

KINGDOM
STUDYING
IN JAPAN: AN
OPPORTUNITY
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MEDIA
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UNDER
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& FINALLY
NOUR ARIDA
WALKS THE
RUNWAY AS PARIS
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TUESDAY, July 2, 2019
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ARAB NEWS

SINCE 1975

The Voice of a Changing Region

Sudan
tense after
killings

Sudanese take part in a mass demonstration in the capital Khartoum. Sudanese activists said at least 11 people were killed in clashes with security forces during Sunday's mass demonstrations demanding a transition to civilian rule.

Report P7

AFP



EVIL AGENDA

How Baruch Marzel urges ethnic cleansing of Palestinians



Ray Hanania Chicago

Many who hope for Middle East peace breathed a sigh of relief when the extreme Jewish nationalist Meir Kahane died in 1990 — but they had reckoned without the rise of his protégé Baruch Marzel. From his base in an Israeli outpost in the heart of the Palestinian city of Hebron, Marzel openly advocates the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

Today, like the extremist who groomed him, he is the subject of Preachers of Hate, the Arab news series that analyzes militants and their malign influence on their followers.



Baruch Marzel

Marzel has said of the Palestinians: "There's no way we'll have quiet or peace inside Israel as long as we have millions of supporters of terror ... the only way is to get them out."

As the academic and Arab News columnist Yossi Mekelberg writes today: "Marzel was not the first to introduce hate speech and extreme religious nationalism into Israel's political discourse, but he has taken it to a new and contemptible level, paving the way for those who follow to become legitimate forces in the country."

Spotlight Page 3

ROGUE REGIME

Iran faces new global sanctions for breaching 2015 nuclear deal

UN chief warns Tehran after it increases stockpile of enriched uranium

AP, AFP Reuters Dubai

Iran faces crippling new worldwide sanctions after it admitted stockpiling enriched uranium above limits imposed by the 2015 agreement to curb its nuclear program.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Monday Iran had passed the threshold, as it had warned it would. "We have said very transparently what we will do," he said.

The UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which monitors Iran's nuclear program under the deal, confirmed in Vienna that Tehran

had breached the limit.

Under the nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), there is a dispute resolution process that could end at the UN Security Council in 65 days with a snapback of UN sanctions on Iran.

The country's economy is already collapsing under sanctions imposed by US President Donald Trump after he withdrew from the JCPOA.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres told Tehran breaching the deal was not in its interests.

"Such action ... would not help preserve the plan, nor secure the tangible economic benefits for the Iranian people," his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Under the nuclear deal, Iran

FASTFACT

Prime Minister Theresa May's office said Britain was urgently considering its next moves along with its partners, and urged Iran to 'reverse this step.' Her foreign secretary, Jeremy Hunt, said he was 'deeply worried.'

agreed to have less than 300kg of uranium enriched to a maximum of 3.67 percent. Previously, it enriched as high as 20 percent, a short step away from weapons grade. Neither Zarif nor the IAEA said how much uranium Iran had now stockpiled.

Tehran's latest move is a nightmare for European countries after French, British and German offi-

cial promised a strong diplomatic response if Iran breached the deal.

Prime Minister Theresa May's office said Britain was urgently considering its next moves along with its partners, and urged Iran to "reverse this step." Her foreign secretary, Jeremy Hunt, said he was "deeply worried."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the European countries should "stand behind their commitments" and impose "automatic sanctions" on Iran.

The restrictions in the nuclear deal are intended to keep Tehran from amassing enough material, in a sufficiently refined state, to make a nuclear bomb.

Zarif said Iran's next move would be to enrich uranium beyond 3.67

percent, a threshold Tehran has previously said it would cross on July 7. That would be a much bigger breach than Monday's announcement that it holds too much material at a permissible purity.

European officials held last-ditch talks with Iranian envoys last week to persuade Tehran not to breach the deal.

The talks failed because the Iranians say European efforts to protect them from the impact of US sanctions were insufficient.

The Europeans say they want to help Iran's economy, but those efforts have failed too. Iran's oil exports have plunged and major foreign companies have canceled investment plans for fear of breaking US rules.

The Brief

AL-ULA SKILLS PUSH

Chefs from Al-Ula will take part in a special training course at France's leading school of culinary arts and hospitality management under a new partnership. P4

AOUN'S APPEAL

Lebanese President Aoun called for calm during a meeting of the Supreme Council of Defense, after the killing of two members of Minister Saleh Al-Gharib's entourage at Mount Lebanon. P6

AL-SADR'S MOVES

Iraqi cleric Muqtada Al-Sadr wants to replace senior government staff with independent professionals in a bid to improve services, according to supporters. P6

Arab News Buenos Aires

Work by three Saudi artists exhibited at South America's most prestigious art show is "helping build bridges of understanding between cultures," Saudi Culture Minister Prince Bader bin Abdullah bin Farhan Al-Saud said on Monday.

Pope Francis has also welcomed Saudi participation in Bienalsur, taking place in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The pope was briefed on the event by its director, Anibal Jozami.

"I explained that we will do the exhibition in Buenos Aires at the Catholic University with artists from Saudi Arabia. We were

talking about the importance of dialogue between Islam and Christianity," Jozami said.

Prince Bader said: "The pope is quite right, dialogue is so important and I am delighted that our talented Saudi artists can be part of creating that dialogue."

Pavilion of Fine Arts

Work by the Saudi artists Faisal Samra, Ayman Zedani and Fatima Al-Banawi is on show at the event.

The Saudi exhibition is hosted at the Pavilion of Fine Arts at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina, where Francis was Grand Chancellor before he became pope.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Prince Bader, Pope Francis welcome Saudi art in Argentina

Jozami had sent the pope a catalogue for Bienalsur and received a reply inviting him to Rome to meet the Vatican's

Fatima Al-Banawi is one of three Saudi artists exhibiting at the Bienalsur in Argentina. AN photo



Culture Minister, Cardinal Ravasi. In March Jozami traveled to the Vatican for meetings with Cardinal Ravasi and an audience with the pope.

Bienalsur, the world's first travelling contemporary art biennale, runs until November. It begins in South America and will travel through five continents, taking in more than 100 venues across 42 cities around the world, ending at Tokyo's University of Arts. It will visit Saudi Arabia for the first time in October 2019.

The Argentine curator of the Saudi exhibits, Gabriela Golder, said their work "seeks to bring the audience together, from small daily stories that help build an intimate narrative, to recover a singular type of memory."

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No. 209 • 16 pages



The Iranian-backed Houthis continue to launch drone attacks against civilian targets in the Kingdom and all those attacks have been thwarted.

Col. Turki Al-Maliki
Spokesman for the Arab coalition



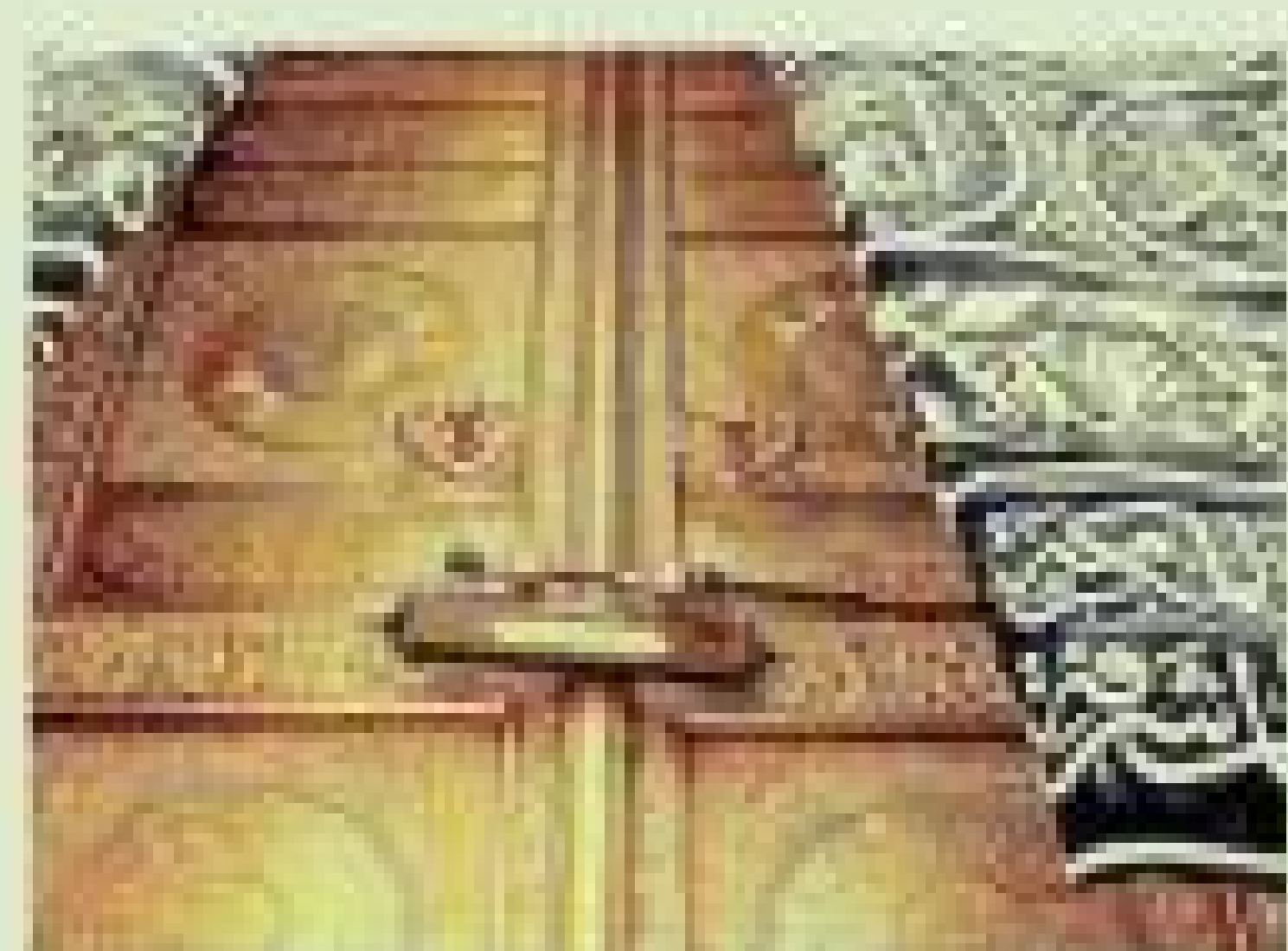
Radars

KSA
today



Jeddah
Crosswalks artistry

Street art has taken a new path in historic Jeddah with a display by Venezuelan artist Carlos Cruz Diez. The Crosswalks project, organized by Saudi Art and Culture, involves artworks being integrated into urban spaces. Pathways in the Al-Balad district have been recreated using various art elements. Visitors can view the works beside Al-Jaffali House in Al-Balad through July 18.



