

GoT stars tie the knot

Game Of Thrones stars Kit Harington and Rose Leslie, who played on-screen lovers in the epic TV drama, have married. Harington and Leslie tied the knot at Rayne Church in Aberdeenshire. She wore a full-length white wedding dress and he was dressed in a traditional morning suit. **P16**

OP-ED 10 An inmate's plea to save Turkish democracy

THE DAILY **tribune**



England must be more clinical **18** SPORTS

SPORTS **20** Five-star Belgium

12,000 pirating devices seized
Riyadh

Saudi Arabia has said it has confiscated more than 12,000 pirating devices in the country, after rival Qatar's beIN Media accused broadcasters in the kingdom of bootlegging its World Cup broadcasts.

"The number of confiscated devices was 12,000... in recent months, although the actual figure in my opinion is much higher," Saud Al Qahtani, an adviser to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, told AFP.

"Saudi Arabia respects the issue of protecting intellectual rights and abides by international conventions in this regard," he added.

'Murder bid' on Zimbabwean President

Harare

Zimbabwe's president has escaped injury after an explosion at a stadium where he was addressing a rally, in what state media are describing as an assassination attempt. Emmerson Mnangagwa has vowed that the "cowardly act" will not derail next month's historic election - the first since long-time leader Robert Mugabe stepped down.

Driving wheels of hope



Historic day for Saudi as ban on women driving ends; women having licences thrilled about first drive

● Move part of sweeping reforms aimed at transforming the economy of the world's top oil exporter.

Riyadh

Women will hit the roads in Saudi Arabia today with the lifting of the world's last ban on female drivers.

The move, ordered last September by King Salman, is part of sweeping reforms aimed at

transforming the economy of the world's top oil exporter.

"We are ready, and it will totally change our life," said Samira Al Ghamdi, a 47-year-old psychologist from Jeddah, one of the first Saudi women to be issued with a driving licence.

"I am thrilled!" Sarah Alwasia, 35, a nutritionist in Jeddah, was quoted by Arab News. "I learnt how to drive 18 years ago in the States where I got my driving licence. I can't believe that the day to drive in my own home town has come."

Alwasia obtained her first American licence when she was 18 years old in 2000, and had it

exchanged for a Saudi licence on June 6 in Jeddah. She explained that she is a mother, and this change provided comfort for her and her family.

"I will be driving my kids to school and picking them up in comfort and privacy," she told Arab News.

"Independence is a huge thing for me," Alwasia said. "Driving is one small part of it. I am very optimistic of the change that our loving country has made."

Alwasia applauds the efforts the country has made to support women.

"I am confident that driving in the beginning will be pleasant,

since our country has made all of the effort to support women and to protect them.

"I think our society was looking forward for this change, and I am sure the majority will adapt fast.

"I feel safe, our country did everything to make this transition pleasant and safe for every woman behind the wheel. I am really thankful to witness this historic moment and I am so happy for all the women in Saudi Arabia, especially my daughters."

Sahar Nasief, 64, a retired lecturer from the European languages and Literature Department at King Abdulaziz

University, said: "Nothing could describe my feelings. I can't wait to get on the road."

Nasief received a very special gift from Ford for this occasion. "They gave me a 2018 Expedition to drive for three days, a Mustang California Special," she told Arab News.

Nasief obtained her Saudi licence on June 7. She also holds a British licence and two American licenses. "Now, I have my national licence too," she said.

She also said the lifting of the ban provided a sense of relief. "I feel that I can practice one of my rights, and I don't have to live at the mercy of my driver anymore."



The end of driving ban is expected to provide more jobs for Saudi women in various sectors in line with the Kingdom's 2030 Vision.

Economic boom

The end of a decades-old female driving ban is expected to bring an economic windfall for millions of Saudi women, making it easier for them to work and do business.

30

billion American dollars is the expected volume of total car sales in Saudi Arabia by the end of 2018.



Two-wheel freaks

Many women are planning to hit roads on two-wheelers. Now people across Saudi can see women revving on motorbikes as well.

TROUBLE MOVE

French priest suspended for slapping baby during baptism

Paris

A French Catholic priest was suspended Friday after a video of him smacking a crying baby during a baptism ceremony went viral, drawing widespread condemnation on social media.

In footage posted on Twitter on Thursday, gasps can be heard when the 89-year-old priest, after ordering the infant he is holding to "be quiet," sharply slaps his cheek.

A few seconds later he smacks him again.



A screenshot of the video showing the priest slapping the baby.

The baby's parents, visibly shocked, eventually manage to extricate the child from the priest's grip during the ceremony in Champeaux, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Paris.

"This loss of self-control can be attributed to the fatigue of an elderly priest, but that doesn't excuse it," the diocese of Meaux, which includes the town, said in a statement.

It said the priest would no longer be leading baptisms and weddings nor holding mass until further notice.

"The child was bawling and I needed to turn his head so I could pour the water. I was saying 'be

quiet' but he wouldn't calm down," the priest told France Info radio.

03 More losers, less winners in routine CR gamble

05 Graduating into uncertain future

06 Media urged to rally against regional threats



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Leadership congratulated on MMA team medals

Manama

First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) and the Honorary President of the Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation (BMMAF), HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, has extended sincere congratulations to HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, and to the Personal Representative of HM the King, SCYS Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President, HH



Bahrain's MMA team won four medals at the Senior European Championships and the Youth European Open Championships.

Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, on Bahrain's MMA team's recent



The national team's honourable results are the fruitful outcome of HM the King's unwavering support and care.

SHAIKH KHALID

achievements.

Bahrain's MMA team won four medals at the Senior European Championships and the Youth European Open Championships, organised by the International Mixed Martial Arts Association

(IMMAF) on June 17-23 in Bucharest, Romania.

Murtadha Ali won the 93 kg gold medal, while Ali Yacoob and Zubeir Ghazi clinched the 61 kg and 70 kg silver medals. Yussef Sayyar, on the other hand, clinched the 77 kg bronze medal.

HH Shaikh Khalid stressed that the national team's honourable results are the fruitful outcome of HM the King's unwavering support and care, which, he said, contributed to the kingdom's steadfast strides in MMA sport.

HH Shaikh Khalid paid tribute to HH Shaikh Nasser, whose constant follow-up, he said, has reflected positively on the team's landmark results.

Comply with summer ban to ensure workers' safety

Summer ban was first introduced in the year 2013

● The minister lauded the commitment of the majority of employers and their institutions with the decision over the past years, saying that it reached 98 per cent.

● The Labour Ministry has been urging all companies and establishments which have uncovered works sites to abide by the ban to protect workers during summer scorching heat.

Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan has called on all companies and private sector institutions to comply with the decision to ban open-air work from noon to 4 pm in July and August.



The ban aims to protect workers and ensure their safety from the risks of sunstrokes and various summer diseases and reduce occupational accidents.

MR HUMAIDAN

The ministry introduced the ban in 2013 and has pledged a strict zero tolerance policy towards those who do not comply with it.

"The ban aims to protect workers and ensure their safety from the risks of sunstrokes and various summer diseases and reduce occupational accidents," Humaidan said one week ahead of the implementation of the decision.

"The ministry seeks to provide a safe and secure work environment according to safety standards to promote occupational health and reduce injuries in compliance with international conventions."

The minister lauded the commitment of the majority of employers and their institutions with the decision over the past years, saying that it reached 98 per cent.

Such a figure reflects the belief of most employers in the importance of occupational safety and health measures as well as their understanding of the humanitarian and economic objectives of the decision, he added.

Bahrain's cultural activities lauded

Manama

British Ambassador Simon Martin has affirmed his country's support to the cultural activities in the Kingdom. He hailed the ongoing cultural activities round the year, commending Bahrain's rich heritage. He made the statement as he visited the 10th edition of Nakheel Tent, being held at Arad Fort as part of Muharraq Capital of Islamic Culture 2018.

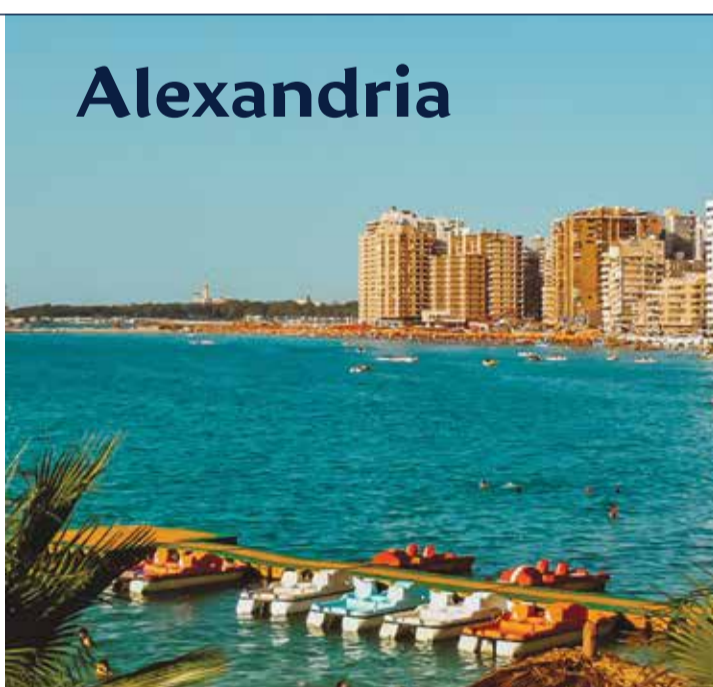
Bahrain condemns Ethiopia bombing

Manama

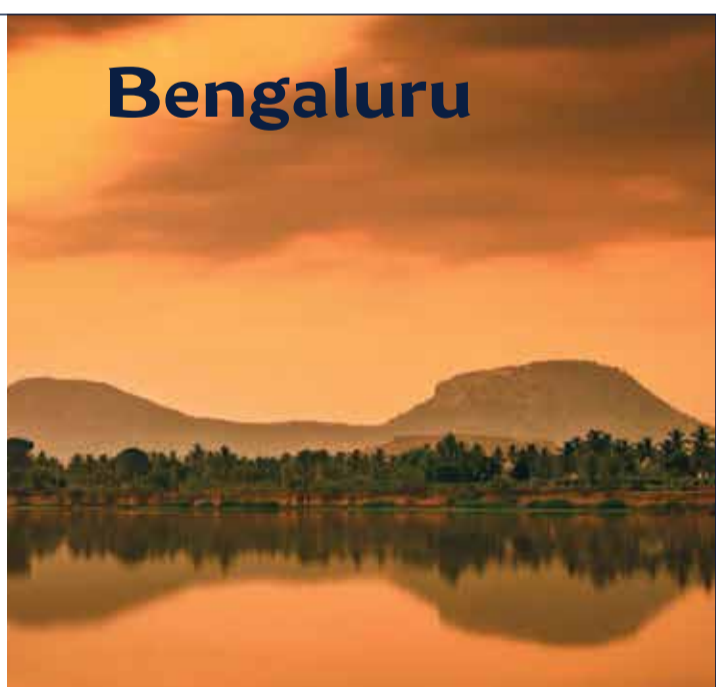
Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs "strongly condemned the bombing which targeted a gathering of supporters of the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, which resulted in the injury of a number of innocent people."



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BIG STORY
big storyMore losers, less winners
in routine CR gamble*Sometimes expats emerge winners, while other times Bahrainis emerge winners in this outrightly illegal game*

● The rental rates for CRs vary between BD200 and BD400 a month, according to the size, nature and location of the business, the sources say.

● The current law in the Kingdom prohibits Bahrainis from renting commercial registrations to foreigners.

TDI|Manama
Thamer Tayfour

Many Bahrainis are in a tight spot after renting out their Commercial Registration (CRs) licences to expats in their bid to make easy money.

Sources say it is quite common for small scale expat businessmen to approach Bahrainis for their CRs as the Kingdom's law doesn't allow them to fully own many businesses.

According to Bahrain Investments Centre, there are more than 90,000 CRs issued by the end of August 2017 to start various businesses and a majority of them are being used by expats, who lock deal with their "Bahraini licence owners".

The rental rates for CRs vary between BD200 and BD400 a month, according to the size, nature and location of the business, the sources say.

But the worst side of the deal is that Bahrainis ultimately become liable for debts and other liabilities created by these expats, who in many cases, have left the Kingdom after borrow-



According to Bahrain Investments Centre, there are more than 90,000 CRs issued by the end of August 2017 to start various businesses and a majority of them are being used by expats.

“I can't even take a legal route because now I realise what I did was totally illegal. My humble advice is never rent your CRs if you want a peaceful living.”

SAUD

ing huge amounts or committing fraudulent practices.

Saud Anwar, a Bahraini businessman is one of the victims. “I gave my CR to a Turkish guy to manage restaurants. I was getting BD400 in rents. Things were going smooth until one day when the building owner of one of the restaurants informed me about outstanding rents.”

Saud was devastated after realising that the Turkish national had obtained a lot of debts “in his name”. “The restaurant was closed. Now I had to pay BD260 to LMRA, BD130 in electricity bills apart from the BD3,000 he had cheated.”

“I can't even take a legal route because now I realise what I did was totally illegal. My humble advice is never rent your CRs if you want a peaceful living.”

A Bahraini citizen, who doesn't want to be named, said his late father too was a victim. “My father rented out his CR to two Bangladeshi nationals to start a construction businesses. The expats took almost BD13,000 from many people and escaped to their country and now, we sons are paying off debts.”

On the flip side, there are also expats who have been cheated by Bahrainis. Muhammad Ozjan, a Turkish national started his saloon along with a Bahraini friend after investing BD5,000. “After a year of success, we opened another shop and I invested BD7,000 in that. But the honeymoon did not last long. He began raising CR rent with warnings of throwing me out of business. Eventually, I was forced out of the shop. I could not seek any legal mechanisms as there was no official contract between me and him.”

Mohammed Noor, an Indian national, who runs a laundry here, said 90pc of expats successfully run business after taking CRs from Bahrainis. “I never



Mohammed says 90pc of expats successfully run business after taking CRs from Bahrainis.

had any problems with my CR owner. Apart from CR rent, I pay LMRA fees, electricity fee and shop rent. My business itself is a great example that the deal

works, in fact benefitting both expats and Bahrainis.”

Speaking to Tribune, lawyer Faisal Al Ajman said the current law prohibits Bahrainis from

renting commercial registrations to foreigners. “According to the country's Industrial and commercial law, a Bahraini CR owner can only rent or sell the

CR to another Bahraini. The contracts between Bahrainis and foreigners to rent out CRs is invalid, whether this agreement is between individuals or companies.”

“According to the country's law, a Bahraini CR owner can only rent or sell it to another Bahraini. The contracts between Bahrainis and foreigners are invalid.”

