

Jordan returns to ring with 'Creed II'

Michael B. Jordan is returning to the big screen as Adonis Creed in the upcoming sequel to the Rocky spinoff, 'Creed 2,' trying to rewrite the history.

P16

Trump retreats on policy

THE DAILY tribune



Argentina humiliated

SPORTS

Bahraini ship lost in cyclone found near an island

Kuwaiti goalkeeper detained at Doha airport

Al Arabiya | Riyadh

Kuwaiti goalkeeper, Nawaf al-Khalidi, was detained by security personnel at Doha's Hamad International Airport on Tuesday.

In a video posted on Twitter, Khalidi said his mobile phone, along with all his electronic devices, were seized, and he was not allowed to contact anyone: neither his parents or family, nor the Kuwaiti embassy.

"They assaulted me in Qatar's airport and took my phones and prevented me from contacting the embassy. I was expecting my Qatari brothers to condemn what I have been subjected to in their country instead of reprimanding me," Khalid said.

HM directive to reconsider retirement, pension bills



TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has directed the government to reconsider the retirement and pension bills, taking into consideration all views and remarks expressed during discussions at the Shura and Representatives Councils as well as views expressed by citizens and the media.

The directive to recon-

sider the two bills was made as he received HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and Speaker Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al Mulla and Shura Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh.

During the meeting, His Majesty emphasised the importance of benefiting from the values of Bahrain's democratic experience based on consultation and consensus on national issues, calling for cooperation

between the legislative and executive branches, allowing more opportunity to finalize the consultations regarding both laws.

The re-evaluation should achieve national consensus among the State's authorities and respective institutions to introduce the necessary modifications on both currently applicable laws to ensure the continuous capability of the pension and insurance funds to

fulfil their obligations vis-à-vis future generations.

His Majesty also directed to reconsider the development of the pensions system in future to ensure preservation of citizens' rights, secure financial stability of pension funds through the enhancement of areas of investment to boost the diversification of sources of income that reflect in the improvement of standards of services provided to pensioners in future.

Bahrain, UK boost bilateral relations

US identifies North Korea long-missile test site

Reuters | Washington

The missile engine test site that President Donald Trump said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had committed to destroy is a major facility in the western part of the country that has been used for testing engines for long-range missiles, according to a US official.

Trump told reporters after their June 12 summit that Kim had pledged to dismantle one of his missile installations, which would be North Korea's most concrete concession at the landmark meeting in Singapore. However, the president at the time did not name the site.

Crown Prince meets UK PM Theresa May on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of UK Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre

TDT | London

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday met Theresa May, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the new Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC) at the Stanford Hall Estate, Nottinghamshire, UK.

During the meeting, HRH Crown Prince highlighted the steady growth of strategic bilateral cooperation across areas of mutual interest, noting, in particular, the longstanding security relationship between both countries which is instrumental to promoting security and peace



HRH Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa with British Prime Minister Theresa May during the opening ceremony of Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre at the Stanford Hall Estate, Nottinghamshire, UK.

at the global level. HRH Crown Prince emphasised the importance of building on mutually beneficial trade relationship by supporting and strengthening trade and economic ties.

HRH the Crown Prince expressed his appreciation to the Prime Minister for her keenness and interest in strengthening

UK-Bahrain relations.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to review regional and international issues and discuss areas of common interest.

DNRC handed over

HRH Crown Prince attended the opening ceremony of the new

DNRC on behalf of His Majesty King Hamad.

The centre was handed over by the Seventh Duke of Westminster to Theresa May.

The ceremony was held in the presence of Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, Patron of the appeal to create the DNRC.

The DNRC is a new clinical

rehabilitation centre for the armed forces stretching across a 145-hectare site on the Stanford Hall Estate near Loughborough, designed to provide injured servicemen and women access to state-of-the-art facilities and the highest quality of healthcare to support their recovery.

On behalf of His Majesty King Hamad, HRH Crown Prince offered congratulations to the UK government on the inauguration of the DNRC, noting that military rehabilitation is one of a number of areas of collaboration between Bahrain and the United Kingdom that underpin long-standing bilateral ties.

HRH Crown Prince commended the UK government and armed services for placing military rehabilitation at the centre of policy efforts, noting the importance of facilities like the DNRC in helping servicemen and women rebuild their lives.

HRH the Crown Prince emphasised that armed forces personnel play a crucial role in the defence of their country's security and values, and deserve the highest standards of medical care and support in their recovery.



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Diplomacy

Iran's 'aggressive tendencies' must be halted: Merkel

Reuters | Amman

German Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday said European countries shared concerns over Iran's ballistic missile programme and called for solutions to its "aggressive tendencies" in the Middle East.

"Iran's aggressive tendencies must not only be discussed, but rather we need solutions urgently," she said after meeting Jor-

dan's King Abdullah in Amman.

Germany remained party to the Iran nuclear deal, which lifted sanctions on Tehran in exchange for curbing its atomic programme, after US President Donald Trump withdrew from it in May.

Merkel said on Thursday that while European countries wanted to maintain the 2015 accord, they shared concerns over Iran's ballistic missile programme, its presence in Syria and its role



Angela Merkel



EU is worried over Iran's missile programme and its role in the war in Yemen

in the war in Yemen. In Syria, Iran is a big military supporter of President Bashar al-Assad, sending some of its own forces there and backing Shi'ite militias from Lebanon and Iraq who are fighting on the ground. Gulf and Western countries accuse Tehran of arming the Houthi group in Yemen, which it denies.

She also voiced support for Jordanian concern about Iranian activity in southwestern Syria, near its border.

His Highness Shaikh Isa attends Royal Ascot horse racing festival

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday attended the third day of Royal Ascot 2018, the annual horse racing festival held in Berkshire, UK. His Highness offered his best regards, on behalf of His Majesty King Hamad, to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and extended congratulations to the organisers for hosting another successful edition of



The first Royal Ascot was in 1768 and since its inception a British monarch has attended every year



HH Shaikh Isa

the long-standing sporting event. His Highness also highlighted the strong bilateral ties between Bahrain and the United Kingdom, and noted both countries' shared commitment to preserving equestrian traditions.

Continue boosting combat readiness: BDF



BDF commander during an inspection visit

TDT | Manama

BDF Commander-in-Chief of Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday stressed the need to continue boosting the combat and administrative readiness and promote training programmes at various weaponries and units. While paying an inspection vision to a BDF unit, the Com-

mander-in-Chief also underlined the importance of dedication in fulfilling duties professionally and competently to further enhance capabilities to confront all challenges. Shaikh Khalifa lauded the dedicated efforts of the General Command to develop the capabilities of all BDF personnel and further modernise the units by equipping them with cutting-edge technologies.

Allegations denied

Manama

Bahrain has denied allegations being circulating on social media about relations with Israel, stressing that there was no statement from Bahraini officials in this regard and that these reports are merely

false allegations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed in a statement Bahrain's full commitment to the unified Arab stance and Arab peace initiative, which set out the foundations of a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Police clamps down on tinted glass on cars

Manama

The traffic police have clamped down on cars with tinted glass and curtains over the past five months. The General Directorate of Traffic reported 5,097 violations during the period running from January until May. "The clampdown aims at protecting the safety of road-users and ensuring compliance with rules and regu-

lations," said Traffic Deputy Director-General Colonel Mohammed Ali Daraj. He announced that a group of violators had already been referred to the Public Prosecution to face charges, vowing zero tolerance against such traffic violations. The General Directorate of Traffic tolerates a 30 per cent tinting of side windows (Zero-one) and a zero-zero tinting of front windshields.

Bahrain, UK ties built on mutual respect: HRH CP

HRH the Crown Prince meets HRH the Duke of Cambridge

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday affirmed that the ever-developing bilateral relations between Bahrain and the United Kingdom are built on mutual respect, and a shared pursuit of safety, stability and prosperity. The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister said this while holding a meeting with Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge. The meeting took place during HRH the Crown Prince's attendance at the official hand-over ceremony for the UK's new Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC), which



HRH CP during a meeting with Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge

was held at the Stanford Hall Estate near Loughborough. During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the importance of further enhancing military, diplomatic and

economic ties which span over 200 years. Following the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince along with HRH the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Westminster, the

The ever-developing bilateral relations between Bahrain and the United Kingdom are built on mutual respect, and a shared pursuit of safety, stability and prosperity

HRH CROWN PRINCE

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Theresa May, the Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire Sir John Peace and General Sir Tim Granville Chapman attended a lunch banquet.



The Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received yesterday the outgoing Commander of Combined Task Force 151 (CTF 151), Rear Admiral Daisuke Kajimoto, in the presence of the Japanese Ambassador to Bahrain, Hideki Ito. The BDF commander-in-chief commended the efforts exerted by Rear Admiral Daisuke Kajimoto throughout his tenure, wishing him every success in his future assignments.



Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister, Essam Khalaf meeting Turkish Ambassador to Bahrain Kemal Demirciler. They discussed the possibility of the participation of Turkish companies in the reconstruction projects, as well as a proposal to establish an exhibition to promotes investment opportunities in both countries. Training and coordination opportunities were also discussed. The ambassador praised the strong relations between Bahrain and Turkey and expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Works in the field of infrastructure in various governorates of Bahrain.



Al Noor International School celebrated the Graduation Ceremony of its eleventh batch of Grade 12 (Thawjihiya) Bahraini Section students who achieved 100 per cent pass in the Ministry of Education Examinations at The Diplomat Hotel on Wednesday. The Chief Guest, Jameel Humaidan, Minister of Labour and Social development, handed out the certificates along with Ali Hasan, school's founder Chairman. The School Chairman Ali Hasan and Principal Amin Hulaiwah congratulated the students. Out of 46 students who appeared, 8 students obtained more than 90 per cent marks.

Newspaper's report on stalled projects refuted

Manama

The Committee for the Settlement of Stalled Real Estate Projects, which has a judicial capacity, yesterday said it has taken "no decision on the sale of the 'Sunset Hills' and 'Marina West' projects". The committee refuting a newspaper report, in this regard, further affirmed that it has not taken any decision so far.

The committee also urged to obtain information from their correct sources and not to publish reports except through the statements it issues. The panel said it is currently examining the projects referred to it and will announce its decisions once they are taken. It is worth noting that the Ministerial Committee for

Juffair Views, Sunset Hills, Amwaj Gates and Marina West are among the projects referred to the Ministerial Committee for Construction and Infrastructure

Construction and Infrastructure had referred a number of stalled projects, including Juffair Views, Sunset Hills, Amwaj Gates and Marina West, to the Committee for the Settlement of Stalled Real Estate Projects. The latter auctioned the Juffair Views project and distributed the sale proceeds to creditors.

big story

In relief to consumers, prices of vegetables fall up to 60pc

The prices of vegetables and fruits in Bahrain returned to normal, just days after the end of the holy month of Ramadan, during which the prices had gone extremely high due to high demand



The Manama Central Market

The price of a 10-kilo box of cucumbers has dropped from 3.500 dinars to 900 fils, while the price of cauliflowers dropped from BD3.5 to BD1.5, and the price of cabbage dropped from BD4 to BD1.5

TDT| Manama

Thamer Tayfur

Bringing cheers to middle and lower-income consumers, the retail prices of vegetables and fruits in the Central Market have declined by 60 per cent, a significant fall, after Ramadan.

The prices of vegetables and fruits in Bahrain returned to normal, just days after the end of the holy month of Ramadan, during which the prices had gone extremely high due to high demand.

Daily Tribune visited the Central Market on May 10 (before Ramadan), and on MaY 18 (the second day of Ramadan), and on June 20 (after the end of

Ramadan days), to see the price trend in the market.

The price of a10-kilo box of cucumbers has dropped from 3.500 dinars to 900 fils, while the price of cauliflowers dropped from BD3.5 to BD1.5, and the price of cabbage dropped from BD4 to BD1.5.

The price of a kilo of garlic has fallen from 800 fils to 200 fils, lemon from 800 fils to 500 fils, ginger from 800 fils to 300 fils, and tomatoes from 500 fils to 150 fils.

The price of 3 kilos of pumpkin dropped from BD1 to 800 fils, an eggplant box from BD1.2 to 800 fils, 4 kilos of an onion bag from BD1 to 600 fils, 4 kilos of potato bag from BD1.2 to 800 fils, and a Kilo of carrots from



The prices of vegetables and fruits had gone up extremely high during Ramadan

“We barely sell anything compared to Ramadan sales. Eid expenditures and people’s other commitment is killing our business and these are our prices because the demand is low

HUSSEIN MOHAMMED
TRADER

	Displayed	before Ramadhan 10/5/2018	in Ramadhan 18/5/2018	After Ramadhan 21/6/2018	Estimated percentages of decrease
1	10 kilos of cucumber	1.500	3.500	0.900	73%
2	Box of cauliflower	1.500	3.500	1.500	62%
3	4kg cabbage	1.500	4.000	1.500	62%
4	3 kgs of pumpkin	0.500	1.000	0.800	20%
5	A box of eggplant	1.000	1.200	0.800	33%
6	A 4kg bag of Onions	0.600	1.000	0.600	40%
7	4kg bag of Potato	0.800	1.200	0.800	33%
8	1Kg of garlic	0.600	0.800	0.200	75%
9	4kgs of carrots	1.000	1.300	1.000	15%
10	1Kg of Lemon	0.500	0.800	0.500	42%
11	1kg of ginger	0.700	0.800	0.300	66%
12	1kg of cabbage	0.300	0.300	0.300	0%
13	1Kg of tomatoes	0.200	0.500	0.150	60%

BD1.3 to one dinar.

“We barely sell anything compared to Ramadan sales. Eid expenditures and people’s other commitment is killing our business and these are our prices because the demand is low,” said trader Hussein Mohammed.

“We do not take advantage of people’s financial conditions. This is an open market. When demand increases, prices increase and when demand drops, prices fall,” he said.

Daily Tribune had reported that vendors destroyed large quantities of fruits and vegetables in order to maintain high prices in Ramadan. Municipal

workers confirmed that on a daily basis at least three large municipal trucks carried discarded tons of fruits and vegetables.

“Prices are now within the reach of the poor,” said Sayed Mustafa al-Wadai.

“I feel the prices are normal now. Traders should not take advantage of people’s needs, especially during the month of Ramadan.”

“Prices are now better. We do not accept the idea of linking price rises to supply and demand,” said Haji Hussain.

“The amount of food consumed in Ramadan is also greater and this compensates

the merchants the drop in prices after Ramadan. They have already made a lot of profit.”

Mohammed Hussein said merchants should have good ethics and values.

“We know that this is business but you find merchants who rather throw the food out instead of dropping the prices and this is even religiously unacceptable. It happens all around the world to maintain the market prices but this doesn’t mean there shouldn’t be solutions to these issues. The concerned ministry should monitor what is happening and look out for the public interest.”

Court strikes down doctor's suspension

TDT | Manama

The High Administrative Court overturned a one-year suspension awarded to a doctor by the Medical Discipline Committee citing the committee's refusal to hear the defence witnesses.

The court viewed that by refusing to hear the witness account the committee has denied the doctor his inalienable right to defend himself.

The plaintiff's lawyer told the court that Inquiry commission was composed of doctors competitors. The court also underlined that the committee



Representative picture

didn't provide any evidence to prove the medical error made by the doctor while treating the

patient. The decision follows a case filed by the doctor requesting to suspend the medical

committee's decision.