Makkah
Kiswa factory

Muslims in the holy city will be able to visit the Kiswa factory for the Kaaba, where artisans work with golden thread. The factory also houses a collection of antiquities from the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah. Until June 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, except Friday and Saturday.



Hail
Summer festival

Hail Summer Festival includes national, heritage and social activities for all ages. Activities take place daily from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. at locations such as Al-Magwa Park, Al-Samara Park, Garden Mall, Salma Mall and Samah Center. The festival continues until July 3.



Jeddah
Food gala

The Historic Jeddah Season is calling all food connoisseurs to embark on a gastronomical journey with Hejazi food and other cuisines from all over the world. There is a great line-up of activities, shows, workshops and entertainment. The event is underway at Historic Jeddah from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. daily until July 18.

The Register
THE PICTURES THAT MARK THE DAY



King Salman receives princes, ministers, scholars and a group of citizens at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah on Monday. SPA

A number of princes, ministers, scholars and a group of citizens called on King Salman at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah to greet him.

The reception began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an. Makkah Gov. Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Prince Turki Al-Faisal, Prince Khalid bin Bandar bin Abdul Aziz and a

number of princes were also present. On Monday, King Salman issued a royal decree promoting and appointing 179 judges at the Justice Ministry at various levels.

Today's
Number

31m

The Saudi Ground Services Co. has provided its services to more than 31 million passengers and pilgrims who traveled through Jeddah's King Abdul Aziz International Airport and Prince Mohammed bin Abdul Aziz International Airport in Madinah since the beginning of the Umrah season, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Who's Who



Hattan bin
Abdul Karim
Timraz

Dr. Hattan bin Abdul Karim Timraz has been dean of the faculty of maritime studies at King Abdul Aziz University since 2017.

He has also been an assistant professor of international maritime law since 2015.

Timraz has held various positions at the Jeddah university over the past 13 years and was vice dean of the faculty of maritime studies from 2015 prior to his appointment as the department head. He was in charge of education and was head of cooperation and international relations at the faculty between 2015 and 2018.

He began his academic career as a lecturer in the maritime studies department before moving to the UK to pursue his higher education.

He has a deck officer license from the British Maritime and Coastguard Agency and has sailed on oil tankers belonging to Vela International Marine, a Saudi Aramco-owned company.

Timraz holds a bachelor's degree in merchant ship operations from Southampton's Solent University, in the UK. He gained a master's degree in international maritime and commercial law and a Ph.D. in maritime law from Swansea University, also in the UK.

King Abdul Aziz University is the first of its kind in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region to award bachelor's degrees in marine surveying, navigation, engineering and transportation. It also offers international professional certification in different specializations.

The dean said that his faculty's main objective was to provide world-class education and training in the field of marine transport and surveying for students looking to work on ocean-going vessels.

What's Trending Today's hot topics explained by Deema Al-Khudair



GOOD LAUGH
#International
JokeDay

People all over the world observe June 1 as "International Joke Day." As expected tweeps had a good laugh on Monday as they shared some interesting bone ticklers online.

@hwowestly said: "Want to hear a joke about construction? I'm still working on it."

@WheelsTaxis tweeted: "Who earns a living driving their customers away? A taxi driver! #InternationalJokeDay."

@Fountain Court tweeted: "A photon checked into our apartments earlier. We asked if he needed any help with his luggage, but he declined and said that he was traveling light. #InternationalJokeDay"

@AskAnArchDay said: "Why did the archaeologist go bankrupt? Because his career was in ruins. #InternationalJokeDay #AskAnArchaeologist."

CONTROVERSY

Taylor Swift

American singer Taylor Swift shared a Tumblr post explaining her ordeal with American entrepreneur Scooter Braun who manages Justin Bieber and Kanye West.

"For years I asked, pleaded for a chance to own my work. Instead I was given an opportunity to sign back up to Big Machine Records and 'earn' one album back at a time, one for every new one I turned in."

"Some fun facts about today's news: I learned about Scooter Braun's purchase of my masters as it was announced to the world. All I could think about was the incessant, manipulative

bullying I've received at his hands for years.

"Like when Kim Kardashian orchestrated an illegally recorded snippet of a phone call to be leaked and then Scooter got his two clients together to bully me online about it."

"This is my worst-case scenario. This is what happens when you sign a deal at 15 to someone for whom the term 'loyalty' is clearly just a contractual concept. And when that man says 'Music has value,' he means its value is beholden to men who had no part in creating it."

"Thankfully, I am now signed to a label that believes I should own anything I create. Thankfully, I left my past in Scott's hands and not my future."



The Region

The Middle East Roundup

Arab News Dubai

• Syrian artists and activists are performing a theatrical piece on their experiences in prisons from the 1980s to more recent ones since the revolution in 2011 at London's Battersea Arts Theater. It is part of the Shubbak Festival.

• It is the last day of group stage matches in the ongoing African

Cup of Nations held in Egypt. Sixteen teams will enter the next round, which so far includes Uganda, Nigeria, Madagascar, Algeria, and the home team, Egypt. Four matches are scheduled today.

• The Arame Gallery in Beirut Souks is hosting "Daydreams on Canvas," an exhibition that features original paintings by renowned Armenian artists including Ruben

Abovian, Sarkis Hamalbashian, and Daron Mouradian. The exhibition is open daily until July 6.

• Beirut Design Week is underway in Starco, Beirut, on the theme of "Design and Nostalgia." Local and international creatives are attending the week-long event, packed with a series of workshops, exhibitions and talks, exploring the concepts of time and nostalgia.

Prayer Times in Saudi Arabia

July 2	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Aer	Maghreb	Isha
Makkah	4:15	5:42	12:25	3:44	7:08	8:38
Madinah	4:08	5:36	12:26	3:47	7:15	8:45
Riyadh	3:38	5:08	11:58	3:19	6:47	8:17
Abha	4:14	5:37	12:14	3:37	6:51	8:21
Dammam	3:18	4:50	11:44	3:10	6:37	8:07

**PREACHERS
OF HATE**

Spotlight

A weekly series
by Arab News, online
and in print, that
exposes hatemongers
from all religions who
influence extremists
worldwide

BARUCH MARZEL

The face of Jewish radicalism

Militant Hebron settler has poisoned Israeli politics with calls to forcibly segregate Jews and Palestinians

Ray Hanania Arab News

Baruch Marzel, who lives in a Jewish outpost built in the heart of the Palestinian city of Hebron, has confronted many Palestinians who have tried to witness Israeli restrictions on non-Jews visiting the Ibrahimi Mosque.

The mosque is famous for being the burial ground of the Prophet Abraham. It was also the site of the massacre in February 1994 of 29 Muslim worshippers by Chicago-born Israeli settler Baruch Goldstein, a close colleague of Marzel.

In 1995, when I was president of the Palestinian American Congress, Marzel's colleagues threatened to beat me with clubs as I walked up to the Ibrahimi Mosque to view a memorial set up for Goldstein's victims.

It was only because I am Christian and was holding a US passport that Israeli soldiers stood between me and Marzel's settler friends.

Marzel was one of the early leaders of hate activist Meir Kahane's Jewish Defense League (JDL). After Kahane was killed in November 1990, Marzel played a larger role in the organization, which has changed names several times and was represented in Israel's Knesset (Parliament) as the Kach political party.

Marzel has run for political office in the Knesset and is a member of the Otzma Yehudit political party, which was reorganized from the outlawed Kach.

He has openly advocated the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. "There is no way we'll have quiet or peace inside Israel as long as we have here millions of supporters of terror, people that believe in their religion that all of the Land of Israel ... is theirs, and that we're occupiers, and the Jews have no right to a state or can even exist here," he said.

"The only way to have peace is to get them out of Israel."

Born in Boston, Marzel's family moved to Israel when he was an infant. He joined the JDL at the age of 13.

Marzel claims to have joined the Israeli invasion of Lebanon



in 1982, and to have shot dead several unarmed Syrian soldiers he had taken prisoner.

He said he did this because he was wounded by a captured Syrian commando who let off a concealed grenade and thought he might die, so he wished to exact revenge. Marzel took the same spirit of confrontation into his political activism.

"It's a religious war. And they believe they have to destroy us ... to kill us ... And we believe that ... they can't stay here," he said.

In 1984, Kahane won a seat in the Knesset and appointed Marzel as his parliamentary aide,



It's a religious war. They believe they have to destroy us ... to kill us.

Marzel was renowned for his open hostility, harassing leftist and Palestinian Knesset members. After his mentor's death, Marzel was elected head of Kach's secretariat and ran for the Knesset.

He emerged from Kahane's shadow to become a figurehead for Jewish radicalism in Hebron,

where he has led attacks against its Palestinian residents. He has been jailed many times for his acts of violence and intimidation.

Confrontations between the small Israeli population in Hebron and its Palestinian residents are a daily occurrence.

But its darkest day was in 1994, when Goldstein opened fire on Muslim worshippers in the Ibrahimi Mosque during Ramadan. As the dead and wounded lay on the floor, survivors tackled him and beat him to death.

Marzel celebrated Goldstein after his death, and in 2000 held a party at his graveside during

the Jewish festival of Purim. "We decided to make a big party on the day he was murdered by Arabs," Marzel told the BBC.

"Without supporting what (he) did ... Baruch Goldstein was one of the purest people in the world ... He was a saint," Marzel said. "After what he did, terrorism stopped in Hebron for four years ... one Jew wasn't hurt."

Marzel still takes part in aggressive activities against Palestinian residents of Hebron, while hosting Israeli troops stationed there at his house for lunch.

But his activism is not confined to Hebron. Alongside

BIO

Name Baruch Marzel

Nationality Israeli-American

Place of residence Hebron, West Bank

Organization Eretz Yisrael Shelanu, Jewish National Front

Occupation Former spokesman of Meir Kahane's Kach party

Medium Interviews, videos and articles

Ben-Zion Gopstein, Michael Ben-Ari and Itamar Ben-Gvir. Marzel founded and became a spokesman for the segregationist Lehava movement.

The Jewish far-right campaigning organization objects to almost every kind of personal relationship between Jews and non-Jews.

Its activities are not limited to protesting and picketing weddings between Jews and Arabs. In 2014, Lehava members carried out an arson attack on an Arab-Jewish bilingual school.

Marzel remains active in politics. He is a member of Otzma Yehudit, which calls for Arabs to leave Israel.

The willingness of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to work with such parties means their influence cannot be underestimated.

Netanyahu even received criticism from AIPAC, the largest pro-Israel lobby in the US, over the election alliance he agreed to with Otzma Yehudit.

Marzel is doing his best to make sure Kahanism passes on to the next generation. "Thank God, out of (my) nine kids, seven had trouble with the police for good causes," he said.

