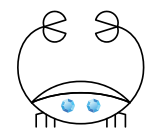
### Taurus

When was the last time you used a pen and paper? The keyboard has all but replaced these wonderful tools. In the same way that walking provides more than fresh air, the kinaesthetic value of writing's rhythmic motion is far more soothing and healing than people realize.



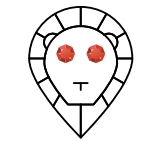
### Gemini

Today could bring a keen sense of empathy and understanding. Verbal communication is likely to be enhanced. Take advantage of this by talking through any problems or issues with important people in your life. Go to visit or call to work things out. Most importantly, express your affection for those closest to you.



### Cancer

Don't be surprised if your mind goes a thousand miles a second today. Slowing down will be difficult, and you'll have to find a way to express what's in your head. The planetary aspects lend strength to communication. Perhaps talking out your ideas or writing to someone whose insight you value will help. Even doodling can give you a place to put your thoughts.



### Leo

Welcome to another great day! The energy from the planetary aspects is positive and encouraging, especially when it comes to communicating and interacting with others. Take advantage of this. Get together with friends and family for a pleasant visit. Consider inviting people over for games or dinner.



### Virgo

You might be really interested in getting out and doing something with the special people in your life. You can thank the day's planetary aspects, which are conspiring to make this a perfect time to get together. Is there a place you're curious about and want to visit?



### Libra

Consider channelling your philosophical inspirations into creative writing. It's probably something you'll enjoy. Even if you haven't expressed yourself in this way before, there's no better day than today to give it a whirl. Try your hand at poetry or fiction. If that seems too daunting, start a journal.



### Scorpio

You might need to be alone today. You're probably surrounded by people most of the time. It can be unhealthy if you can't occasionally be alone with your thoughts and feelings. It's critical to take care of your emotional well-being, since you have a deeply sensitive nature.



### Sagittarius

Today you may want to go your own way regardless of what anyone else wants. Your independence is important to you, but compromise might be needed in order to avoid conflict. Consider splitting your time between those close to you and yourself. Explain to your loved ones why you need alone time.



### Capricorn

Today may find you in the mood for an adventure or a visit. When was the last time you took a day for something like this? It's probably been too long. Not only will you enjoy it but others will be thrilled to spend time with you, too. Whether you invite a friend along or go alone, seize the opportunity to visit people or see someplace new.



### Aquarius

Serious thinking and communication are enhanced today. They're already strong qualities in you, and with this added boost, you'll need an outlet for expression. A journal is an excellent vehicle. Talking is another. If you have issues or worries, consider getting together with all involved and airing your thoughts.



### Pisces

You might feel cornered into doing something you don't want to do today. Perhaps you made a promise to handle a project. Maybe someone decides it's the day to call in an I.O.U. Either way, say so if you aren't comfortable following through. Today's energy enhances your ability to express yourself and be understood.



# SHOW

## THE EQUALIZER-2

(15+) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW  
 DENZEL WASHINGTON, PEDRO PASCA

CINECO (20) DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

CINECO (20) DAILY AT (VIP 1): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

CINECO (20) DAILY AT (ATMOS): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

SAAR DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

## GOLD

(PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA/SPORT/HISTORY) NEW  
 AKSHAY KUMAR, FARHAN AKHTAR, MOUNI ROY

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN

SAAR DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

## CRAZY RICH ASIANS

(15+) (ROMANTIC/COMEDY) NEW  
 CONSTANCE WU, HENRY GOLDING, GEMMA CHAN

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

SAAR DAILY AT: 8.45 + 11.15 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

## CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

(PG) (FAMILY/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW  
 EWAN MCGREGOR, HAYLEY ATWELL, BRONTE

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM

SAAR DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 PM

## DOWN A DARK HALL

(15+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW  
 ANNASOPHIA ROBB, ISABELLE FUHRMAN, KRISTY MITCHELL

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

## NAWARET MASR

(PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW  
 BAYOUNI FOUAD, MOHAMMED THARWAT, HESHAM ISMAIL

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30

+ 9.30 + 11.30 PM

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

## BLACKKIAN MAN

(15+) (CRIME/COMEDY/BIOGRAPHY) NEW  
 JOHN DAVID WASHINGTON, ADAM DRIVER,

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM

## MONKEY KING RELOADED

(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW  
 NEIL BUCKSFIELD, TRISTAN KELZAI, JOHN AAVA

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.15 + 2.00 + 3.45 PM

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 PM

## PLOEY: YOU NEVER FLY ALONE

(18+) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW  
 JAMIE ORAM, HARRIET PERRING, IAIN STUART

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.15 + 4.15 + 6.15 PM

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 PM

## THE MEG

(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER)  
 JASON STATHAM, RUBY ROSE, BINGBING LI

CINECO (20) DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 PM

CINECO (20) DAILY AT (VIP 1): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 12.30 + 2.30 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 10.30 PM + (12.30 MN + 1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 12.30 + 1.45 + 3.00 + 4.15 + 5.30 + 6.45 + 8.00 + 9.15 + 10.30 + 11.45 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