ADV FAISAL

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Reap tourism benefits by bringing heritage to light



Bahrain has many heritage sites, but not getting the right attention.

Experts call for more action to explore heritage tourism potentials

TDT|Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Bahrain has the highest potential to emerge as a culture and heritage based tourism hotspot in the region due to its rich history and well-preserved heritage sites, according to heritage experts.

Bahrain can take advantage of its rich history and heritage to transform itself into a tourism hub, international heritage expert and Adviser to Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities Dr Britta Rudolff told Tribune.

According to her, Bahrain is unique in the region thanks to its magnificent history such as from the Tylos and Delmon period as well as the well-preserved archeological sites.

“Bahrain, compared to other countries in the region has a tremendous amount of heritage resources although it is slowly disappearing. The country can really use these resources to become a prime culture tourism destination in the region.

“This is a decision that needs to be made now; with developments projects increasing many resources are getting lost. If this



“Heritage needs to be a more of an emphasis point on the government agenda. Although it is being recognised and appreciated, it is still not given the importance and attention it deserves.”

DR BRITTA



“What I would like to see in Bahrain is for it to bring a linkage between nature and culture. So more attention would need to be placed on ecological aspects around the cultural sites.”

MR BADMAN

skills required for conservation and preservation of the historic sites. It is far too much for a person to handle, the situation is the same all around the world but they need more support.”

Tim Badman, Director of World Heritage programme at International Union for Conservation of Nature, said that he was happy to see Bahrain’s efforts for heritage conservation. He said that Bahrain has strong heritage and cultural sites, recommending the strengthening of culture-nature linkage at heritage sites.

“What I would like to see in Bahrain is for it to bring a linkage between nature and culture. So more attention would need to be placed on ecological aspects around the cultural sites and how the sites show the people’s relationship with nature has evolved over time.

“The whole story of Bahrain from Delmon period onwards is a very compelling story of how people had to live in a challenging environment and how they have adapted to their conditions. So what this means is that we need people with nature conservation and cultural heritage skills on the ground.”

situation continues, Bahrain will face the same situation as the UAE has today where cultural heritage has been lost.”

“Bahrain is by far the strongest in the GCC in heritage terms. Bahrain has historic cities and villages in their architectural fabric, and also has amazing archeological sites, the burial mounds field which used to be the whole of the Island are still present. There are historic temples and sites like Qalat al Bah-

rain. Undoubtedly, Bahrain is a stronghold of cultural heritage.”
“Oman is perhaps the only country in the region that could even compete with Bahrain. But Bahrain has still some advantages such as its small size which gives it a stronger density.”

“This could be something that could be marketed in a bigger way because culture tourism is high quality tourism; it brings in a lot of revenue.”

“Heritage needs to be a more

of an emphasis point on the government agenda. Although it is being recognised and appreciated, it is still not given the importance and attention it deserves.”

Heritage sites in the GCC face a lot of challenges as infrastructure and housing development takes place, she said.

“Challenges are different in different sites, many sites now-a-days face issues such as infrastructure and housing issues, for instance sky scrapers popping

up next to archaeological sites. In historic neighbourhoods, large housing project coming in could make a change in the structure and identity of the local community.”

Site managers also face many challenges, she said. “The main challenges are the tremendous work they are tasked with. They need to have different skills in different areas, administrative skills, financial skills, marketing, negotiating and the specific



Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha attended a yoga session organised by Prop Yoga and Therapy Centre yesterday at Marassi Beach as part of International Yoga Day celebrations. The session was held under the guidance of yoga instructor Ehsan Asghar.



The Shri Krishna Hindu Temple - Manama and the Thattai (Bhatia) Hindu Community celebrated the fourth edition of International Yoga Day by organising a talk on the benefits of “Yoga for a Healthy Lifestyle” with a simultaneous demonstration of yogic postures by yoga expert Anil Kumar Singh. The event was attended by Indian Embassy Second Secretary (Consular) P K Chowdhury, joined by 102 yoga enthusiasts in performing the various asanas.



Mr Kadhim speaking at the meeting.

Graduating into uncertain future

Students suffer as their Chinese degrees don't have official validity in the Kingdom

● The graduates and students explained to the attendees the efforts they had put in during their six-year studying period in China.

● The matter has been discussed in the Parliament few months ago after MP Kadhim submitted an urgent proposal.

Manama|TDT
Muhannad Mansour

The dilemma of the Bahraini students who graduated from Chinese universities and couldn't equalise their certificates here was extensively discussed during a special meeting held in Budaiya yesterday.

The meeting was held at the office of MP Jalal Kadhim in the presence of the students, parents and representatives of the Chinese Embassy in the Kingdom.

Information related to the students, who have been apparently unemployed since they graduated from Chinese universities two years ago, were highlighted in the discussion.

The majority of the students either graduated from, studying at or discontinued their education from Chinese medical universities.

Apparently, some of them were sent on state-borne scholarships, but their degrees weren't ratified by Education Ministry when they returned here after graduation.

The matter has been dis-

cussed in the Parliament few months ago, as the same MP, Mr Kadhim, submitted an urgent proposal to give parity to the degrees of around 100 Bahraini students. However, the House voted against the proposal, raising eyebrows among the supporters of the proposal and the students.

In yesterday's meeting, Mr Kadhim lashed out on both Education and Health Ministries for not attending the meeting, despite inviting them to meet the students and their parents.

According to the MP, 27 Bahraini students have graduated from different Chinese colleges of medicine and nine of them graduated with honours degree, while 73 students are still stud-



I am surprised over the ministry's decision to not ratify the students' degrees after spending such huge amounts on their education in well-known universities.

MR KADHIM

ying there, fearing a mysterious future for their employment.

Mr Kadhim claimed that all of the students were sent on the expense of the State, with a total cost of BD240,000. At the same time, he expressed his surprise from the ministry's decision to not ratify the students' degrees after spending such huge amounts on their education in well-known universities.

"The Chinese Embassy's Representatives explained to the students that the embassy has communicated with Education Ministry and provided it with the required documents to ratify the students' degrees nine months ago, but didn't receive any reply," Mr Kadhim stated.

He also said, "Some of the

graduates passed a one-year training programme supervised by Health Ministry here, but they remain jobless as their degrees weren't equalised by Education Ministry. Some were even licensed to practice medicine by the health authorities in Saudi Arabia."

The MP added, "China is an advanced country in all fields and offers annual scholarships to the Kingdom in support of Bahraini students. Chinese universities are accredited by Health Ministry here, as well as international organisations and health authorities in fellow GCC and Arab countries."

The graduates and students explained to the attendees the efforts they had put in during

240,000
Bahraini dinars is the amount spent by the State until now for Bahraini students' education in China

their six-year studying period in China. They demanded an immediate solution to their issue, stating that it has been eight years since they were sent on scholarships to China, but they can't be employed here without ratifying their degrees with the ministry.



Chinese Embassy officials speaking to students.

World Heritage Committee meeting to convene today

● The meeting will continue until July 4 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel's UNESCO Village which was built particularly for the event.

Manama

The 42nd meeting of the World Heritage Committee will convene today under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Bahrain National Museum will host the opening ceremony of the session. Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural



The meeting will put spotlight on heritage sites

Organisation (UNESCO) Audrey Azoulay will attend the celebration alongside diplomatic and media personalities, specialists and representatives of many countries from around the world.

The meeting will continue until July 4 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel's UNESCO Village which was built particularly for the event.

The meeting will feature many activ-

ities and discussion sessions that will spotlight heritage sites to be registered on the World Heritage List and other issues.

Participants, including more than 2000 experts and 140 media persons from across the world will have a chance to visit the kingdom's historical landmarks and museums which reflect Bahrain's rich history and civilisation.

Media urged to rally against regional threats

Forum seeks ways to highlight crimes committed by Houthi militias in Yemen

● **Al Romaihi also called for unifying stances in the face of external campaigns staged by suspicious regional and international media outlets and organisations to refute fallacies and lies.**

● **The minister expressed hope that the meeting will issue resolutions that support the member states' joint action towards activating the media's pivotal role in preserving Arab identity and religion.**

Jeddah

Media outlets in the region have a greater role to play amidst various threats and challenges targeting Arab security

and identity, said Information Minister Ali Al Romaihi, while attending a meeting of Information Ministers of countries backing the Arab Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen.

In his speech, the minister stressed that the current security challenges and military risks targeting Arab sovereignty require all media outlets to assume their ethical, professional and pan-Arab responsibilities.

Thanking HM King Hamad's directives, Al Romaihi said Bahrain's military and media sectors are always keen to rally together with Saudi Arabia and its good efforts to promote security and peace across the region, combat extremism and terrorism in all their forms and counter all external threats and



Al Romaihi speaks at the meeting.



International Community should assume its responsibilities by putting an end to Iran's hostile interference in Arab countries' internal affairs.

AL ROMAIHI

interference.

The minister highlighted that Bahrain's "effective" participation in the Arab Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen and the Operation Restoring Hope are in line with its religious, national and human fundamentals, commitment to defending the legitimate government in Yemen based on its request, and keenness to activate the Arab conventions and summits' resolutions.

Al Romaihi praised the relief, medical and development aid and projects delivered by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, along with Bahrain's Royal Charity Organisation and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Arab humanitarian institutions, to the warn-torn

Yemeni people.

He also called on the International Community to assume its responsibilities through putting an end to Iran's hostile interference in Arab countries' internal affairs.

The meeting discussed ways to develop media plans to support Yemen's legitimate government in the face of the Iranian and Houthi media's distorted coverage.

It also sought ways to highlight the crimes committed by the Houthi militias against the brotherly Yemeni people, as well as to organise media campaigns to expose facts to the Arab public opinion through shedding light on Iran's support to the coup militias.

Al Romaihi also called for unifying stances in the face of external campaigns staged by suspicious regional and international media outlets and organisations to refute fallacies and lies.

The minister expressed hope that the meeting will issue resolutions that support the member states' joint action towards activating the media's pivotal role in preserving Arab identity and religion.



Customs Affairs Chief Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa took part in the international meeting for officials in charge of borders and customs. The sessions which were held in Washington, focused mainly on threats and challenges, the use of modern technologies, particularly biometric equipment to facilitate the movement of passengers. The delegations discussed also ways of benefiting from artificial intelligence to strengthen security and facilitate the movement of passengers and merchandise.

Expat commits suicide at labour camp

TDT|Manama
Harpreet Kaur

An expat committed suicide yesterday allegedly over unpaid salaries at his labour accommodation in Tubli.

The deceased was identified as Indian national Gurpreet Singh, who was working as a heavy vehicle driver for a contracting company.

He was found hanging in his room. Sources said Gurpreet was going through financial troubles and was mentally depressed as he did not receive salary for many months.



Gurpreet Singh



Colorful paintings are adorning many walls in Sanad. Away from art, they carry social messages to the public including the need to keep the streets clean. The initiative launched by the Capital Secretariat Council has been sponsored by Y K Almoayed and Sons.

business

Alok Gupta is new CEO of YKA



Alok Gupta - CEO of Y. K. Almoayyed & Sons

TDT | Manama

YK Almoayyed & Sons (YKA) has appointed Alok Gupta as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Gupta will be overseeing the company's operations across its diverse sectors which include, automotive, heavy equipment, electronics and home appliances, HVAC, industrial and building systems, taxi service, delivery service, toys and restaurant.

Alok Gupta, a qualified Chartered Accountant, has more than 20 years of work experience in various industries. He joined YKA in 2006 and served as the Group Chief Financial Officer in his previous position.

Lockheed wins \$1.1 bn defense contract: Pentagon

Agencies | Washington

Lockheed Martin Corp and two of its subsidiaries have been awarded a \$1.1 billion contract for production of F-16 fighter jets for Bahrain, the Pentagon said.

The Pentagon announced the deal on Friday, without giving any details about the agreement between the American arms manufacturer and Manama. The deal was sealed month after the signature of another US agreement for the sale of 16 F-16s worth over \$2.3 billion to Bahrain. The pact was a big boost for US jobs, the US vice president had said.

Dubai-Mumbai air sector busiest international route

PTI | Mumbai

Dubai-Mumbai air sector witnessed the highest flow of passengers at about 2.5 million during the 2017-18 financial year, primarily led by migrant workers, according to data released by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The route took the pole position in a list of top 10 international destinations that are connected to Indian cities by both Indian and foreign air carriers. The data showed that UAE -- with Dubai as one of the key cities -- constituted almost half of the total international seats from India during 2017-18 fiscal.

NBB to roll out online banking service platform

Bank to hold a forum on online banking on Monday as part of the roll out

TDT | Manama

NBB will roll out its new and enhanced online banking platform to customers on Tuesday. The bank will hold a forum on online banking for its business customers at the Four Seasons Hotel on Monday as part of the roll out.

"The new online banking platform, which is currently in the beta testing phase, will become available to all business customers from Tuesday," said



The new online banking platform, which is currently in the beta testing phase, will become available to all business customers from Tuesday

YASER ALSHARIFI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER AT NBB

Yaser Alsharifi, Chief Strategy Officer at NBB.

Panellists from leading private and public sectors as well as digital banking and Fintech sectors will address the business community at the forum organised in cooperation with RAWAD, a magazine.

The line-up of speakers at the forum are: Salman Al Rasheed, head of Digital Banking at NBB; Areije Al-Shakar, senior vice president at Bahrain Development Bank and Editor-in-Chief of ROWAD, Maissan Al Maskati, Board Member of Bahrain Fintech Bay; Dr. Abdulhasan Al-Dairi, chairman of Bahrain SMEs Society; and Emma Al Mansoori, Founder and Managing Director Empower Business Solution & Consulting and Director of Training at the Bahrain Development SMEs Society, among others.

"The panellists will help business owners better understand the vast benefits of digital banking in their drive for greater efficiency and growth and will also feature the experience of a number of existing NBB customers who have already been leveraging the new online platform, which is currently in the beta testing phase and will become available to all business customers from Tuesday. Talks will focus on features now available to better manage cash



Yaser Alsharifi,

flows, payroll and other key banking and accounting functions," the NBB said.

"The insights and know-how provided by a leading group of fintech and digital banking experts will benefit our business customers attending the forum," said Alsharifi.

"Digital banking is transforming the way that businesses transact and are managed around the world and we are excited to be enabling such a platform for our clients. The forum will focus on ensuring they have the information necessary to leverage the numerous tools and features online banking provides. It is one of the initiatives that NBB is undertaking to bolster business transformation allowing us to get closer to our customers and understand their needs," said Alsharifi.

Dealers cheer as driving ban goes

This Sunday, the Kingdom will lift the world's only ban on women driving, a milestone for women who have had to rely on

AP | Riyadh

Cradling her four-month-old daughter, Nour Obeid scans the car showroom and heads to the mid-sized SUVs.