"I educate them to be fighters, and I'm proud that they fight ... They had a big fight with Arabs."

Whether it is with his own children, other Jewish settlers in Hebron or far-right activists across Israel, Marzel will continue to radicalize Israeli politics, and do all he can to prevent coexistence between Jews and Arabs.

The rotten apple did not fall far from the wretched tree

YOSSI MEKELBERG

There is quite a competition to be considered the true heir to Meir Kahane, the man widely believed to have brought the most repellent examples of racist and hate speech into Israeli politics.

When Kahane appeared on the political stage, his venomous language against Arabs, peace activists, the media and others was on the very margins of Israeli discourse.

Sadly, this is no longer the case, and incitement against those groups has been creeping into mainstream politics, advocated and encouraged by his disciples. No one takes this further than Baruch Marzel.

Marzel was born in the US, but was taken to Israel by his family as a baby and grew up in Jerusalem.

From his youth, he was attracted to extreme right-wing movements. He joined Kahane's Jewish Defense League at 13 and, later, his party Kach, a bluntly racist organization with strong fascist ideological elements that was barred from running for Israel's Knesset (Parliament).

At a young age, Marzel was Kahane's spokesperson and regarded as his right-hand

man. His admiration of Kahane and his vile system of beliefs can be witnessed even today. Marzel often quotes him on his Twitter feed to attack almost everyone who disagrees with him.

For Marzel, even Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former defense minister Avigdor Lieberman are too soft on the Palestinians, whom he views almost without exception as terrorists or servants of terrorism.

His vision of Israel's future is one of a state run according to Jewish law, the Halacha, which aspires to build the Third Temple on the Temple Mount and replace the mosques standing there today, while disregarding the insult to the Muslim world and the provocation that even contemplating such an action represents.

Marzel's choice of residence is testimony to his provocative tendencies. He is a settler in the occupied West Bank, and lives in one of the most extreme anti-Palestinian communities of Tel Rumeida in the city of Hebron. He and his fellow settlers are constantly instigating friction and clashes with the local Palestinian population.

Marzel is seen as representing the very extreme right in Israel, but frighteningly



Yossi Mekelberg is professor of international relations at Regent's University London, where he is head of the International Relations and Social Sciences Program. He is also an associate fellow of the MENA Program at Chatham House. He is a regular contributor to the international written and electronic media.

representatives of his jingoistic, bigoted politics have long been voted into the Knesset. And the support of his current political party Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Power) is much coveted by Netanyahu as he tries to form a coalition.

A member of Otzma Yehudit is most likely to be appointed education minister, which will allow that person to poison the minds of Israeli youth.

From the age of 14, Marzel has been arrested on countless occasions, and has been convicted of assaults and threatening behavior against Palestinians.

One of his favorite acts of incitement against the Palestinians and their struggle for self-determination is to burn their flag in public.

Spreading hate against Palestinians might have gained Marzel infamy, but he is equally venomous in his attacks against Jews who are working to bring about peace and coexistence.

He used to call the peacemakers of the Oslo process "the criminals of Oslo," and even called for the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

For good measure, Marzel also incites Israeli soldiers in Hebron to ignore their commanders

and take a tougher approach against the Palestinians who live there.

His blind hatred of Palestinians has sunk to the low point of defending Baruch Goldstein, who murdered 29 innocent Muslim worshippers in the Ibrahimi Mosque in 1994.

He refers to Goldstein as a "tzadik" (righteous person) and a victim. How could anyone condone the shooting of innocent people worshipping the same God that Marzel allegedly believes in?

His prejudice manifests itself in his approach to relations between Arabs and Jews. He is a key figure in the organization Lehava, which harasses Arab-Jewish couples, pressuring them to end their relationship.

Marzel was not the first to introduce hate speech and extreme religious nationalism into Israel's political discourse, but he has taken it to a new and contemptible level, paving the way for those who follow to become legitimate forces in the country.

This makes him one of the most severe threats to Israel's society and democracy, and to the country's relations with the Palestinians, both within Israel and in the occupied territories.

News Saudi Arabia



Partnership Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday in Osaka. Welcoming the crown prince, Abe thanked him for participating in the G20 Summit and contributing to its success. The Japanese premier expressed his country's readiness to lend support to Saudi Arabia to help it achieve the goals of the Vision 2030. He also ensured Japan's cooperation required to make the next G20 Summit to be held in Saudi Arabia successful. The crown prince highlighted and praised the strong Saudi-Japanese ties. They discussed ways to enhance cooperation in different fields.

SPA

PROMOTING TALENT

French school to train aspiring chefs from Al-Ula

Initiative is aimed to develop KSA's tourism jewel

SPA Al-Ula

The Royal Commission for Al-Ula (RCU) has announced a partnership with FERRANDI Paris, France's leading school of culinary arts and hospitality management.

The partnership will see the development of a world-class training program in gastronomy, which will take young and aspiring chefs from Al-Ula to study in the French capital.

During the first phase of the program, 24 chefs from Al-Ula will be chosen to take part in a specially curated four-month course at the school. Senior experts from FERRANDI will visit Al-Ula to interview applicants and select 24 participants.

After their return to Al-Ula, the newly trained chefs will have the chance to work under the supervision of 10 Michelin-starred chefs to craft locally inspired "Taste of Al-Ula" menus to be served to VIP guests attending the second season of Winter at Tantora, held annually in Al-Ula.

RCU's CEO Amr Al-Madani said the initiative represented another key program in a series that the

RCU is offering to Al-Ula citizens, to deliver innovative employment opportunities based in personal and professional development.

"This partnership with FERRANDI Paris will equip a new generation of talented Al-Ula men and women with the tools necessary to become the leading chefs and culinary entrepreneurs," he said.

FERRANDI Paris CEO Bruno de Monte expressed his pleasure in welcoming the youth of Al-Ula to Paris and the school. "We have built a program especially for them, the future culinary greats of Saudi Arabian gastronomy," he said.

Gerard Mestrallet, executive president of the French Agency for Al-Ula Development (AFALULA), said: "As a partner of RCU in the development of Al-Ula, AFALULA is very proud of this partnership with FERRANDI. It will allow the new generations of Al-Ula young chefs to capitalize on French excellence in the field of culinary art and hospitality management."

RCU's partnership with FERRANDI Paris, developed under the leadership of Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Mohammad bin Farhan Al-Saud, comes under the efforts exerted by

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Royal Commission for Al-Ula has announced partnership with FERRANDI Paris.

- Selected candidates from Al-Ula will be sent to Paris for training.

- Newly trained chefs will get an opportunity to work under 10 Michelin-starred chefs in the Kingdom.

RCU to build and develop Al-Ula youths' potential through global cultural exchanges and dedication to international best practice.

To be considered for the program, candidates must be between 21 and 35 years old, graduates of Al-Ula high schools and have an intermediate knowledge of English.

The application period will be between July 5 and July 9. Candidates can submit applications online at <https://www.ferrandi-paris.com/alula-special-program>.

The names of 24 successful applicants will be announced on July 26 following interviews by FERRANDI Paris tutors in Al-Ula, and training will begin by the end of August.

draw something while the rest of their team try to guess what it is within the time limit. The Barbie event, meanwhile, offers children a journey full of new experiences.

In a press release, Spacetoon said that the General Entertainment Authority (GEA) has selected "world-class edutainment events that suit the audience of the Kingdom," which could make Jeddah a major entertainment destination this summer.

LEGO Corner opened on June 19 and ran until June 25 at Mall of Arabia. It had four sections — one for children below five, one for girls,

one for boys and one for adults.

On June 27, Discovery Adventure opened at Mall of Arabia. According to a company statement, it was "the perfect opportunity for fans of quests and discovery." It incorporated VR technology to provide "a real jungle experience," and participants also went on a camping adventure in the woods.

The 41-day Jeddah Season features international shows and plays being presented for the first time in the Kingdom, along with street parades, art exhibits, 3-D art displays and water-based activities.

Startup of the Week

Award-winning Saudi medical app aiming to take world by storm

RUBA OBAID JEDDAH

The founders of an award-winning Saudi app, aimed at revolutionizing the provision of care and educational services for people with special needs, are hoping to take the world by storm.

Ynmo (@ynmodata), which means "to grow" in Arabic, is the first Arabic-English digital solution of its kind, allowing service providers such as schools, centers, and clinics to design and monitor individualized treatment plans.

Dr. Faisal Al-Nemary, co-founder of Ynmo, said that although the number of children with disabilities was increasing, there was a regional and global shortage of qualified medical experts to deal with them.

So, Al-Nemary and his twin brother Fahad, who also goes by the title doctor, decided to team up with a group of professionals to establish the digital tool. "Our team members have the experience of working in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region and the United States," he told Arab News.

The 35-year-old brothers have spent 15 years providing special education and behavior therapy services in Saudi Arabia and the US and spotted a technology gap in the market after witnessing the "challenges faced by clinicians when designing and monitoring their clients' plans."

The siblings combined their clinical and research experience in developmental disabilities (including autism) with the specialties of two other professionals to launch the app. Dr. Abdullah Murad, 36, has worked for more than 10 years on large, government-led mobile-health technology projects, and Shabbab Al-Ghamdi, 40, is a seasoned sales and marketing leader, with multinational experience.

"Our office is in Wadi Makkah techno valley, and our team is made up of about 10 people, most of them females," said Al-Nemary.

The app was officially launched in November 2017 to enhance communication and collaboration between an organization's team members while also creating a relationship of trust with families. Al-Nemary said it helped users to design, monitor, archive, and share lessons and therapeutic plans, and professionals to swap daily notes and updates of a child's progress with their family. "Ynmo was developed to help clinicians to better support their clients with disabilities and support them and their families beyond the therapy sessions," he said.

The app aims to give therapists and teachers the time to discuss and improve strategies with colleagues, enhance client-student performance, and give individuals the care they deserve.

"Designing treatment plans and lessons using paper and pencil or traditional technology methods (Word documents, Excel files, etc.) take time and effort and makes it hard to share them

with multidisciplinary teams and family members," added Al-Nemary.

Ynmo programs are offered in basic, professional, and excellence packages, but Al-Nemary noted that there were still cultural and mindset challenges to overcome about SaaS (Software as a Service) products in the MENA region.