SAAR DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 12.30 + 2.30 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 10.30 PM + (12.30 MN + 1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

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WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

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WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

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WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

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WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 12.30 + 2.30 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 10.30 PM + (12.30 MN + 1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

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WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

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WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 PM

## THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME

(15+) (ACTION/COMEDY)  
 MILA KUNIS, SAM HEUGHAN, KATE MCKINNON

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM

## OCEAN'S EIGHT

(PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)  
 SANDRA BULLOCK, CATE BLANCHETT

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM

## THE INCREDIBLES 2

(PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)  
 CRAIG T. NELSON, SAMUEL L. JACKSON

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 4.00 + 8.30 PM

## AL ABLA TAMTAM

(PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)  
 YASMIN ABDULAZIZ, HAMDI ALMIRGHANI

CINECO (20) DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.30 + 11.00 PM

## DUCK DUCK GOOSE

(PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)  
 JIM GAFFIGAN, ZENDAYA, GREG PROOPS

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 PM

## HARB KARMOZ

(PG-15) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA)  
 AMIR KAKAR, GHADA ABDEL RAZEK, MOSTAFA

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

## SATYAMEVA JAYATE

(PG-15) (HINDI/ACTION/THRILLER) NEW  
 JOHN ABRAHAM, MANOJ BAJPAYEE, AISHA

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

## COCO

(TAMIL) NEW  
 NAYANTARA, SARANYA PONVANNAN, YOGI BABU

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 8.45 + 11.45 PM

## ORU PAZHAYA BOMB KADHA

(MALAYALAM) NEW  
 BIBIN GEORGE, PRAYAGA MARTIN, HAREESH

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

AL HAMRA DAILY AT: 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

## KARWAAN

(PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA/COMEDY)  
 IRRFAN KHAN, DULQUER SALMAAN, MITHILA

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN

## GEETHA GOVINDAM

(TELUGU) NEW  
 VIJAY DEVERAKONDA, RISHMIKA MANDANNA

AL HAMRA DAILY AT: 12.00 NOON

# Tributes pour in for Aretha Franklin

AFP | Detroit, United States

Tributes have poured in for the beloved and iconic singer Aretha Franklin from friends, musicians, politicians and fans after the legendary "Queen of Soul" died aged 76.

"It's difficult to conceive of a world without her. Not only was she a uniquely brilliant singer, but her commitment to civil rights made an indelible impact on the world," singer and actress Barbra Streisand tweeted about Franklin, who died on Thursday after a history-making career that spanned six decades.

"I'm sitting in prayer for the wonderful golden spirit Aretha Franklin," said Motown legend Diana Ross, while former Beatle Paul McCartney called her "the Queen of our souls".

Franklin influenced generations of female singers with unforgettable hits including "Respect" (1967), "Natural Woman" (1968) and "I Say a Little Prayer" (1968).

The 18-time Grammy award winner cemented her place in US music history with a powerful, bell-clear voice that stretched over four octaves. In a career crossing generations,



Aretha Franklin

“It's difficult to conceive of a world without her. Not only was she a uniquely brilliant singer, but her commitment to civil rights made an indelible impact on the world”

BARBRA STREISAND

her hits spanned from soul and R&B, to gospel and pop.

After a long battle with pancreatic cancer, Franklin passed

away Thursday morning surrounded by her family and loved ones at her Detroit home, her family said in a statement issued by her publicist.

"We have lost the matriarch and rock of our family. The love she had for her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins knew no bounds," the statement said.

The family thanked fans around the world for their "incredible outpouring of love" since it emerged earlier this week that she was gravely ill.

Fans mourning the death of Franklin left balloons, flowers and mementos at Detroit's New Bethel Baptist Church, where as a child the star kicked off her storied career singing gospel.

Reverend Charles Turner described her passing as a "Great loss -- can't nobody replace her," adding that the grief felt by mourners was akin to the loss of a parent.

And in California similar tributes quickly amassed on Franklin's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Franklin's death came on the same day that fellow US music giant Elvis Presley died 41 years ago at his home in Memphis, the city where Franklin was born.

# Michael B Jordan surprises teen fan

PTI | Los Angeles

'Black Panther' Michael B Jordan surprised a fan who had visited the sets of his upcoming film 'Creed 2'. Jordan decided to surprise the fan, Audeva Agyma, after he got to know that the teenager had taken a life-size cut-out of the actor to her prom when her boyfriend cancelled at the last minute.

Agyma was invited to the 'Creed 2' set in Philadelphia, but was told that Jordan would not be there.