In the past, a woman looking to buy a car in Saudi Arabia would focus on the features in the back, but Obeid is checking out the driver's seat, picturing herself doing grocery store runs or school drop-offs.

This Sunday, the Kingdom will lift the world's only ban on women driving, a milestone for women who have had to rely on drivers, male relatives, taxis and ride-hailing services to get to work, go shopping and get around. The move could help boost the Saudi economy by ensuring stronger female participation in the workforce and increased household incomes.

Car companies also see opportunity in this country of 20



A woman in the driving seat of a car in Riyadh



The move could help boost the Saudi economy by ensuring stronger female participation in the workforce and increased household incomes

million people, half of them female. Ahead of the ban being lifted, they've put Saudi sales-

women on showroom floors and targeted potential new drivers with advertising and social media marketing. Earlier this year, Ford sponsored a driving experience specifically for women in the city of Jiddah.

Saudi Arabia is the largest automobile market in the Middle East, with at least 405,000 cars expected to be sold this year. That's down significantly from a few years ago, and the cost of buying a new car has gone up with the introduction of a value-added tax.

Still, car sales are expected to increase between six and 10 percent once women start driving in the Kingdom.

STEPPING STONE

Ensuring your family business survives and thrives



MIKE ORLOV

Successful family businesses always have a core competence in what they do which ensures they regularly deliver positive results. What is most striking is the speed of transformation and change at agile family businesses; when ready to implement the changes, they do it quickly, unlike many other enterprises.

Family organisations often prove more resilient to economic slowdowns and may be more resistant to the pressures placed on other enterprises by demanding shareholders, venture capitalists and aggressive banks through over-generous lending. Rather than scooping-out value through short-term speculative strategies, the longer-term focus of family businesses has many sensible opportunities for sustainable success.

A key factor in the potential success of family businesses is senior management's and directors' flexibility and agility. If the family enterprise is burdened with unnecessary and repetitive bureaucracy then potential success can be hampered. The tendency of ineffective managers who need forms and paperwork to justify their existence can be minimised when there is trust between owners and management teams who are connected by a normalised and shared vision, giving them agreed direction and boundaries of authority.

For a family business to have longevity it must avoid the biggest drawback to family-owned enterprises: the founder builds an organisation, the next generation takes it over and is poorly prepared to manage and make it grow but enjoys the wealth, and then grandchildren can end up inheriting a stagnant and dying firm with little or no reserves, bled-out assets, far too many liabilities and a poorly led operation.

Best advice for any family organisation is to prepare for the third generation from as early a time as possible. A famous saying about family owned businesses in Mexico is; 'father, founder of the company, son rich, and grandson poor'. A relatively small percent of family businesses survive into the third generation of family ownership.

Great enterprises are built on purpose, vision, values, agreed broad goals and specific objectives with exceptional strategic execution; enduring family enterprises across generations have an additional edge - robust governance. Governance is vital to a family business as it grows and confronts new opportunities, challenges, and critical questions about its future direction. The sustainability of a family organisation lies in the fine balance between the needs of the business and the expectations of family members. Corporate governance framework for any enterprise should ensure strategic guidance; the board's effective monitoring of how the organisation is being managed and the board's accountability to the company and shareholders. A board including independent directors adds value to strategic planning; bringing new ideas, spurring innovation, and helping the owners make necessary but tough decisions. From helping to define strategy, prepare future leaders, and navigating family dynamics, to bringing independent perspectives into the boardroom dialogue, an effective board can be an invaluable asset to a family-owned concern.

Succession plans are an absolute necessity, ensuring the company delivers sustainable results from generation to generation with well-prepared and trained family executives. Developing specific, measurable, agreed, realistic and time-bound objectives will keep both family members and employees on-track with the stated purpose and goals of the organisation.

Keeping everyone focused on ownership and accountability for their responsibilities is key to future success. Taking a professional leadership and management programme is always useful for all those leading family businesses.

(Mike Orlov is a Partner at Stepping Stone Global, a Bahrain-based boutique strategic management consultancy. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management. Email: info@steppingstoneglobal.com)

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Netflix executive axed over use of N-word

AFP| Los Angeles

Netflix sacked its chief spokesman Jonathan Friedland, he revealed on Friday, after he used the N-word twice in the space of a few days during meetings with staff.

The head of communications announced his departure after being upbraided for a second time for using the racial slur, which is controversial for its ubiquity in hip-hop culture and completely taboo in almost every other context.

"I'm leaving Netflix after seven years. Leaders have to be beyond reproach in the example we set and unfortunately I fell short of that standard when I was insensitive in speaking to my team about words that offend in comedy," he tweeted.

ZTE expected to take last step to lift ban

Reuters|Beijing

ZTE Corp is expected to deposit \$400 million in an escrow account in a U.S. bank in the "next couple of days," the last step the Chinese company must take before a ban on U.S. suppliers can be lifted, a U.S. Department of Commerce official told Reuters on Friday.

ZTE, which makes smart phones and networking gear, agreed to pay a \$1 billion penalty and put \$400 million in an escrow account as part of a settlement agreement reached on June 7 to regain access to the U.S. market, which it needs for components.

ZTE, China's No. 2 telecommunications equipment maker, ceased major operations after the Commerce Department imposed the ban in April.

India speeds up environmental clearances

Mumbai | Economic Times

India is fast-tracking environmental clearances for projects like power plants and coal mines in a bid to propel growth, setting off alarm bells among environmentalists and affected residents who say the decisions are being made too quickly.

In a country where state machinery typically moves slowly, the environment ministry under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has slashed the average time taken to grant clearances to 170 days from 600 days, said two government sources with direct knowledge of the matter.

"We're standardising processes and taking decisions swiftly," said one of the officials, who did not want to be named, citing government policy. "We know the basic issues, and merely taking more time for approvals does not mean much."

Thousands join march to call for Brexit deal referendum

100,000 EU supporters march through Central London demanding a public ballot

● Protesters packed the main arteries of the capital, waving British, Irish and EU flags and colourful banners to call for a "People's Vote"

Reuters|London

Around 100,000 supporters of the European Union marched yesterday through central London to demand that the British government hold a final public vote on the terms of Brexit, organisers said.

Protesters packed the main arteries of the capital, waving British, Irish and European flags and colourful banners to call for a "People's Vote" on the eventual deal in which Britain leaves the world's biggest trading bloc.

On the second anniversary of the 52 to 48 percent Brexit vote, polls show political divisions are entrenched. Despite some confusion over what Brexit will



Protesters during the march in central London. - AFP Photo

actually mean there has been no clear change of heart.

The "People's Vote" campaign, which includes several pro-EU groups, is campaigning for a public ballot "so that we can decide if a decision that will affect our lives for generations makes the country better or worse off".

Neither of Britain's two main political parties back the idea

of holding a referendum on the final deal.

"People have seen politicians making a cataclysmic mess of a really bad deal they didn't vote for, or even a no deal they didn't vote for," a spokesman for the campaign told Reuters.

"This is the people telling the political elite that they got it wrong."

One banner read: "17 million

voted for Adolf Hitler. 17 million can be wrong" and another couple carried a placard which read: "We are doing this for our grandchildren."

A Survation poll earlier this week found that 48 percent of respondents supported a referendum on the final deal, while 25 percent were opposed.

As yet there is no certainty about what the final deal could look like, amid infighting in Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative government as well as among some of its opponents about what they want from Britain's new trading ties with the EU after it leaves in March next year.

'Bog roll Brexit'

Marking the anniversary, Britain's foreign minister Boris Johnson, one of the main proponents of the "Leave" vote, wrote a column in tabloid newspaper the Sun defending Brexit.

Britain had voted for "the freedom to bust out of the corsets of EU regulation and rules"



People have seen politicians making a cataclysmic mess of a really bad deal they didn't vote for, or even a no deal they didn't vote for. This is the people telling the political elite that they got it wrong

SPOKESMAN FOR CAMPAIGN

he said, and any softening of the final deal - such as continued membership of the single market and customs union - would be unwelcome.

Those who voted for Brexit had not changed their minds, he said.

"They don't want some bog roll Brexit - soft, yielding and seemingly infinitely long" he said, using a British slang term for toilet paper.

China must lead way in governance reform: Xi

Reuters|Beijing

China must lead the way in reforming global governance, the foreign ministry yesterday cited President Xi Jinping as saying, as Beijing looks to increase its world influence.

China has sought a greater say in global organizations such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and United Nations, in line with its growing economic and diplomatic clout.

Since taking office in late 2012, Xi has taken a more muscular approach, setting up China's own global bodies like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and launching his landmark Belt and Road project to build a new Silk Road.

Beijing has cast itself a responsible member of the international community, especially as President Donald



Xi Jinping

Trump withdraws the US from agreements on climate change and Iran, and as Europe wrestles with Brexit. China must "uphold the protection of the country's sovereignty, security and development interests, proactively participate in and show the way in reform of the global governance system, creating an even better web of global partnership relationships", Xi

said in comments reported at the end of a two-day high-level Communist Party meeting. This would help create conditions for building a modern, strong socialist country, the ministry cited him as saying at the meeting attended by officials from the foreign and commerce ministries, the military, the propaganda department and the Chinese embassy in the US.

While Xi did not provide details, the statement cited him as mentioning the importance of the Belt and Road, and other key diplomatic platforms like his "community of common destiny", a lofty concept meant to guide China's relations with the world. This proposes a "new style" of international relations is proposed that is "win-win" and of "mutual benefit" for all, but nations remain critical of China's behavior over issues such as the South China Sea.

Air India unveils revamp plan

Reuters|Mumbai

State-run Air India will revamp its business and first class cabins on international flights to try to boost revenues by wooing more high-paying passengers, a top company official said on Friday, days after a plan to privatise the ail-

ing airline was called off. The government on Wednesday shelved a plan to sell a 76 percent stake in the debt-laden carrier due to lack of interest from bidders. Air India, known for its Maharaja mascot, is saddled with about \$7 billion of debt and its sale was expected to cement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's credentials as a reformer willing to step away from running money-losing businesses. The airline, which now plans to focus on finding ways to remain competitive and win market share, also unveiled a new food menu and amenities for passengers, and uniforms for its airline staff. These changes, expected to be introduced over the next two months, could earn the airline an additional 10 billion rupees a year in revenue, Air India's chairman and managing director Pradeep Singh Kharola told reporters.



The airline plans to focus on finding ways to remain competitive and win market share

India, UAE, Saudi likely to enter into oil cooperation

● India and UAE energy partnership has diversified from buyer-seller partnership to a more comprehensive one

Economic Times| New Delhi

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan will undertake first ever six-city India visit next week aiming at creating an energy bridge between Delhi-Abu Dhabi-Riyadh

amid impending sanctions on Iran and volatility in global oil prices that has impacted consumers in South Asia's biggest country.

During Zayed Al Nahyan's visit - which is a follow up of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's February visit to the Gulf state - India and UAE would create tri-lateral cooperation with Saudi Arabia to secure Delhi's energy interests that could help to check rising oil prices. EThas learnt that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) will be signed between Saudi Aramco and the Abu Dhabi National Oil

Company (ADNOC) for Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited on June 25.

This is the first such trilateral venture for India involving two

oil-rich Gulf countries.

India and UAE energy partnership has diversified from buyer-seller partnership to a more comprehensive one. UAE was the first country to supply oil to

India's strategic oil reserve facility in Mangalore and India is among the few non-Western nations that has been allowed stake in oil field in Abu Dhabi.

During Modi's trip to Abu Dhabi this February, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)-led consortium signed a 10% offshore

concession agreement, giving Indian companies an opportunity to develop Abu Dhabi's lucrative offshore oilfields which produce about 1.4 million barrels of oil per day. The consortium, led by India's ONGCSE -0.09 % Videsh, contributed a participation fee of \$600 million to enter the Lower Zakum concession, which will be operated by the ADNOC Offshore, a subsidiary of ADNOC on behalf of all concession partners. This is the first time that an Indian company will be involved in the development of oilfields in Abu Dhabi. About 8% of India's oil needs are supplied by the UAE.



Russia shows green light to OPEC oil production pledge

Much of the shortfall has come from Venezuela, where an economic crisis has savaged petroleum

● Iran, bracing for the impact of fresh US sanctions on its oil exports, fiercely objected to raising output targets

AFP | Vienna, Austria

Russia yesterday joined partner countries in backing an OPEC-led pledge to boost oil production in response to growing global demand, Angolan Oil Minister Diamantino Azevedo said.

"We have agreed," Azevedo told reporters after a meeting with OPEC ministers and 10 non-OPEC partner countries in Vienna.

The green light was widely expected after energy ministers from the 14-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries already agreed on Friday to raise output by one million barrels a day from July.

Saudi Arabia, supported by Russia, was strongly in favour of pumping more oil to ease fears

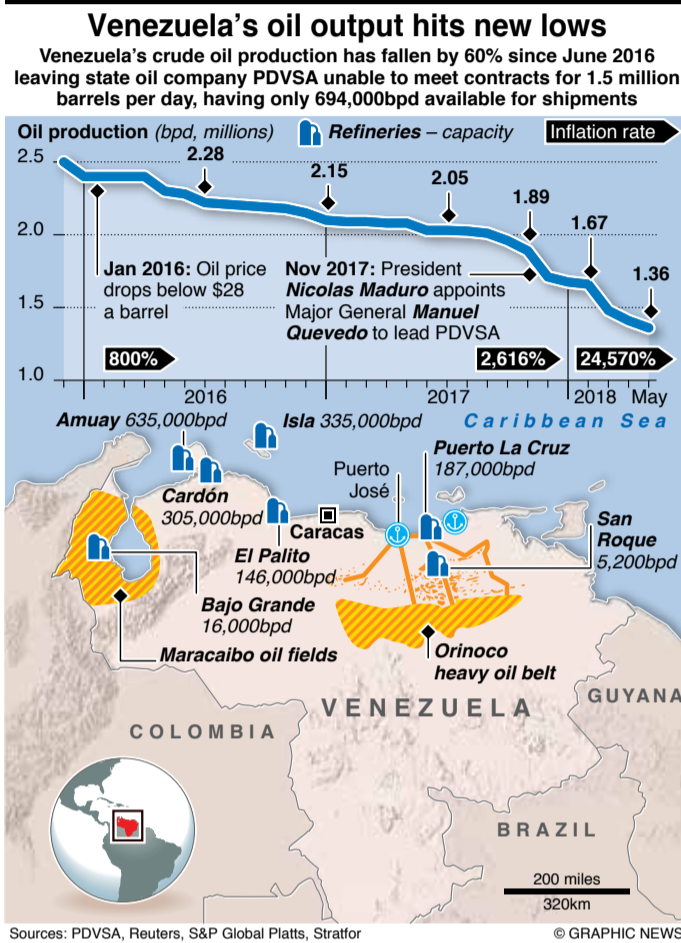
of a supply crunch and quiet grumbles about the higher prices in major consumer countries like the United States, China and India.