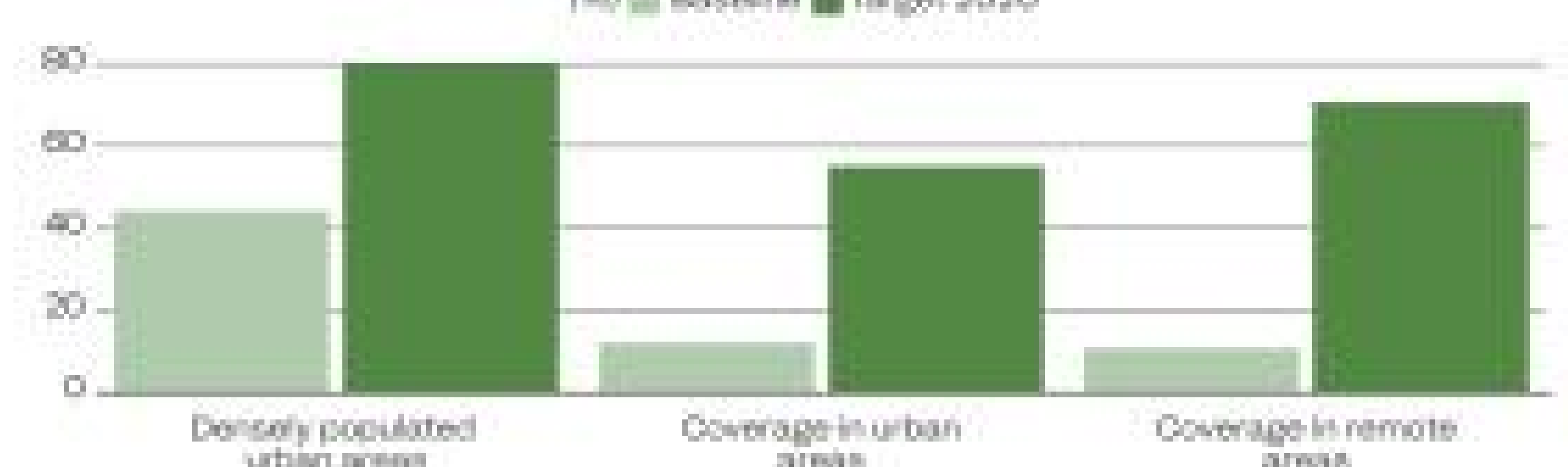
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The Day's FIGURES

EXPANSION OF INTERNET SERVICES



Source: NTP 2020

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The academy requires applicants who apply for different fast-track programs. **SPA Riyadh**

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Jeddah Season introduces new edutainment events

Arab News Jeddah

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News Saudi Arabia



Partnership Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday in Osaka. Welcoming the crown prince, Abe thanked him for participating in the G20 Summit and contributing to its success. The Japanese premier expressed his country's readiness to lend support to Saudi Arabia to help it achieve the goals of the Vision 2030. He also ensured Japan's cooperation required to make the next G20 Summit to be held in Saudi Arabia successful. The crown prince highlighted and praised the strong Saudi-Japanese ties. They discussed ways to enhance cooperation in different fields.

SPA

PROMOTING TALENT

French school to train aspiring chefs from Al-Ula

Initiative is aimed to develop KSA's tourism jewel

SPA Al-Ula

The Royal Commission for Al-Ula (RCU) has announced a partnership with FERRANDI Paris, France's leading school of culinary arts and hospitality management.

The partnership will see the development of a world-class training program in gastronomy, which will take young and aspiring chefs from Al-Ula to study in the French capital.

During the first phase of the program, 24 chefs from Al-Ula will be chosen to take part in a specially curated four-month course at the school. Senior experts from FERRANDI will visit Al-Ula to interview applicants and select 24 participants.

After their return to Al-Ula, the newly trained chefs will have the chance to work under the supervision of 10 Michelin-starred chefs to craft locally inspired "Taste of Al-Ula" menus to be served to VIP guests attending the second season of Winter at Tantora, held annually in Al-Ula.

RCU's CEO Amr Al-Madani said the initiative represented another key program in a series that the

RCU is offering to Al-Ula citizens, to deliver innovative employment opportunities based in personal and professional development.

"This partnership with FERRANDI Paris will equip a new generation of talented Al-Ula men and women with the tools necessary to become the leading chefs and culinary entrepreneurs," he said.

FERRANDI Paris CEO Bruno de Monte expressed his pleasure in welcoming the youth of Al-Ula to Paris and the school. "We have built a program especially for them, the future culinary greats of Saudi Arabian gastronomy," he said.

Gerard Mestrallet, executive president of the French Agency for Al-Ula Development (AFALULA), said: "As a partner of RCU in the development of Al-Ula, AFALULA is very proud of this partnership with FERRANDI. It will allow the new generations of Al-Ula young chefs to capitalize on French excellence in the field of culinary art and hospitality management."

RCU's partnership with FERRANDI Paris, developed under the leadership of Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Mohammad bin Farhan Al-Saud, comes under the efforts exerted by

HIGHLIGHTS

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- Newly trained chefs will get an opportunity to work under 10 Michelin-starred chefs in the Kingdom.

RCU to build and develop Al-Ula youths' potential through global cultural exchanges and dedication to international best practice.

To be considered for the program, candidates must be between 21 and 35 years old, graduates of Al-Ula high schools and have an intermediate knowledge of English.

The application period will be between July 5 and July 9. Candidates can submit applications online at <https://www.ferrandi-paris.com/alula-special-program>.

The names of 24 successful applicants will be announced on July 26 following interviews by FERRANDI Paris tutors in Al-Ula, and training will begin by the end of August.

draw something while the rest of their team try to guess what it is within the time limit. The Barbie event, meanwhile, offers children a journey full of new experiences.

In a press release, Spacetoon said that the General Entertainment Authority (GEA) has selected "world-class edutainment events that suit the audience of the Kingdom," which could make Jeddah a major entertainment destination this summer.

LEGO Corner opened on June 19 and ran until June 25 at Mall of Arabia. It had four sections — one for children below five, one for girls,

one for boys and one for adults.

On June 27, Discovery Adventure opened at Mall of Arabia. According to a company statement, it was "the perfect opportunity for fans of quests and discovery." It incorporated VR technology to provide "a real jungle experience," and participants also went on a camping adventure in the woods.

The 41-day Jeddah Season features international shows and plays being presented for the first time in the Kingdom, along with street parades, art exhibits, 3-D art displays and water-based activities.

Startup of the Week

Award-winning Saudi medical app aiming to take world by storm

RUBA OBAID JEDDAH

The founders of an award-winning Saudi app, aimed at revolutionizing the provision of care and educational services for people with special needs, are hoping to take the world by storm.

Ynmo (@ynmodata), which means "to grow" in Arabic, is the first Arabic-English digital solution of its kind, allowing service providers such as schools, centers, and clinics to design and monitor individualized treatment plans.

Dr. Faisal Al-Nemary, co-founder of Ynmo, said that although the number of children with disabilities was increasing, there was a regional and global shortage of qualified medical experts to deal with them.

So, Al-Nemary and his twin brother Fahad, who also goes by the title doctor, decided to team up with a group of professionals to establish the digital tool. "Our team members have the experience of working in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region and the United States," he told Arab News.

The 35-year-old brothers have spent 15 years providing special education and behavior therapy services in Saudi Arabia and the US and spotted a technology gap in the market after witnessing the "challenges faced by clinicians when designing and monitoring their clients' plans."

The siblings combined their clinical and research experience in developmental disabilities (including autism) with the specialties of two other professionals to launch the app. Dr. Abdullah Murad, 36, has worked for more than 10 years on large, government-led mobile-health technology projects, and Shabbab Al-Ghamdi, 40, is a seasoned sales and marketing leader, with multinational experience.

"Our office is in Wadi Makkah techno valley, and our team is made up of about 10 people, most of them females," said Al-Nemary.

The app was officially launched in November 2017 to enhance communication and collaboration between an organization's team members while also creating a relationship of trust with families. Al-Nemary said it helped users to design, monitor, archive, and share lessons and therapeutic plans, and professionals to swap daily notes and updates of a child's progress with their family. "Ynmo was developed to help clinicians to better support their clients with disabilities and support them and their families beyond the therapy sessions," he said.

The app aims to give therapists and teachers the time to discuss and improve strategies with colleagues, enhance client-student performance, and give individuals the care they deserve.

"Designing treatment plans and lessons using paper and pencil or traditional technology methods (Word documents, Excel files, etc.) take time and effort and makes it hard to share them with multidisciplinary teams and family members," added Al-Nemary.

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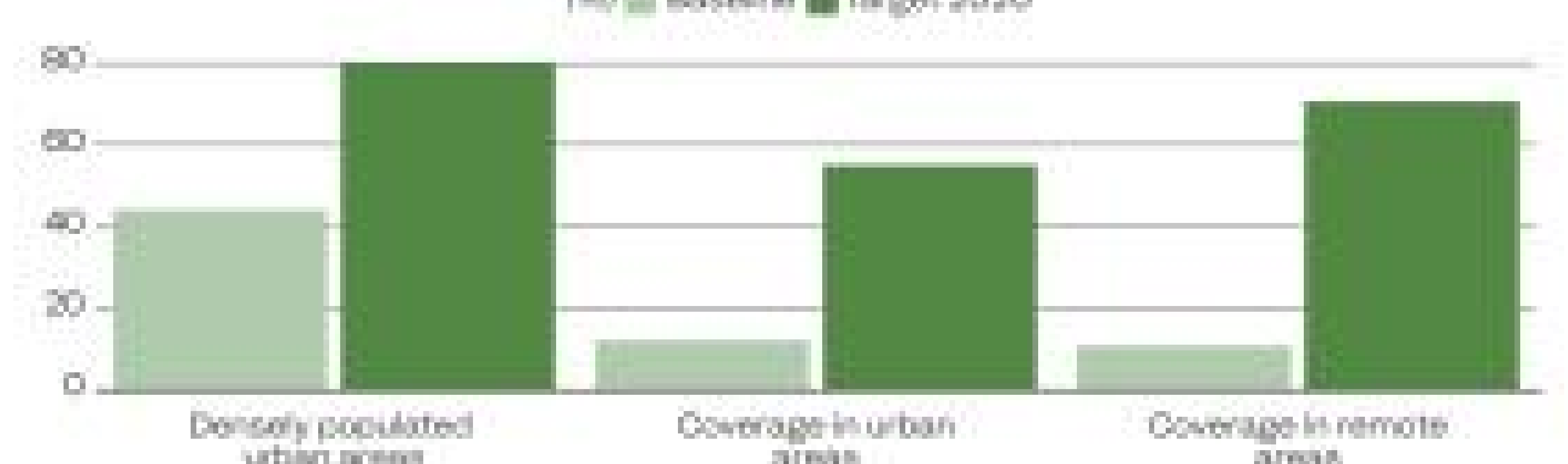
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News Saudi Arabia

SHARED VALUES

Studying in Japan: An opportunity to explore a different culture

A Saudi graduate shares his rich learning experience in the land of the rising sun

Ruba Obaid Jeddah

Saudi students move to Japan each year to pursue their higher education, returning with diverse professional experiences. These graduates of Japanese universities have proven their excellence in the labor market in both the public and private sectors.