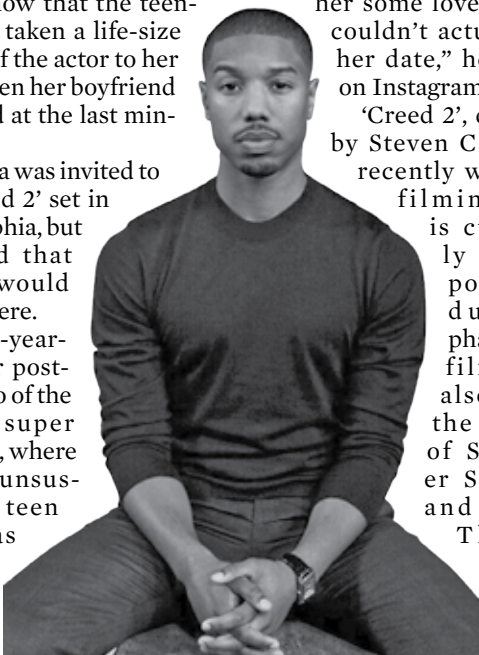
The 31-year-old actor posted a video of the special fan event, where he met unsuspecting teen who was clearly

amazed after Jordan greeted her from behind.

"I had to surprise @de.gye after hearing about her taking me (kinda Lol) to Prom. She had no idea we would bring her to the set of @creedmovie but you know I had to show her some love since I couldn't actually be her date," he wrote on Instagram.

'Creed 2', directed by Steven Caple Jr, recently wrapped

filming and is currently in the post-production phase. The film will also mark the return of Sylvester Stallone and Tessa Thompson.



Michael B Jordan



SPORTS  
sports

# Stokes returns to England line-up

Reuters | London

Ben Stokes will start the third test for England against India at Trent Bridge on Saturday just four days after being cleared of affray.

England captain Joe Root confirmed on Friday that the all-rounder would be back in the starting eleven at the expense of the unfortunate Sam Curran, who was man of the match in the opening test at Edgbaston.

"It was one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make as captain. It's about us as a squad delivering over five games and on this occasion Sam is unfortunate to miss out," said Root.

"Ben is desperate to get back playing cricket. He's desperate to get out there, put in performances and concentrate on his cricket now. He feels ready to play.

"I have known Ben from being



England's Ben Stokes during nets

really quite young and I feel very confident he will be able to go out and put in a performance."

Stokes' return for the third test, with England leading 2-0, was always going to be a difficult call for Root with two other

all-rounders in the squad playing so well.

After the second test win, Root had described the selection dilemma as a "great headache" for him but Stokes has been welcomed back into the team's

It was one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make as captain. It's about us as a squad delivering over five games and on this occasion Sam is unfortunate to miss out

JOE ROOT

ranks after his acquittal in the high-profile case.

Stokes had played a big part in providing a winning start with his six wickets, including the prize one of Virat Kohli, in the tight opening test at Edgbaston.

Yet in his absence due to the court hearing, England were much more dominant in their second test innings victory at Lord's with Chris Woakes, the replacement for Stokes, winning the man-of-the-match award for his century and four wickets.

Curran had won the same award in the Edgbaston contest for his crucial half-century and five wickets, making it difficult for either him or Woakes to be dropped but it was the 20-year-old Surrey prospect who misses out.

"What Sam has done so far has been nothing short of high class," said Root.

Woakes is retained after his magnificent effort as is batsman Ollie Pope who made a decent debut with his 28 at Lord's.

**Spotlight**

The 27-year-old Stokes is plunged straight back into the

spotlight after an 11-month saga ended when he was found not guilty of affray following the late-night street brawl in Bristol last September after England had won a one day international against West Indies.

Coach Trevor Bayliss has backed Stokes' return, saying it was "for his own well-being".

India's head coach Ravi Shastri faces a very different problem of how to raise spirits with his team, the world's number one ranked test side, staring at the indignity of losing the five-match series after just three tests.

In the first test to start on a Saturday in England since they played South Africa at the Oval in 1955, India have to improve their batting urgently and will be grateful that captain Kohli, the only one to shine amid the ruins, is fit after suffering back spasms at Lord's.

## Hanan Redha and Salma Rachid to perform at Brave 14

TDT | Manama

Brave 14 hosted in Tangier, Morocco on 18th August will feature Arab music sensations Salma Rachid and Hanan Redha performing for the audience.

Brave Combat Federation is among the pioneers in the sport of mixed martial arts to bring together art and entertainment alongside the sport.

Brave 14 is the first mixed martial arts event hosted in Morocco.

The event is held under the patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, of Morocco.

Artists who were a part of Brave Combat Federation events in the past include Hanan Redha, Hala Al Turk, Jack Lukeman, Suniel Shetty and more.

The fight night will have nine bouts



Hanan Redha



Salma Rachid with Ottman Azaitar

featuring fighters from 12 nations.

Brave Combat Federation brings together aspects of sport, arts and culture of nations together through the platform of sports.

The event will be broadcasted live across the world through Brave TV, Abu Dhabi Sports, Fite TV, FloCombat, StarSat, VodaCom, B1B TV and Combate.

## Pakistan ban batsman Jamshed for 10 years for corruption

Reuters | Islamabad

Former Pakistan batsman Nasir Jamshed has been banned for 10 years by an anti-corruption tribunal for his part in the spot-fixing scandal that engulfed the Pakistan Super League in 2017, the country's cricket board (PCB) said on Friday.