"Following a complaint filed by the woman's husband, I was referred to the Medical Licenses Committee of the Medical Discipline Authority for investigations as it was accused that I didn't inform the woman of the risks associated with multiple pregnancies in short period," the plaintiff said in his complaint. "I appeared before the committee but all my requests to defend myself met with rejections," he told the court.

The committee earlier found the doctor has committed medical offences against a pregnant woman.

High Criminal court acquits man of weapon smuggling

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court acquitted an accused in a case of smuggling weapons as the prosecution witness turned hostile. According to the prosecution, the man was caught smuggling a gun and 28 bullets by land as well as other weapons.

A witness testimony was the main evidence. However, before the Court, the witness admitted that he wasn't present during the sting operation.

According to court files, the prosecution witness told the court that the case was based on a tip-off received from confidential sources regarding a man who is about to smuggle a gun through King Fahad Causeway. "I directly informed

police officers and an undercover agent was tasked to ambush him."

"The agent in plain clothes called him while I was with him. I heard him agreeing to buy a gun. A sting operation was thus planned and they agreed to meet in Amwaj Island. An officer in plain clothes proposed to buy a gun for BD500," he added.

Court records say they met in the agreed place and the defendant handed over the gun to the officer and he received the money. "I told the police officers who were waiting to go and arrest him," he continued.

However, the witness struggled to remember when the judges asked him, "What were the items seized from the defendant".

Intelligence case: Public prosecution to appeal

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court yesterday acquitted Ali Salman Ali Ahmad, Hassan Ali Juma Sultan and Ali Mahdi Ali Al Aswad in a trial for alleged spying for Qatar.

Advocate General Osama Al Oufi said he would appeal the verdict in a statement released by the public prosecutor's office.

Ali Salman was found not guilty along with two of his aides, who were tried in absentia. He has been behind bars since 2014 serving a four-year

jail sentence on charges of inciting hatred.

Al Oufi said that the Public Prosecution had submitted strong and varied evidence that included communication records between the defendants and Qatari officials that proved beyond any doubt the intelligence.

The links between them, he said, were for the purpose of inciting the violence and chaos that struck the kingdom in 2011. "Testimonies by witnesses evidenced the acts of violence and the extent of the conspiracy

between the defendants and Qatari officials."

Al Oufi said the conspirators provided intelligence about the movements of security forces and the Peninsula Shield troops to tackle the incidents, killings and acts of sabotage targeting Bahrainis, residents and public property.

"The testimonies also supported the material evidence presented by the Public Prosecution that revealed the tasks assigned to the defendants by Qatari officials," he said.

The Advocate General said

that the court in its decision to acquit the defendants did not properly assess the evidence and pronounced a ruling that did not match the accusations as revealed both in the investigations and in the trial sessions, particularly that the defendants and their lawyers could not refute the charges.

He said the Public Prosecution would appeal the verdict.

Bahrain's laws allow the prosecution and the defendants to appeal a ruling at the court of appeals and at the court of cassation.

Britain favourite realty spot for Bahrainis

TDT | Manama

When it comes to British real estate, investors surveyed in Bahrain responded most positively, said a survey, after those in the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

At 86 per cent, investors in Bahrain account for the highest proportion by a country that agreed on the strength of UK property; indeed, all Bahraini nationals questioned agreed on the UK's qualities.

In the GCC, over three-quarters of investors opined that the UK would be a good place to buy real estate. The findings come from Select Property Group's GCC Investor Report 2018. "Across all six countries, most investors surveyed agreed that the UK is one of



Adam Price, Managing Director of Select Property Group

the world's preferred property markets," the report said.

Investors, at 79pc, from both UAE and Saudi Arabia also regarded the UK as one of the world's strongest overseas property investments.

UK was in the top four destinations where GCC investors buy property overseas, along with the USA, Turkey and UAE.

'Salman Town' housing unit first phase distribution begins

TDT | Manama

The Housing Ministry yesterday announced beginning the distribution of housing units to beneficiaries of 'Salman Town' in the first phase.

The move follows the order of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to distribute 5,000 housing units. This also falls in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the ongoing efforts of the government, led by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.



The move follows the order of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Housing Minister, Bassim Al-Hamar, said that the actual operation of the new town has started following its official opening last month during which HM the King named it after HRH the Crown Prince.

Al-Hamar also pointed out that the gradual operation of the East Hidd Town and Al-Ramli Suburb housing project will start later this year.

He stressed that the progress witnessed by social housing in the kingdom is a realistic translation of HM the King's directives to build 40,000 housing units, from which the government's commitment to constructing 25,000 units within its current action plan.

Bahrain celebrates Yoga Day, sessions held in various schools

TDT | Manama

The Indian Embassy in Bahrain in association with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs celebrated the fourth International Day of Yoga at Isa Sports City Hall last night with various programmes highlighting the Yoga's holistic approach to health and well-being.

Students from various CBSE schools attended the celebrations with the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) sending 600 students to take part in the programme.



Yoga Day in ISB Riffa

As part of the celebrations yesterday an early morning Yoga

session was also held at the Indian Embassy which was attended

by Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha along with the Em-

bassy officials, a team from the Art of Living Bahrain and ICRF.

The session was joined by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's live Yoga session held at the Forest Research Institute campus in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Yoga has become one of the most powerful 'Unifying Forces' in the world. He performed Yogasan, Pranayama and Dhyan with about 50,000 yoga enthusiasts and volunteers at the Forest Research Institute campus.

"It's a proud moment for everyone that today, all over the world, people are welcoming the brightness and warmth of the sun with Yoga. From Dehradun to Dublin, from Shanghai to Chicago, and from Jakarta to Johannesburg, yoga is now spread everywhere", Prime Minister said. Yoga unites. Instead of further animosity, Yoga assimilates. Instead of increasing suffering, Yoga heals," he added.

Yoga sessions were held in various schools in the Kingdom including the Indian School and Bahrain Indian School.

Kingdom hosting 42nd World Heritage Site Managers' Forum

65 site managers are taking part in the event being held at Art Center next to Bahrain national museum

● **World Heritage Site Managers' Forum is being organized by UNESCO and Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities**

TDT| Manama

Mohammed Zafran

In an effort to help site managers deal with the increasing challenges of managing world heritage sites, the World Heritage Site Managers Forum 2018, is being held at the Art Center, next to Bahrain national museum.

Site managers from around the world are participating in the Forum which began yesterday.

The forum, to be held till June 28, will help site managers discuss the challenges faced in managing world heritage sites.

World Heritage Site Managers Forum is part of 42nd World Heritage Committee meeting which is being organized in Bahrain by UNESCO and Bahrain



Dr. Britta Rudolff addressing the the World Heritage Site Managers Forum; Right, a view of the audience



Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) with the support of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other governmental agencies.

Around 65 site managers are taking part in the event.

Speaking at the event, Advisor to Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities Dr Britta Rudolff stressed the important role played by site managers.

"This event will provide a platform to network with each

other and through this create larger networks of change and support. Site managers have a large role to play and may sometimes feel isolated; this is why we are having this event," she said.

Dr Rudolff said that site managers face massive responsibilities and challenges and that it is crucial to give the support they need.

"Site managers have huge responsibilities, it is amazing what

they have to do and yet have very little guidance on how to do it. However, the roles and responsibilities are often underestimated in the national context. This is something we would like to discuss and communicate at an international level to provide more police support for this very important work," she said.

"Considering that the World Heritage List includes over 1000 properties and a global territory of over 276 million hectares un-

der its protection, increased understanding of the World Heritage decision-making processes among site managers has become crucial in order to achieve more effective protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties."

"It will allow the Convention to fulfil its potential as a tool and catalyst for World Heritage protection and heritage protection in general," she said.

"At the same time, future im-

provements to the World Heritage decision-making procedures must build on and respond to greater engagement of those dealing with World Heritage on a day-to-day basis," she said.

"Stronger bridges should be built between the procedural core of the World Heritage system and its outer segment," organizers stated explaining the need for the forum.

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The event will provide a platform to network with each other and through this create larger networks of change and support. Site managers have a large role to play and may sometimes feel isolated; this is why we are having this event

DR. BRITTA RUDOLFF
ADVISOR, BACA

Sponsor abandons Pakistani worker

● **An expatriate family wants to return to their home country as they are unable to survive after their sponsor abandoned them**

TDT/Manama

Harpreet Kaur

A poor Pakistani couple and their son left abandoned by their sponsor are desperately seeking help to go back to their home country.

Abdul Quam, 65, came to Bahrain a year ago to work as a labourer. He worked for a couple of months, but couldn't perform his duties as he lost his capacity to speak due to some problems with his tongue.

The man brought his wife Surga Bibi, 55, and a son Ali Mirza to Bahrain with the help of another sponsor so that he could survive and the family



could make a living.

"When the wife came to Bahrain to work and help her husband, the sponsor abandoned the family," a source told *The Tribune*.

"The family is in a miserable condition now with no money for food, water and room rent. Surga Bibi was soliciting for help at Bab Al Bahrain near Krishna temple when the police arrested her. Her son was called to the police station along with her passport. The latter too was arrested by the police and detained in the police station," the source said.

Officials say that the man's wife and son will only be released if the sponsor appears.

"We have been trying to reach the sponsor for days now and we aren't able to get in touch with him. We tried to get help from the agent to help us get in touch with the sponsor. All he said was that he will come and help to get them released," the source said.

The wife is still at the Bab Al Bahrain police station. Her husband is helpless as he cannot speak with no money or food to survive.

"The family just wants to go back to their home country as they are unable to survive after their sponsor left the family abandoned," the source added.



The Rotary Club of Sulmaniya members cutting a cake to celebrate the completion of its 2017-2018 term

Rotary Club completes 2017-18 term

TDT/Manama

Harpreet Kaur

The Rotary Club of Sulmaniya held a meeting at the Golden Tulip Hotel as part of the successful completion of its 2017-2018 term.

The meeting was a celebration of the Club's achievements during the past one year under Yusuf Fakhro as president of the Club.

"It has been an eventful year for the Rotary Club of Sulmaniya. Every year the club decides a theme or picks up a cause focusing our entire activity for the year. This year's theme was 'fight cancer'," said Hassan Al Mansoor, Community Service Director of the Club.

"We worked very closely with Bahrain Cancer Society and participated in activities



The meeting was a celebration of the achievements of the Rotary Club of Sulmaniya during the past one year under Yusuf Fakhro as president of the Club.

like the walkathon, the selling of merchandise, the proceeds of which were used as charity," Al Mansoor said.

"Further, along with the help of Bahrain Cancer Society, the club is now working towards the development of the Pediatrics Cancer Ward in the Salmaniya Medical Complex," Al Mansoor said.

"We hold regular events like farmers market along with kids of special needs, distributed large food boxes worth BD7000. We also organized a visit to the pediatric cancer ward at the SMC in co-operation with Bahrain Social Responsibility Society and spent time with the kids and distributed gifts to them," Al Mansoor said.

"The club hosted orphan kids at a shopping mall for breakfast and gifts and partially funded

the refurbishment of Al Rahma Center, the centre that takes care of kids with special needs. The club also donated BD1500 to the Bahrain Association for Parents & Friends of Disabled which was used to expand two classrooms, build toilets and for the waterproofing for the building," he said.

"The Club also made a donation of BD25,000. The club has a unique motto for the coming year - 'Fight Plastic Pollution'. We are going to have significant allocation for the donation for the cause, including cleaning beaches and help recycling projects. These are just initial ideas and will be worked out once the new board takes over on the first week of July," he said.

Participants of the "Raft Race 2018" were also awarded for their contribution.

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The family is in a miserable condition with no money for food, water and rent. Surga Bibi was soliciting for help at Bab Al Bahrain when the police arrested her. Her son was also called to the police station and arrested

Bahraini ship lost in cyclone found near an island



Rescue team found the ship floating near an Island



- Crew members saved by rescuers
- Efforts continue to rescue the ship
- Ship found next to an Island near to the port

TDI | Manama

Mohammed Zafran
Relief finally for the family members of the crew of a Bahraini ship that went missing when cyclone Mekunu hit the port of Salalah in Oman late May.

A source told *Tribune* that the ship, once hosted 18 crew members, has been found near an island after many weeks of intense search.

Only three crew members were on board when the vessel got drifted away in the Cyclone, as the others, who were in dispute with the company regarding pending salaries, had left the ship earlier.

The crew members, a Jordanian, a Syrian and a Myanmar national chose to stay back on the ship employed by a Bahraini company to transport goods around the Middle East.

Following the successful res-



Only three crew members were on board

cue mission, one of the crew members, reportedly, returned to his home country Myanmar. Others are staying in a hotel arranged by the port authorities.

Tribune reported on June 12 that Omani coastguard is operating a rescue mission.

Most of the crew members resorted to leaving the job as they only a portion of the salary promised even after spending seven months on board. Three of the crew members, however, decided to stay.

“The sheer force of the cy-

clone pushed the ship deeper into the sea and for weeks nobody knew where it went. It was floating freely in the sea and was found next to an island near to the port after a long search,” the source said.

The incident occurred even as the Port of Salalah management activated an emergency plan in preparation for the Tropical Cyclone Mekunu on May 23.

The authorities shifted ships and hazardous containers to safe areas, but it didn’t go as planned for the Bahraini vessel.

“It is not known how they will

retrieve the vessel, as it is in a tricky situation. Efforts will be made, but it will not be an easy operation,” the source added.

Cyclonic Storm Mekunu was the most intense tropical cyclone to befall the Arabian Peninsula. It was only the third Category 3 tropical cyclone to hit the Arabian Gulf since record-keeping began in 1960. The impact of the disaster was calamitous with around 40 reported to be missing initially. The death toll of the cyclone reached 30 as Mekunu barreled across Oman and Yemen last month.



Cyclonic Storm Mekunu was the most intense tropical cyclone to make landfall in the Arabian Peninsula in recorded history.



Tribune reported on June 12 that Omani coastguard is operating the rescue mission

business

EU states to form ‘rapid response’ cyber force

Vilnius, Lithuania

Nine European Union states are to create rapid response teams to counter cyber attacks within the framework of a new EU defence pact, project leader Lithuania announced on Thursday.

“Nine states have agreed to join. The goal is to create rotational EU cyber rapid response teams,” Defence Minister Raimundas Karoblis told AFP.

He said his counterparts from Croatia, Estonia, the Netherlands and Romania will join him on Monday to sign the agreement in Luxembourg while Finland, France, Poland and Spain will join later this year.

Teams formed by pooling experts on a rotational basis will be ready to help national authorities to tackle cyber attacks, with the schedule to be approved next year, Karoblis said.

The minister said he expected the EU to allocate funds for software and other equipment, adding that talks with EU institutions will continue about legal and technical aspects.

Gulf Air takes off to London

- Flights connect Bahrain and London Heathrow Terminal 4
- Onward connections to key cities throughout the Middle East, Africa, India Subcontinent and the Far East

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air has launched its double daily Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner service connecting Bahrain International Airport and London, Heathrow.