Dr. Amr Al-Maddah, who is currently working as chief planning and strategy officer at the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, graduated from a Japanese university in 2013.

He is also an adviser to the Hajj and Umrah minister and an assistant professor at the electrical and computer engineering department at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah.

Al-Maddah lived in Japan between 2008 and 2013, where he earned his master's degree and did his Ph.D. He described his time in Japan as a life-changing experience.

He said that the authenticity of the experience in Japan came from its cultural difference from Saudi Arabia, which had an impact on his study, work and personal life.

The Kingdom provides thousands of scholarships for Saudi students across many destinations around the world.

Al-Maddah said the Saudis are usually familiar with the lifestyle of other countries such as the US and Europe. "There is a common lifestyle in some way," Al-Maddah told Arab News. "We are familiar with their lives through the media, cinema, and other sources — that's why we do not usually feel the huge shift in our lives — unlike Japan, where everything is different — the language, lifestyle, public morals, social habits, working style and health system."

Al-Maddah received his master's and Ph.D. in intelligent systems engineering from Osaka University, Japan, while he received his bachelor's degree in electrical, electronics and communications engineering from King Abdul Aziz University.

In recognition of his research efforts and international participation in robotics and engineering sciences, Al-Maddah was awarded a scholarship by the Japanese government in 2008 to complete his graduate studies in Japan.

"I had a keen interest in robotics and artificial intelligence, and I used to participate in international robotics competitions," he said.

Al-Maddah said that he was offered

Natural diversity was a unique experience in all its aspects, as well as its association with memories and stories.

study grants from several countries, but he decided to go to Japan because it is a world-leading country in robotics.

He was accepted by eight Japanese universities before he chose to go to Osaka University.

Experience outcomes

"This huge difference was advantageous to me in terms of learning (a) language and made me discover other aspects of my personality that I would not have been able to discover without this experience."

During his stay in Japan, Al-Maddah grew as a person and developed problem-solving and management skills. He also



Dr. Amr Al-Maddah, first from right, at his graduation ceremony in Japan. Photo/Supplied

developed a healthier lifestyle while having his skills honed and knowledge expanded.

Coping with life in Japan was a challenge for Al-Maddah, however, it gave him valuable life lessons. "The challenge that language and cultural differences imposed on me was a reason and motivation for me to deal smoothly with any future problem that I may face in my daily life," he said.

After moving to a new country, adapting to its lifestyle and receiving higher education, Al-Maddah said, any challenge would not be a problem. "There are no more unmanageable problems in my life," he said.

Dealing with the language barrier

It took him only six months to learn the Japanese language and be able to begin his higher education. "Japanese people do not speak English at all, especially during the time I was in Japan, so as students we had no choice but to deal with others in their language. Even with teachers, even language teaching was in Japanese itself."

"Everything new we learned we used it immediately as soon as we left the classroom. This was a great advantage in terms of language learning."

Al-Maddah had prior knowledge of Japanese culture through anime

BIO

• Dr. Amr Al-Maddah is working as chief planning and strategy officer at the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah.

• He is also an assistant professor at the electrical and computer engineering department at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah.

• Al-Maddah lived in Japan between 2008 and 2013.

• He obtained his master's degree and did his Ph.D. in intelligent systems engineering from Osaka University.

• In recognition of his research efforts, Al-Maddah was awarded a scholarship by the Japanese government in 2008.

and movies, so he had a lot of vocabulary and expressions stored in his memory, "which made it easy to retrieve as soon as I heard them."

Another advantage of the Japanese language is that it is not difficult, he said. "There is no difference between the spoken and the written language. What makes it even easier is that it was a new language system to me. I did not have to build on or retrieve from previous knowledge. It was easier than learning French."

Beginning the journey

"On our orientation day at the university, I asked my supervisor about the working hours, and he gave me a response that actually summed up life in Japan for me."

His supervisor said to him: "We are in Japan now, all of these people you see in front of you, you will spend 80 percent of your time with them, we are your family in Japan. And me as the supervisor, I am like a father, I must be aware of everything you do."

He continued: "I expect you to show me the same respect you give to your father at home and to respect your older colleagues as you do with your older brothers. Moreover, you should take care of your younger colleagues as you do with your younger siblings. This is the way we work and this is our system."

Cultural similarities and differences

Although Al-Maddah had work and training experiences in other countries, he felt a sentimental attachment to the Japanese culture. "I felt a sense of belonging to my cultural origins while I was in Japan," he said.

Japanese people highly appreciate public ethics, he said. "If we go back to the essence of these ethics, such as treating elders with respect and maintaining the cleanness of our surroundings,

greeting everyone, respecting others privacy, abiding by talking manners, we find that they match our authentic customs in our culture and religion."

However, Al-Maddah faced difficulty in adapting to Japan's strict set of social rules. Due to the Japanese addiction to work and the nature of their lifestyle, which impacts the way they react and deal with others, Al-Maddah experienced a sense of separation and loneliness while being with people.

"For example, as Arabs, we love chatting and humor, but Japanese people are quite the opposite," he said. "We share our concerns or complaints about the daily hustle and bustle with others, even with those whom we may have just met; it is socially acceptable."

For the Japanese, it is different, even among friends. Each relationship has strict boundaries that cannot be crossed. "The nature of their work makes them reluctant to chat and have a lot of daily activities."

According to Al-Maddah, the barrier between the student and society is not the language, but the different lifestyle. Students discover that what is expected from others is different because of cultural differences. "Emotional interaction is different among Japanese people, and so is their expectations of relationships."

Professional experience

"At the beginning of my study, we used to work on projects with a budget of millions in partnership with large companies such as Toyota, Honda and others."

"Working in an integrated system and realizing and testing my abilities, plus using them, was one of the most amazing things that Japan gave me."

He said that the work environment trust in the student gave him

Working in an integrated system and realizing and testing my abilities, plus using them, was one of the most amazing things that Japan gave me.

the chance to see how far he could go. Al-Maddah returned to Saudi Arabia with a well-rounded professional experience that opened up many doors. He worked at several public and private institutions including King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center, Saudi Research and Publishing Co., and Misk Foundation.

He currently works as a university professor and during his current position, he was loaned to several institutions, the most recent one being the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah. The Japanese style of work gave Al-Maddah a significant advantage and distinguished him from his peers. Al-Maddah's prior work experience in Saudi Arabia and his familiarity with the American and European work systems added to his wide experience.

"Difficulties will always exist, but innovation and development are what the country is looking for as stated in the Vision 2030, which aims to search for the best wherever it is and bring it to the Kingdom."

Dr. Amr Al-Maddah relaxes in the Japanese way. Photo/Supplied



The love for football bridges the cultural gap among students from different countries in Japan. Photo/Supplied

Iraqi Premier Adel Abdul Mahdi and his government were the result of a deal between two parliamentary coalitions.



News Middle East



Members of Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces take part in a military parade in Taza, south of the northern city of Kirkuk. File/Reuters

DEFENSE MEETING

Mount Lebanon incident suspects arrested

Najla Housseini Beirut

Lebanese President Michel Aoun called for calm during a meeting of the Supreme Council of Defense on Monday, after the killing of two members of Minister of State for Refugee Affairs Saleh Al-Gharib's entourage at Mount Lebanon on Sunday.

The council announced that security had been restored across the region in the immediate aftermath of the attack. Two other people were also wounded.

Political turmoil in Lebanon exploded on Sunday during the visit of Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, the leader of the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM), to the western Shahr region.

Supporters of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), headed by Walid Jumblatt, protested Bassil's visit and clashed with the convoy of Minister Al-Gharib, who is loyal to the Lebanese Democratic Party, led by Talal Arslan, an ally of Bassil and Jumblatt's rival.

Hezbollah announced on Sunday night their full solidarity with Arslan, to which Jumblatt responded: "I wish the upstarts in politics would understand the delicate balance (of) governing the mountain."

Interior Minister Raya Al-Hassan said on Monday that things were headed toward a de-escalation, in light of massive Lebanese army deployments to the area.

However, tension has continued, fueled by social media. A photo of Jumblatt's parliamentary bloc has reportedly been circulating online, with a caption

FASTFACT

The Supreme Council of Defense announced that security had been restored across the region in the immediate aftermath of the attack.

stating: "We want to kill each one of you wherever you are."

In response to the photo, MP Marwan Hamadeh, a PSP official, wrote on Twitter: "We will investigate the matter. This kind of threat does not affect us, and this is not the security we want."

Arslan's rhetoric during a press conference held after receiving a presidential delegation urging him to de-escalate was defiant.

"What happened was an attempt to assassinate Minister Al-Gharib. His convoy was shot from several directions in a treacherous manner, and his vehicle was hit by about 19 bullets," he said.

Arslan accused Minister Akram Chehayeb — without naming him — of being "a man of strife who sits at the Cabinet table without respecting the simplest rules of coexistence."

Chehayeb had said that while the Sunday events unfolded, he had been making calls to prevent protests in the Mount Lebanon area.

Arslan also criticized Walid Jumblatt, and said: "The man who shed the blood of the Druze in Idlib, Jabal Al-Arab, Mount Hermon and Golan is not unlikely to shed our blood."

He criticized the Lebanese army and how it had dealt with the incident. He said he would inform the president of the names of those involved in the incident.

"If the state does not want to impose its prestige and existence, we know how to protect ourselves," he added.

POLITICAL SCHEME

Iraqi cleric plans 'slow coup to end corruption'

Al-Sadr targeting financial mafia in move on top jobs, senior leader says

Saad Al-Salhy Baghdad

The influential Iraqi Shiite cleric Muqtada Al-Sadr wants to replace senior government staff with independent professionals in a bid to improve services and fight corruption, according to supporters.

However, a prominent Sadrist leader told Arab News on Monday that Al-Sadr has ruled out demonstrations to pressure Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi into accepting the changes.

Iraqi political factions are embroiled in a bitter struggle for control of thousands of top government jobs, including heads of independent security and inspecting bodies, deputy ministers, ambassadors, university heads, and military and security commanders.

Most of the positions have been run by proxy under the control of the Islamic Dawa Party, which has headed four out of the six govern-

ments formed since the 2003 US-led invasion.

Al-Sadr, who has millions of followers and controls the largest parliamentary bloc Sairoon, blames the Dawa party's appointments for financial and administrative corruption along with a decline in basic daily services.

He believes that "replacing all those senior employees by independent professional technocrats will improve government performance," the Sadrist leader said.

Al-Sadr also wants to "dismantle the mafia of financial and administrative corruption that controls the ministries and loots public money," he said.

"We can say that Al-Sadr is leading a peaceful and slow coup to correct the government," said the leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The government has been wrongly built and this must be corrected. We are working to achieve change by changing the government decision-makers."

Under the 2019 general budget, Abdul Mahdi had to end the file of the special grades and the administration run by proxy by June 30.