Jamshed, who played 48 one-day internationals and two tests, was suspended from all forms of cricket in February 2017 for violating the PCB's anti-corruption code and handed a one-year ban in December for failing to co-operate with the ACU's investigation.

PCB's legal advisor Taffazul Rizvi said Jamshed was the "lynchpin" in the scandal.

"The tribunal has reached the ver-



Nasir Jamshed

dict that the PCB's multiple charges against Nasir Jamshed have been proved and he was banned for 10 years," Rizvi told reporters.

"He will not be allowed to be involved with cricket or cricket administration even after his period of ban is over."

Jamshed did not participate in the first two editions of the PSL but was alleged to have played a major role in the spot-fixing scandal that engulfed the Twenty20 tournament last year.

Batsmen Sharjeel Khan and Khalid Latif were handed five-year bans for their role in the scandal, while pacer Mohammad Irfan and all-rounder Mohammad Nawaz received respective suspensions for 12 and two months.

## Kohli urges India to embrace 'backs to the wall' mentality

AFP | Nottingham, United Kingdom

India captain Virat Kohli said "the only option is to win this game" as he urged his side to make a virtue of their dire position heading into the third Test against England.

The tourists will start Saturday's fixture at Nottingham's Trent Bridge 2-0 down in a five-match series after a narrow loss at Edgbaston was followed by a thumping innings and 159-run defeat at Lord's last week.

Only once in Test history have a side come from 2-0 down to win a five-match series and that was when a Don Bradman-inspired Australia beat England in 1936/37.

But Kohli, speaking to reporters at Trent Bridge on Friday, was in defiant mood.

"The only thing that is spoken about it to focus on what the team requires at all times, in this Test match," he said.

"You know when your back is against the wall, that is the time for you not to think about anything else."

"If you look at it from another point of view, it's actually a good situation to be in because you literally have no room for thinking about anything else apart from what the team requires at that particular moment from you throughout the course of the Test match," the star batsman added.

"The only conversation we've had is



Virat Kohli

that the only option is to win this game and nothing else.

"As I have mentioned in the past, (it's) up to the individuals to stand up and say 'I'm going to go out there and make a difference'."

**'Feeling fine'**

Kohli's own back was a concern for India after he was clearly in pain at Lord's, where he managed scores of just 23 and 17 after his impressive tally of 200 runs at Edgbaston, which included an innings of 149 -- the 29-year-old's maiden Test century in England.

But Kohli insisted he was fit to play at Trent Bridge.

"I'm feeling absolutely fine. It's been an issue that's coming on and off again.





# United Korea to move ahead despite first loss

AFP | Jakarta

A joint Korean women's basketball team recorded their first loss at the Asian Games on Friday but their coach insisted the players have put aside their national identities and are determined to win as a united squad.

A 200-strong army of Korean fans -- sporting T-shirts bearing the unified Korean flag and the slogan "One dream, one Korea" -- cheered on the team, fresh from a thunderous win against hosts Indonesia on Wednesday.

But the drums and chants were in the end not enough and the team went down to Taiwan 87-85 in their second league encounter.

Nevertheless, Korea's assistant coach Ha Sook-rye told AFP there is a feeling of togetherness among the players.

"Everything is fine and we have a really good team," she said in response to a question on how the North and South players get along.

"I don't know what people feel but it is one team and we never think about North or South Korea."

The hard-fought encounter saw the Koreans get off to a winning start in the first quarter but



Hana Park, playing for the unified Korean team, dribbles around Indonesia's Gabriel Sophia

Taiwan quickly bounced back.

North Korean Ro Suk Yong, one of three Pyongyang-based players, was once again the team's top-scorer with 32 points, after bagging 22 against Indonesia.

Chief coach Lee Moon-kyu said better communication between the players would improve their chances in the 5x5 basketball.

"Communication is a problem because they were short of practice time. There was just two weeks of preparation before

coming here," Lee, who hails from South Korea, told reporters after the loss.

"Ro Suk Yong played really well for us. Among the players there is no other feeling than to play well together. So with more on-court time they will improve," he said of his side, who will play India next on Monday.

Kyungeun Lee, a 19-year-old fan from South Korea, told AFP that "it feels so good to be watching our sport as one country".



Everything is fine and we have a really good team. I don't know what people feel but it is one team and we never think about North or South Korea

KOREA'S ASSISTANT COACH HA SOOK-RYE

"I don't find any difference while cheering for South Korea or United Korea," she added with a smile.

Fellow fan Junyoung Park, a 20-year-old student from South Korea, told AFP he was disappointed but he still had high hopes for the tournament "as our unified team is more stronger".

South Korea are the defending champions in women's basketball, defeating China on home turf at the Incheon Games in 2014.

North and South Korea are also fielding united teams in canoeing and rowing at the Asian Games in the latest sign of thawing relations on the troubled peninsula.