Onboard the airline’s inaugural double daily Dreamliner service to London Heathrow were members of the airline’s executive management team including Gulf Air Deputy Chief Executive Officer Captain Waleed Abdulhameed Al Alawi. They were welcomed upon landing into Heathrow by Bahrain’s Ambassador to the United Kingdom Sheikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al-Khalifa, embassy officials, executive management from Heathrow Airport Holdings Limited, officials from



Gulf Air’s Double Daily Bahrain-London Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner Service Takes Off

INSIDE DREAMLINER

- Boeing 787-9 offers largest windows of any jet, air that is cleaner, more humid and at a higher pressure for greater comfort
- Large overhead bins with room for everyone’s bag, soothing LED lighting and technology that senses and counters turbulence for a smoother ride.
- 26 Falcon Gold Class seats and 256 Economy Class seats with greater pitch, larger IFE screens, enhanced onboard comforts and greater entertainment choices.

Gulf Air’s General Sales Agent for United Kingdom Aviareps UK and Gulf Air’s London team. Captain Waleed Abdulhameed AlAlawi, Gulf Air Deputy Chief Executive Officer, commented, “With five Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft entering our fleet in 2018, an additional two arriving by end 2019 and three arriving by end 2020, Gulf Air’s Dreamliner orders will ensure

we maintain one of the youngest fleets in the region.” During a tour of Gulf Air’s Dreamliner, Sheikh Fawaz and other guests praised the new aircraft saying: “These new Dreamliners underscore Bahrain’s position as a regional hub.” In 2018, Gulf Air’s network will serve 49 cities in 26 countries.



Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, commenced operations in 1950, becoming one of the first commercial airlines established in the Middle East. Today, Gulf Air is a major international carrier which, in 2018, will serve 49 cities in 26 countries.

UAE firms to buy stakes in Greek fish farming firms

Reuters | Abu Dhabi

Mubadala Investment Company and Amerra Capital Management LLC will acquire majority stakes in two Greek fish farming companies, the buyers said in a joint statement on Thursday.

The two will acquire majority stakes in Nireus SA and Selonda SA.

The acquisition is subject to merger control approvals and other conditions, the statement said, without disclosing the stake sizes or values. The goal is to form a new multinational company that will play a leading role internationally in the aquaculture sector, the statement said.

Chinese fund buys French crystal maker Baccarat

Paris, France

The storied French crystal maker Baccarat, founded by Louis XV more than 250 years ago, said that a Chinese fund had finalised a deal to purchase the company.

Fortune Fountain Capital, founded by the Chinese businesswoman and Baccarat collector Coco Chu, will pay \$189 million to buy an 89pc stake held by the US firms Starwood Capital and L Catterton.

Turkey to start implementing retaliatory tariffs against US

Reuters | Ankara

Turkey will start implementing retaliatory tariffs worth \$266.5 million against the United States over ‘ill-advised’ and ‘unsupportable’ additional steel tariffs enacted by Washington, Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci said.

The tariffs will be imposed on imports of US coal, paper, walnuts/almonds, tobacco, unprocessed rice, whisky, automobiles, cosmetics, machinery equipment and petrochemical products.

“The total tariff burden today being imposed by Turkey on the U.S. is commensurate with the additional costs Turkey faces due to the tariffs imposed on it by the US,” Zeybekci said in a statement. “They are proportional, measured and designed to protect Turkey’s interests,



Turkey’s Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci

while encouraging dialogue.” US President Donald Trump decided in March to impose import duties of 25 per cent on steel and 10pc on aluminium, drawing criticism from other countries for heightening the risk of a global trade war.



The tariffs will be imposed on imports of US coal, paper, walnuts/almonds, tobacco, unprocessed rice, whisky, automobiles, cosmetics, machinery equipment and petrochemical products.

The US tariffs have been imposed on Europe, Canada and Mexico, some of its biggest trade partners since June 1.

China says will maintain normal relations with Iran

Reuters | Beijing

China will maintain normal relations with Iran, the Commerce Ministry in Beijing said yesterday.

Ministry spokesman Gao Feng made the comment when asked at a regular news briefing if Chinese firms would withdraw from the Iranian market.

US President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of an international nuclear deal with Iran in May and said he would reimpose harsh sanctions on Tehran.

Qatar may increase stake in Rosneft

Reuters | Krasnoyarsk

Qatar may consider increasing its stake in Rosneft at some point but there are no immediate plans to do so, Faisal Alsuwaidi, a Qatari representative on the Rosneft board of directors, said yesterday.

A joint venture between Qatari sovereign investment fund QIA and Swiss trader Glencore bought 19.5 per cent in Rosneft in 2016 and later agreed to sell the bulk of that stake to China’s CEFC in a deal which fell apart.

QIA later decided to buy out most of Glencore’s stake in their JV, which will leave Qatar with almost 19 per cent stake once the deal is closed.



UAE Exchange rewarded the second draw winners of “UAE Exchange GOLD RUSH at SADAD Kiosks” Promotion (1st May 2018 to 31st May 2018) with 4gm Gold coin each. All individual customers who are doing remittance transactions through UAE Exchange using SADAD Kiosks in Bahrain stand a chance to win 4gm Gold coin. The Promotion will continue till 30th June 2018 wherein three winners will be selected and rewarded.

UK minister quits ahead of Heathrow airport vote

London, United Kingdom

A junior minister in British Prime Minister Theresa May's government quit Thursday to vote against her plan to build a third runway at London's Heathrow airport, which returns to parliament next week.

Greg Hands represents a constituency in London, where there is strong opposition to the expansion from residents who fear the extra noise and pollution caused by many more flights.

May is demanding that all her Conservative MPs back the plan when it finally comes before the House of Commons on Monday after years of debate.

Hands, a member of the international trade ministry, said he had written to the prime minister earlier in the week to explain that he must stand by an election pledge to vote against the plan.

Taiwan passes bill cutting veterans' pensions

Taipei, Taiwan

Taiwan's military veterans will see their pensions cut as soon as next month after parliament passed a controversial bill that had sparked violent demonstrations.

Wednesday's vote marks a victory for President Tsai Ing-wen, whose attempts to make sweeping pension cutbacks since she came to power two years ago have faced intense opposition.

Senior veterans will see their monthly stipend cut by more than 20 per cent over the next decade, after a smaller initial drop.

The government says veterans of lower ranks will see less severe cuts to their pensions. Tsai has said pension reform is her most important task, with official reports warning that an unreformed pension system could be bankrupt by 2020.

New Zealand economy cools as construction slows

Wellington, New Zealand

New Zealand's economy grew at a slower pace in the first three months of the year amid a fall in construction activity, official data released Thursday showed, with economists tipping no near-term interest rate hikes.

The January-March quarter growth of 0.5 per cent took the annual rate of expansion to 2.7pc, and was broadly in line with analysts' forecasts.

It followed a 0.6pc expansion in the September-December period.

Statistics New Zealand said construction had cooled off, falling 1.0pc for the quarter, but still up 1.4pc for the year.

UAE companies asked to declare Abraaj exposure

Reuters | DUBAI

United Arab Emirates' top securities regulator has asked UAE-listed companies to declare their exposure to Dubai-based private equity firm Abraaj, which filed for provisional liquidation last week.

The Securities & Commodities Authority sent a letter earlier this week and companies had until Thursday to submit their responses, Obaid al Zaabi, chief executive of the regulator told Reuters.

A court in the Cayman Islands, where Abraaj Holdings is registered, ordered this week that PwC be appointed as provisional liquidators of the company and Deloitte as liquidators of Abraaj



Arif Naqvi, Founder and Group Chief Executive of Abraaj Group

Air Arabia has \$336m exposure

Reuters | DUBAI

Air Arabia has an overall exposure of \$336 million to Dubai-based private equity firm Abraaj, which has filed for provisional liquidation, the airline said on Wednesday.

The carrier said in a state-

ment emailed to Reuters that it had appointed a legal representative to protect its business.

Shares in Air Arabia, the only listed airline in the United Arab Emirates, plunged 7 percent this week because of the link between the airline and Abraaj.

Investment Management Ltd.

On Thursday, the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA), which is the regulator of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), said it would discuss "various mat-

ters" with the liquidators and "will continue to work toward safeguarding the interests of investors."

The DFSA is involved because Abraaj has an entity regulated in DIFC.

Abraaj sells LATAM, Africa business to Colony Capital Inc

The agreement comes after months of turmoil at Abraaj in the wake of its dispute with four of its

Reuters | Dubai

Dubai-based Abraaj Group agreed to sell its Latin America, Sub Saharan Africa, North Africa and Turkey Funds management business to US investment management firm Colony Capital Inc, the companies said yesterday.

The agreement comes after months of turmoil at Abraaj in

the wake of its dispute with four of its investors, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and International Finance Corp (IFC), over the use of their money in a \$1 billion healthcare fund. The group has denied it misused the funds.

The sale is part of a provisional liquidation and restructuring as set out in a court order. Financial terms of the deal were

not disclosed. Colony Capital has also agreed to oversee, on an interim basis, other Abraaj group funds that are not being acquired so that the group and all its stakeholders have a "comprehensive global solution in place", the companies said.

The other group funds include the \$1 billion healthcare fund, and some legacy funds of the private equity group.

Sources told Reuters earlier US buyout firm TPG was in talks with investors in Abraaj's healthcare fund to take over management of the assets of the \$1 billion fund.

The K-Electric asset, which is being sold in Pakistan and is owned by Abraaj Holdings, is also not part of the transaction.

Colony's deal comes after other investors such as Cerberus

Capital Management had also made offers for the Abraaj business before it filed for provisional liquidation in the Cayman Islands.

A unit of Abu Dhabi Financial Group earlier this week made a conditional offer to buy Abraaj's management interest in all of its limited partnerships for \$50 million, according to a document seen by Reuters.

Xiaomi lowers target as it kicks off IPO



A customer looking at a Xiaomi smartphone in a shop in Beijing

● **Xiaomi had hoped to raise \$10 billion with the Hong Kong IPO**

● **The firm is offering 2.18 billion shares values it at about \$53.9-\$69.8 billion.**

AFP | Hong Kong, China

Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi kicked off its initial public offering Thursday but the firm is likely to pull in about \$6.1 billion, far less than originally expected, with investors having mixed views about its main business.

Xiaomi had hoped to raise \$10 billion with the Hong Kong

IPO, making it the biggest since Alibaba's \$25 billion New York debut in 2014 and valuing the company at about \$100 billion.

However, the firm is offering 2.18 billion shares at HK\$17-HK\$22 apiece, according to Bloomberg News, which values it at about \$53.9-\$69.8 billion.

Xiaomi had hoped to be the first company to list shares in Hong Kong at the same time as launching new Chinese Depository Receipts (CDRs) in Shanghai under new rules announced in April by mainland authorities to open up markets in the world's number two economy.

But on Tuesday it put off its decision on listing the CDRs until it completes its IPO in Hong Kong. The China Securities Regulatory Commission said it has cancelled a listing review originally scheduled for June

19. This delay, as well as differing market views about Xiaomi's business model, were also among reasons for the lower valuation.

CEO Lei Jun claimed it was an internet services company making money via online games and advertisements despite 70 per cent of its revenues coming from selling hardware, particularly smartphones.

The firm, which mainly sells cheap but high-quality smartphones in China, is looking to push into Europe -- recently opening its first flagship store in Paris -- as the home market reaches saturation point.

China Mobile Ltd and US wireless-chip giant Qualcomm are among the cornerstone investors and it is expected to list on July 9.

Electric scooters launch in Paris, to spread in Europe

● **The new e-scooters arrive as Paris faces problems with two of its flagship transport innovations over the last decade**

AFP | Paris, France

The boulevards of Paris, already bustling with a dizzying range of transport devices, are set to feature a new shared electric scooter system that has swept the US and is now heading for Europe.

California-based Lime launched a pilot scheme for the two-wheeled powered scooters on Thursday in several districts of the French capital and will roll them out across the city.

"Very quickly our fleet will grow to respond to demand," Lime's director for France, Arthur-Louis Jacquier, told AFP.

The US start-up, which already operates bike-sharing schemes in Berlin and Frankfurt, has big ambitions in Europe as it competes with other fast-expanding American rivals such as Bird.

The new e-scooters arrive as Paris faces problems with two of its flagship transport innova-

tions over the last decade which forged the city's reputation as a pioneer for new forms of commuting.

The city's bike-sharing scheme Velib', launched in 2007 and since copied around the world, is in disarray after a change of contractor led to major problems and a shortage of bikes. An electric car-sharing system known as Autolib, launched in 2011, could be at the end of the road after it ran up major losses that neither local authorities, nor private operator Bollere are prepared to absorb.

The public body that oversees the car system is set to meet

on Thursday and could vote to cancel the contract with Bollere, which would leave its 150,000 users in the lurch.

Paris city authorities estimate the loss incurred from cancelling the deal at "several tens of millions of euros" while Bollere, owned by French magnate Vincent Bollere, expects it to be up to 300 million.

Autolib was never adopted by Parisians in the way they took to the shared bikes, meaning that the number of subscribers was lower than expected while new taxi apps such as Uber undercut it on cost.

Lime and other private oper-

ators of new transport-sharing solutions are looking to capitalise on the problems with Velib' and Autolib', which are both backed by public money.

The Lime scooters in Paris will have a top speed of 24 kilometres an hour (15 miles an hour) and are able to travel 50 kilometres on a single charge. All the vehicles, which have a GPS and can be reserved using a mobile phone app, will be collected each evening by Lime and recharged. They will not be allowed on pavements, the company said, adding that prices are a minimum one euro per hire, then 15 centimes a min.

Saudi Arabia gains on MSCI decision, Dubai stocks rise

The addition is expected to attract \$40 billion in foreign inflows from funds to Saudi

- Air Arabia falls in Dubai on Abraaj concerns
- Dubai rise, but Kuwait Abu Dhabi down

Reuters | Dubai

Saudi Arabian shares gained yesterday, reflecting largely positive sentiment across the Gulf, after index provider MSCI announced overnight it would add the kingdom's stock market to its emerging markets benchmark.

The addition was expected and Saudi Capital Market Authority Chairman Mohammed bin Abdullah Elkuwaiz told reporters it could help attract \$40 billion in foreign inflows from funds.

But Kuwait's index closed down after the MSCI also said that it would include it in its classification review next for a potential move from frontier to emerging markets.

Thursday was the last day of trading in the Middle East ahead of a meeting of oil producers in



A trader uses his mobile as he monitors screens displaying stock information at the Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul) in Riyadh

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.5%	8,206
DUBAI	▲ 0.2%	2,928
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.3%	4,535
QATAR	▲ 0.5%	8,923
KUWAIT	▼ 0.2%	4,804
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.6%	1,309
OMAN	▲ 0.4%	4,610
EGYPT	▲ 1.3%	16,346

Vienna where Saudi Arabia is trying to convince fellow OPEC members of the need to raise oil output, according to sources familiar with the talks.

Saudi Arabia's index gained 0.5 per cent, helped by shares in insurance firms and financial institutions.

In Dubai, the index rose 0.2pc as property and banking shares gained. Dubai's largest listed de-

veloper Emaar Properties rose 1.2pc and rival DAMAC Properties ended the day 1.3pc higher.

However, budget airline Air Arabia weighed on the exchange, sinking 3.9pc to extend losses this week amid concerns about its exposure to private equity company Abraaj.

Air Arabia said on Wednesday that it had \$336 million in overall exposure to Abraaj but

that the impact was limited to its investment portfolio and that there was no significant effect on the airline's daily or future business.

In Qatar, the index rose 0.5pc as blue chip Industries Qatar gained 1.8pc and lender Masraf Al Rayan added 1.9pc.