However, negotiations on the sharing of positions between political factions and powerful parties, including Sairoon and the pro-Iranian parliamentary bloc of Al-Fatah, ended in deadlock.

The three presidencies — the

BACKGROUND

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president, speaker of the parliament and the prime minister — on Saturday agreed to extend the deadline until the end of October, political leaders told Arab News.

The Parliament on Sunday initiated voting to approve the extension which will allow senior officials who run their proxy sites to

continue working until new staff are decided.

Abdul Mahdi and his government were the result of an agreement between the two largest parliamentary coalitions, Reform led by Al-Sadr and the pro-Iranian Construction led by Hadi Al-Amiri.

Lawmakers for both Al-Sadr and Al-Amiri have said repeatedly in recent months that they are working to dismantle what they called the "deep state," formed by Nouri Al-Maliki, former Iraqi prime minister.

"All the key players inside Iraq are convinced the situation will not change unless the heart of the government is changed," a key Sairoon negotiator told Arab News.

"The position of the minister is a political one, and the real power is in the hands of the deputies of ministers and general directors. If we change those, the performance of the government will change, and that is what Al-Sadr wants," he added.

Demonstrators have taken to the streets in Iraq's southern provinces

over lack of basic services, including drinking water and electricity, and high unemployment.

While activists across the country have been counting on Al-Sadr's support for the protests, Sadrist offices have not received any directives to join demonstrations in Basra, Nassiriyah and Diwaniyah.

"We have not received any instructions to participate in any demonstration," Saad Al-Maliki, manager of the Sadr media office in Basra, said.

Protests backed by Al-Sadr have been an effective way of pressuring the government and key leaders since 2003, but often turn violent. At least 22 protesters and security staff were killed last summer in clashes outside government offices, including the Iranian consulate in Basra.

"If he (Abdul Mahdi) rejects Al-Sadr's project, then the Parliament is there and demonstrations are there. The street is already boiling. It will revolt and the government will be overthrown in days," the Sadrist leader said.

DEADLY CONFLICT

Airstrike kills pro-regime fighters, civilians in Syria

AP Damascus

Israeli warplanes attacked military positions in central Syria early on Monday, with a missile near Damascus killing four civilians and wounding 21, Syrian pro-regime news agency SANA reported.

Israeli warplanes fired missiles from Lebanese airspace targeting military positions in the central province of Homs and suburbs of the capital, said SANA, adding that Syrian air defense forces opened fire toward the Israeli missiles.

SANA said the dead included a baby and that other children were among the wounded in the town of

Sahnaya, southwest of Damascus.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition-linked war monitor, said 15 people were killed in the airstrike, including six civilians and nine pro-regime fighters.

It said the dead fighters included one Syrian and the others were foreigners, most likely Iranians or members of Lebanon's Hezbollah group.

"The city shook in the middle of the night," a Damascus resident said.

For years, Israel has remained largely silent about its attacks against Iran and its Shiite proxies operating in neighboring Syria.

PRINCIPAL REQUIRED



Pakistan International School (Al-Azizia) Jeddah
Telephone No: (012) 6724166 / establishment@pisjazizia.com

Applications are invited from the suitable candidates by 18th July, 2019. The incumbent should be dynamic, hard working and motivated educational administrator.

Qualification & Experience

- **Nationality:** Pakistani **Age:** Male upto 57 years. Female upto 52 years.
- Minimum Master's Degree from a reputable recognized university.
- Minimum 15 years administrative job experience in Govt or other well reputed Educational Institutes in Pakistan.

Responsibilities:

- Management of all academic / administrative matters.
- Developing new training programs and its related planning, implementations and supervision.
- Competent to lead a team of dedicated faculty and ability to elicit co-operation from parents and inspire the students.

Salary Package

- As per Qualification and experience.

Interview: Only short listed candidates will be called for interview. No TA/DA admissible. Online interview is optional for candidate abroad.



Tensions between our armed groups must be resolved peacefully.

Sadiq Al-Mahdi
Former Sudan premier

ILLEGAL OCCUPATION

US officials inaugurated 'fake' archaeology project, says Saeb Erekat

AFP/Ramallah

A senior Palestinian official has condemned the participation of US envoys in an event linked to Israeli settlers and scoffed at their account that it was for a new archaeology project.

US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and White House adviser Jason Greenblatt were among US officials attending the event organized by the City of David Foundation on Sunday night in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem.

They helped open what organizers say is an ancient pilgrimage road, now underground in a tunnel, leading to the second Jewish temple some 2,000 years ago.

The tunnel, located in a highly sensitive area next to Jerusalem's



A Palestinian rides on a pickup carrying sacks of food aid provided by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the southern Gaza Strip. File/AFP

Old City, passes underneath homes in the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan.

Palestinians and anti-occupation activists see it as another attempt by Israel to cement its control over mainly Palestinian East Jerusalem.

Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said he believed the tunnel was a project being used by Israeli right-wingers to further Israel's claim on East Jerusalem and advance settlement growth there.

"It has nothing to do with religion, it is fake," he told journalists at his office in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank.

He cited reports by two Israeli NGOs questioning the archaeological methods used.

One of the organizations, Peace Now, also says cracks emerged in multiple houses in Silwan after the digging began.

Erekat said: "It's a settlement project. It's based on a lie that has nothing to do with history."

"This is a disgrace to any diplomat, to undermine the two-state solution, to undermine the fact that there will never be peace without East Jerusalem being the capital of Palestine."

Israel occupied East Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-Day War and later annexed it in a move never recognized by the international community.

PLEA FOR PEACE

Sudan must unite armed forces during political crisis: Former PM

Key opposition figure urges reconciliation as death toll from clashes at mass demonstrations climbs to 11

Reuters, AP/Khartoum

Sudan must at all costs avoid tensions between a powerful paramilitary unit that controls Khartoum and the regular army or risk more instability following a military coup in April, leading opposition figure Sadiq Al-Mahdi said.

An influential former prime minister, Al-Mahdi called on high-profile military leader Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, commonly known as Hemedti, to fully integrate the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) which he commands with

the regular army to promote unity within the armed forces.

"The fact that there are tensions between our armed groups must be resolved peacefully," Al-Mahdi, Sudan's last democratically elected premier, said in an interview.

"Either people fight it out, which would be very bad for Sudan, or they accept a reconciliation process," said Al-Mahdi, who heads the largest opposition party.

"All our political forces are going to have their minds concentrated on the need to avoid this civil war and all types of conflicts that are potentially there."

Sudanese activists said at least 11 people were killed in clashes with

BACKGROUND

Sadiq Al-Mahdi's moderate party is among opposition groups who have been pressing for a transition to civilian rule in talks with the Transitional Military Council that ground to a halt last month.

security forces during mass demonstrations demanding a transition to civilian rule.

Tens of thousands of Sudanese flooded the streets of Khartoum, and other areas on Sunday in the biggest protests since security forces cleared a sit-in last month.

They called for the military to hand over power to civilians following the coup that ousted Bashir in April.

Nazim Sirraj, a prominent activist, said three bodies were found next to a school in Omdurman, the twin city of Khartoum.

The three were shot dead in an area where security forces had barred protesters from marching toward a hospital and had fired tear gas to disperse them, he said.

One wounded person died on the way to the hospital in Khartoum, he added.

Sirraj said the total death toll was 11, including one killed in the city of Atbara, a railway hub north of

Khartoum and the birthplace of the December uprising that eventually led to Bashir's ouster.

Speaking at his sprawling villa surrounded by gardens in the capital, Al-Mahdi also said the opposition had floated the idea of merging the forces to the Transitional Military Council (TMC), which has been in charge since President Omar Bashir was overthrown following protests triggered by an economic crisis.

There are no signs that a conflict is looming between the RSF and the military. And there are no apparent divisions between Hemedti, deputy head of the TMC, and its leader Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan.

But Al-Mahdi, himself toppled by Bashir in 1989, said Sudan cannot afford to take any chances during a turbulent period.

"All our minds will be concentrated on avoiding this catastrophic development which is very much on the horizon."

The military has more firepower but talking on the RSF in the capital would inflict mass civilian casualties, say politicians, analysts and opposition figures.

Al-Mahdi's moderate Islamic Umma party is among opposition groups who have been pressing for a transition to civilian rule in talks with the TMC that ground to a halt last month.

SECURITY LINKS

Erdogan: Russian missile defense system to arrive in 10 days

Reuters/Ankara

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Russian S-400 defenses would begin arriving within 10 days, Turkish media reported, setting the clock ticking on possible US sanctions after his warm meeting with President Donald Trump on Saturday.

Hard-hit Turkish financial assets jumped on Monday after a weekend in which Erdogan said Trump had told him at a G20 summit there would be no US sanctions, and the US leader said Turkey had been treated unfairly over the missiles deal.

Turkey and the US, NATO allies, have been at odds over Ankara's decision to purchase the S-400s, with Washington warning of US sanctions if the delivery took place.

Turkey has dismissed the warnings from Congress and Trump's top secretaries, saying it would not back down and holding out hope that the White House could protect it from sanctions

that could hit its already soft currency and economy.

Erdogan's comments offered the most specific timeline yet on the delivery of the ground-to-air missiles that US officials have said are not compatible with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) defenses.

"Within 10 days, maybe within

FASTFACT

The US says the S-400s will compromise its Lockheed Martin Corp. F-35 fighter jets, of which Turkey is a producer and buyer.

one week, the first shipment will have arrived. I told Trump this openly," Erdogan was cited as saying on Sunday by Hurriyet newspaper after his meeting with Trump in Japan.

The US says the S-400s will compromise its Lockheed Martin Corp. F-35 fighter jets, of which Turkey is a producer and buyer. Washington has also

formally started the process of expelling Turkey from the F-35 program, halting the training of Turkish pilots in the United States.

The dispute over the S-400s has been a key concern for investors this year.

Turkey's economy is in recession after a currency crisis last year chopped 30 percent from the lira. The lira has dropped another 8 percent so far in 2019.

"So (a) green light from Trump to Turkey to go ahead and get S400s — or that is now the Turkish view," said Tim Ash, senior emerging markets strategist at BlueBay Asset Management.

"I would imagine US diplomat and defense department officials are in disbelief — Trump is like the proverbial bull in the China shop."

After the Trump-Erdogan talks, the White House said Trump "expressed concern" over the S-400 deal and "encouraged Turkey to work with the US on defense cooperation in a way that strengthens the NATO alliance."



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URGENT REQUIREMENTS

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- Fluent in english as well as Arabic, He should be bilingual.
- Bsc Degree in accounting or Finance. CMA or MBA is a plus.