# 'Big blow' as India's Paes pulls out of Asiad tennis

Palembang | Indonesia

Five-time gold medallist Leander Paes has pulled out of the Asian Games in a row over his doubles partner, dealing a heavy blow to India's tennis hopes.

Paes, who has 18 Grand Slam doubles titles and eight Asian Games medals in all, had been paired with Sumit Nagal, a singles specialist ranked at 300th in the world.

"Despite my repeated requests, from so many weeks in advance, it is sad that we have not been able to put a doubles specialist in the team for a credible second doubles pairing for the Asian Games," Paes said in a statement.

"I believe that my absence would only help the rest to play more events, be it doubles or mixed doubles," added the 45-year-old.

Indian captain Zeeshan Ali called the last-minute pull-out "very disappointing" and said it had diminished the team's medal chances.

"It is obviously very disappointing to not have Leander. It is a big blow to us," Ali told the Press Trust of India news agency in Palembang on Friday.

"But then again he is a com-



Leander Paes

plete professional. It is his decision completely and his patriotism for the country cannot be questioned.

"Having said that, Paes needed to be here irrespective of whoever he was going to play with as he volunteered to represent the country," Ali said.

Paes made his Davis Cup debut in 1990 and has since competed in 56 ties, amassing a total win-loss record in singles and doubles of 91-35.

# Son Heung-min's Asian Games hopes rocked by Malaysia

AFP | Soreang, Indonesia

Son Heung-min's hopes of avoiding military service by securing Asian Games gold suffered a blow Friday as South Korea were stunned 2-1 by minnows Malaysia.

The Tottenham Hotspur forward came off the bench just before the hour-mark but couldn't help the defending champions overturn a two-goal deficit, after Safawi Rasid's first-half double for 171st-ranked Malaysia.

Son is skipping Premier

League action for the regional Olympics, where victory would mean an exemption from South Korea's 21 months of military service.

Son, 26, was released by Spurs for the tournament, which represents his final chance to avoid nearly two years in military barracks -- a serious setback to his career.

South Korea, who thrashed Bahrain 6-0 in their opening match, dominated possession in the second half, particularly after Son's introduction, but were unable to claw their



Son Heung-min

way back.

Japan-based striker Hwang Ui-jo, who is also facing his final chance to avoid military service, pulled one goal back for the Koreans late on.

And Son had a golden chance to equalise with a free-kick just outside the box in the last minute, but he placed it inches wide of the post.

Malaysia, 114 places lower than their opponents in the FIFA rankings, were happy to sit deep and play on the break, and frustrated the South Koreans further with frequent



18<sup>th</sup> ASIAN GAMES  
Jakarta  
Palembang  
2018

stoppages. Malaysia's Rasid opened the scoring after just five minutes and he cannoned his second in off the post in first-half injury time.

# Mbappe set for first PSG appearance after World Cup

AFP | Paris

World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe has been named in Paris Saint-Germain's squad for the first time this season as the French champions go to Guingamp in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

Mbappe did not play in their league opener, a 3-0 win over

Caen last weekend, having only returned to training a few days earlier following a post-World Cup holiday.

The 19-year-old, who scored one of France's goals in their 4-2 win over Croatia in last month's final in Moscow, will hope to feature alongside Neymar in the PSG attack in Brittany.

However, Edinson Cavani is again missing as he continues his recovery from a calf injury suffered during Uruguay's run to the quarter-finals in Russia.

Also named in PSG's squad is Thilo Kehrer, the Germany under-21 defender who completed a reported 37 million-euro (\$42.3 million) move to the French capital from Schalke on Thursday, signing a five-year deal.

Kehrer will hope to quickly break into Thomas Tuchel's side, but the German coach has left his compatriots Kevin Trapp and Julian Draxler out of his squad for the game.



Kylian Mbappe

# Geraint Thomas to lead Tour of Germany field

AFP | Paris

Geraint Thomas said on Friday that he will make his first stage-race appearance since his stunning Tour de France victory in next week's Tour of Germany.

Team Sky Welsh star will lead the 132-strong field for the four-day race, which starts on Thursday in Konlenz, in his first stage race since completing his stunning victory in Paris last month.

Thomas's presence will boost the profile of the Tour of Germany, which is back on the cycling calendar after a ten-year hiatus.

"I've won Bayern-Rundfahrt (Tour of Bavaria) twice and I really enjoy racing in Germany," said the 32-year-old Welshman.

"It's a lovely country and I really enjoy going there.

"It will be great to race the Deutschland Tour.

"I went to see my coach Tim Kerrison after the Tour and we outlined the Deutschland Tour as a great race to make my



Geraint Thomas

comeback.

"I'm looking forward to it." Thomas has good memories of racing in Germany.

He was fastest in the opening individual time-trial in Dusseldorf when the 2017 Tour de France started in Germany and he won the Tour of Bavaria in both 2011 and 2014.

The rest of this year's Tour of Germany field will be an-

nounced on Monday, but the presence of Thomas is a big coup for race organisers.