But Iran, bracing for the impact of fresh US sanctions on its oil exports, fiercely objected to raising output targets, as did countries like crisis-hit Ven-



It was "timely" for OPEC and its 10 partner countries, known as OPEC+, to raise production

ALEXANDER NOVAK
RUSSIA'S ENERGY MINISTER
FINANCE MINISTER



\$75.55
a barrel was the closing price of Brent crude

zuela and Iraq who are unable to raise output in the near term.

In the end, a vaguely-worded statement that made no mention of the one-million figure allowed all sides to save face.

Ministers also acknowledged that production problems in several countries meant the real number of extra barrels coming to the market would be several hundred thousand less.

Markets were disappointed with the modest output hike.

Brent crude added \$2.50 to finish at \$75.55 a barrel, while the US benchmark West Texas Intermediate gained \$3.04 at \$68.58 per barrel.

As one of the world's top producers, Russia's cooperation in the supply-cut deal is seen as crucial.

Indian state bans single-use plastic

Xinhua | New Delhi

A complete ban on single-use plastic items comes into effect from Saturday in India's western state of Maharashtra, officials said.

The authorities have threatened imposition of heavy fine on people who violate the government ban.

"The use of plastic will become an offence and violators will be fined. Those who will repeat the offence can be jailed for up to three months," a local government official said.

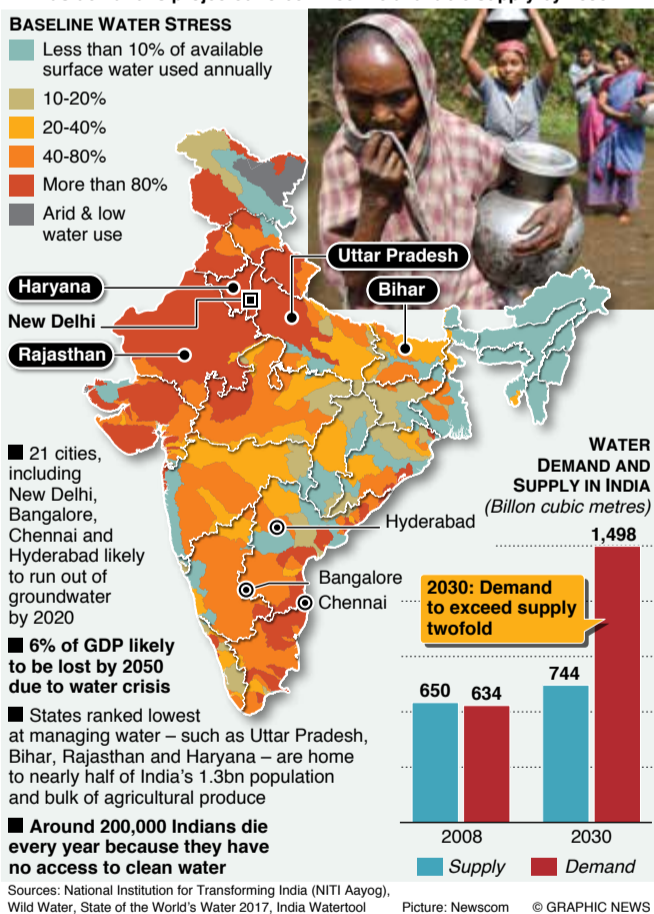
"The fine for the first-time offenders will be 74 US dollars (INR 5,000). For second-time offenders, it will be 148 US dollars (INR 10,000) and a third-time violator will attract a fine of 370 US dollars (INR 25,000) and a jail term for three months."

Environmentalists and common people welcomed the ban ahead of the monsoon season as plastics often lead to choking of drains, thereby causing water logging. Shopkeepers, however, are worried a lot over the switchover.

Earlier on March 23, the local government imposed a ban on manufacturing, use, sale, distribution and storage of plastic materials, especially one-time-use bags, spoons and plates.

India on brink of worst-ever water crisis

India is suffering from the worst water crisis in its history with some 600 million people facing acute water shortage. The crisis will worsen as demand is projected to be twice the available supply by 2030



Xiaomi targets Europe as it kicks off IPO

Hong Kong, China

Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi will aggressively target European markets, using part of the proceeds from its initial public offering worth \$6.1 billion in Hong Kong, the company's co-founder said yesterday.

The company is offering 2.18 billion shares at HK\$17-HK\$22 apiece (US\$2.15-2.80), in a bid to raise \$6.1 billion, far less than the \$10bn originally expected, as an escalating trade war between China and the US dampens investor sentiment.

But at a press conference in Hong Kong on Saturday ahead of its expected listing on July 9, the company's co-founders were bullish about its prospects, signalling plans for international expansion in Europe and Southeast Asia.

"Someone asked me if Xiaomi (will) only expand in developing countries? Last year we started to enter the European market and we realised we have a lot of 'Mi fans' in Europe," Lei Jun, Xiaomi's co-founder and



The CEO of Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi, Lei Jun, holds one of his products

CEO said. The company will invest around HK\$8.3bn from its IPO proceeds towards boosting its presence in overseas markets including Spain, Russia and Indonesia.

"We are planning for the US market and will find a proper timing to enter it," Wang Chuan, co-founder and senior vice president of Xiaomi, said on Saturday.

"Xiaomi is very optimistic about the development of China-US trade, as every economic



Xiaomi is now valued at about \$53.9-\$69.8 billion, according to Bloomberg which said the IPO looks set to be the world's biggest in two years

entity is relying on each other," Wang added.

Founded in 2010 by entrepreneur Lei, Beijing-based Xiaomi has grown from a start-up in Zhongguancun -- China's "Silicon Valley" -- to the world's fourth biggest smartphone vendor at the end of last year according to International Data Corp (IDC).

The company shipped 28 million smartphones worldwide from January to March, an 88-percent surge year-on-year.

Bitfinex chief strategy officer departs

New York

Bitfinex Chief Strategy Officer Phil Potter is leaving the cryptocurrency trading platform, the executive and the exchange told Reuters on Friday.

Potter will be replaced in the interim by Chief Executive JL van der Velde, the company said.

"As Bitfinex pivots away from the U.S., I felt that, as a U.S. person, it was time for me to rethink my position as a member of the executive team," Potter said in a statement.

He referred to "new opportunities" in the days ahead but did not elaborate.

Owned by a British Virgin Islands company, Bitfinex is the fourth-largest cryptocurrency exchange in the world by trading volume. It enables traders to buy and sell virtual currencies such as bitcoin and ether.



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, wearing a tie, arrives to address the parliamentary group of leftist Syriza and coalition partner Independent Greeks in Athens

Greece's Tsipras fulfils bet, wears a neck tie finally

Greece Prime Minister wears a neck tie as promised he would after settling the country's debt issues

Reuters | Athens

After long insisting he would only wear a neck tie when Greece's debt problem was settled, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras duly did so on Friday, after euro zone peers offered debt relief that marks a turn away from the country's long crisis.

The 43-year-old sported a burgundy number -- briefly

-- when addressing an evening meeting of political allies in Athens, a break from the open-necked or polo shirts he usually favours.

"Today is an important day for all, but primarily it belongs to those who for eight years were viciously hit by the crisis, for those who saw a lifetime of toils destroyed and those who carried the burden for the country," Tsipras said.

Euro zone finance ministers offered Greece a 10-year deferral and maturities extension on a large chunk of past loans as well as 15 billion euros (13.2bn pounds) in new credit to ensure Athens can stand on its own feet after it exits its bailout in August.

Debt relief has been an overarching objective of Tsipras's administration since he swept to power in 2015. Greece has

a debt mountain equivalent to almost 180 percent of gross domestic product, the highest in the 19-country euro zone.

Greeks have seen their economy shrink by a quarter, unemployment spike and salaries and pensions slashed by about 40 percent since first falling into crisis in 2010. The country has required three international bailouts.

"Bets are made to be won," a

smiling Tsipras told the meeting of lawmakers from left-wing Syriza and right-wing Independent Greeks which make up the governing coalition. "It's a bit difficult (wearing the tie) but I will get used to it."

But he publicly removed it about half an hour later. "I fulfilled the bet, I put the tie on but all these years I gave battle without a tie," he said, holding the garment aloft.

An inmate's plea to save Turkish democracy

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his party are using the state of emergency and other underhanded measures to suppress Kurdish votes



SELAHATTIN DEMIRTAS

Turkey will vote in presidential and parliamentary elections today. I am one of six candidates running for president. I am running from my prison cell.

I am writing from a maximum-security prison in Edirne, a city in northwestern Turkey, near the border with Bulgaria. I was arrested one year and eight months ago while I was a member of the Turkish parliament and the co-chairman of the Peoples' Democratic Party, known as the HDP, for which six million people voted in the last election.

My jailers chose to imprison me here because Edirne is far from my home, family and friends in the southeastern Kurdish region of the country. My cellmate is, like me, an elected member of the parliament.

For the past few months, we have been hearing the nearly unrelenting noise of construction. A large new prison is being built next door. A state of emergency was imposed on Turkey after the failed coup attempt in 2016, and existing prisons are stretched beyond their limits. The right to free expression and assembly

has been cast aside, and the number of ordinary people incarcerated is growing by the day.

The Turkish government led by Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Justice and Development Party, known as the AKP, has turned its back on universal democratic values and pushed the country to the brink of political and economic crisis.

With the exception of President Erdogan, all of my fellow candidates have declared that I should be freed. They cast aside ideological differences and came to my defence because they know the government is holding me for its own political gain and not for any crime I committed. They understand that if I were free, Erdogan's chances of winning the elections would be far slimmer. They recognise that no matter who wins, the imprisonment of a presidential candidate casts a pall over the legitimacy of the elections.

I am among the tens of thousands of dissidents who have been targeted by punitive measures normalised under the state of emergency. The government has so far started 102 investigations and filed 34 separate court cases against me. If it has its way, I will face 183 years in prison.

The accusations against me in the indictments by prosecutors are based entirely on political speeches and statements that

I made. If only the Turkish judiciary hadn't buckled under government pressure and had adhered solely to the law. After my arrest I was not allowed a courtroom hearing for more than a year. My prosecution has been unjust. My arrest was a political decision. I remain a political hostage.

Only the democratic struggle of the people for their own freedom will free Turkey from authoritarianism and fear and free its institutions — the judiciary and the press — from tutelary control by the government.

I am deprived of the right to hold rallies or communicate directly with the people. The men and women of the HDP are campaigning with great determination. I reach you and the world beyond the prison walls through messages conveyed by my lawyers. I address the people through social media accounts my advisers help me run.

My Twitter account was dormant for a long while after my arrest. When tweets from my account started appearing again in September 2017, prison guards rushed in to inspect my cell. The search was pretty invasive. When I asked them what they were searching for, they replied that they were looking for the source of my tweets.

The only vaguely sophisticated

Turkey now understands that the collective punishment of the Kurds on the southeastern periphery affects freedoms and democratic culture across the country. What was limited to the Kurds has become the norm for Erdogan's opponents elsewhere too.

In the summer of 2015, after the peace process broke down and armed conflict returned to the southeastern Kurdish areas of Turkey, my party did its best to prevent conflict through dialogue. We could have devised more effective ways to stop the fighting.

But everything changed after the June 2015 elections, which saw Erdogan's party lose a parliamentary majority. His government insisted on military intervention, and the Turkish army moved in against the militant Kurdish youth who had set up barricades in various towns and cities.

Erdogan sought to punish the Kurds, who robbed his party of its parliamentary majority, and to consolidate the nationalist vote. His party won the November 2015 elections and he continued to intensify the conflict thereafter.

The coming elections will shape the future of Turkey. It is statistically unlikely that any candidate who shuns the support of Turkey's Kurdish population — around one-fifth of its 81 million people — and their demands for peace can win.

An inherently anti-democratic rule in Turkey bars a political party that does not win 10 per cent of the national vote from taking its seats in the parliament. The seats are transferred

to a party that has crossed the threshold and has the second-highest number of votes on those seats.

We are confident of crossing the steep threshold, but we fail to get 10pc of the vote around 80 of our parliamentary seats will go to Erdogan's party, which would deliver him a comfortable majority in the parliament and further erode his executive presidency. In essence, the AKP rule will be unjustly secured through the votes of millions of disenfranchised Kurdish citizens.

Erdogan and his government are using the prolonged state of emergency and other underhanded measures to ensure that the HDP doesn't get 10pc of the vote.

Thousands of polling stations have been relocated in the southeastern Kurdish region, which will force rural voters to travel miles through military checkpoints to cast their votes instead of voting in their own villages. An increased number of security personnel are also being deployed at the polling stations in the region, which could cause intimidation of our voters.

In a video of Erdogan addressing his party workers that was leaked last week, he emphasised the importance of the HDP falling below the election threshold and asks them to mark HDP support

Colombia's left to right



LUIS CARLOS REYES

The victory of Iván Duque in the Colombian presidential race on June 17 is the result of a series of unfortunate ideological exports from the United States.

Duque, who clearly paid attention to the antics of the Republican Party while living in Washington, won on a platform of trickle-down economics and so-called family values. While catering to the social values of conservative voters has been a common strategy in Colombia, appealing to trickle-down economics has not. Duque's success in a country whose constitution enshrines the right to universal health care, education and a progressive taxation system should

be a warning to progressives and advocates for the poor across the region, as well as to academic economists, who may soon find themselves fighting the same kind of right-wing economic populism that has until now been regarded as an American oddity.

The president-elect claimed that the Colombian government was bloated and that taxation levels were extremely high. Americans are used to hearing this canard when discussing their own tax system, and those who bother to look up the statistics know this to be false: Whereas average tax revenues in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development countries are around 34 per cent of the gross domestic product, in the United States they hover around 26pc. It is downright alarming, then, that the same claim could be successfully made in a country like Colombia, where tax revenues are a modest 20pc of a much smaller gross domestic prod-



The prospect of a negotiated peace in Colombia has enthused some but angered others

uct, well below OECD and Latin American averages.

Duque adopted the Republican rhetoric according to which "job creators" are treated unfairly, and he campaigned for tax reductions for these "creadores de empleo." The fact of the matter, however, is that the rich receive preferential treatment, and even more so in Colombia than in the United States.

In 2010 — the latest year for which data in Colombia are available — the effective tax rate paid by the top 1pc of income earners was 11.5pc, a bargain compared with the 23pc paid by the top 1pc in the United States during that same year.