Abu Dhabi's index was weighed down by telecom and financial shares, closing the day 0.3pc down.



MSCI Inc., formerly Morgan Stanley Capital International, is used as a common benchmark for 'world' or 'global' stock funds intended to represent a broad cross-section of global markets.

BoE keeps key rate at 0.50pc

London | United Kingdom

The Bank of England left its key interest rate at 0.50 per cent in an announcement Thursday following a regular meeting, as British inflation holds at a 14-month low.

BoE policymakers voted 6-3 to keep the rate on hold, down from the 7-2 result last time round, indicating that the central bank could hike borrowing costs at its next meeting in August, matching some analysts' expectations.

Also at its June meeting meanwhile, the bank voted unanimously to maintain its quantitative easing stimulus policy, under which it has pumped £445 billion (\$586 billion, 506 billion euros) around the UK economy.

"A vote of 6-3 to leave interest rates unchanged at 0.5pc and quantitative easing unchanged... suggests that the

Bank of England is closer to the European Central Bank rather than the more aggressive US Federal Reserve in its outlook, with any tightening of monetary policy likely to come slowly and in modest steps," said AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould.

The pound nevertheless rallied against the dollar on increased expectations that a rate hike could now occur before the end of the summer.

In minutes of the two-day meeting that ended Wednesday, the BoE said that UK inflation "is expected to pick up by slightly more than projected... reflecting higher dollar oil prices and a weaker sterling exchange rate".

At the same time, Britain's economy has grown at the slowest pace in more than five years, with gross domestic product of only 0.1pc in the first three months of this year.

Oil falls as OPEC nears deal to raise production

- OPEC+ are currently keeping more than two million bpd off the market.

- Most of the shortfall has come from Venezuela

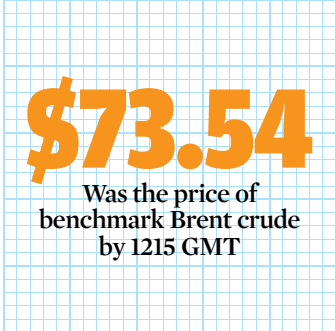
AFP | Vienna, Austria

Oil prices fell yesterday as crude exporters in OPEC appeared to be nearing a deal to increase production.

Benchmark Brent crude dropped \$1.76 a barrel, or 2.3 per cent, to a low of \$72.98 before recovering a little to \$73.54,



A man refuels his car at a petrol station in Tehran, Iran



down \$1.20, by 1215 GMT. U.S. light crude was \$1.00 lower at \$64.71.

Brent reached a 3-1/2-year high above \$80 a barrel last month but has fallen steadily in recent weeks as Saudi Arabia, de facto leader of OPEC, has signalled it intends to raise

production to stabilise prices.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries holds its biannual meeting in Vienna on Friday and is widely expected to agree to pump more, possibly supported by some other producers outside OPEC, including Russia.

Brazil maintains key interest rate at 6.5 per cent

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Brazil's central bank maintained its key interest rate at 6.5 percent Wednesday, as expected, with inflation considered to be under control despite strong depreciation of the real and a costly truckers' strike.

The bank said the truckers' strike, which shut down much of the economy for more than a week in May, "made it difficult to read the current evolution of economic activity."

The bank also said that inflation would spike following the strike, which saw shop shelves and factories starved of deliveries, driving up prices.

However, this inflationary rise will be temporary, the bank said.

Daimler cuts profit forecast, blaming US-China tariffs

Frankfurt am Main | Germany

German luxury carmaker Daimler on Wednesday cut its profit forecast for 2018, blaming new tariffs on cars exported from the United States to China, amid lingering fears of a trade war between the world's biggest economies.

"Fewer than expected SUV sales and higher than expected costs -- not completely passed on to the customers -- must be assumed because of increased import tariffs for US vehicles into the Chinese market," the Mercedes-Benz manufacturer said in a statement.

As a result, Daimler said it now predicts its underlying or operating profit, as measured by earnings before interest and tax (EBIT), will be slightly lower than last year, instead of slightly above.

IMF greenlights 3-year, \$50bn Argentina aid

Washington | United States

The International Monetary Fund on Wednesday formally approved a \$50 billion aid package intended to help Argentina confront inflation, budget deficits and a weakening currency.

The fund's executive board approved the agreement that Argentina struck with IMF staff earlier this month.

Argentina plans to draw on the first \$15 billion tranche of the aid program, of which half will be used for budget support, while treating the remaining \$35 billion as "precautionary," according to the IMF.

Christine Lagarde, the IMF's managing director, has heaped praise on Argentina's plans for economic reform but insisted the decisions were made in Buenos Aires and not handed down from the Washington-based fund.

With a billion users, Instagram takes on YouTube

San Francisco | United States

Instagram said Wednesday it now has more than one billion active users, as it unveiled a new long-form video feature in a bid to attract "creators" like those on YouTube.

It becomes the fourth Facebook platform to hit the billion-user mark, including the namesake social network with more than two billion users, and the messaging applications WhatsApp and Messenger.

Instagram, which had some 800 million users as of Septem-



Instagram unveils new video service in challenge to YouTube

ber, has been outpacing rival social networks such as Twitter and Snapchat and has been gaining younger users even as Facebook itself has seen declines in the youth segment.

Instagram chief executive Kevin Systrom announced the milestone as he unveiled the new video application known as IGTV.

"We have now a community of one billion users," Systrom told the event in San Francisco.

"Since our launch in 2010, we've watched with amazement as the community has flourished

and grown."

As Facebook itself has moved deeper into video, Instagram will become a direct competitor to YouTube with IGTV.

IGTV will enable any user to upload long-form videos and will also include "channels" from video "creators," similar to a format employed by Google-owned YouTube which has given rise to a number of YouTube "stars." "Anyone can be a creator -- you can upload your own IGTV videos in the app or on the web to start your own channel," Systrom said.

Festival of goals

Robbie Williams enthralls fans as tournament kicks off with bang

Fans from all over the world witnessed a glitzy and glamorous affair at the opening event of the much awaited FIFA World Cup 2018. The grand opening ceremony of FIFA World Cup kicked off today in Russia at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium. The ceremony began just 30 minutes before the opening game between Russia and Saudi Arabia.

British pop star Robbie Williams enthralled the crowd with his famous song 'Let me entertain you' and 'Angels'. Along with Williams, celebrated Russian soprano Aida Garifullina later joined him on stage.



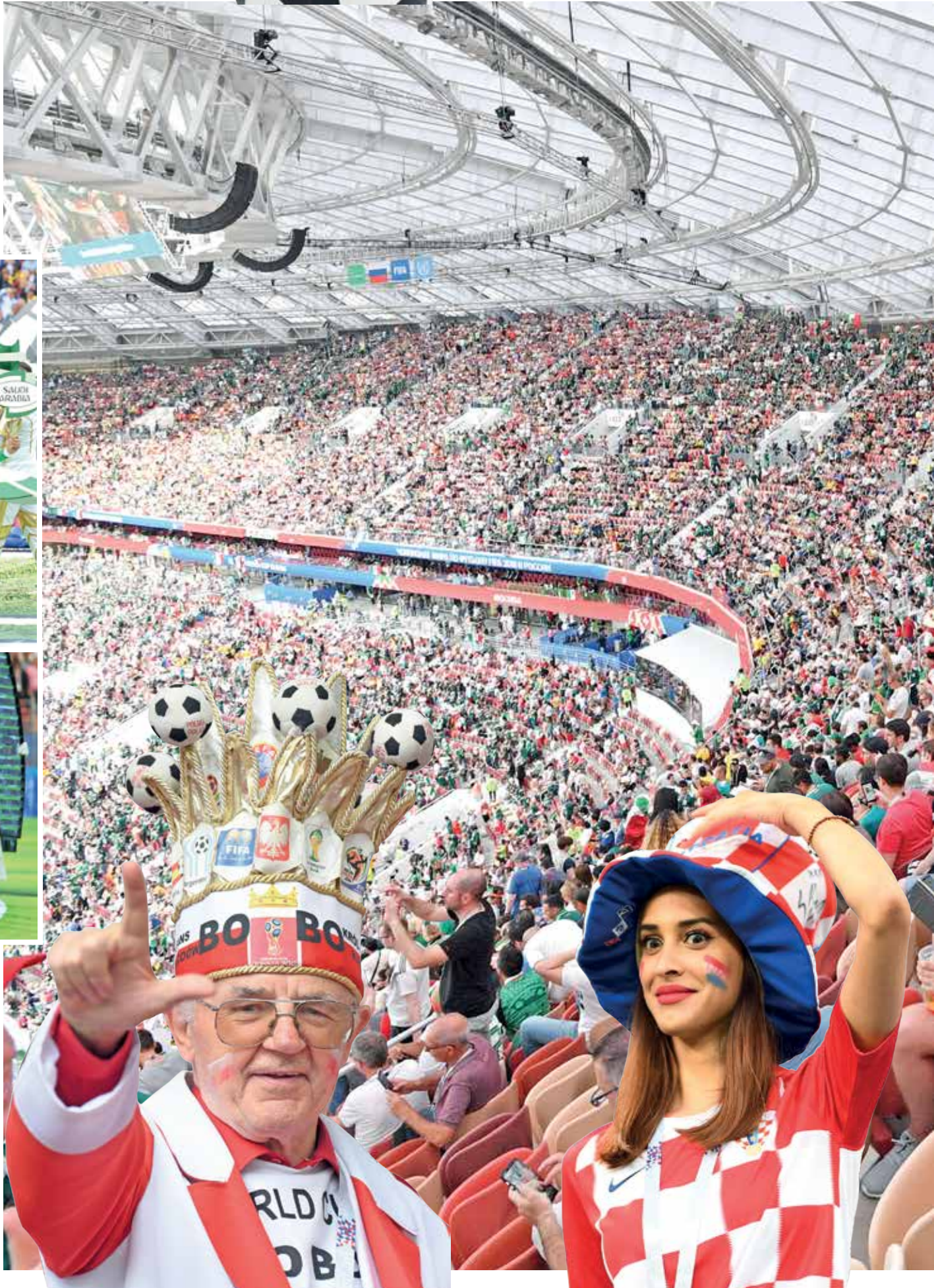
Performers during the opening ceremony

Fans test their skills at lapotball

Without a moment of hesitation, Colombia fan Hector Varela changed his branded sports shoes for village-style handmade boots to try his luck and skills at Mordovian soccer in Saransk.

The local version of soccer is dubbed 'lapotball'. 'Lapot' in Russian refers to the traditional shoes made of vine which Mordovians used to wear in olden days.

While the inner part of the plant is used to produce the 'bast' shoes, the bark serves as a base to make a soccer ball which is heavier than the usual one. Fans with no experience in the tricky, one-man game have to practice and need to be patient in order to score.



A Poland fan gestures

A Croatia's fan looks on as she waits in the grandstand

Russians revel in influx of visitors

Russians in World Cup host cities – some of them remote or industrial towns where tourists rarely tread – are bending over backwards to help visiting soccer fans, dispelling some preconceptions and spreading an upbeat atmosphere throughout the tournament.

From helping fans navigate public transport to translating Cyrillic restaurant menus, Russians appear to be revelling in the short-lived influx of fans despite previous fears that racism or xenophobia could mar the 2018 World Cup.

Tens of thousands have flocked to the Cup and become visitors so far, with Argentinean champion

South

Tens of thousands have flocked to the Cup and become visitors so far, with Argentinean champion



An Argentina's fan smiles

A Mexico fan takes a photo with her smartphone

American football fever grips Moscow

sands of South Americans
d to Moscow for the World
e the most visible group of
with Peruvian, Mexican and
nts reverberating around the

Russian capital.

Spanish is rarely heard on the streets of Moscow but has overnight become the primary foreign language in the city, with some Muscovites even beginning to hum along to

Peruvian and Colombian supporters' rallying cries. The football-loving nations gathered near Red Square, each country's fans cheering for hours near the Marshal Zhukov statue as Russians took selfies with them.

Iceland fans warm up with Viking clap

Iceland fans made the most of their reputation as fiery Vikings on Saturday, practising their thunderous "Viking clap" ahead of their World Cup match in Moscow.

The smallest nation in the tournament, with around 332,000 people, Ice-

land fans have a Viking mentality, which means they will fear no-one, and hundreds of fans dressed in blue filled the stands of the Zaryadye Park in Moscow, clapping their hands over their heads in a crescendo ending in a frenzy of chanting.



Supporters of Iceland clap as they gather in Zaryadye Park Moscow, Russia



World Cup and Brazil legend Ronaldo also made an appearance alongside the mascot as part of the ceremony, watched by 81,000 in attendance at the Luzhniki, where the final will be held in just a month's time



A Russian fan cheers her team



Croatia's fans react as they watch on a giant screen their national team play Argentina

WORLD

Prosecutor charges Netanyahu's wife with fraud

Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife Sara was charged on yesterday with fraud and breach of trust after a long police probe into allegations she falsified household expenses, the justice ministry said.

"The Jerusalem district prosecutor a short time ago filed charges against the prime minister's wife," the ministry said. The allegations announced last year are that she and an aide falsely declared there were no cooks available at the PM's official residence.

More than 20 nations seek to toughen climate goals by 2020

Reuters | Oslo

More than 20 nations ranging from Germany, France and Britain to Pacific island states said yesterday they would try to limit their greenhouse gas emissions more than already planned under the Paris climate agreement by 2020. They welcomed a decision by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to host a summit in September 2019.

'Drum tower' collapses at Japan's quake-hit Kumamoto Castle

AFP | Tokyo

A tower at the historic, quake-damaged Kumamoto Castle in southern Japan - one of the country's three premier castles and once a major tourist attraction - has collapsed, an official said yesterday.

Heavy rain at the castle - originally built in 1607 during Japan's feudal era - caused a stone wall supporting the structure to crumble.

Moon arrives in Russia for talks with Putin

AFP | Moscow

South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in Russia yesterday ahead of talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, which are expected to focus on economic cooperation and the situation in North Korea.

Moon will meet with Putin on Friday when a number of joint documents will be signed, the Kremlin said.

Top Iraq court orders manual election recount



Employees of the Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission inspect ballot boxes at a warehouse in Najaf, Iraq

The recount due to suspicions of electoral fraud

Baghdad

Iraq's supreme court yesterday ordered a manual recount of May 12 legislative elections, a process expected to take weeks although parliament's mandate runs out at the end of this month.

The recount due to suspicions of electoral fraud, however, would not significantly affect the overall outcome,

according to experts on Iraqi politics.

The court ruled that parliament's decision on June 6 to order a manual recount in response to allegations of irregularities did not violate the constitution, its president Medhat al-Mahmud told a news conference.

All of the roughly 11 million election ballots, including those of voters living abroad, displaced persons and security forces, must be recounted, he said, referring to the three categories whose results MPs had decided to annul because they were allegedly the most suspect.

Ferry disaster: Captain detained

Official estimates listed 193 others as missing in Sumatra

- Three passengers have been confirmed dead
- The trio were among just 18 people rescued

AFP | Simalungun

The captain and two crew of an overloaded Indonesian ferry that sank into the depths of a volcanic lake have been detained for questioning over the deadly disaster, police said yesterday.

The trio were among just 18 people rescued after the vessel capsized and sank Monday at Lake Toba, a picturesque tourist destination in Sumatra.

Three passengers have been confirmed dead, but official estimates listed 193 others -- including children -- as missing.