"The best German young riders will ride together with the winner of the Tour de France. This only happens at the Tour of Germany," said organiser Claude Rach.

"This is a dream debut for the new Deutschland Tour.

"During the four days, we will

132

pro riders will fight for the leader jerseys on their way from Koblenz to Stuttgart during Tour of Germany

create Germany's biggest natural stadium."

The Tour of Germany is being held for the first time since organisers cancelled the 2009 race after a series of high-profile doping cases damaged cycling's reputation.

It was traditionally a nine-day event, but organisers hope to extend it in the future.

Thomas and Chris Froome, a four-time Tour de France winner, announced on Thursday that they will compete in next month's Tour of Britain rather than the final Grand Tour of the season, the Vuelta a Espana.



## WC fatigue could have caused De Bruyne injury



Manchester City's Kevin de Bruyne in action against Arsenal last week

AFP | Manchester, United Kingdom

Pep Guardiola has suggested post-World Cup fatigue could have been a factor in the knee injury that has ruled out Manchester City star Kevin De Bruyne for around three months.

De Bruyne only returned to training at City last week, having had a break after helping Belgium finish third in Russia in July.

He played for the final 30 minutes last Sunday as Guardiola's side began their Premier League title defence with a 2-0 victory at Arsenal.

However, the midfielder then suffered a knee injury in training on Wednesday, and was spotted on crutches that night at the premiere of 'All Or Nothing', a documentary that features behind-the-scenes footage of City's title victory.

Guardiola expects De Bruyne to be fit again by the beginning of December, but acknowledges City will have a tough task dealing with his absence, just as they did when a knee injury ruled out left-back Benjamin Mendy for virtually the whole of last season.

"We never know. My opinion is that when you ask a lot of the players, over more than 11 months, then after he comes back, this (injury) can happen," Guardiola told reporters on Friday.

"Nobody knows, but I'm pretty sure this can influence it. When you are fresh here, fresh on your legs, it doesn't happen. Sometimes it can.

"It will be two or three months. We hope he can do as much as possible to get back and help us again.

"It will be a big miss like last

season with Mendy. Last season, Kevin was outstanding and of course for him and his family, you never want this.

"It's part of the game for the players -- it's normal, they don't rest. It's a tough season, with short recovery times. They (the football authorities) say 'let's go' and we are in the competition.

"Human beings have a limit and sometimes these things happen.

"My advice to him now is to rest, take the holidays he didn't get in these two or three weeks, do it now. Then he'll start training and we'll be waiting for him with big arms."

### 'Right moment'

De Bruyne's absence is set to give David Silva more opportunities to impress, with the Spain playmaker free to commit himself to club duties after announcing his international retirement on Monday.

Silva missed several matches last season to spend time with his son Mateo, who was seriously ill in hospital after being born prematurely.

Mateo was allowed to leave hospital in May, five months after being born, and his now recovering well.

"I'm glad for him. If he has decided to do that, it is because he feels it is the right moment. Congratulations to him," Guardiola said.

"He has played more than 100 games, winning two European Championships and one World Cup. He is one of the most fascinating, incredible players in the whole history of Spain.

"He decided. No one at Man City, and not myself, pushed him. The player has to feel it. He decided to rest a little bit more with his wife and his little boy, and play with us."

City are waiting to hear from Tottenham about where their Premier League match in London, scheduled for October 28, might be played.

White Hart Lane will not be ready, as it is still being rebuilt, and Wembley is hosting an NFL match that day.

Asked if City might reverse the fixtures, and switch October's game to the Etihad Stadium, Guardiola said: "I don't know -- I can only say, if that happened, then four of our final five matches of the season would be away.

"I think when you are maybe playing for the Premier League, four games away is a little bit different."

# Ronaldo gets nod for Juventus debut

AFP | Rome

Cristiano Ronaldo is curious to find out about life in Serie A and will make his debut in the opening match of the season for champions Juventus against Chievo in Verona, coach Massimiliano Allegri confirmed on Friday.

Allegri said the 33-year-old was eager to play in Serie A after his 100 million euro (\$117 million) transfer from Real Madrid last month.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner has appeared in two warm-up friendlies for Juventus but did not travel with the team to the United States.

"I didn't give Ronaldo any



Cristiano Ronaldo

**"I didn't give Ronaldo any advice. He's very intrigued to understand how teams play in Italy. It's time to put aside the excitement of the arrival of great players and the greatest of all, we have to keep our feet on the ground, keep a low profile"**

MASSIMILIANO ALLEGRI

advice. He's very intrigued to understand how teams play in Italy," said Allegri as Juventus begin their campaign on Saturday.

"Ronaldo will make his debut. (Wojciech Szczesny, (Giorgio Chiellini, (Leonardo) Bonucci and (Miralem) Pjanic will play and the two full-backs on each side will be (Joao) Cancelo and Alex Sandro.

"Everyone is in good condition, even (Mario) Mandzukic and (Blaise) Matuidi, who both

went all the way to the final in the World Cup."