The new president has called for national unity, and Colombians should give him the benefit of the doubt. While it may

be hard for him to completely escape the influence of former president Álvaro Uribe, whose support was instrumental in his election since he was mostly unknown to the public a year ago, he may move to the center nonetheless. Some of his key allies in Congress, such as the Liberal Party, may block his intended changes to the constitution to alter presidential term limits,

The new president deserves the benefit of the doubt, but his economic policies should remain a cause of concern

1939

Siam is renamed Thailand by **Plaek Phibunsongkhram**, the country's third prime minister.

1963

The United Kingdom grants **Zanzibar** internal self-government.

2002

The **Igandu train disaster** in Tanzania kills 281, the worst train accident in African history.



2010

Julia Gillard assumes office as the first female Prime Minister of Australia.



Tayyip Erdogan

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weaken the judiciary or alter significant aspects of the peace deal, which is what most center-left voters fear Uribe wants him to do.

However, his successful adaptation of trickle-down economics to Colombian – and, indeed, Latin American – politics should remain a cause for concern. Colombia endures more inequality than most other countries in the world, and its economy is beholden to the interests of local oligopolies that control the financial sector and other key industries. These industries, like many in the United States, successfully produce studies and reports casting economic facts in a light that's convenient to their own interests, but not often to the public at large. Unlike in the United States, however, misinformation about basic economic facts is rarely met by vigorous opposition from citizen organizations at the intersection of

country. What was limited to the Kurds has become the norm for Erdogan's opponents elsewhere too. The only hope for a liberal, democratic future lies in our coming together to defeat the

authoritarian regime.

(Selahattin Demirtas is the Peoples' Democratic Party's presidential candidate in Turkey. This essay was translated from the Turkish by Amberin Zaman.)

While it may be hard for the new president to completely escape the influence of former president Álvaro Uribe, whose support was instrumental in his election since he was mostly unknown to the public a year ago, he may move to the centre nonetheless.

academia and public policy. The Observatorio Fiscal, an organisation I lead at Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, is trying to fill this gap by modelling itself after American organisations like the Tax Policy Center and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. But our task is enormous and we cannot do it alone.

More like-minded organisations are needed to offer the public perspectives on economic and policy issues that benefit the average citizen, not just those who can pay their way into positions of influence and power. Crucially, the charitable giving culture that supports these initiatives and that Americans seem to take for granted is nearly absent from Colombia, perhaps because our decades long war has torn apart the social fabric. Colombians who believe in the social democratic principles of the country's Constitution need to come together to defend them, with their voices as well as with their wallets. Americans can help too. At a time when populism and misinformation are a global threat to democracy and equal opportunity, we are all in this together.

(Luis Carlos Reyes is an assistant professor of economics and director of the Observatorio Fiscal at Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

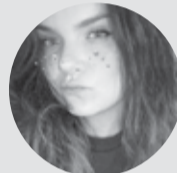
01



India's demographic dividend is our asset, which can contribute to further commercial growth. Spoke about the need for our business to use more technology, expanding GeM and ways to boost exports in multiple sectors.

@narendramodi

02



I feel like Belgium focus on plays and teamwork rather than sharp elbows and theatrics. Spain v Portugal was mostly about who could dive prettier. Belgium's entire team play, while most of the big teams revolve around one or two players.

@pirahx

03



Drudge Report "OBAMA KEPT THEM IN CAGES, WRAPPED THEM IN FOIL" We do a much better job while at the same time maintaining a MUCH stronger Border! Mainstream Fake Media hates this story.

@realDonaldTrump

04



It's shameful that Dems and the media exploited this photo of a little girl to push their agenda. She was not separated from her mom. The separation here is from the facts. Dems should join POTUS and fix our broken immigration system. #ChangetheLaws

@PressSec

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

Building future from our past



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

We saw a curious phenomenon in the past couple of weeks – I believe that over 27,000 visitors enjoyed the skilled and colourful Disney on Ice show that was flown in specially for the Eid break. It was an inspired move of the Tourism Authorities to project Bahrain as a holiday destination for families with special international attractions. In the absence of permanent theme parks, these 'pop-up' shows are a great way to gather holiday-makers.

In the same Eid holiday period, how many visitors made an effort to explore the Bahrain Fort, the Jasra House, birthplace of our beloved late Amir Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, or the Saar Temple site? Yes, the hot summer sun makes it difficult to drum up the enthusiasm for such outdoor and families would rather spend the time in indoor shows and malls. But that does not make the importance of these sites to our Kingdom's history any less. They are markers in our history, which tell us about the conflicts we faced, the issues that shaped us and the people and circumstances who built our nation. These places give us our identity.

Bahrain actually has a very effective plan for protecting our heritage and over the past decade, we have won praise for the way our historic monuments have been restored and the roads leading to them marked clearly. However, while heritage is preserved at the highest level, not much is being done to promote the interaction of our history on a daily basis among people – tourists and residents alike. Few of us have seen the painstakingly restored Pearling Trail in Muharraq, the Poetry House, home of our late Poet Laureate Ibrahim Al Arrayedh and many such heritage sites.

It is important to create a sense of ownership among people for these immeasurably valuable sites where Bahrain's character was shaped. There are many enemies of these ancient sites – war, unrest, climate change, even over-tourism, strangely enough. But a lack of interest in them by generations to come will surely sound the death-knell of these sites.

Bahrain is well-balanced at the edge of heritage preservation and tourism promotion. We get visitors and cruise ships but nothing that will overwhelm us in numbers. The time is right to take a look at our strategy to make our heritage sites living memorials of our history.

As a first step, we should make information about tour-

As a first step, we should make information about tourism accessible online and popularise our tourist spots and activities. To appeal to all age groups, we should continue to have activities such as the Disney shows, the Bahrain Summer Festival and Spring of Culture.

ism accessible online and popularise our tourist spots and activities. To appeal to all age groups, we should continue to have activities such as the Disney shows, the Bahrain Summer Festival and Spring of Culture. However, let us also plan different layers of exploration such as classroom trips and get our youth also involved in preserving our heritage sites. Tourism and culture authorities must invest in local sound and light shows that can highlight Bahrain's history. They may cost as much as the Disney shows, for sure, but they will speak the timeless story of our past and embed it in our future.

We need to work on our strengths such as a peaceful environment and a rich history and build a new narrative of Bahrain that will stand the test of time.

(Capt Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune.)

WORLD
world**Turkey's Erdogan, main rival stage final election rallies**
Istanbul

President Tayyip Erdogan and his main challenger, Muharrem Ince, made a final push for support at rival rallies in Istanbul yesterday, a day before presidential and parliamentary elections widely viewed as the most crucial in Turkey for decades.

The winner of Sunday's presidential contest will acquire sweeping new executive powers under a constitutional overhaul backed by Erdogan and endorsed last year by a narrow majority of Turks in a referendum.

Erdogan, who has dominated Turkish politics for 15 years, first as prime minister and since 2014 as president, praised the executive presidency that comes into force after the election.

"God willing, Turkey will start flying with this system... With this system, we will achieve what others cannot imagine," he told tens of thousands of supporters at a rally in Istanbul's Esenyurt district, the first of five planned for Saturday.

Iraq PM warns against stockpiling weapons

Baghdad, Iraq

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi warned yesterday he would not allow militias to stockpile arms, two weeks after a weapons depot belonging to an armed group exploded in Baghdad.

"There are groups who have taken advantage of the war against (the Islamic State group) to stock up weapons in order to threaten the state," Abadi said at a conference at Baghdad's Defence University for Military Studies.

"They wanted to be stronger than the state in order to blackmail civilians," he said. "This we will not allow."

Pakistani Taliban appoints new chief

Peshawar/Dera Ismail Khan

The Pakistani Taliban named Muf-ti Noor Wali Mehsud as the new leader yesterday, a week after the previous chief Mullah Fazlullah was killed in a US-Afghan air strike in Afghanistan. Fazlullah was killed on June 15 in a strike in the eastern Afghan province of Kunar, which is on the Pakistani border. This was the first time the Taliban had publicly admitted to Fazlullah's death.

Iran will face 'wrath of the entire world', says Pompeo

US Secretary of State hopes that it would never be necessary to take military action against the Iran

● **Pompeo hopes it would never be necessary for the United States to take military action against the country.**

Reuters | Washington

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday warned Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons, saying it would face the "wrath of the entire world" if it did so, but added that he hoped it would never be necessary for the United States to take military action against the country.

In an interview with political columnist Hugh Hewitt con-



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

ducted on Friday and broadcast the following day on MSNBC, Pompeo said that whatever the fate of the international nu-

clear deal with Iran, it would not be in Tehran's interest to seek nuclear arms.

"I hope they understand that if they begin to ramp up their nuclear programme, the wrath of the entire world will fall upon them," he said.

”
I'm not talking to military action here. I truly hope that that's never the case

MIKE POMPEO

we'd end up down a path that I don't think is in the best interests of Iran," Pompeo said.

He said, however, he was not talking about a US military response.

"When I say wrath, don't confuse that with military action. When I say wrath, I mean the moral opprobrium and economic power that fell upon them. That's what I'm speaking to. I'm not talking to military action here. I truly hope that that's never the case. It's not in anyone's best interests for that."

Pressed on whether the United States would do whatever it had to do to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, Pompeo said: "President Trump has been unambiguous in his statements that say Iran will not be able to obtain a nuclear weapon."

Rights lawyer faces Iran's ire

Sotoudeh represented several women arrested for protesting against the mandatory wearing of headscarves

● **Sotoudeh was detained in her Tehran home on June 13**

● **Her arrest has been condemned by the US and Amnesty**

Tehran, Iran

Award-winning Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh faces prosecution on state security charges following her arrest in the capital last week, her husband said yesterday.

Sotoudeh, 55, denies the charges but remains in the women's wing of Tehran's notorious Evin prison after refusing to post bail of \$95,000 (more than 80,000 euros), Reza Khandan told the ISNA news agency.

"My wife is accused of conspiracy, assembly and propaganda against the system" of rule of the Islamic republic, Khandan said.

"My wife considers the accusations against her to be baseless and made up, and the bail demand to be disproportionate," he added.

Sotoudeh, who is one of the few outspoken advocates for human rights in Iran, was detained in her Tehran home on June 13.

Her arrest has been condemned by the US State Department and human rights group Amnesty International, which both called for her immediate release.

Earlier this year, Sotoudeh represented several women ar-



Iran arrests human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh after she criticised judiciary

rested for protesting against the mandatory wearing of headscarves in Iran.

Tehran police said in February that 29 women had been detained for posing in public without their headscarves.

Sotoudeh won the European Parliament's prestigious Sakharov rights award in 2012 for her work on high-profile human rights and political cases, including those on death row for offences committed as minors.

She spent three years in prison between 2010 and 2013 for "actions against national se-

A new criminal code in Iran allows only a small number of lawyers -- just 20 in Tehran -- to represent individuals charged with state security offences.

curity" and spreading "propaganda against the system" and remains banned from representing political cases or leaving Iran until 2022.

Sotoudeh has defended journalists and activists including Nobel Peace laureate Shirin Ebadi and several dissidents arrested during mass protests in 2009 against the disputed re-election of hardline president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

She had recently spoken out against a new criminal code that allowed only a small number of lawyers -- just 20 in Tehran -- to represent individuals charged with state security offences.

During her previous spell in Evin, Sotoudeh staged two hunger strikes in protest at the conditions and over a ban on seeing her son and daughter.

She was released in September 2013 shortly before Iran's then newly elected President Hassan Rouhani, who had campaigned on a pledge to improve civil rights, attended the UN General Assembly.

Time apologises for Trump cover story

Daily Mail | London

Time magazine has issued a correction to a controversial cover story about a Honduran migrant girl who they said was taken from her mother by US border patrol agents after it was revealed that the pair were never separated at all.

Three-year-old Yanela Denise became the unintentional face of the now defunct family separation crisis after photographer John Moore captured her agonized face screaming as her mother was questioned by agents on June 12. After the picture was taken,

the pair were taken together to a family detention center. Yanela's father has since told DailyMail.com that they are 'safe'.

The magazine photo-shopped an image to place her at the foot of a towering Donald Trump and the words 'Welcome to America' appeared next to it.

In the story, despite Moore having told the magazine that he did not know what became of the girl after he took the picture, the journalist wrote that she had been taken away like the thousands of other children who have been.



Italy defiant as migrant ship stranded in

AFP | Rome

Italy defiantly declared yesterday that its ports were closed to foreign-flagged rescue ships as German charity vessel Lifeline lay off the coast of Malta in limbo with more than 230 migrants aboard.

Malta nevertheless said it had sent in humanitarian supplies.

"The Lifeline, an illegal ship with 239 immigrants on board is in Maltese waters," Italy's far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini wrote on Facebook. "These boats can forget about reaching Italy."

Vietnam busts \$26 mn online betting ring: state media

AFP | Hanoi

Vietnamese police broke up an online football gambling ring worth around \$26 million, arresting four people as authorities look to stop black market betting that surges during sporting events like the ongoing World Cup.

Gambling is illegal in Vietnam apart from the state-run lottery and a few casinos which are only open to foreigners.

But the law is widely flouted, especially during top-tier sports competitions when many punters head online or to illegal gambling

Ex-Vatican diplomat admits guilt at child porn trail

Reuters | Vatican City

A Catholic priest who worked as a diplomat at the Vatican's embassy in Washington admitted at the start of his trial on Friday that he had possessed child pornography while based in the United States.

Msgr. Carlo Alberto Capella, who was arrested in the Vatican in April after he had been recalled, told the court he had developed a "morbid" desire after he arrived in the United States.

150-mln-yr-old turtle fossil discovered in China

Xinhua | Chongqing

A turtle fossil dating back 150 million years to the Jurassic Period has been found in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality.

Farmer Liu Changyu found a turtle-shell-shaped "rock" while in Qijiang District earlier this month.

Liu's daughter uploaded photos to WeChat, which were spread and spotted by the district's land resources and housing management bureau, said Xie Xianming, director of the geopark management department of the bureau.

Ethiopian PM escapes blast

One killed, several injured in the attack; Police say six under investigation for the grenade attack

● Attack killed one person, wounds scores

● Premier says assault aimed at dividing nation

Reuters | Addis Ababa

Ethiopia's new Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed escaped a grenade attack yesterday at a rally in the capital that killed one person and left scores wounded, officials and witnesses said.

The attack was launched by an unidentified assailant moments after 41-year-old prime minister, a former soldier who took office in April, finished his speech to tens of thousands of people gathered in the centre of Addis Ababa. A witness saw Abiy whisked away by guards. Another witness told Reuters the assailant with the grenade had been wrestled to the ground by police before it exploded.

Health Minister Amir Aman

said one person was killed and 154 were wounded, with 10 of them in critical condition.