That has raised fears the sinking could be one of Indonesia's deadliest maritime disasters.

The traditional wooden boat could have been carrying five times the number of passengers



Jadianto Nainggolan (C), 40, holds a smartphone looking at social media images related to the tragedy as he waits for news on the sunken ferry, next to Lake Toba in North Sumatra yesterday

it was built to hold, along with dozens of motorcycles, officials have said.

Captain Tua Sagala and two of his crew would be questioned, said local police chief Marudut Liberty Pandjaitan.

Sagala is also the boat's owner, he said, adding that a fourth crew member who survived the accident had since fled the area.

"(He) is still at large," Pandjaitan told reporters.

Earlier yesterday, national police spokesman Yusri Yunus said the captain had not yet been questioned because he was "still traumatised".

Meanwhile, hundreds of grief-stricken people prayed and sang hymns at the shore, hoping for news about missing loved ones. Indonesia is a Muslim-majority country but the area has a large Christian population.

Amazing moment: Rare shark leaps from sea

Dailymail | Devon

Sightseers certainly got more than they bargained for when a huge shark was seen leaping out of the water off the south coast of England.

The predatory thresher shark was pictured jumping vertically out of the water before slamming its elongated tail on the surface of the sea.

The rare thresher shark is usually found in warmer climates in the mid-Atlantic but the 15 ft long predator appeared in Lyme Bay. The sighting was witnessed by a group of 10 nature lovers on a charter boat looking for dolphins. Tour guide Dr Tom Brereton grabbed his camera from the wheelhouse



The lethal thresher shark was pictured jumping vertically out of the air before slamming its elongated tail on the surface of the sea



Dr Brereton managed to take two brilliant frames of the predator leaping out of the sea with its nose pointing towards the sky

just in time to capture the moment. He managed to take two brilliant frames of the predator leaping out of the sea with its nose pointing towards the sky.

Erdogan doesn't rule out coalition if no majority



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

AFP | Ankara

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said he does not rule out forming a coalition in parliament if his ruling-party led alliance does not win an overall majority in tight polls this weekend.

Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) is expected to win the most seats in Sunday's dual parliamentary and presidential polls.

But some analysts believe the AKP-led alliance will fail to win a majority in the 600-seat parliament in the face of a strong challenge by the opposition, which has formed its own election pact.

"If the People's Alliance gets over 300 seats, the issue of (coalitions) is finished," Erdogan said in an interview with Kral FM and Kral Pop Radio late Wednesday.

Koko, gorilla who used sign language, dies

Reuters | California

Koko, a western lowland gorilla said to have mastered American Sign Language, has died aged 46, the California institute which studied her said yesterday.

"The Gorilla Foundation is sad to announce the passing of our beloved Koko," the research center said in a statement, adding she passed away in her sleep.

Koko was among a handful of primates who could communicate using sign language; others included Washoe, a female chimpanzee in Washing-

ton state, and Chantek, a male orangutan in Atlanta. Her keepers said she understood some spoken English, too. While some scientists questioned the sign language claim, the "talking" lowland gorilla nevertheless became an ambassador for her species, which is threatened by logging and poaching in their native habitats in central Africa.

The Gorilla Foundation said Koko touched the lives of millions as an icon for interspecies communication and empathy.

"She was beloved and will be deeply missed," it said.

Koko was born Hanabi-ko



Koko could communicate using sign language

(Japanese for "Fireworks Child") on July 4, 1971 at the San Francisco Zoo. Dr. Francine "Penny" Patterson began working with Koko the following year, the foundation said.

Japan halts missile drills after Trump-Kim summit

AFP | Tokyo

Japan has halted evacuation drills simulating a North Korean missile attack in the wake of historic talks between Washington and Pyongyang, local media reported yesterday.

Government officials did not immediately confirm the reports, but authorities in one town said they were suspending a drill planned for next week on orders from Tokyo.

The decision comes after US President Donald Trump and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un met last week in Singapore.

G7 ambassadors 'deeply concerned' about Oleg Sentsov

AFP | Kiev

G7 Ambassadors said yesterday they were deeply concerned about Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov, who has been on hunger strike for more than a month as he serves a 20-year term in a Russian prison camp.

"We are deeply concerned about the situation of Oleg Sentsov and other Ukrainian prisoners and detainees in Russia," the countries' ambassadors to Kiev said in a joint statement released via Twitter.

"Their release, as part of a broader bilateral exchange of detainees, would be an important humanitarian step forward," it said.

Ex-russian club boss arrested over world cup ticket scam

AFP | Moscow

Russia yesterday said it has arrested a former executive director of North Caucasus football team Anzhi on suspicion of embezzlement, while reports linked him to a major scam offering World Cup tickets to Chinese fans. A spokeswoman for Moscow's Tverskoi district court, Anastasia Dzyurko, confirmed to AFP that Eldar Isayev was detained Wednesday until August 18 on a charge of large-scale embezzlement.

Jellyfish leaves from Spanish beaches

Dailymail | Malaga

Eleven tonnes of jellyfish have been cleared from Costa del Sol beaches after 150 holidaymakers were treated for stings.

Around eight tonnes were collected from the shore between the eastern resort of Nerja and Velez-Malaga just east and another three tonnes between Torremolinos and Mijas. The high number of jellyfish has been blamed on unseasonal rains.

Trump retreats on policy

President signs order to 'keep families together' but derides US immigration laws at Minnesota rally

AFP | Washington

President Donald Trump has ordered an end to the separation of migrant children from their parents on the US border, reversing a tough policy under heavy pressure from his fellow Republicans, Democrats and the international community.

The spectacular about-face comes after more than 2,300 children were stripped from their parents and adult relatives after illegally crossing the border since May 5 and placed in tent camps and other facilities, with no way to contact their relatives.

Despite the order, there was no plan in place to reunite the thousands of children already separated from their families, according to multiple U.S. media reports citing officials from the Health and Human Services Department (HHS).

Those youngsters would re-



Watched by Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen (L) and Vice President Mike Pence, US President Donald Trump shows an executive order on immigration which he just signed in the Oval Office of the White House

main separated while their parents were under federal custody during immigration proceedings, according to The New York Times, before officials backed off those comments late on June 20.

"It is still very early and we are awaiting further guidance on the matter," said Brian Marriott, senior director of communications at HHS's Administration of Children and Families.

"Reunification is always the ultimate goal," he said.

Pictures and accounts of the

KEY POINTS

- Any adult caught crossing the border illegally, even if to request asylum, will be arrested and charged with criminal illegal entry.
- The children of migrant family groups crossing the border illegally will no longer be separated from them.
- The family units will be held by DHS over the period required for their court trial on illegal entry charges, and for reviews of their immigration requests.
- However, Trump's order also says that, "to the extent practicable", cases involving families will be prioritized.
- The Department of Defence was ordered to allow any available facilities to be used for housing illegal immigrants, and, if necessary, to build new facilities for them.

separations sparked outrage and a rebellion among Republicans in Trump's own party, as well as international accusation that the US was committing human rights violations.

"What we have done today is we are keeping families together," Trump said as he signed the executive order. "I didn't like the sight or the feeling of families being separated."

At a later campaign-style rally of supporters in the northern state of Minnesota, he reiterated that the change does not mean a softening at the border.

"We will keep families together, but the border is going to be just as tough," he said.

Trump then accused rival Democrats of putting "illegal immigrants before they put American citizens."

For weeks, Trump had insisted he was bound by law to split the children from their parents and that only Congress could resolve the problem.

Killing of dogs for meat illegal, rules South Korean court

One million dogs believed to be eaten annually

AFP | Seoul

A South Korean court has ruled the killing of dogs for meat is illegal, in a landmark decision that animal rights activists said yesterday could pave the way to outlawing eating canines.

The meat has long been a part of South Korean cuisine, with about one million dogs believed to be eaten annually.

But consumption has declined as South Koreans increasingly embrace the idea of dogs as man's best friend rather than livestock, with the practice now something of a taboo among



This picture taken shows South Korean animal rights activists wearing dog-shaped masks outside a court in Seoul

younger generations and pressure from activists mounting.

Even so it remains a legal grey area. Despite no specific ban, authorities have invoked

YOU KNOW WHAT

South Korea is the only country in the world known to solely raise dogs on intensive dog farming facilities to supply the demand for dog meat and associated products

hygiene regulations or animal protection laws that ban cruel slaughter methods to crack down on dog farms and restaurants ahead of international events such as the Pyeongchang Olympics.

Animal rights group Care last year filed complaints against a dog farm operator in Bucheon.

Millionaire developer jailed for ordering killing

Sydney

A millionaire property developer could die in jail after he was sentenced yesterday to 39 years behind bars for ordering the killing of a former business associate in a wealthy Sydney suburb.

Ron Medich, 70, was in April found guilty of directing the 2009 murder of Scottish-born property tycoon Michael McGurk and for organising intimidation of his wife.

McGurk was shot in the head by a gunman in front of his young son as he stepped from his Mercedes in the harbourside suburb of Cremorne.

Medich and McGurk were involved in multi-million-dollar property and financing partnerships before the relationship turned sour.

Laughter is the best medicine!

Dailmail | Hoddesdon

This is the moment a father-to-be rushed to hospital following a motorbike accident burst into song as medics tended to his injuries.

'Cheeky chappy' Billy, 25, who was left pinned beneath a car in the smash in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, was feeling the effects of pain relief medication when he started singing the Ed Sheeran hit Shape of You - and urged his doctors to join in.

Despite their concerns over the internal injuries he'd suffered, staff couldn't help but smile at jovial Billy's pleas for a singalong on Wednesday night's episode of 24 Hours in A&E, which followed his stint at St George's Hospital in London following the accident- which happened just weeks before his girlfriend Jade was due to give birth. Billy had been told to



Billy

lie as still as possible while the doctors assessed his potentially life-threatening injuries.

After a scan gave his spine the all-clear doctors removed his neck brace, and set about fixing his dislocated elbow in a gruesome procedure.

To make sure he didn't feel a thing consultant Melissa gave him a powerful sedative, but then as he slowly came round

YOU SMILE

Billy was feeling the effects of pain relief medication when he started singing the 'Shape of You'

he questioned what was wrong.

"Why do I feel weird?" Billy asked before turning to the doctor who was forming a cast around his arm. High on the medication he then asked if the doctor would sing with him, and launched into the chorus of Ed Sheeran's hit song Shape of You. Staff confessed they couldn't join in because they didn't know the lyrics.

Burger King pulls WC ad

AFP | Moscow

Burger King has apologised for an online ad offering burgers to Russian women who get impregnated by football players during the World Cup the country is hosting until July 15.

The promotion on the global fast food chain's account on VK -- a local rival of Facebook -- suggested Russia could benefit from some good "football genes".

"As part of its social responsibility (campaign), Burger King is offering a reward to women who get impregnated by football stars," said Burger King.

"Every woman will get three million rubles (around \$45,000) and a lifetime's supply of Whopper burgers. Women who manage to get the best football genes will ensure



Burger King logo

Russia's success in future generations."

The post ended with a call: "Go ahead! We believe in you!"

Burger King removed the ad and tried to make amends after a furore erupted on social media and in international media.

"We apologise for our statement. It turned out to be too offensive," Burger King said.

features

Yoga: Indian practice turned global phenomenon

yoga, involving spiritual and physical practices, is followed in myriad forms today by millions of people worldwide, with an entry in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list



This handout photograph released by the Indian Army shows Indian soldiers of Trishakti corps celebrating the International Yoga Day at Gurudongmar Lake, in the Indian state of Sikkim

AFP | Paris

The Indian discipline of yoga, involving spiritual and physical practices, is followed in myriad forms today by millions of people worldwide, with an entry in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list. Here is some background:

Transcending suffering

The word "yoga" has its origins in the ancient Sanskrit language and means "to attach, join, harness, yoke".

This is the notion underpinning the discipline, according to French historian Bernard Sergent, which is to join the intellect of the one practising with the "universal soul".

Yoga first appeared in ancient texts such as the sacred Hindu epic the Bhagavad Gita, written

between the fifth and second centuries BC.

It is born of an "awareness of the unsatisfactory character of the human condition," says India specialist Tara Michael, author of the book "Yoga" published in France in 1980.

The practice emerged as a way of transcending this suffering.

However in its present-day use, yoga is often no more than a form of exercise, Michael says.

A modern (re)invention

Yoga became known in the West towards the end of the 19th century as it was undergoing a major revival in India under the Hindu teacher Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902).

This philosopher-monk stressed yoga's rational and scientific qualities in a bid to make the discipline compatible with the West.

His book "Raja Yoga" lays the



Over 52,746 teachers registered with Yoga Alliance in 2016 alone, and for every yoga teacher, there are two more enrolled in a teacher training programme

foundations for a modern and international yoga.

In the first half of the 20th century, Western texts began to detail yoga postures, also known as "asanas".

The emphasis on these pos-

tures and their sequences, such as the famous Sun Salutations, is a recent development, says India specialist Sita Reddy in "Yoga, The Art of Transformation" (2013).

Modern Western references such as the Oxford English Dictionary define yoga as a "spiritual and ascetic discipline" which includes "breath control, simple meditation, and the adoption of specific bodily postures."

Today there are many techniques popular around the world, including the classic Hatha; Ashtanga's series of sequences; Iyengar, which uses props; and Bikram, practised in a heated and humid room.

Global phenomenon

Indian metaphysics captured the imagination of counter-cultural movements of the 1960s and 1970s, as epitomised by the

relationship between The Beatles and the Indian guru Maharishi Mahesh.

Yoga as a spiritual practice was popularised at this time with the more athletic and dynamic methods developed in the 1980s and 1990s, says Mark Singleton from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

World heritage

Since coming to power in 2014, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken yoga as an emblem of India's flourishing in the world, pushing for the UN resolution that has since 2015 consecrated June 21 as International Yoga Day.

UNESCO added yoga to its list of intangible cultural heritage in 2016 in recognition of its influence on Indian society, "from health and medicine to education and the arts."

Yoga practitioners therapy have yet to win over doctors

Paris | France

Yoga practitioners often tout the unique health benefits of the ancient discipline -- from relieving stress and pain to improving vascular health -- but most doctors remain sceptical in the absence of hard proof.

The International Journal of Yoga Therapy (IJYT) published last year highlighted dozens of studies purporting to show that the practice can help people with eating disorders, soon-to-be moms and women with cancer-related symptoms.

Lionel Coudron, a 60-year-old French doctor, claims he is pain-free thanks to three hours of yoga per week.

"A few years ago, people thought yoga was (essentially) good at combatting stress", said the doctor, who set up a yoga therapy institute in Paris in 1993.

But the benefits of yoga -- from relieving stress and pain to improving vascular health -- go much deeper, Coudron said.

Jocelyne Borel-Kuhner, former head of an emergency ward in a Paris hospital, agrees.

She set up the very first yoga therapy practice in 2012 with the specific aim of relieving pain for patients, particularly those with handicaps or arthritis.

Yoga therapy "isn't just a course of yoga adapted for people who are ill," but is individual consultation with a clinical examination followed by a care plan using yoga techniques.



Teachers indicate a pose during in a mass yoga event on the Champs de Mars in front of the Eiffel tower in Paris

The aim is to limit the therapy to between three and five consultations per patient, followed by exercises to be continued at home afterwards.