But Allegri warned his team not to rely too much on the Portuguese superstar as they target an eighth straight Serie A title.

"It's time to put aside the excitement of the arrival of great players and the greatest of all, we have to keep our feet on the ground, keep a low profile," continued Allegri.

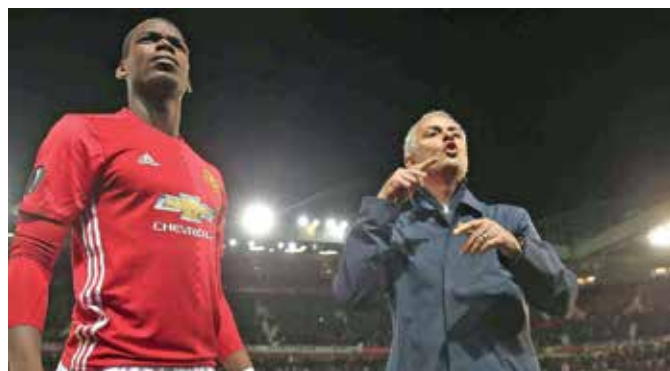
"We mustn't make the mistake of thinking that we can win because we have Cristiano. He's

an added value in a team that has played two Champions finals in the last four years."

"Players like Ronaldo are different from all the others: it shows in what he has won, he is a stimulus for everyone.

"It will be a difficult campaign and we need to be prepared and remain focused, because tomorrow at 18:00 (1600GMT) season begins and we will find a tough Chievo side waiting for us.

"I'm curious to see how the team fares."



Paul Pogba and Jose Mourinho

## 'I've never been so happy with Pogba,' says Mourinho

AFP | Manchester, United Kingdom

Jose Mourinho has broken his silence on his relationship with French World Cup winner Paul Pogba and insists there has been no disagreement with Manchester United's record signing.

A summer of discontent has seen repeated reports that Pogba wishes to leave the club he joined from Juventus for £89.3 million two summers ago and move to Barcelona.

They were followed by claims this week that manager and player had exchanged angry words in a heated meeting after comments made by Pogba following last week's opening league fixture against Leicester.

Having starred, and scored, in United's 2-1 victory, just four days after returning to pre-season training following his

World Cup adventures, Pogba claimed: "There are things I cannot say otherwise I will get fined."

But Mourinho, preparing for Sunday's visit to Brighton, insists that argument never took place.

"The truth is we are together for two years and a couple of weeks and I've never been so happy with him as I am now, that's the truth. I cannot demand more from him," Mourinho told reporters on Friday.

"He came here on a Monday, trained three days, I asked for his support for his contribution in an important match for us when the team had difficulties, he did it better and for more time than we could expect.

"When he says he did it for the fans and for the team, it is exactly what I want. It is exactly what I demand from my players.

## Fabregas out of Arsenal reunion



Cesc Fabregas

Reuters | London

Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas will miss Saturday's Premier League reunion with former club Arsenal due to a leg injury, manager Maurizio Sarri said on Friday.

The Spaniard took a knock to his leg near his knee and is expected to resume training with the squad next week.

"Fabregas is out for this match. I hope he'll be able to feature next week. I'm not sure," Sarri told reporters.

"It's nothing serious but he has a very unusual injury. He has pain near the knee, not in the knee."

Sarri also said he was confident midfielder Eden Hazard would stay at the club this season. British and Spanish media reports have linked the Belgium international with a switch to Real Madrid, following in the footsteps of Thibaut Courtois.

The move could still go through as the transfer window for European leagues is open until Aug. 31. However, Sarri assured Chelsea supporters his talisman would stay.

"I've spoken with him often in the last 10 days but he has never said to me anything about this so I am sure Eden will be with us for this season," Sarri said.

Ahead of the clash at Stamford Bridge, the Italian backed his counterpart Unai Emery to make Arsenal a force to be reckoned with. The Spaniard suffered a 2-0 defeat by Manchester City in his first Premier League match since succeeding Arsene Wenger.

"Emery is a good coach," Sarri added.

"He won the Europa League three times, he won in France with Paris St Germain. Arsenal will be competitive. They will be able to fight for a place in the Champions League."



**Kevin De Bruyne began his senior career at Genk and netted his first hat-trick for the club in a 5-4 win over Club Brugge in October 2011**



# Rain slows Djokovic

● **Dominant Del Potro enters third round at rainy Cincinnati**

● **Halep through but Stephens exits**

AFP | Cincinnati, United States

**N**ovak Djokovic's third-round struggle with defending champion Grigor Dimitrov was halted by rain, forcing the pair to come back on Friday at the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters.

Officials called a halt to a frustrating day on which Roger Federer was never able to take the court for his third-round match against Leonardo Mayer.

Wimbledon champion Djokovic is vying to break through for a first Cincinnati win after coming u p

empty in five finals. He lost the first set 6-2 and won the second 6-3 when rain stopped the contest for 90 minutes.