Addressing the nation on television shortly after the blast and still wearing a green t-shirt he was handed at the rally, Abiy said the attack was an "attempt by forces who do not want to see



Ethiopia's new Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed got involved in politics at the tender age of 15 when he joined the struggle against the Derg military regime in 1991



Ethiopians react after an explosion during a rally in support of the new Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. Inset, PM Ahmed

Ethiopia united." Abiy took office after his predecessor, Hailemariam Desalegn, resigned in February following protests in which hundreds of people were killed between 2015 and 2017.

Ethiopian police said that six

suspects were under investigation for a grenade attack.

"Six suspects are currently under investigation for involvement in the attack," the Federal Police Commission said in a statement. The attack

was launched moments after 41-year-old prime minister Abiy Ahmed, a former soldier who took office in April, finished his speech to tens of thousands of people gathered in the centre of Addis Ababa.

North Korea still a nuclear threat: Trump

● Kim and Trump signed a pledge "to work towards complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula"

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump on Friday cited "an unusual and extraordinary threat" from North Korea's nuclear arsenal to extend sanctions on Kim Jong Un's regime, despite touting the success of a historic summit earlier this month.

After flying back to Washington last week, boasting of success, the US leader tweeted:



US President Donald Trump

"There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea."

"Sleep well tonight!" he added on June 13, a day after the Sin-

gapore meeting.

But a presidential declaration sent to Congress on Friday struck a different note as it explained why the administration would keep in place tough economic restrictions first imposed by former president George W. Bush. "The existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States," it said.

Though the notice is consid-

US stops more training exercises

Washington

The US and South Korea have agreed to indefinitely suspend two exchange program training exercises, to support diplomatic negotiations with North Korea, the Pentagon said Friday.

The move comes after the two countries announced the shelving of the large-scale Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercises slated for August, making good on a pledge by President Donald Trump during his summit with North Korea's leader. Two Korean Marine Exchange Program training exercises scheduled to occur in the next three months have now been shelved.

ered pro format, the disparity in tone reflects the work that US officials concede remains to be done as negotiators thrash out the details of Pyongyang's disarmament.

Emmanuel Macron not understanding little people, says Francois Pinault

AFP | Paris

One of France's richest men Francois Pinault faced a backlash yesterday for accusing President Emmanuel Macron of "not understanding little people". "I am afraid that he is leading France towards a system that forgets the most modest," the French billionaire and luxury goods mogul told M du Monde magazine on Friday.

Emmanuel Macron was criticised this week for unveiling plans for a swimming pool at his private presidential retreat. Pinault was said to be close to former president Jacques Chirac, prosecuted in 2011 for embezzlement during his time as mayor of Paris, and voted for the Socialist Francois Hollande in the 2012 presidential election. Defending Emmanuel Macron, government spokesman Benjamin Grivaux told Radio 1: "From someone who for a long time did not pay taxes."

100 coffins to the border

AP | Seoul

The US military said it moved 100 wooden coffins to the inter-Korean border on Saturday to prepare for North Korea's returning of the remains of American soldiers

who have been missing since the 1950-53 Korean War.

US Forces Korea spokesman Col. Chad Carroll also said 158 metal transfer cases were sent to a U.S. air base near Seoul and would be used to send the remains home.

Paw prints of pet dog help trace missing toddler

Dailymail | Michigan

Police are crediting a Michigan family's dog for leading them to a lost toddler after the small child went missing for several hours earlier in the week.

Dominic Peake told the Detroit Free Press he was thrown into a panic after realizing that his two-year-old had escaped from the Paw Paw family home early Wednesday morning.

Peake said that he called the Van Buren County Police Department after searching the



Police said family's dog, a pit-boxer named Apollo, may have saved Princeton Peake's life by sticking by his side



Missing toddler, 2, is found in woods nearly a mile from his house after police follow paw prints from his trusty dog who never left his side

property and the surrounding cornfields, woods and swamps, managing only to find his small son's sippy cup. The boy's mother, Myhia Perez, said discovering that her son had gone missing was terrifying. "I about died," she said. After responding to the scene, police said they quickly discovered paw prints leading to a wooded area near the house.

Sheriff Daniel Abbott said that the family's dog, a pit-boxer named Apollo, may have saved Princeton Peake's life by sticking by his side.

WORLD

features

WC fans flock to party in 'street of lights'



Nikolskaya street has become the most hangout place of the World Cup fans

The 700-metre-long street with elegant stucco facades is packed to bursting

Moscow

A quiet pedestrian street leading off from Red Square, Moscow's Nikolskaya Street has unexpectedly become the party zone of choice for thousands of international World Cup fans, to the bemusement of locals.

During the day but even more so at night, the 700-metre-long street with elegant stucco facades is packed to bursting.

Walking through, a passerby has to squeeze past ubiquitous groups of Argentinian supporters, pass a cafe taken over entirely by Tunisians and shake hands with innumerable Mexican fans, all of them wearing sombreros.

"Normally, Nikolskaya Street is very quiet," said Armen, an Armenian student living in Moscow who was watching highlights of the Croatia-Argentina match.

The street is usually more of a shopping destination with some luxury boutiques, especially since it was pedestrianised five years ago. But for some reason, fans have chosen this particular street as their main hangout.

Colombian Harold Castillo, a 22-year-old student, puts its popularity down to the spectacular curtain of lights that hangs over the street.

"I came here by chance. I've been walking all over Moscow using TripAdvisor and I just saw the lights. There are other pedestrian streets but it's wonderful here."

Multiple garlands of lights hang over most of the street, giving it a festive air as soon as night falls. Even before the World Cup kicked off, Iranian fans were rubbing shoulders with Saudis here and flag-draped fans from each South American country colonised a part of the street.

Fans are travelling great distances across Russia to follow

teams -- the Peruvians went to see their team lose to France in Yekaterinburg in the Urals and the Tunisians have left for southern Volgograd to watch Saturday's game with Belgium. Yet while fans come and go, Nikolskaya has retained its vibrancy.

'A Tower of Babel'

"This is the fans' street," said

Mohamed Chaaben, a 28-year-old Tunisian engineer sitting on the terrace of a cafe with his friends, a national flag wrapped round his shoulders.

"It has the best atmosphere, it's a pedestrian street and it feels safe, there's no risk."

He and his friends were amused at the interest from locals in their national Tunisian headgear, round red caps with tassels known as chechias.

Plenty of Russians are coming to stroll on Nikolskaya Street too, eyeing the exuberant fans with a mixture of surprise and amusement. Argentinians have nicknamed the party-zone street the "house of lights," said Santiago Saltiva from Argentina's city of Cordoba. He said that's how he was directed there by a WhatsApp group of Argentinian fans as soon as he landed in Moscow, while he has not heard of the street's real name.

"They told us that all the Argentinians were here on this street," the 42-year-old businessman said.

"This street is like a Tower of Babel," he said. "Every nationality is here, every country is represented, everyone is speaking a



Multiple garlands of lights hang over most of the street, giving it a festive air as soon as night falls

different language."

The fans' choice of Nikolskaya Street as their main base caught the city authorities by surprise and they had to make some rapid changes. Public toilet cubicles were brought in and barriers removed. The crowds of fans have been great news for local traders, many of whom have opted to remain open for 24 hours.

"We've had to bring in staff from other branches," said Maria Kuzina, manager of a cafe that is part of a large Moscow chain.



Mexican fans pose at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow

Manicures in World Cup designs hit the nail on the head

Reuters | Samara

"I love to make nails beautiful," says manicurist Natalia, as she applies the finishing touches to a World Cup soccer ball design on her friend's nail in her home in Samara.

Natalia, who chose not to give her real name, certainly does brighten up any room with her smile and character, as well as her football-themed nail painting. Living close to the Samara Arena, which plays host to six World Cup matches during Russia 2018, Natalia is using the tournament as inspiration.



Russian woman Katya watches as her friend and manicurist Natalia paints her nails with flags of teams and themes



"It gives you a lot of fun because you get to be creative. You can use different colours, materials, whatever you want so that your soul is fulfilled," she told Reuters on Saturday.

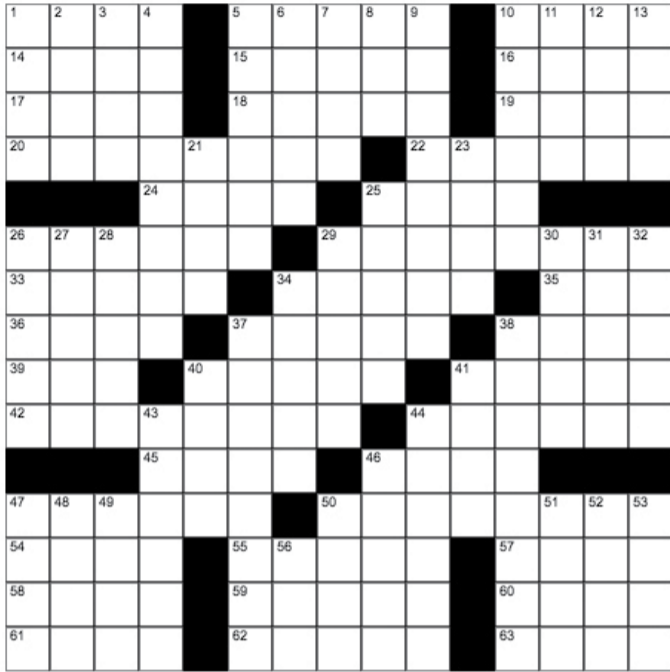
Natalia works mainly as a babysitter but in her spare time she likes to paint beautiful and extravagant designs onto her friends' nails.

For the World Cup, Natalia is basing her designs around soccer balls, goal netting and of course national team flags.

"I find the design for this World Cup really interesting," she said whilst painting Uruguayan and Russian flags in preparation for their encounter.

entertainment

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



fox; 54- Four Corners state; 55- Register; 57- Old MacDonald's place; 58- Don't look at me!; 59- Without ___ in the world; 60- Annapolis inst.; 61- Soon; 62- Ran easily; 63- "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" author;

Down

1- Stuck, after "in"; 2- Folk wisdom; 3- List-ending abbr.; 4- Cave in; 5- Church instruments; 6- Esther of "Good Times"; 7- Skin cream ingredient; 8- Corp. bigwig; 9- Directed toward home; 10- Need for liquid; 11- Tabula ___; 12- Oklahoma city; 13- Destiny; 21- Small children; 23- Head of France?; 25- Truman veep Barkley; 26- As ___ resort; 27- Gift recipient; 28- Big name in insurance; 29- Word after Anglo; 30- Wrinkle removers; 31- Bridget Fonda, to Jane; 32- Tenuous substances; 34- Grain stores; 37- Large-scale business transaction; 38- Not gross; 40- Payment for travel; 41- Blockhead; 43- Inside of; 44- Followed; 46- Beach locale; 47- Large marine food fish; 48- Prince William's school; 49- Western pact; 50- Enclose; 51- Burkina ___; 52- Yes ___?; 53- December day, briefly; 56- Sgt., e.g.;

Across

1- Sir Guinness; 5- Mountain spinach; 10- Not kosher; 14- ___-Rooter; 15- Logrolling contest; 16- Mandlikova of tennis; 17- Russian range; 18- Dimness; 19- ___ soup yet?; 20- Indication; 22- Online brokerage; 24- Topnotch; 25- Amazes; 26- Goes with the flow; 29- Boards that support a mattress; 33- Silt deposit; 34- Buffalo hockey player; 35- Narrow inlet; 36- Get in a hand; 37- Blended; 38- Digits of the foot; 39- D.C. pol; 40- Criminal; 41- Move rhythmically; 42- Teacart; 44- Throws; 45- Some nest eggs; 46- Preservative; 47- Shaped like the Big Top; 50- Arctic

BEETLE BAILEY



WORD OF THE DAY

Skirl

Definition:

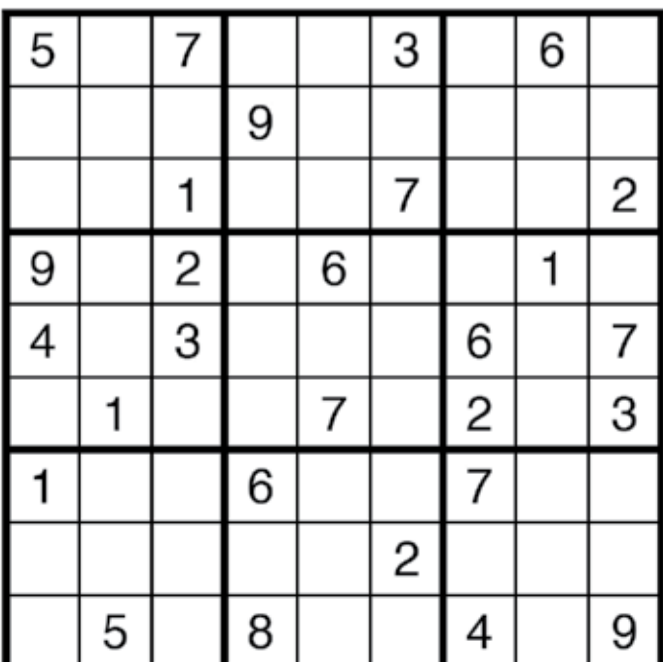
1: of a bagpipe : to emit the high shrill tone of the chanter; also : to give forth music
2 : to play (music) on the bagpipe

Did You Know?

Not every musical instrument is honoured with its very own verb. But then, not every musical instrument emits a sound that quite matches that of a bagpipe. Depending on your ear, you might think bagpipes "give forth music," or you might be more apt to say they "shriek." If you are of the latter opinion, your thinking aligns with

the earliest sense of skirl—"to shriek." That early sense was used of screeching maids, winds, and the like. Scottish poet Robert Sempill first used it for bagpipes in the mid-1600s. The meaning of skirl has shifted over time, however, and these days you can use the verb without causing offense to bagpipers and bagpipe enthusiasts.

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



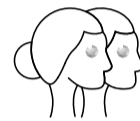
Aries

This is a great day for you to get up on stage and make your presence known to the crowd. Let people know that you're the leader of the pack. There is a great need for you to take the helm now, and you shouldn't back away from this responsibility.



Taurus

This is a good day to add spark to your life. If things have seemed boring and stagnating lately, you may need to infuse a bit of excitement into the situation. Add flair and dynamism to the mix. Take matters into your own hands and actively pursue your goals. You have a strong inner sense of where you need to go.



Gemini

You'll notice that your emotions are coming to a monthly climax today. Don't be alarmed, but do be cautious about lashing out at people for no reason. You may feel on edge. Unintended slights from others could push you over that edge in a fury of emotion.



Cancer

Extremes is the name of the game now, especially for you. Today the emphasis is on action. You're the one to call to get the job done. You won't wait another second to simply go for it. Your emotions are flowing, and you have an endless well of internal strength and resources. Use this power to your advantage.