Six years and more than 2,000 consultations later, more than 800 patients have passed through Borel-Kuhner's practice, with some deciding to cease traditional treatment altogether because the yoga therapy is so successful. Nevertheless, even proponents acknowledge there is little consensus on what might constitute specifically therapeutic stretches and poses.

"The lack of standardisation of yoga practices, and the fact that many yoga tools have filtered out into the broader world, begs the important question of what constitutes yoga therapy," two

practitioners, Matthew Taylor and Timothy McCall, wrote in their lead essay for the IJYT.

A study released in January, for example, found no distinct health benefits between traditional yoga and Bikram, carried out in hot and humid rooms.

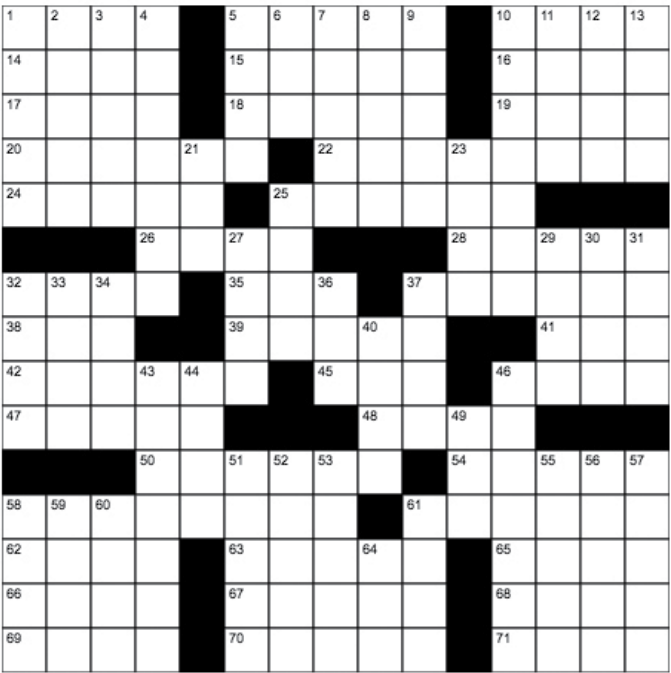
However, Taylor said that hasn't dampened his enthusiasm.

"The scepticism is vanishing quite quickly and enthusiasm is now more the response, especially in light of the worldwide epidemic of chronic pain," he said.

Most studies which have been carried out, however, including peer-reviewed findings in journals like The Lancet or JAMA, have failed to pass muster with doctors and scientists.

entertainment

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Just ____!; 5- Cravat; 10- Timetable, for short; 14- Bubbly drink; 15- Dried plum; 16- Grow weary; 17- Stumble; 18- Lauder of cosmetics; 19- Film unit; 20- Member of the clergy; 22- Brandy; 24- ____ Is Born; 25- Axilla; 26- Part of the eye; 28- Teatime treat; 32- Wrinkle remover; 35- Health resort; 37- Reverberated; 38- Type of mouse; 39- Religion of the Muslims; 41- Hog; 42- Runners-up; 45- Bearded grazer; 46- Land in water; 47- Chew the scenery; 48- Slippery ____ eel; 50- Firstborn; 54- Resulted in; 58- Everybody; 61- Flowing water; 62- Actor Connery; 63-

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



Drat!; 65- Story; 66- Architectural pier; 67- Distinguishing characteristic; 68- Pack ____ (quit); 69- Romance lang.; 70- Dirties; 71- Cries of discovery;

Down

1- Latin stars; 2- Sensitive spots; 3- Decree; 4- Skipper; 5- Impersonator; 6- Gown renters: Abbr.; 7- More adorable; 8- Late bedtime; 9- Get ready to drive; 10- Strain; 11- Capital of the Ukraine; 12- ____ saw Elba; 13- Strike out; 21- Bobby of hockey; 23- Round object, often used to store computer data; 25- Venomous snakes; 27- Egyptian goddess; 29- "My fault!"; 30- Singer Sedaka; 31- Competitive advantage; 32- Lazy, inactive; 33- Chamber; 34- Roughly; 36- Math subj.; 37- Flightless flock; 40- Med. school subj.; 43- Endless; 44- Count (on); 46- Sluggishness; 49- High-pitched; 51- No-nos; 52- Diciembre follower; 53- Caravansary; 55- "Til ____ do us part"; 56- Actress Shire; 57- Signs; 58- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 59- Let off steam; 60- I could ____ horse!; 61- Grounded jets; 64- Up to, briefly;

BEETLE BAILEY



WORD OF THE DAY

Voracity

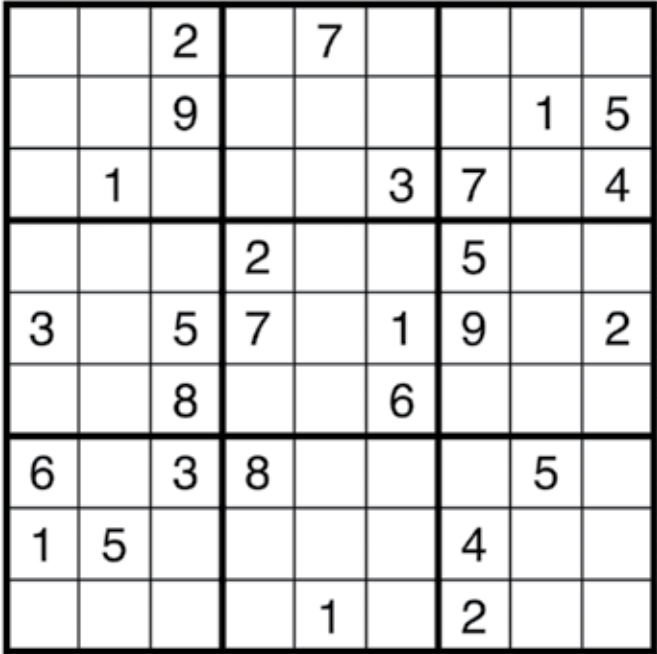
Definition:
1: the quality or state of being ravenous or insatiable

Did You Know?
Voracity comes to us (via Middle French voracité) from the Latin word voracitas,

which itself comes from vorax, meaning "voracious," plus -itas, the Latin equivalent of the English noun suffix -ity. Voracity is one of two English words that mean "the quality or state of being voracious." The other is voraciousness, which was once considered to be archaic but has made a comeback. Because voracity evolved from non-English forerunners, rather than being

created in English from voracious (as was voraciousness), the word may strike some English speakers as an unusual formation. It's not surprising, therefore, that the more familiar-looking voraciousness has reappeared—most likely through a process of reinvention by people unfamiliar with voracity.

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

This is a fantastic day for you. You'll have a great deal of physical power. Engage in activities that put this strength to good use. Tackle projects vigorously and feel free to speak up. Make sure that the whole world knows that you're handling every task.



Taurus

This is a good day to stand up for yourself and make it known that you aren't a pushover. Use the powerful energy of the day to follow through on projects that may have lost momentum. Pick up the reins and take control of the direction of your life.



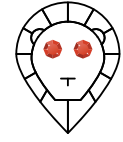
Gemini

If you want to shine brightly, then do so. Maintaining balance includes sometimes being a bit selfish. Feel free to radiate your beauty to the world. If you aren't in a situation that makes you happy, change the situation. There's no reason for you to be miserable.



Cancer

People would be wise to get out of your way today. You might find yourself feeling like a steam engine that's stoked to the brim with fiery hot coals. You're likely to be adamant about your course, and no one is going to be able to pull you off track.



Leo

The fiery energy of the day is helping you press on with projects you have in the works. Set things in motion now. Move out of the background and onto centre stage. Your rocket is fuelled and ready to take off. All you have to do now is ignite the engine.



Virgo

You might be charged with energy but feel you have nowhere to aim it. The force is there, but the goal may not be. Talking with others may only confuse you. Listen to yourself. You know yourself better than anyone else does. You have nothing to fear. Don't let doubt consume you.



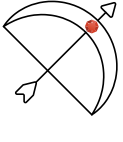
Libra

Arguments that have been brewing are coming to a climactic point for you. Don't be surprised if heated opposition rears its head today. This is likely a result of your own doing. Cycles of anger are reaching a critical point, and your stubborn character is butting heads with an equally strong force.



Scorpio

There is no need to frown when another person walks by just because you don't know that person. You must break the habit of living your life in fear. Take active steps toward curing this trend by not stepping down when strong forces try to intimidate you with brute strength.



Sagittarius

A blast of energy is headed your way today. You'll find that there is no shortage of adrenaline in your system. Don't delay - there are opportunities now that may not be there for you later. Action is the name of the game.



Capricorn

You could run into some emotional roadblocks today. This could be due to a lack of honesty on your part. Make sure you're sticking to the truth at all times. A strong, forceful energy could challenge your ego. Don't be surprised if this force is emotionally highly charged.



Aquarius

There is a fun-loving, boisterous energy to the day that should give you a great deal of power and self-confidence. You'll be extremely effective in everything you put your hand to. Remember to love yourself and believe in the things you say and do. Generate passionate love from your heart. No one will be able to respond with anything but the same.



Pisces

You might be getting a bit forceful with your emotions today. Don't be surprised if you're like a fire-breathing dragon when you speak. Sparks are apt to fly. Strong feelings have been building up inside you. Now is the time to release them in all their intensity. People need to hear the things you have to say. You're doing yourself and others a disservice by keeping it all bottled up inside.

show

Jordan returns to ring with ‘Creed II’

TOI | Los Angeles

Michael B. Jordan is returning to the big screen as Adonis Creed in the upcoming sequel to the Rocky spinoff, ‘Creed 2,’ trying to rewrite the history. The movie also stars Sylvester Stallone and Tessa Thompson. Fresh from his fight, the trailer shows that Adonis Creed is all set to face his next challenger, Viktor Drago.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Michale B. Jordan's first principal film role followed 2001 when he was featured in Hardball, which starred Keanu Reeves

Viktor is the son of Ivan Drago who killed Adonis' father in an exhibition match 30 years ago. It is the sequel to 2015's ‘Creed,’ which earned more than \$170 million at the worldwide box office. Fans of the ‘Black Panther’ star went berserk over the trailer and took to Twitter to express their happiness. A fan wrote, “They recreated the photo of Ali shadow boxing underwater. #Creed2.”

Jamie Bell may join Elton John biopic



Jamie Bell

IANs | London

Actor Jamie Bell is in negotiations to play Bernie Taupin, the famed songwriter who collaborated on 30 albums with the legendary Elton John, in the biopic ‘Rocketman’. Taupin began collaborating on songs with John back in 1967, when both answered an advertisement for talent placed by Liberty Records A&R man Ray Williams. Though both were rejected for that job, John would stumble across Taupin's poetry, leading to one of the greatest music collaborations ever. According to a report, the two worked together on hits including ‘Crocodile rock’, ‘Honky cat’, ‘Tiny dancer’, ‘Candle in the wind’, ‘Saturday night's alright for fighting’, ‘Bennie and the jets’, and ‘Rocket man’. Dexter Fletcher is attached to helm the project. Lee Hall penned the script. Paramount Pictures will finance and distribute the film, in which Taron Egerton will star as John.



Michael B. Jordan

ABRAHAMINTE SANTHATHIKAL (MALAYALAM/CRIME/THRILLER) ⊛ MAMMOOTTY, KANIKA, TARUSHI DANA CINEMA 10:45,13:15,15:45,18:15,20:45,23:15 SEEF (I) 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM AL HAMRA 3.00 + 9.00 PM + (12.00 MN FRI) ON THURS-DAY 21ST: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN	ABLA TAMTAM (ARABIC / COMEDY) ⊛ YASMIN ABDULAZIZ, HAMDY AL-MERGHANY, BAYOUMI FOUAD DANA CINEMA 10:45,13:00,15:15,17:30,19:45,22:00,00:15 CINECO (20) 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN SEEF (II) 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI) WADI AL SAIL 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM	LAILAT HANA WA SROUR (ARABIC/THRILLER/COMEDY) ⊛ MOHAMED EMAM YASMINE SABRI FAROUK EL FESHAWI DANA CINEMA 11:00,13:00,15:00,17:00,19:00,21:00,23:00 CINECO (20) 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM SEEF (II) 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM WADI AL SAIL 10.30 AM + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM	MAYA THE BEE: THE HONEY GAMES (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) ⊛ COCO JACK GILLIES, BENSON JACK ANTHONY, RICHARD ROXBURGH DANA CINEMA 10:45,12:30,14:15,16:00,17:45,19:30,21:15,23:00 CINECO (20) 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 PM SEEF (I) 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 PM	JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM - 2D (ACTION/ADVENTURE/SCI-FI) ⊛ CHRIS PRATT, BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD, JEFF GOLDBLUM DANA CINEMA 11:00,13:30,16:00,18:30,21:00,23:30 CINECO (20) (IMAX 3D): 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM DAILY AT (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN DAILY AT (VIP II): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 SEEF (II) (3D): 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 SEEF (I) 12.15 + 2.45 + 5.15 + 7.45 + 10.15 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI) SAAR 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM WADI AL SAIL 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15	RACE 3 (HINDI / ACTION / THRILLER) ⊛ ANIL KAPOOR, SALMAN KHAN, JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ DANA CINEMA 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00 DANA CINEMA 10:45, 13:45, 16:45, 19:45, 22:45 CINECO (20) 11.00 AM + 11.30 AM + 2.15 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI) SEEF (I) 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM SAAR 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM WADI AL SAIL 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM	MARY SHELLEY (BIOGRAPHY / DRAMA / ROMANCE) ⊛ ELLE FANNING, MAISIE WILLIAMS, BEN HARDY DANA CINEMA 11:00, 13:15, 15:30, 17:45, 20:00, 22:15, 00:30 SEEF (II) 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM	TIK TIK TIK (TAMIL / ACTION / SCI-FI / THRILLER) ⊛ NIVETHA PETHURAJ, JAYAM RAVI, AARON AZIZ DANA CINEMA 11:00,13:30,16:00,18:30,21:00,23:30 AL HAMRA 22ND: 12.00 NOON + 6.00 PM	INCREDIBLES 2: 2D (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE) ⊛ SAMUEL L. JACKSON, CATHERINE KEENER, SOPHIA BUSH DANA CINEMA 10:45,13:00,15:15,17:30,19:45,22:00,00:15 CINECO (20) 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 PM DAILY AT (3D): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
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SEEF (II) 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM SAAR 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM WADI AL SAIL 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15	BEIRUT (HIGH WIRE ACT) (15+) (THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW ⊛ ROSAMUND PIKE, JON HAMM, MARK PELLEGRINO CINECO (20) 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 SEEF (II) 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN	HEREDITARY (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) ⊛ TONI COLLETTE, GABRIEL BYRNE, ALEX WOLFF CINECO (20) 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM SEEF (II) 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM SAAR 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM WADI AL SAIL 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM	DEADPOOL 2 (15+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) ⊛ RYAN REYNOLDS, JOSH BROLIN, MORENA BACCARIN CINECO (20) 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI) DAILY AT (VIP II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM SEEF (II) 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM	ADRIPT (PG-15) (DRAMA/ROMANTIC) ⊛ SHAILENE WOODLEY, SAM CLAFLIN, JEFFREY THOMAS CINECO (20) 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 SEEF (II) 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 SAAR 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 WADI AL SAIL 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM	10-HOTEL ARTEMIS (15+) (ACTION/CRIME) ⊛ JODIE FOSTER, STERLING K. BROWN, SOFIA BOUTELLA CINECO (20) 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM SEEF (II) 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM	RAMPAGE (PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) ⊛ DWAYNE JOHNSON, JEFFREY DEAN MORGAN, WILL YUN LEE CINECO (20) 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM	AVENGERS: INFINTY WAR (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) ⊛ KAREN GILLAN, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., TOM HOLLAND CINECO (20) 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM	LIFE OF THE PARTY (15+) (COMEDY) ⊛ MELISSA MCCARTHY, GILLIAN JACOBS, JULIE BOWEN CINECO (20) 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM	THE LITTLE WITCH (PG) (COMEDY/DRAMA/FAMILY) ⊛ KAROLINE HERFURTH, AXEL PRAHL, LUIS VORBACH SEEF (II) 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM	SHOW DOGS (PG-13) (ADVENTURE/COMEDY) ⊛ WILL ARNETT, CHRIS "LUDACRIS" BRIDGES, NATASHA LYONNE SEEF (II) 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 PM	PETER RABBIT (PG) (ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FAMILY) ⊛ ROSE BYRNE, DOMHNALL GLEESON, SAM NEILL SEEF (I) 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 PM	A QUIET PLACE (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR/DRAMA) ⊛ EMILY BLUNT, JOHN KRASINSKI, NOAH JUPE SEEF (I) 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN	VEERE DI WEDDING (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/DRAMA) ⊛ KAREENA KAPOOR, SONAM KAPOOR, SWARA BHASKAR SEEF (I) 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN
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Blige to star in horror-thriller

ANI | Los Angeles

Hollywood actress Mary J. Blige will star in an upcoming horror-thriller movie ‘Body Cam’. According to reports, she scored two Oscar nominations for her acting in ‘Mudbound’. The reports further confirmed that Malik Vitthal, who had previously directed the 2014 John Boyega crime drama- ‘Imperial Dreams’, will direct this flick. The horror-thriller is the story of several LAPD police officers, who are haunted by an evil spirit which



Mary J. Blige

is connected to a murder case after having visions of the murder. The horror-thriller is being produced by Paramount Players division.