When play resumed, Djokovic edged ahead 2-1 in the third, but another storm rolled in and organizers called a halt.

Cincinnati remains the only one of the nine Masters 1000 events that the Serb star hasn't won. He has lifted trophies at least twice at each of the other eight events in the elite ATP series.

Bulgaria's Dimitrov, who has won just one of eight prior encounters with Djokovic, prevailed easily in the opening set and broke early in the second before Djokovic roared back, breaking for a second time to take a 5-3 lead.

The 10th-seeded Serb squared the match as the day's second bout of major rain moved in.

Earlier, Simona Halep and Juan Martin del Potro at last managed to complete weather-delayed second-round victories.

World number one Halep took advantage of an early afternoon respite from the weather to finish off a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Ajla Tomljanovic.

Halep, clearly frustrated when the match was halted at 3-3 in the third on Wednesday night, won three straight games to finish off the victory in 10 minutes -- just in time for drizzle to set in.

Argentina's world number three del Potro had played just six points in the first game of his postponed second-round match against Chung Hyeon before the rain came again.

But the weather cleared long enough for del Potro to polish off a 6-2, 6-3 win over the South Korean to set up a meeting with Aus-

tralian Nick Kyrgios for a place in the quarter-finals - a match originally set for Thursday night but now on tap for Friday.

Two men's quarter-finalists were decided as Milos Raonic defeated Denis Shapovalov 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 -- avenging a loss to his young Canadian compatriot in Madrid three months ago.

Pablo Carreno Busta also advanced, beating Robin Haase of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-2.

**Stephens ousted**

In women's third-round action, reigning US Open champion Sloane Stephens was eliminated while Madison Keys, runner-up at Flushing Meadows last year, moved on.

Belgian Elise Mertens scored the second top five win of her career, beating Stephens 7-6 (10/8), 6-2 while Keys rallied to defeat fourth-seeded Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber 2-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4.

Keys fired 55 winners with 44 unforced errors against the German, who is playing her first hardcourt tournament in the buildup to the US Open.

"I had to keep it cool, she gets lot of balls back," Keys said. "I used my forehand and serve well today. I'm really happy and I'm looking to go further."

Keys next faces Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, who upset French sixth seed Caroline Garcia 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

Petra Kvitova, who toppled Serena Williams in the second round,

reached the last eight with a 6-4, 6-2 win over France's Kristina Mladenovic.

"I just need to get out there and really fight, I was telling myself to fight," the two-time Wimbledon champion said.

"I did a lot of talking to myself today, pushing myself to just go for it. I'm glad that in the important points I played aggressively - that was important today."



## Djokovic disagrees with Federer, advocates for 3-set matches

ESPN | Cincinnati

**T**he top stars of men's tennis are divided on how long they should be playing.

Novak Djokovic, responding Wednesday to Roger Federer's pitch for more five-set matches during the season, said he wants to go the other way, even reducing Grand Slams to three sets to keep the attention of younger fans.

"I would have even Grand Slams best of three, to be honest," Djokovic said in an interview on the Tennis Channel. "This new generation of tennis fans and millennials, they don't have the great attention span. They want things to happen very quickly. So for the players as well and to attract more people, more viewers of a younger audience, I think we have to keep tennis matches dynamic, shorter and no shot clock."

A day earlier, Federer had proposed adding five-set match to Masters 1000 events and the ATP World Finals.

"On the ATP Tour, we actual-



Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic (file photo)

ly don't have any best-of-five-set matches. They're all at the Slams, Davis Cup and at the Olympics finals," Federer said in his Tennis Channel interview. "I

feel like that's a bit of an opportunity wasted. I know it's also for player protection, for injuries... I think that's a bit of a pity, but I understand the reasons."

Attrition has been an issue for the "Big Four" of the men's game. Federer, Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray have all dealt with injuries that have

**“**This new generation of tennis fans and millennials, they don't have the great attention span. They want things to happen very quickly. So for the players as well and to attract more people, more viewers of a younger audience, I think we have to keep tennis matches dynamic, shorter and no shot clock**”**

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

forced them out of at least one Grand Slam since 2016, and Federer recently withdrew from last month's Rogers Cup, citing his schedule as the reason.

Murray, who hasn't played a Grand Slam since last year's Wimbledon due to a hip injury,

was split in his opinion, telling The New York Times that he enjoyed playing five-set matches but found them less enjoyable as a spectator.

"As a player, I really like best-of-five. It's been good to me," Murray said. "I feel like it rewards the training and everything you put into that. But then, when I sat and watched the match -- that Nadal-[Juan Martin] del Potro [Wimbledon quarterfinal] in the commentary booth -- it was an amazing match, it was a brilliant match, but it was really, really long to sit there as a spectator for the first time."

Murray added that he thought this year's Wimbledon semifinals, in which both matches lasted more than five hours, was not "good for tennis."

"People that are sitting there during the week watching that all, I don't think you can plan to do that," he said. "A lot of people are going to be getting up and leaving the matches and not actually watching the whole thing."