Budgeting & Reporting accountant

Requirements:

- Proven working experience at least 10 years experience, out of which 5 years as a Budget Controller, or Budgeting and reporting supervisor.
- Advanced computer skills on ERP systems, SAP is preferable, and other MS Office.
- Fluent in english as well as Arabic, He should be bilingual.
- Bsc Degree in accounting or Finance. CMA or MBA is a plus.

Interested candidates send CVs to Email : cv@arabianfal.com

News International

SECURITY THREAT

Manila sounds alarm on 'new face of terror'

Suicide bombers pose growing threat, defense minister warns after latest attack

Elle Aben Manila

Philippines officials on Monday voiced growing alarm over what they described as the "changing face of terrorism" in the country following the suicide attack on an army command post on the island of Sulu.

Eight people, including three soldiers and two suspected bombers, were killed in twin explosions near the military counterterrorism base on June 28.

Speaking on Monday, Delfin Lorenzana, Philippines national defense secretary, described the attack as a worrying development that highlighted the rising terror

threat in the country.

The attack on the army counterterrorism facility is the third suicide strike since July 31 last year when a Moroccan suspect struck on Basilan island. Then, on Jan. 27, a suicide attack by an Indonesian couple devastated the Mount Carmel Cathedral on Jolo island, also in Sulu, killing 20 people.

"It's becoming (a more frequent) occurrence and we are very concerned about this," Lorenzana said on the sidelines of the Disaster Emergency Logistics Systems for ASEAN at Camp Aguinaldo.

"This has raised the level of extremism here and I think we have a lot of work to do, to talk

to the leaders on the ground, the traditional leaders, the sultans, the datos, and also officials from BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao).

"I think they do not want that happening in their area. They want peace so that development will take place," he said.

The attacks have occurred despite the implementation of martial law in Mindanao since 2017. However, Lorenzana said that martial law is not the answer to every security threat.

"Martial law is not the solution to all these threats because an individual or two individuals

can go anywhere — we have not controlled the movement of people in Mindanao. You can basically go anywhere you want without any checkpoints sometimes," he said.

Daesh claimed responsibility for the latest attack, but Lorenzana said that the military and police are waiting for DNA test results before drawing any conclusions.

Meanwhile, a lawmaker urged the coming 18th Congress to further tighten security legislation following Friday's bomb attack.

Rep. Jericho Nograles said the incident "could be a sign that suicide bombing is becoming the weapon of choice for Islamic extremists in the country."



Afghan security forces arrive at the site of an explosion in Kabul on Monday. AP

SABOTAGE

Scores of Afghans hurt in Taliban attack on Kabul base

Assault comes as talks between group and US diplomats enters third day

Sayed Salahuddin Kabul

Scores of Afghans were wounded in an attack by Taliban insurgents on a security facility in Kabul on Monday.

It comes as talks between Taliban delegates and US diplomats enter a third day in Qatar, and follows weeks of air and ground offensives against the militants in various parts of the country.

A powerful explosion carried out by a suicide bomber occurred outside a compound belonging to the Afghan Defense Ministry, less than a mile from the presidential palace.

A group of militants, consisting of suicide bombers and others armed with rocket propelled grenades, then entered the facility, sparking a gunbattle with police and security forces. Explosions could be heard as helicopters hovered above the area.

Wahidullah Mayar, spokesman for the Public Health Ministry, said 100 people, nine of them children, were hurt in the blast and subsequent clash. One person was confirmed dead.

"It (the explosion) was very powerful and was heard throughout the city," Ahmad Shah, a resident living nearby, told Arab News.

"This clearly shows an intel-

NUMBER

100

people, nine of them children, were hurt in the blast and subsequent clash.

ligence failure," said Mohammad Gul Mujahid, a security analyst.

The country's chief executive, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah said the attack showcased the Taliban's "inherent criminal nature." He added the government would not be deterred "to pursue and

punish the miscreants." The incident coincides with the seventh round of talks between Taliban representatives and US officials in Doha.

Both the Taliban and Afghan forces, backed by US troops, have intensified fighting in recent months as part of an effort to gain an advantage in the negotiations.

The Taliban staged four suicide attacks on government buildings in southern Kandahar on Sunday, killing dozens of security forces and eight civilians.

In a statement, the US Embassy in Kabul condemned the Taliban's latest "brutal attacks against fellow Afghans."

the will of the people."

For the ruling Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP), abrogation of Article 370 from the constitution has been a political goal for some time.

In the recent general elections, the BJP returned an almost two-thirds majority in the lower house of parliament and inched toward securing the majority needed in the upper chamber to begin the process.

Shah's controversial statement comes within a week of his party offering talks to separatist leaders in Kashmir.

BORDER CONFLICT

Minister wants to talk Kashmir but not at cost of BJP agenda

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi

Indian Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that the government in New Delhi would make all possible efforts to preserve control over Kashmir.

Addressing Parliament, Shah said: "Kashmir is an integral part of India."

The province has been under the direct rule of New Delhi since June 2018.

On Friday Shah told Parliament that Article 370 of the constitution, giving special status to Kashmir,

had been meant as a "temporary provision" and that it should be updated. He blamed the first prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, for the "mistake."

Shah's comments received a sharp reaction across the region.

The leader of the Congress Party in Kashmir, Saifuddin Soz said: "The people of Kashmir have time and again made it clear that unless the dispute over Kashmir is resolved, the constitution guarantees internal autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir. It can, therefore, neither be abrogated nor amended against

Briefs

THE BEST OF THE REST

Unrest

Protests escalate as HK marks China handover

Frustration among protesters in Hong Kong boiled over Monday, with one group breaking into the legislative building and tens of thousands of others marching through the city to demand expanded democracy on the 22nd anniversary of the former British colony's return to China.

Black-clad protesters wearing hard hats and face masks smashed a large hole through the bottom of a floor-to-ceiling window at the legislature in the early afternoon.

They repeatedly rammed a cargo cart and large poles into the glass while police with riot shields lined up inside to prevent anyone from entering. AP

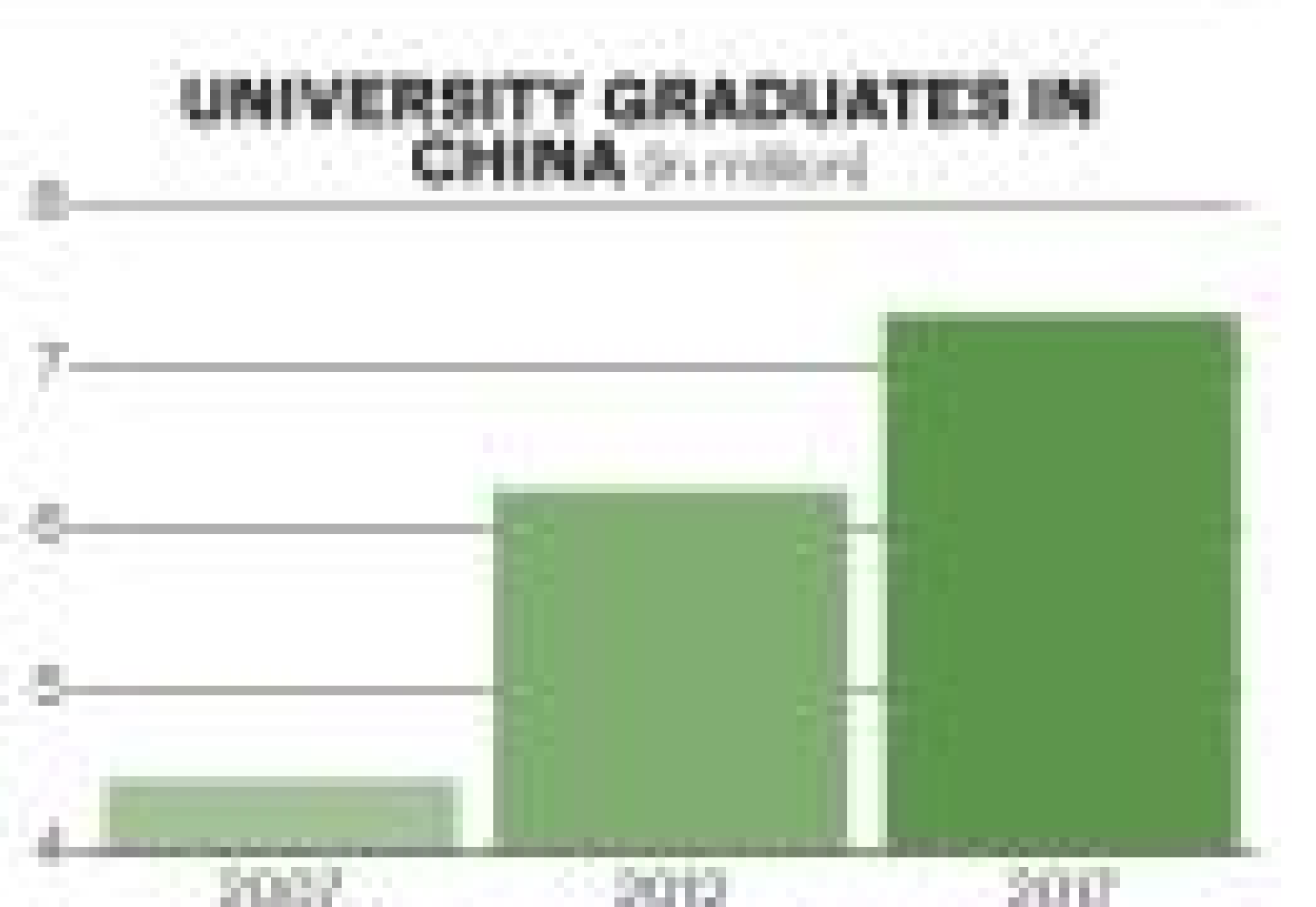
Defense

Cambodia probed over Chinese military presence

The US Defense Department has asked Cambodia to explain why it suddenly turned down an offer to repair a naval base, saying the decision had raised speculation of possible plans for hosting China's military.