Leo

Be adventurous and strike out into new territory. Be a pioneer. Work to make some new discoveries in the world. Today isn't a day to worry about consequences. It's a day to get things started. There is a great deal of fiery energy in the cosmos helping you in your quest for the new and fresh.



Virgo

Certain situations may be difficult to deal with today as they take an emotional spin. You're getting anxious. Things are getting started without the careful planning and consideration you feel is necessary. Try not to worry so much. Your own doubt is likely to hinder any project. Have faith that things will work out. Be bold.



Libra

You should find that the general mood of the day is favourable to your personality style. Take this opportunity to present more of your thoughts and ideas to the world. Let your voice be heard. Use it with strength and vigour. You have partners and friends who are eager to hear what's on your mind.



Scorpio

The fog has lifted and you're ready to take off. The dreaminess you may have experienced lately has been nice, but now it's time to get moving again. Use all that you have learned from that recent internal processing and put it to use in the practical world.



Sagittarius

This is a terrific day for you, and you'll find that there is a great deal of power at your disposal. This is a day of new beginnings. You have the opportunity now to start over and create a solid emotional base from which to work. Rid yourself of negative feelings and self-doubt.



Capricorn

The fire is raging today, so be careful. Try not to be too impulsive in your actions. Your natural tendency may be to lash out against others without really thinking about the consequences. If you find yourself getting hot under the collar, you might need to take a step back from the situation and settle down.



Aquarius

Go for the gold. Today marks the beginning of the rest of your life. Treat it with respect. You may be on a crusade and your combative instincts could be working overtime. There's a lot of fuel in your engine, so don't worry about running out. The only thing you really need to be concerned about is possibly stepping on other people's toes. Make sure you consider how your actions affect others.



Pisces

You may feel as if someone is poking you today, urging you to get up and get moving. Don't be surprised if someone seems to be picking on you for no reason. Other people's lack of sympathy and sensitivity could be acute on a day like this. Try not to take it personally. Your hard outer shell may be put to the test in terms of its ability to protect your soft vulnerability.

SPORTS
sports**EFC Bantamweight champion signs with Brave**

TDT | Manama

EFC Bantamweight champion J P Buys signed a multi-fight contract with Brave Combat Federation.

The 21 year old is the latest prospect to be signed from South Africa. Buys is trained by Richard Quan at the Fight Fit Militia.

The latest prospect to sign with the Bahrain based global promotion has won multiple titles for wrestling including African Wrestling Title, 12th Place at Wrestling World Championship and MMA Fight Stars Bantamweight Championship.

Buys had been a constant



J P Buys signed with Brave Combat Federation

presence in the corner of Chad Hanekom who competes in the Middleweight division of the promotion.

Bahrain a top destination for combat sports training

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain has emerged as the top destination for Combat Sports training in the Middle East and Africa.

There is a major inflow of martial artists reaching Bahrain to train at the KHK MMA Gym in Bahrain which was found by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Athletes from USA, UK, Brazil, Russia, France, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan, India, Ireland and more had visited the Kingdom of Bahrain for training of to set up a pre-event camp leading to competitions.

Brave Combat Federation which is found under HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al

Khalifa had featured over 220 athletes from 40 nations competing in events hosted across the world. The resultant exposure made Bahrain a leading destination for martial arts fans. In 2018, Brave Combat Federation had hosted events in Jordan, Brazil, Indonesia and the United Kingdom.

Kingdom is set to host IMMAF World Championships during November at the Brave International Combat Week 2018. This will mark the second time the event is hosted in Bahrain which put the nation as the only other nation than USA to host IMMAF World Championships. During Brave International Combat Week, athletes from over 103 nations are expected to visit Bahrain.

Murray to face Wawrinka in Eastbourne first round

Reuters | London

Andy Murray will face fellow three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka in the first round of the Eastbourne championships next week as both players continue their comebacks from injury.

Former world number one Murray returned after almost a year out with a hip injury at this week's Queen's Club tournament, but lost in the opening

round to Nick Kyrgios.

With Wimbledon looming Murray, twice a champion at the grasscourt Grand Slam, took an Eastbourne wildcard on Friday in a bid to test his fitness for the All England Club fortnight.

After losing to Kyrgios in three sets the 31-year-old expressed some doubt over his ability to play best-of-five-set matches and said he could even miss the tournament he won in 2013 and 2016.

Hamilton on pole in French Grand Prix

● Lewis Hamilton takes French GP pole on an all-Mercedes front row with championship leader Sebastian Vettel in third

Reuters | Le Castellet, France

Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton roared back to form yesterday to put his Mercedes on pole position for the first French Grand Prix in a decade.

Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas, who had gone top moments earlier, had to settle for second -- just 0.118 of a second slower -- as the Silver Arrows locked out the front row in style.

Ferrari's championship leader Sebastian Vettel, a point ahead of the Briton after seven of 21 races, qualified in third place.

Today's race will be the first French Grand Prix since Magny-Cours in 2008 and the first



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton competes during the qualifying session at the Circuit Paul Ricard in Le Castellet, southern France



French manufacturer Renault won the first French Grand Prix in 1906, then had to wait another 73 years for its second victory in 1979!

held at the southern Le Castellet circuit since 1990.

"It feels great to be back in France. It's such a beautiful place. I got a great response from the crowd and I'm delighted to be here for the first time," said Hamilton, who described his final session as 'so-so'.

The pole, in a time of one minute 30.029 seconds, was his third of the year and pushed his Formula One record to 75.

The battle of Formula One's four-times champions has ebbed and flowed, with Vettel taking back the lead in Canada after Hamilton had to make do

with an engine reaching the end of its life while rival teams had upgrades.

He finished fifth in Montreal, a favourite track, in his worst showing of the season so far.

Mercedes brought an upgraded power unit to Le Castellet and Hamilton, who has yet to win in France, has been consistently quick.

"I did push everything in the last attempt but pushed too much," said Vettel. "After first attempt I thought 'with a really amazing lap we have a chance' but P3 I'm happy with because the car should be good in race."

Federer beats Kudla to reach final

Reuters | Halle, Germany

Defending champion Roger Federer extended his unbeaten run on grass to 20 matches by defeating American qualifier Denis Kudla 7-6(1) 7-5 yesterday, and set up a Halle Open final with young Croatian Borna Coric.

The pair exchanged early breaks in overcast conditions before top-seeded Federer stamped his authority by winning the tiebreak 7-1, ending Kudla's 10-set winning streak this week.

Playing his eighth match in less than two weeks, the 36-year-old Federer seemed clearly fatigued but showed great mental strength to save five break points in the second set.

A lapse of concentration from Kudla in the 11th game allowed Federer to grab the only break point on offer before the Swiss



Roger Federer in action

served out the match in just under an hour and a half.

"Denis has played an excellent tournament and made it difficult for me," Federer said. "So I am of course very glad to have made it."

Nine-time Halle champion

Federer has reached his 12th final on German grass, and will next face 34th ranked Coric, who will make his first final appearance of the season.

The 21-year-old Coric, who defeated second seed Alexander Zverev earlier this week,

Denise has played an excellent tournament and made it difficult for me. I am of course very glad to have made it

ROGER FEDERER

advanced after playing just five games of his semi-final against Robert Bautista Agut.

The Spaniard was forced to retire after an unfortunate slip, with Coric serving at 2-3.

Federer, who must win a record-extending 10th title in Halle to remain at the top of the world rankings, holds a 2-0 head-to-head advantage over Coric.

BTA conducts junior ranking event

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA) held a ranking event for their most promising juniors at their base at the Dilmun Club, Saar.

Invited players participated in matches against other academy players in a round-robin format in four age groups: 8-and-under, 10-and-under, 12-and-under and 13-and-over.

At the end of proceedings players were presented with a certificate confirming their ranking based on their match wins and points scored.

Yuto Ogawa (8&U), Abdulaziz Al



8-and-under players with BTA Director, Dan Barrie

Betairi (10&U), Jad Choueiry (12&U) the number one ranking in their respective age groups. and Romain Haessler (13&O) achieved

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ESTD. 1979

England must be more clinical

Reuters | Repino, Russia

England need to be more clinical if they are to take care of Panama in their second game in Group G and put themselves on the brink of qualification to the knockout stage.

If England beat Panama and Belgium beat or draw with Tunisia then England are through to the last 16.

Gareth Southgate's side beat Tunisia 2-1 in their opening game but missed a series of first-half chances and needed a stoppage time winner from captain Harry Kane to secure the three points.

Defender John Stones says England have done their homework on Panama and says it is clear where the biggest area for improvement needs to be.

"Being more clinical," he told reporters, "I think we know how the games are going to play out now and who we are going to play," he said.

What England have learnt from their study of the Central American side, playing in their first World Cup, is that 'Los Canaleros' will aim to play a high-paced, physical game.

Southgate has prided himself on building a team that enjoy pass and movement football. Stones says they won't change that approach because of their opponents.

"It is something we have spoken about and we are going to stick to our game plan. We're going to cause them as many threats as we can using our own styles of play," he said.



Harry Kane

13



England

Nickname | **The Three Lions**

Possible line-ups: Pickford, Walker, Stones, Maguire, Henderson, Trippier, Rose, Lingard, Loftus-Cheek, Rashford, Kane

Dele Alli picked up a thigh strain against Tunisia and is expected to miss out for England today. Ruben Loftus-Cheek is expected to deputise.

Gareth Southgate is reportedly contemplating replacing Raheem Sterling with Marcus Rashford for their second group game. The England manager has no reason to make any further changes, although might be tempted to rotate Jordan Henderson and Eric Dier, Ashley Young and Danny Rose and Harry Maguire and Gary Cahill.



England Coach **Gareth Southgate**

ENG 2-1 TUN Match 1 PAN 0-3 BEL

HEAD-TO-HEAD

First meeting

WORLD CUP RECORD

27	Wins	0
20	Draws	0
16	Losses	1
1.29	Goals for*	0.00
0.92	Goals against*	3.00

Fact box

- » England secured all three points against Tunisia courtesy of a late Harry Kane winner and now they will aim to pick up momentum with a comprehensive win over Panama.
- » Panama lost 3-0 to Belgium in their first game of the 2018 World Cup and will hope to follow Tunisia's blueprint of frustrating England.
- » England, however, should have no difficulty beating Panama but need to be more clinical in front of goal. This match should boost England's confidence further ahead of their final group game against Belgium.

Panama



55

Nickname | **The Red Tide**

Possible line-ups: Penedo, Murillo, Torres, Escobar, Davis, Gomez, Barcenas, Cooper, Godoy, Rodriguez, Perez



Luis Tejada

Roman Torres overcame a slight knock to face Belgium in their group opener and will be fine to continue here. Head coach Hernán Darío Gómez is expected to use a compact setup to try and frustrate Belgium.



Panama Coach **Hernán Darío Gómez**

Poland to make changes for Colombia match

Reuters | Sochi, Russia

Poland will make changes for their match against Colombia and start "more aggressively" in what will be a key match against

ponents who also lost their opening contest, striker Dawid Kownacki said.

Both sides were defeated 2-1 in their first Group H games -- Poland at the hands of Senegal and Colombia to Japan -- meaning another defeat is unthinkable for either of them.

"We have to play more aggressively," Kownacki said. "In

the Senegal match, we did not show the aggression, we did not attack the rival as we should have. We should have played sharper. This was a key mistake.

"This (aggression) will be important in the match with Colombia. We have to get close to them, they have great players, a lot of individuals who can do a lot when they have control of the ball.

"When we get possession we need to make faster decisions. We kept the ball too long with Senegal, we could not get into the rhythm."

Assistant coach Hubert Malowiejski said some of those who disappointed against Sen-

egal would be dropped but he did not name names.

"There will be certainly be changes, it is not very likely that we will play with Colombia with the same players," Malowiejski said.

"How many changes, and which positions, this decision has not been made yet. We have training sessions ahead of us, especially today's training. The skeleton of the team will remain the same but there will be changes."

The results in Group H have been one of the most surprising in World Cup with the underdogs winning both opening ties.



James Rodriguez



Robert Lewandowski



Poland

Nickname | **The Polish Eagles**

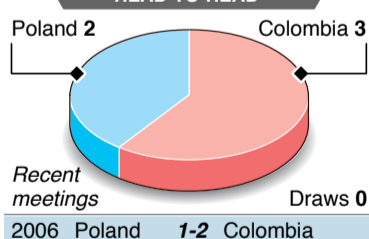
Possible line-ups: Szczesny, Bereszynski, Cionek, Pazdan, Rybus, Krychowiak, Zielinski, Grosicki, Blaszykowski, Milik, Lewandowski

Poland switched to a three-man defence at half-time of their 2-1 defeat to Senegal and may persist with that system here.

8 FIFA rank 16

POL 1-2 SEN Match 1 COL 1-2 JPN

HEAD-TO-HEAD



Recent meetings 2006 Poland 1-2 Colombia

Colombia

Nickname | **The Coffee Growers**

Possible line-ups: Ospina, Arias, Sanchez, Murillo, Mojica, Lerma, Barrios, Cuadrado, Rodriguez, Quintero, Falcao

Carlos Sánchez is suspended for Colombia after his red card in their 2-1 defeat to Japan. Wilmar Barrios should deputise. James Rodriguez wasn't fit enough to start last time out but will return to the team here. The Bayern Munich creator may have to start from the left, with Juan Quintero in the No.10 role. Yerry Mina may have to settle for a place on the bench with Óscar Murillo preferred at centre-back.



Japan

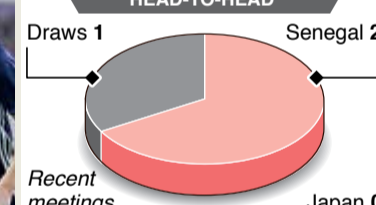
Senegal



61 FIFA rank 27

JPN 2-1 COL Match 1 SEN 2-1 POL

HEAD-TO-HEAD



Maya Yoshida

2003 Japan 0-1 Senegal

Sadio Mane

Japan have no reason to make any changes after pulling off an impressive 2-1 win over Colombia in their World Cup opener.

Possible line-ups: Kawashima, Sakai, Yoshida, Shoji, Nagatomo, Shibusaki, Hasebe, Haraguchi, Kagawa, Inui, Osako

Cheikhou Kouyaté may have to settle for another place on the bench after surprisingly being left on the bench against Poland last time out.

Possible line-ups: N'Diaye, Wague, Sane, Koulibaly, Sabaly, Gueye, N'Diaye, Sarr, Mane, Diouf, Niang

Neymar 'fully recovered'

AFP | Moscow

Neymar has now "totally recovered" from the foot injury that required surgery and saw him miss the end of the club season, Brazil's team doctor said yesterday.

However, winger Douglas Costa will miss the side's final World Cup Group E outing against Serbia on Wednesday.