MISSING PETS



BONNIE - Female short-hair Dilmun, 2 yrs, rear hind legs - one orange stripes - one black, spayed, escaped from home, not wearing collar or ID tag (safety collar came off when climbing tree), Jasra (Spring Palm Vilas), 14/6/18. 39488658



LUCY - Male (yes male), 2 months, not wearing collar or ID tag, escaped from home - strongly believes he was STOLEN, Nuwaidrat (Road 2617), 12/6/18. Whatsapp 34341298



TEDDY - Male, 2 yrs, caramel coloured, neutered, very fluffy, has a small little face, very friendly and approachable, not wearing collar or ID tag, Bu Ashira (next to Al Jazira/Starbucks/Gulf Dental - between Zinj and Mahooz), 17/5/18. 37772047



DAISY - Female Shih Tzu, 2 yrs, black/white face/ears - all white body, pony tail head, wearing black lace fashion collar - no ID tag, main door of flat left open, last seen in Tubli (block 711, near housing ministry), 18/6/18. 39255276



CALVIN - Male Persian/Angora mix, 4 yrs, grey and white, neutered, microchipped, very shy, not wearing collar or ID tag, possibly STOLEN, Saar Saraya (near St Christopher School/ Nakheel Ctr), BD100 REWARD for safe return, 15/12/17. 39180314



TURBO - Male Shih Tzu/Poodle, 3 yrs, brown ears, wound on left side of head, not wearing collar/ID tag, possibly jumped gate while playing outside or may have been stolen, Nuwaidrat (near Yokogawa Co) REWARD for safe return, 5/4/18. 36436997

SPORTS

sports

Djokovic crushes Dimitrov

Djokovic put in a flawless display to book his spot in the quarter-finals at Queen's

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic swept into the Queen's Club quarter-finals and recorded his 799th career win with a 6-4, 6-1 demolition of Grigor Dimitrov yesterday.

Djokovic needed only 65 minutes to crush world number five Dimitrov in the second round of the Wimbledon warm-up event.

In the last eight, the former world number one faces the winner of the all-French clash between Adrian Mannarino and Julien Benneteau.

"Hopefully we can get 800 tomorrow," said the Serb.

If Djokovic is successful in his next match, the Serb will become only the 10th man in the Open era to join the 800-win club.

It was Djokovic's first win over a top 10 player in just over a year and the impressive display suggested he made the right decision to play at Queen's for the first time since 2010.

Djokovic is a lowly 22nd in the ATP rankings after an em-



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns against Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov

barrassing French Open quarter-final defeat against Italian Marco Cecchinato extended his wretched run in 2018.

Hampered by an elbow injury last year, he has failed to reach the semi-finals in any of his last five Grand Slam appearances.

Djokovic hasn't earned a major title since competing his career Grand Slam by winning the 2016 French Open.

Dogged by rumours that he

no longer has the motivation to return to the top, the 12-time Grand Slam winner decided to start his bid for a fourth Wimbledon crown by accepting a Queen's wild card.

Speaking after finishing off former Queen's winner Dimitrov, Djokovic admitted his confidence is finally starting to return.

"Grigor made some crucial double faults today that handed

me the first set. He loves playing on grass, he's a great quality player," he said.

"Being able to get the first set under he belt was a huge confidence booster for me.

"I made three double faults in the last game and was serving with new balls which usually, on grass, is easier.

"I made it stressful for myself. I'm glad I manage to close it out."



If Djokovic is successful in his next match, the Serb will become only the 10th man in the Open era to join the 800-win club

'I don't care' -- Kyrgios defiant over foul-mouthed Queen's

AFP | London

Nick Kyrgios refused to apologise after the controversial Australian's foul-mouthed rant overshadowed his Queen's Club win against Kyle Edmund.

Kyrgios smashed 32 aces in a 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 second round victory at the Wimbledon warm-up yesterday.

But it was the 23-year-old's verbal volleys that marred his progress to a first Queen's quarter-final.

The notoriously volatile Kyrgios said sorry to the crowd on one occasion after swearing in frustration, then aimed an x-rated outburst towards his coaching team in the court-side players' box.

Although Kyrgios escaped a code violation, the BBC, broadcasting the match live, were forced to apologise after his expletives were picked up by their microphones.

But Kyrgios, who has found himself in hot water for his petulant on-court behaviour on numerous occasions, was unrepentant when quizzed about the swearing.

"Fine. I don't care," he said



Australia's Nick Kyrgios returns against Britain's Kyle Edmund

at a press conference when informed the BBC had issued an apology for his language.

When a reporter asked if he felt he needed to keep his emotions more under control, Kyrgios gave a surly reply.

"Do you swear? Yes or no? Yes or no? Do you swear? Do you swear?," he said.

When the reporter replied that he had been known to, Kyrgios dismissively responded: "Okay, great. Good question."

Kyrgios's latest outburst took the spotlight away from an impressive win against Edmund.

Bennett open for more challenges in Brave CF

TDT | Manama

2017 IMMAF Gold Medalist, Ben Bennett made his pro debut at Brave Combat Federation with a victory. Bennett had announced that he is ready to compete again at Brave Combat Federation. Currently Bennett competes in the highly active Welterweight division of Brave Combat Federation. Bennett embarked on his professional career after accumulating a successful record of 30 wins in his amateur career.

"I love the way Brave Combat Federation works and it will give me a chance to travel around the world and gain fans around the world. Brave Combat Federation is the right place for emerging athletes to compete and prove to the world that they are the best. The exposure that we get is



Ben Bennett

amazing and as a fighter, I understand that the promotion genuinely cares about athletes. So I am ready to get back as soon as possible", said the native of Alaska, USA about competing again in Brave Combat Federation.

Loman express support for WBA Asia bantamweight champion

TDT | Manama

Stephen Loman was present to support when Carl Jammes Martin who stopped George Lumoly of Indonesia in the third round to become the new WBA Asia bantamweight champion.

Loman had recently defended his championship in Belfast at Brave 13 where he faced Frans Mlambo from SGB Ireland. The fight went the distance and was attended by greats from the combat sports world including Conor McGregor and Amir Khan.

Stephen Loman is the first fighter from Philippines who competed in Brave Combat Federation. Loman went forward to capture the bantamweight championship by knocking out Gurdarshan Mangat at Brave



Stephen Loman

9: The Kingdom of Champions hosted in Bahrain.

After defending his championship in Belfast, Loman created history as the only fighter from Philippines to defend his championship in Europe. He is also the only fighter from Philippines to score a win against a fighter from SGB Ireland.

Brave Combat Federation under the leadership of His High-

ness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa had been successful in bringing multiple athletes from Philippines and giving them a global opportunity.

Bahrain's Brave Combat Federation made it possible for athletes from Philippines to compete in nations including Bahrain, UAE, Brazil, India, Mexico, Jordan, Indonesia and United Kingdom.

Saudi take positives for Asian Cup

Reuters | Rostov-On-Don, Russia

Saudi Arabia are looking towards the Asian Cup with hope after they showed signs of progress in their 1-0 defeat to Uruguay as they exited the World Cup on Wednesday.

The Saudis were crushed 5-0 by hosts Russia in the opening game of Group A before a goalkeeping blunder from Mohammed Al-Owais handed Uruguay their place in the last 16 and eliminated the Green Falcons.

Saudi Arabia, however, were competitive throughout, playing neat football and enjoying most of the possession at the Rostov Arena.

"We played at a much better level than in the Russia game, and that is more our style of play, but we just did not have the right tools to break Uruguay down," said Saudi Arabia coach Juan Antonio Pizzi.

Despite occasions of clever passing, the Saudis rarely threatened and managed only three shots on target in their two matches in Russia.

"We had a lot of ball possession and were able to impose our style of play and distribution," said Pizzi. "We conceded a goal from a random play and didn't have the weapons or tools to try to equalize. We kept the ball well and weren't really troubled defensively, but lacked that ability to score."

"This is our weakness. We have good ball possession, but no effectiveness."

Beckham tips England vs Argentina final

AFP | Beijing

Former captain David Beckham has tipped England to play Lionel Messi's Argentina in the World Cup final, reflecting rising optimism about the Three Lions' chances after a positive start in Russia.

Beckham was speaking at a promotional event in China after England beat Tunisia 2-1 in their opening game, boosting their chances of reaching the knockout rounds.

England have long stuttered on the big stage and they last reached the World Cup quarter-finals in 2006, when Beck-



David Beckham

ham was captain. Their only World Cup final was way back in 1966, when they beat Germany at Wembley.

"I believe Argentina will play against England in the final," Beckham predicted at an event to promote China's largest col-

legiate football league.

"I think obviously my choice would be England to win the competition, but that's me being biased and passionate about my country," he added.

But the former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder, a veteran of three World Cups, warned that the road ahead looked hard for Gareth Southgate's team.

"I'm very happy that we won the first game in the group," he said. "England is a very young team, they don't have a lot of experience yet and the journey of the World Cup will become harder and harder."

Garbine Muguruza falls short

Reuters | Birmingham

Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza suffered a 6-2 6-4 defeat at the hands of unseeded Czech Barbora Strycova in the second round of the Nature Valley Classic in Birmingham.

The experienced Strycova, a runner-up at this Edgbaston tournament in 2014 and 2016, picked up a double break early in the first set and eventually defeated the top seed with surprising ease in just under one and a half hours.

The defeat comes as a setback for the Spaniard's grass-



Petra Kvitova celebrates winning

court preparations ahead of Wimbledon.

Defending Birmingham champion Petra Kvitova continued her impressive grass-court form after overpowering Australia's Daria Gavrilova 6-2 6-2 to book a spot in the quarter-finals.



Reuters | Sochi

Brazil take on Costa Rica today needing a win to avoid equaling their worst ever World Cup run, but the focus of their concern is once again not on the team but on one individual - Neymar.

The Paris St Germain player loves the limelight but the attention ahead of today's game in St Petersburg has come for all the wrong reasons.

Neymar was criticised for his performance in Brazil's 1-1 draw with Switzerland in their opener last weekend. He was hunted down mercilessly by the Swiss, drawing 10 of Brazil's 19 fouls, as many as some entire teams.

But he was also below par and showed little sign of the form that made him the world's most expensive footballer when Paris St Germain signed him from Barcelona last August.

Worse, many fans thought he was playing for himself rather than his country.

Neymar limped out of Tuesday's training session with a sore ankle, but he is expected to be fit for what could be Brazil's fourth World Cup match without a win, an unwanted streak that would equal their poorest such run ever, recorded in 1974-1978.

Their opponents in St Petersburg are also desperate for points after they lost their opener to Serbia.

Brazil 

2

Possible line-ups: Alisson, Danilo, Silva, Miranda, Marcelo, Paulinho, Casemiro, Willian, Coutinho, Neymar, Jesus

Fred is a doubt for Brazil coming into this game, but the main concern is with their star player. Neymar limped out of training with a suspected ankle problem earlier this week, but is expected to play today

Brazil have named Thiago Silva as captain for today's match in a continuation of their long-standing policy of rotating the team leadership.

FIFA rank

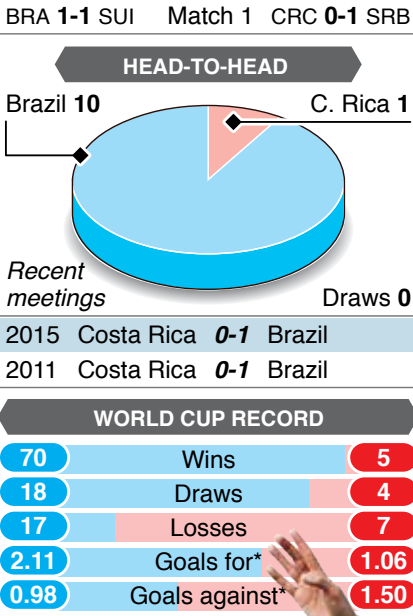
23

 Costa Rica

Possible line-ups: Navas, Acosta, Gonzalez, Duarte, Gamboa, Calvo, Borges, Guzman, Ruiz, Bolanos, Urena

Costa Rica head coach Óscar Ramírez may make one change to the XI that started the 1-0 loss to Serbia.

Christian Bolanos could come in for Johan Venegas in attack after a bright showing from the bench.



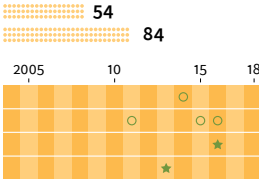
Factbox

- » Brazil will have been left reeling from their 1-1 draw with Switzerland on Sunday and will hope to improve when they meet Costa Rica in Friday's early kick off.
- » Costa Rica, too, need to up the ante when they face Brazil. However, they face an uphill struggle in their bid to progress to the next round of the World Cup after their 1-0 loss to Serbia.
- » One would expect Brazil to improve when they take on Costa Rica and get their World Cup up and running here.

NEYMAR JR.

Paris SG
France
1.75 m / 68 kg

INTERNATIONAL CAREER RECORD



OTHER MAJOR TROPHIES

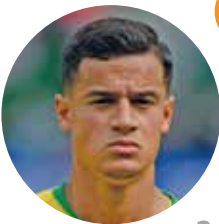


Stats

- » Costa Rica's only previous World Cup victory against South American opposition came in the 2014 tournament (3-1 vs Uruguay). They'd lost their previous three against CONMEBOL sides beforehand.
- » Philippe Coutinho's goal against Switzerland was his 11th for Brazil - five of those have come from outside the box.
- » Costa Rica lost their first match against Serbia, ending a five-game unbeaten run at the World Cup finals - they haven't lost back to back World Cup games since June 2006, when they lost four in a row.
- » Brazil are winless in three World Cup matches (D1 L2), their worst run since June 1978, when they went four matches without a win.
- » Against Serbia, striker Marco Ureäa had just 14 touches in 67 minutes for Costa Rica, with three of those in the opposition box - his replacement, Joel Campbell, had 24 touches and four in the opposition box.
- » Brazil conceded from the first shot on target they faced at the 2018 World Cup - from their last 13 shots on target faced at the World Cup, they have conceded 10 goals.



BRYAN RUIZ



PHILIPPE COUTINHO



It is going to be a difficult game as are all games in the World Cup. They are a good team. We saw the game against Serbia, and it was only decided through a dead ball situation. This is another opportunity for us



BRAZIL COACH TITE



It's the same team that is going to start that stated against Switzerland. We want to win, it's a World Cup, but the coach is not going to play with the players' health. It's too big a risk



FORMER FRANCE DEFENDER MARCEL DESAILLY



Whenever the ball came to Neymar, he slowed the game down, irrespective of whether it was the right thing to do or not. Because he knows he has the talent to change games, you get the impression Neymar wants to be the one to do that something special

Iceland step into the heat for Nigeria showdown

Reuters | Volgograd, Russia

Iceland will try not to melt in the fierce heat of Volgograd when they take on Nigeria in only their second ever World Cup match today after impressively holding twice champions Argentina to a draw at the weekend.

World Cup debutantes Iceland are

dreaming of the knockout stage and writing a new chapter in one of the most outstanding stories of international football in recent years.

In their way stand not only Nigeria, who are desperate for a win after losing their opening game 2-0 to Croatia, but also the challenge of searing temperatures in the southern Russian city.

Nigeria 



Victor Moses

Possible line-ups: Uzoho, Shehu, Troost-Ekong, Balogun, Idowu, Ndidi, Etebo, Iwobi, Mikel, Moses, Ighalo

Leon Balogun came through the 2-0 loss to Croatia unscathed and should start here once more.

Gernot Rohr could name the same XI that started the defeat to Croatia last Saturday.

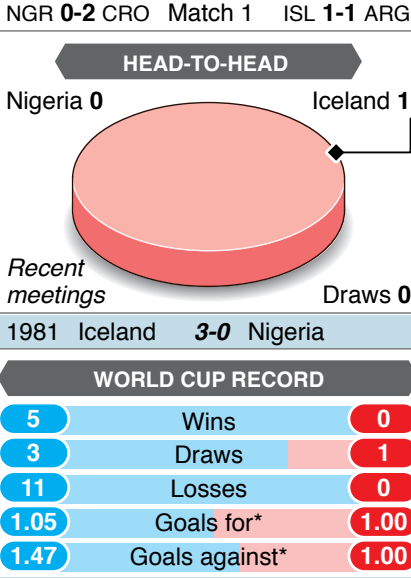
48

FIFA rank

22



Iceland



Factbox

- » Nigeria need a positive result here to improve their chances of securing a last-16 spot here.
- » With Argentina out of the way, they'll be looking to secure a first ever World Cup win.
- » Indeed, Iceland could secure a narrow victory this one.



Gylfi Sigurdsson

Possible line-ups: Halldorsson, Saevarsson, Arnason, Sigurdsson, Magnusson, Gudmundsson, Gunnarsson, Hallfredsson, Bjarnason, Sigurdsson, Finnbogason.

Johann Berg Gudmundsson is out with a calf problem, with Rurik Gislason expected to deputise.

Other than that, head coach Heimir Hallgrímsson will likely see no reason to tinker with the XI that started the 1-1 draw with Argentina.

عید مبارک

.....

EID Mubarak

.....

For reservations call

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+973 17728699 (um Al Hassam)

VAR keeps Aussies alive

Mile Jedinak’s controversial penalty earns Australia draw against Denmark

Reuters | Samara, Russia

Captain Mile Jedinak rode to Australia’s World Cup rescue with a penalty to cancel out Christian Eriksen’s superb opener for Denmark, securing a 1-1 draw yesterday that ensured Group C would go down to the wire.

Eriksen’s seventh-minute opener was fully deserved by the fast-starting Danes and the quality of his half-volley finish was excellent in a tournament that has produced some wonderful goals.

Jedinak, however, got Australia back into the game with his second penalty in Russia, awarded following the intervention of the VAR, and the draw kept the Socceroos just about alive in the tournament.

Denmark moved on to four points and need at least a draw against France in



Australia’s midfielder Mile Jedinak scores from the penalty spot for Australia’s first goal to equalise 1-1 during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group C football match between Denmark and Australia at the Samara Arena in Samara



For me it is important just that we have to beat Peru. I have no influence on the rest so I do not think about it. I will not sleep one second less

AUSTRALIA COACH BERT VAN MARWIJK

their final game to guarantee a last-16 spot. Australia’s destiny, however, is no longer in their own hands.

With one point, they must win their last match against Peru to stand any chance of going through, but results could still conspire to send them home.

After their opening defeat by France, Australia coach Bert van Marwijk resist-

ed the temptation to draft in attacking reinforcements, leaving veteran forward Tim Cahill on the bench for the second match in a row.

It looked a bad decision in the early stages as Australia laboured up front and the Danes tore into their opponents at a furious pace.

Aaron Mooy’s poor clearance was im-

DENMARK 1 1 AUSTRALIA

7’ Eriksen Jedinak 38’ (pen)

Possession	
48%	52%
10	Shots 14
5	On target 5
7	Fouls 5

mediately returned into the area. Nicolai Jorgensen controlled and cleverly flicked the ball inside to Eriksen, who ghosted into space and lashed a sweet half-volley on the rise which flew high into the net.

It was Eriksen’s 13th goal in his last 15 appearances for his country and underlined the pivotal importance of the Tottenham Hotspur playmaker to the otherwise workmanlike Danes.

They should have doubled their advantage when Jorgensen flashed a header wide as Australia looked ragged at the back and toothless up front.

Yet just as in their opening game, Australia were handed a route back into the match from penalty spot, thanks to intervention of the Video Assistant Referee.

Today’s match

Group E
Brazil vs Costa Rica
(3:00 PM)
Serbia vs Switzerland
(9:00 PM)

Group D
Nigeria vs Iceland
(6:00 PM)

Point Table							
FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018							
GROUP C							
	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
France	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Denmark	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Australia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Peru	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
GROUP D							
	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Croatia	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Iceland	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Argentina	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Nigeria	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Messi is better than Maradona: Ramos

Reuters | Kazan, Russia

Spain captain Sergio Ramos has responded to a putdown from Argentina great Diego Maradona by making an unlikely declaration of admiration for Lionel Messi, his usual enemy as the talisman of Real Madrid’s arch-rivals Barcelona.

Maradona, his country’s 1986 World Cup-winning captain, remarked this week that “Ramos is no superstar, the real superstar defender is Diego Godin” when comparing Spain’s serial-winner Ramos with the Uruguayan captain.

Ramos was asked what he made of Maradona’s comments after Spain’s 1-0 World Cup Group B win over Iran, and chose to praise on Messi, who has led Barcelona to numerous wins over Real Madrid and had plenty of full-blooded clashes with the Spaniard.

“I respect Maradona because he is an all-time great, I think he was a star, but I’ll also tell you that Argentine football knows Maradona is light years behind their number one player, which is Messi,” Ramos said.

Serbia take on Switzerland with Brazil looming

PREVIEW

Serbia will attempt to wrap up qualification to the World Cup knockout rounds today as they take on a Switzerland team brimming with confidence after grabbing a draw with Brazil.

The Serbs control their own destiny in Group E after an opening 1-0 win against Costa Rica on Sunday, which came courtesy of a stunning Aleksandar Kolarov free-kick.

Victory over Switzerland in Kaliningrad today would guarantee Serbia a place in the last 16, regardless of whether they win or lose their final group game with Brazil next week.

Roma star Kolarov acknowledged that Serbia are in a strong position to qualify for the knockout rounds for the first time since they competed alongside Montenegro in 1998.

However the 32-year-old cautioned that the Serbs would take nothing for granted against the Swiss.

Serbia



With no injury issues, Serbia head coach Mladen Krstajic could name the same XI that started the 1-0 win over Costa Rica. Filip Kostic will hope to start, however, after his second half cameo from the bench.



Nemanja Matic

Possible line-ups: Stojkovic, Ivanovic, Milenkovic, Tosic, Kolarov, Milivojevic, Matic, Ljajic, Milinkovic-Savic, Tadic, Mitrovic

12	FIFA rank	36
SRB 1-0 CRC	Match 1	SUI 1-1 BRA
HEAD-TO-HEAD		
Serbia 6		Switz. 2
Recent meetings		
2001	Switzerland	1-2 Serbia
2001	Serbia	1-1 Switzerland
WORLD CUP RECORD		
18	Wins	11
8	Draws	7
18	Losses	16
1.48	Goals for*	1.35
1.34	Goals against*	1.76



Switzerland

Valon Behrami sustained a knock in the 1-1 draw with Brazil, but should be fit to start. Indeed, Vladimir Petkovic could name the same XI that started against Brazil on Sunday.



Granit Xhaka

Possible line-ups: Sommer, Lichsteiner, Schar, Akanji, Rodriguez, Behrami, Xhaka, Shaqiri, Dzemalili, Zuber, Seferovic

WORLD CUP PREDICT AND WIN

Yesterday’s lucky winner is Maryam Marhoon. Winner will be contacted



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DAY 9, 22nd JUNE 2018

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NIGERIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	ICELAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAW	<input type="checkbox"/>
SERBIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	SWITZERLAND	<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAW	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: Mob:
CPR No.: Email:

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



Argentina humiliated

Argentina, Messi on brink of World Cup exit after Croatia drubbing



Argentina's forward Lionel Messi reacts during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group D football match between Argentina and Croatia

AFP | Nizhny Novgorod, Russia

Lionel Messi's World Cup dream was left hanging by a thread as Croatia powered into the last 16 with a 3-0 rout of Argentina yesterday.

Second-half goals from Ante Rebic, Luka Modric and Ivan Rakitic sealed a deserved victory as a poor Argentina were left on the brink of a humiliating first round exit.

The Group D defeat means Argentina have just one point from two games, meaning they will probably have to beat Nigeria in their last game and hope other results go their way to avoid elimination.

The result left Argentinian fans in tears inside the Nizhny Novgorod stadium, while Diego Maradona watched from the stands in stunned disbelief.

Croatia took the lead after a horrendous blunder by Argentine goalkeeper Willy Caballero in the 53rd minute, the stopper chipping a clearance straight to Rebic who lashed home a thunderous volley.

Real Madrid star Modric then produced an electrifying 80th-minute goal before Messi's Barcelona team-mate Rakitic completed the scoring after Croatia sliced apart Argentina's hapless defence in injury time.

The defeat leaves the Argentinians facing an ignominious repeat of their 2002 campaign when they also went out at the group stage after being tipped as possible World Cup winners.

All the attention after the 3-0 defeat will focus on Argentina and Messi but it was also the result of a fine performance by Croatia.

A curiously lifeless and uninspired Argentine display was capped off by Caballero's mistake when he somehow managed to chip the ball just a few yards to Croatia's Rebic, fol-



Croatia's midfielder Ivan Rakitic (C) vies with Argentina's midfielder Enzo Perez (R) with Argentina's forward Sergio Aguero in background during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group D football match between Argentina and Croatia

ARGENTINA	0	3	CROATIA
Rebic		53'	
Modric		80'	
Rakitic		90' + 1'	
Possession			
58%			42%
10	Shots	15	
3	On target	5	
15	Fouls	23	

lowing a Gabriel Mercado backpass.

Rebic volleyed home with aplomb but veteran Caballero will have nightmares for the rest of his days at his mistake -- likely to feature in any list of worst goalkeeping blunders for some time.

And throughout it all Messi, arguably the world's best player, remained a peripheral and largely ponderous figure, briefly flashing to life on too few occasions.

The 30-year-old's dream of winning the World Cup now look remote.

With all the pre-match attention on Messi it was his Real Madrid counter-

part Luka Modric who provided the game's true flashes of genius.

The Croatian was the one player to find space and time in a bruising encounter and it was his moment of magic in the second half which settled the encounter.

Picking the ball up some 25 yards outside the Argentina area, Modric had the option of at least two passes but chose to bide his time before planting a fantastic shot past a hapless Caballero.

Rakitic added a third when the game was up for Argentina.

Kylian Mbappe sends France through

France seal World Cup last-16 spot after knocking out Peru with Mbappe's 34th minute goal

Reuters | Yekaterinburg, Russia

France beat Peru 1-0 with a goal from Kylian Mbappe yesterday to book their place in the last 16 of the World Cup and crush the South Americans' hopes of progressing in their first appearance at the tournament for 36 years.

Mbappe's 34th minute goal made him France's youngest scorer in the competition, at 19 years of age - beating the record of David Trezeguet (20) - and took them to two wins from two games in Group C.

When Olivier Giroud's shot took a deflection off a defender and looped over



France's forward Kylian Mbappe (L) tries to score against Peru's goalkeeper Pedro Gallese during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group C football match between France and Peru at the Ekaterinburg Arena in Ekaterinburg

FRANCE	1	0	PERU
34'	Mbappé		
Possession			
44%			56%
12	Shots	10	
4	On target	2	
12	Fouls	14	

goalkeeper Pedro Gallese, the teenager was on hand to tap in a simple chance.

But Les Bleus failed to convert several other first-half chances and rarely threatened their opponents' goal after the break, as they struggled for the second game running to justify their status as one of the pre-tournament favourites.

Coach Didier Deschamps responded testily "there's always an opponent" when asked by reporters about France's failure to dominate and also about the strong pressure the Peruvians exerted in the second half.

"I wasn't nervous but I wasn't totally satisfied. We had 25 minutes when we

defended too much, certainly, although we did it well. It's something we have to improve."

Goalkeeper-captain Hugo Lloris said after winning his 100th cap: "It's very satisfying because we've reached our objective.

"We need to hold onto first place by not losing against Denmark. Peru pressed right till the end, but we managed to stay solid and disciplined."

The result leaves France on six points and Denmark and Australia on four and one respectively after their 1-1 draw earlier in the day.

Peru have yet to win a point but they have won numerous hearts in Russia, thanks to their industrious style of play and the passion of their supporters, a remarkable 15,000 of whom made the journey to roar on their team in Yekaterinburg.

"These people are incredible. There was this huge mass of people following us. We are sorry we could not give them a better tournament," said coach Ricardo Gareca.

"People will be surprised by their passion for the game and their love for the team. We will do all we can in the last match to win so we can finish better and the fans can celebrate one win in this World Cup," he added, looking ahead to the Incas' final game against Australia.



Let's not be euphoric or get ahead of ourselves. Of course this win will boost our confidence for the next game, and we have shown we can create opportunities, but let's keep our feet firmly on the ground

CROATIA'S LUKA MODRIC



From day one I've trusted my team. I didn't believe we would be through after the second game, but I believed we would be through eventually

CROATIA COACH ZLATKO DALIC