"I would like everyone to understand Neymar's situation, and that he no longer has any problem with his right foot," Rodrigo Lasmar told journalists at Brazil's World Cup training base in Sochi.

"He has totally recovered but he is still building up his rhythm and his confidence. He is feeling better with every game."

Southgate plays down team leak

Reuters | Samara, Russia

England manager Gareth Southgate played down any confrontation with the media after a photograph was taken allegedly showing the line-up for today clash.

In the build-up to Group C clash, photographs emerged of England assistant coach Steve Holland holding a sheet of pa-

per with line-up on it.

Journalists have faced criticism for publishing the contents of the sheet but Southgate says he is unfazed.

"There's no drama," Southgate told reporters yesterday.

"The picture the other day wasn't even the team so it was even less of a drama, it was a list of runners and riders for the training session."

Germany gets a lifeline

● **Stoppage-time stunner from Toni Kroos snatches late win for Germany**

● **Superb Toivonen lob had Sweden ahead at the break**

Reuters | Sochi, Russia

A dramatic stoppage-time goal from Toni Kroos gave holders Germany a 2-1 win over Sweden yesterday to keep alive their hopes of qualifying for the World Cup last 16.

Kroos curled in a superb strike from an indirect free kick to grab the three points for the four-times world champions who are now level with Sweden in Group F on three points and behind Mexico who have six.

Sweden took the lead in the



Germany's midfielder Toni Kroos celebrates after winning at the end of the Russia 2018 World Cup Group F football match between Germany and Sweden

GERMANY 2 1 SWEDEN

48' Reus Toivonen 32'
90'+5' Kroos



32nd minute when Ola Toivonen finished confidently after Germany's Toni Kroos gave the ball away in midfield.

Marco Reus equalised in the 48th minute, meeting a low cross from Timo Werner, and despite having Jerome Boateng sent off in the 82nd minute, Germany kept going and Kroos earned them a famous win.

The Swedes played with fire

as the Germans racked up the chances in the opening minutes, but having weathered that storm they gradually began to threaten on the break, and Marcus Berg was denied a good shout for a penalty when he appeared to be bundled over by Boateng.

With Germany getting in behind Sweden's full backs at will and fizzing passes across the box, it looked like it might be only a matter of time before they scored, but Toivonen's goal gave Sweden breathing space.

Manuel Neuer saved the Germans from being 2-0 down at halftime, diving acrobatically to deflect Berg's header from Sebastian Larsson's stoppage-time free kick.

Reus got Germany back in the game early in the second half as the Germans launched a massive offensive and when Boateng was sent off for his second yellow card eight minutes from time the Germans continued to push on.

Chechen leader makes Salah honorary citizen

Reuters | Moscow

Chechnya leader Ramzan Kadyrov has made Egypt's talismanic striker Mohamed Salah an honorary citizen of the southern Russian region at a farewell banquet held for the eliminated World Cup side.

Chechnya has been hosting the Egyptian team's World Cup training camp and Kremlin-backed Kadyrov has seized on opportunities to appear alongside Salah, whose goalscoring exploits for Liverpool and Egypt have made him an international superstar.

Musa warns Argentina he is not their hero

AFP | Volgograd, Russia

Nigeria's Ahmed Musa became 'Lionel Musa' on social media in Argentina on Friday after his two goals against Iceland which not only put the Africans back on course for a last 16 place, but also restored the World Cup hopes of the South Americans.

However, the Nigerian has warned his new-found hero status in Argentina is likely to end abruptly on Tuesday when the two countries meet in a decisive Group D game in St. Petersburg.

Neymar fully recovered

AFP | Sochi

Neymar has now "totally recovered" from the foot injury that required surgery and saw him miss the end of the club season, Brazil's team doctor said yesterday.

However, winger Douglas Costa will miss the side's final World Cup Group E outing against Serbia on Wednesday.

Russia sees record in penalties

Reuters | Samara, Russia

There have already been more penalties awarded in the first 28 games of Russia 2018 than in the entire World Cup four years ago in Brazil.

Carlos Vela's penalty in Mexico's match with South Korea yesterday was the 14th of the tournament in the first 28 games, meaning there has now been a penalty once every

two games.

11 of the penalties have been successfully converted.

Belgium's Eden Hazard also scored from the spot after the video assistant referee (VAR) advised that he had been fouled in the penalty area during Belgium's 5-2 win over Tunisia yesterday.

In Brazil four years ago, there were only 13 penalties in the entire tournament. The World Cup record, set in 2002, stands

at 18.

The role of VAR goes a long way to explaining this trend, with six penalties so far being awarded following a video review and VAR has also confirmed referees' decisions on the field on several occasions.

A penalty was also disallowed in Brazil's win over Costa Rica on Friday after VAR deemed there not to have been a foul on Neymar.

Serbia wants referee on trial

AFP | Kaliningrad, Russia

Serbia's coach has reacted to his team's World Cup defeat to Switzerland by calling for the referee to be put on trial in the Hague, in a reference to the war crimes tribunal for the ex-Yugoslavia.

Serbia were furious when German referee Felix Brych failed to award a penalty in Friday's game after Aleksandar

Mitrovic was wrestled to the ground in the penalty area by Swiss defenders Stephan Lichtsteiner and Fabian Schär.

Despite opening the scoring through Mitrovic in the fifth minute, Serbia lost 2-1 after Granit Xhaka and Xherdan Shaqiri netted for Switzerland.

"We were robbed," Mladen Krstajic told Serbian reporters yesterday, when asked about

Brych's decision.

"I wouldn't give him either a yellow or red card, I would send him to the Hague. Then they could put him on trial, like they did to us."

The Hague-based International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is a UN body that prosecutes the perpetrators of war crimes committed during the wars in the former Yugoslavia.

FIFA World Cup Video Assistant Referee

Video Assistant Referees (VARs) aim to help referees reach more correct decisions. The system was introduced to most top European leagues, and was trialled in England's FA Cup, in the 2017-18 season

VARs CAN BE USED IN FOUR SCENARIOS

- Goals:** Check for infringement that would disallow goal. Match already paused so no impact on game
- Penalty:** Double-check no wrong decision is made with award (or non-award) of penalty kick
- Red card incidents:** Ensure no obviously wrong decision is made when sending player off
- Mistaken identity:** VARs can identify correct player to discipline, if referee is unsure

REVIEW CAN BE INITIATED BY REFEREE OR VARs

- Referee informs VARs (or VARs recommend to referee) that decision or incident should be reviewed
- Video footage reviewed by VARs, who advise referee via headset what video shows
- Referee accepts information from video footage and takes appropriate action
- OR Referee decides to review video footage at side of pitch before taking appropriate action

Referee makes final decision, VARs have no power to overrule

Sources: FIFA, Bundesliga, Sky News Pictures: Bundesliga © GRAPHIC NEWS

WORLD CUP PREDICT AND WIN

Yesterday's lucky winner is **Kamelia**. Winner will be contacted



THE DAILY **tribune**
NEWS OF BAHRAIN

PREDICT & WIN
A Gift Pack from *Coca-Cola*

DAY 11, 24th JUNE 2018

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Winner's photo will be published in The Daily Tribune.
Entry should be submitted before 2pm

Five-star Belgium

● Two each for Hazard and Lukaku as Belgium thump Tunisia 5-2

● Lukaku's two see him level with Cristiano in Golden Boot race

● Tunisia need Panama to beat England to stay alive

Reuters | Moscow



Romelu Lukaku clips his second goal past Farouk Ben Mustapha of Tunisia to join Cristiano Ronaldo at the top of the goalscoring charts

Two goals each for Romelu Lukaku and Eden Hazard helped Belgium to a 5-2 thrashing of Tunisia yesterday that showcased their attacking verve and star quality and put them firmly on course for the World Cup knockout phase.

Michy Batshuayi came off the bench to add a late fifth but it was by no means all plain sailing for Roberto Martinez's side and they will be aware that they will need to tighten up at the back considerably if

they are to finally make a push to a major tournament summit after so many false dawns.

Despite topping Group G with six points and a goal difference of plus-six there is still the slimmest of chances Belgium might yet not qualify, though even a heavy defeat in their final game against England would be extremely unlikely to derail them.

An English victory over Panama today would send England and Belgium through while a draw would be enough to confirm Belgium's progress.

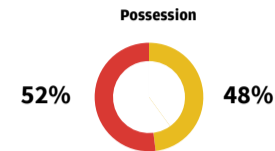
England have three points, with Panama and Tunisia on nought. Tunisia, also without a point after two matches having extended their 40-year World Cup winless run to 13 games, are also still in with a theoretical chance of making it on through three points - for a day at least.

"It's not easy to score that amount of goals in two games," said Martinez, as his team impressively followed up their 3-0 opening win over Panama and helped Russia 2018 set a World Cup record for 27 tournament games without a goalless draw.

BELGIUM 5 2 TUNISIA

6' (pen), 51' Hazard
16', 45+3' Lukaku
90' Batshuayi

18' Bronn
90+3' Khazri



23	Shots	15
12	On target	5
12	Fouls	13

Ragged Defending

In yesterday's clash, Belgium were much the better team from the off but they were seriously aided and abetted by some ragged defending and non-existing marking from their opponents, epitomised after six minutes when Syam Ben Youssef needlessly crashed into Hazard to concede a penalty, which the captain calmly converted.

Mertens seized on another error to set up Lukaku to plant the second goal into the corner 10 minutes later.

Tunisia hit back quickly with a Dylan Bronn header as Belgium's own sometimes shaky defending was exposed but another misplaced Tunisian pass enabled Thomas Meunier to feed Lukaku to make it 3-1 in stoppage time.

Following his double against Panama it took the him to four goals for the tournament, level with Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, and made him Belgium's highest scorer at a single World Cup - after one-and-a-half games.

An inch-perfect Kevin de Bruyne pass sent Hazard clear for a his brilliantly-finished second six minutes after restart.

Batshuayi then had a remarkable last 20 minutes as he managed to blow three great chances in a row before finally finding target in the 90th with a good finish.

There was still time for Tunisia to earn a reward for their positive approach as Wahbi Khazri scored in stoppage time.



This is the first time Belgium have registered five goals in a World Cup match

"We had to suffer in spells but when we were in full flow going forward, we look really sharp. On top you have the talent and the quality but since we came together it's been a joy to see a group of players working so hard."

Martinez said Lukaku and Hazard, who were withdrawn in the second half, and midfielder Dries Mertens, had slight injuries and could be among a series of changes for the England game.



"We had to suffer in spells but when we were in full flow going forward, we look really sharp. On top you have the talent and the quality but since we came together it's been a joy to see a group of players working so hard"

BELGIUM COACH ROBERTO MARTINEZ

Today's match

Group G England vs Panama (3:00 PM)
Group H Japan vs Senegal (6:00 PM)
Poland vs Colombia (9:00 PM)

Point Table

GROUP A	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Russia	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Egypt	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Saudi	2	0	0	1	0	6	0

GROUP B	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Portugal	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Spain	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Iran	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Morocco	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

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
Nigeria	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Iceland	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Argentina	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

GROUP E	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Brazil	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Serbia	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Costa Rica	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

GROUP F	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Mexico	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Germany	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Sweden	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
S. Korea	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

GROUP G	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Belgium	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
England	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Panama	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Tunisia	2	0	0	2	3	7	0

GROUP H	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Japan	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Senegal	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Colombia	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Poland	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Marvellous Mexico close in on last 16

Vela and Hernandez goals lead Mexico to consecutive wins, Hernandez first Mexican to score 50 goals

AFP | Rostov-on-Don, Russia

Mexico laid one foot in the World Cup's last 16 and left South Korea on the brink of elimination after goals from Javier Hernandez and Carlos Vela clinched a 2-1 victory in Rostov yesterday.

Hernandez became the first Mexican player to score 50 goals for his country, after 104 appearances, with Vela earlier opening the scoring through yet another penalty kick.

Son Heung-min's stunning long-range effort in stoppage time gave South Korea a glimmer of hope but it was too little too late.

Mexico lead Group F on six points after two games, having backed up their shock victory against Germany with another display to suggest they can go deep in this tournament.

South Korea, beaten by a Sweden penalty in their first match, had their chances but again lacked cutting edge up front.

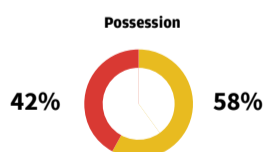
Yet to register a single point in Russia, they are left needing a miracle to progress.

After 28 games at the World Cup, there have now been 14 spot-kicks, 11 of them converted, and there could be little complaint about this one, coming after a blatant handball by Jang Hyun-soo, Vela stepping up to convert.

S.KOREA 1 2 MEXICO

90+3' Son

26' (pen) Vela
66' J. Hernandez



17	Shots	13
6	On target	5
24	Fouls	7

In temperatures around 35 degrees Celsius, Mexico were rewarded for another controlled performance that combined possession in midfield with pace and penetration in attack. Hirving Lozano, the match-winner against Germany, was excellent again in particular.

Before their opening goal, however, it was South Korea that created the better chances.

Only a brilliant saving tackle from Lozano denied Lee Yong tapping in at the back post before Son saw three quick-fire shots come to nothing, the first two blocked, the last skewed wide.



Carlos Vela of Mexico battles for possession with Heungmin Son of Korea Republic during the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia group F match between Korea Republic and Mexico at Rostov Arena

But Mexico's penalty in the 27th minute was clear. Jang tried to block Andres Guardado's cross but inexplicably slid with his arm outstretched above him and the ball struck the defender's hand.

Vela was made to wait by goalkeeper Jo Hyeon-woo, who played for time by swigging his water and chatting to his team-mates, but there was no mistake. Vela slid home.

The game became more open in the

second half as South Korea perhaps pushed too hard too soon, and it was little surprise when Mexico doubled their lead.

They were fortunate not to concede a foul for a clear trip by Hector Herrera in the build-up but Lozano found Hernandez and the striker did the rest. The former Manchester United striker's dummy-shot fooled the lunging Jang before a scuffed finish rolled past Jo.

Mexico coach angry after team suffers 24 fouls against South Korea

Reuters | Rostov-On-Don, Russia

Mexico coach Juan Carlos Osorio urged action against repetitive fouling after his team was on the receiving end of 24 fouls in their win over South Korea at the World Cup yesterday.

"Usually, I don't like to talk about referees but there was something I didn't like and that was that there were 24 fouls against us," said Osorio, whose own team committed seven fouls in the Group F match.

"It's very easy to analyse who committed them. For the good of football, I hope they take the necessary precautions and measures."

South Korea received four yellow cards.

Mexico, who have six points from two games and are on the brink of a last-16 place, began their campaign with a stunning 1-0 win over Germany but Osorio said it was important for his side not to get carried away by the euphoria.