A letter to the Cambodian defense minister reflects concern in Washington about the Chinese military presence in Southeast Asia, where China is increasingly assertive over its contested claims in the South China Sea. The letter from US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia Joseph Felter asked for more information on the decision to decline help to repair a training facility. Reuters

The Day's FIGURES



Source: Spectator Index

What We Are Reading Today

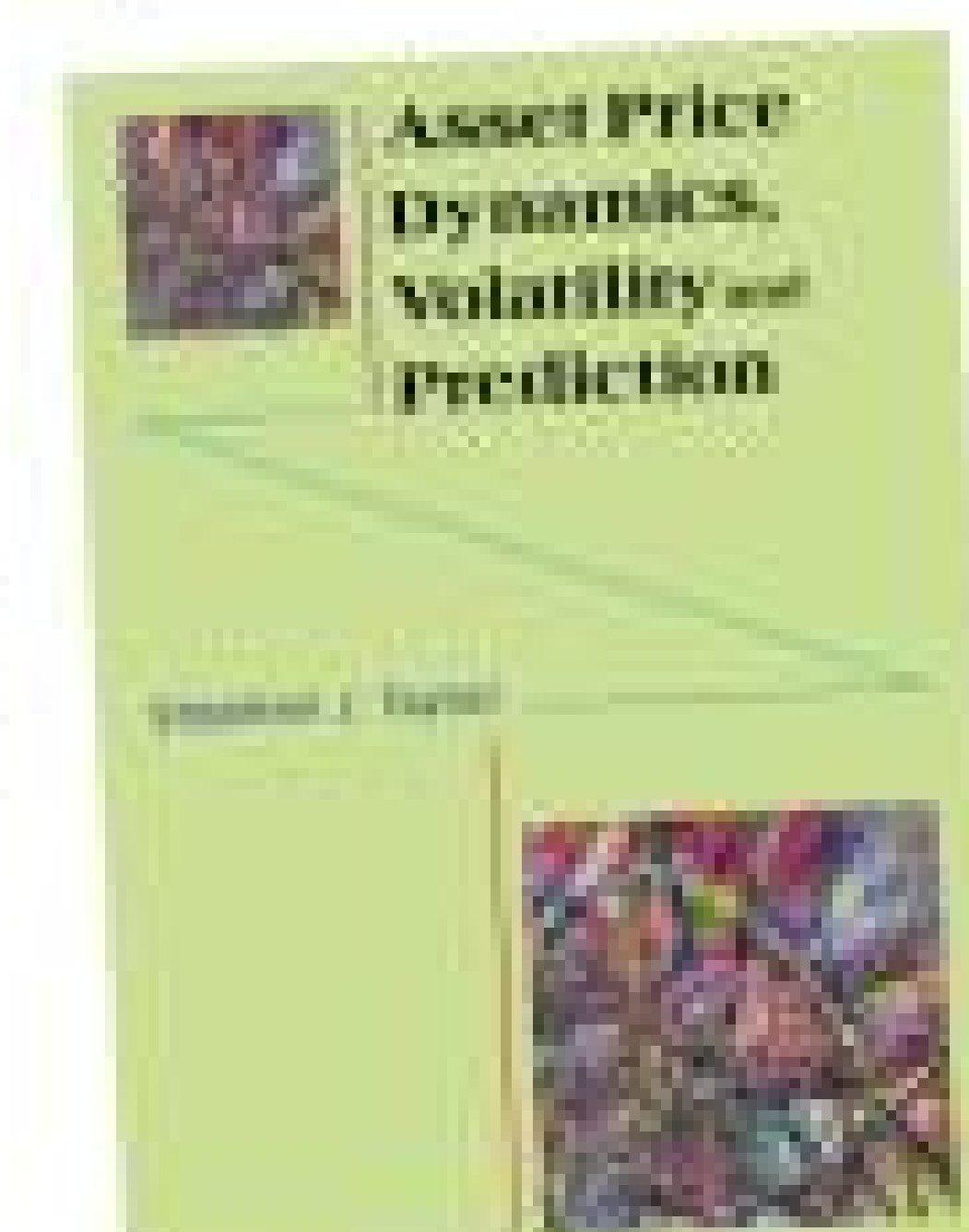
FROM AROUND THE WEB & IN PRINT

Asset Price Dynamics, Volatility, and Prediction

STEPHEN J. TAYLOR

This book shows how current and recent market prices convey information about the probability distributions that govern future prices. Moving beyond purely theoretical models, Stephen Taylor applies methods supported by empirical research of equity and foreign exchange markets to show how daily and more frequent asset prices, and the prices of option contracts, can be used to construct and assess predictions about future prices, their volatility, and their probability distributions.

Stephen Taylor provides a comprehensive introduction to the dynamic behavior of asset prices, relying on finance theory and statistical evidence. He uses stochastic processes to define mathematical models for price dynamics, but with less mathematics than in alternative texts. The key topics covered include random walk tests, trading rules, ARCH models, stochastic volatility models, high-frequency datasets, and the information that option prices imply about volatility and distributions.



India drug haul

Narcotics worth \$390m from Pakistan seized

Customs officials in northern India have seized narcotics worth \$390 million that were smuggled from neighboring Pakistan, in the country's largest seizure of illegal drugs, officials said Monday.

Top customs official Dipak Kumar Gupta said 586 kilograms (1,290 lbs.) of narcotics, mostly heroin, were hidden in 15 bags among 600 sacks of rock salt imported from Pakistan and were seized Saturday in Punjab state. He said two men including the importer of the salt have been detained and are being questioned.

Gupta said officials became suspicious when they found one bag containing a white granular substance. After sifting through the hundreds of sacks, they found 534 kilograms (1,175 lbs.) of heroin and 52 kilograms (115 lbs) of mixed narcotics, he said. AP

Rwanda genocide

Man convicted of hiding role faces sentencing

Prosecutors are seeking 20 years in prison for a Rwandan man convicted of hiding his involvement in the African country's 1994 genocide to seek asylum in the US.

Jean Leonard Teganya will be sentenced Monday in Boston federal court. He was convicted of immigration fraud and perjury in April.

Prosecutors say Teganya left Rwanda in July 1994 and was deported from Canada later for his role in the genocide. He fled to the US and was found in Houlton, Maine. Prosecutors allege he applied for asylum and failed to disclose the extent of his involvement in the genocide.

Teganya denies any role in the genocide. His lawyer is asking for about five years behind bars, saying Teganya will surely be sent to Rwanda. AP

من يستحي من الناس ولا يستحي من نفسه فلا قدر لنفسه عذره
التعالي

YOUR DAILY ARABIC PROVERB
He who is ashamed of people but not himself
has no self-esteem.

Al-Tha'labi
(Medieval intellectual and author)

Opinion

How US-Iran war could play out in Iraqi theater

KERRY BOYD ANDERSON



Kerry Boyd Anderson is a writer and political risk consultant with more than 14 years' experience as a professional analyst of international security issues and Middle East political and business risk.
Twitter: @KBResearch

As the risk of a war between the US and Iran increases, concerns are high about the potential consequences of such a conflict for Iraq.

In early May, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Baghdad and expressed concerns to Iraqi officials that Iran-backed militias might launch rocket attacks on US forces there. The US pulled non-emergency personnel out of its Baghdad Embassy. In June, two rockets landed near a compound associated with US company ExxonMobil, and there were a couple of small-scale rocket attacks on US military units. While limited so far, these events have highlighted the risks in Iraq.

The exact consequences for Iraq would depend on how a US-Iran war played out. The most likely scenarios do not envision a full-scale US invasion of Iraq with ground forces. Rather, likely scenarios range from a limited number of small attacks to a wide-ranging conflict involving naval battles, air strikes on Iran, Iranian missile attacks on regional targets, and proxy warfare.

Regardless of how a war actually plays out, it is almost certain to affect Iraq. As a neighboring country to Iran, in which both Iran and the US have significant influence and interests, any conflict is very likely to include Iraq. Iran's reliance on asymmetric warfare to balance against the US' far greater military power is

another factor that ensures a war would affect Iraq.

Direct fighting between Iranian and US forces on Iraqi territory is a possibility. The US reportedly has about 5,200 soldiers in Iraq today, and Iran very likely has Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps or other forces on the ground. Direct Iranian missile strikes on US bases in Iraq could occur.

The bigger concern is the potential role of Iraqi militias with a pro-Iran orientation and which often receive direct support from Tehran. The potential role of these militias is complicated. Each has its own interests and varying degrees of fealty to Iran. Some see themselves as loyal to Iran, while others see it as a convenient partner but their loyalty is to Iraq or their own communities. In some cases, leaders with different views on this issue work together within the same militia. Iran has very significant influence over militias such as Kata'ib Hezbollah, Harakat Al-Nujaba and Asaib Ahl Al-Haq, but it does not have total control over many of the militias it supports. Nonetheless, there is little question that these militias are far friendlier toward Iran than the US and would likely side with Tehran in a war.

Other complications surround the militias' role in government and in fighting Daesh. Most of them are part of the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), in which they serve as part of the Iraqi armed forces, but they also have

their own interests. Many of them fought against Daesh.

The Iraqi government is working to professionalize the PMF and address the reality that the government needs the militias, but also wants more control over them. However, the militias have their own sources of funding and arms, with loyalty to community leaders and militia commanders rather than to the government in Baghdad. Those who ally with Iran in a US-Iran war could quickly become threats to US forces and interests in Iraq.

Politically, Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi leads a fragile coalition, while Iraq continues to struggle to stabilize following its long war and the campaign against Daesh. The relative political stability that has been in place since the 2018 elections might not survive the pressures of a US-Iran war, especially as the PM has rivals who might exploit an increasingly challenging environment. The Iraqi government must balance its need for US support with the reality of Iranian influence — a difficult balancing act at the best of times and one that could bring down the government in a war.

There are also economic concerns for Iraq. A naval conflict in the Arabian Gulf could affect Iraq's oil exports. Iran also has various forms of economic leverage over Iraq, notably through electricity supplies, which it could use to pressure the government to take its side.

However, Iran strongly benefits from those economic ties and might be reluctant to push economic retaliation against Baghdad too far.

The biggest fear is that a US-Iran war might destabilize Iraq, pushing it back into instability and violence. This could start with pro-Iran militias attacking US forces, demonstrating the lack of Iraqi government control and leading to US counterattacks. In a country that has previously been torn apart by sectarian and communal violence and has barely reclaimed a degree of peace, it might not take much to push the country back into civil war.

Instability in Iraq might also create opportunities for Daesh to re-emerge and coalesce as a fighting force, particularly if US forces and Shiite militias are engaged in fighting each other and if Kurdish Peshmerga forces are focused on protecting the Kurdistan Region of Iraq from Iran.

As tensions between Washington and Tehran increase, neither country fully controls the situation in Iraq. Both have allies, but there are many individuals, such as Muqtada Al-Sadr, and groups that pursue their own interests. Conflict in Iraq gets messy.

Regardless of one's views on a US-Iran war, those who want a stable Iraq that is independent of Iran should think through the consequences of a war for Iraq and be prepared to offer it significant support to endure a regional conflict.

The Iraqi government must balance its need for US support with the reality of Iranian influence



Would the rest of the world prefer the feel-good, risk-taking Johnson or the safe pair of hands?

Competent Hunt, unpredictable Johnson make cases for PM

CHRIS DOYLE



Chris Doyle is director of the London-based Council for Arab-British Understanding (CAABU).
Twitter: @Doylech

Could Jeremy Hunt actually make it over the line to become the next tenant of No. 10 Downing Street? In the battle between the current and former foreign secretaries, Hunt and Boris Johnson — the diplomat and the ringmaster — he is certainly giving it a go, doggedly tearing around the country in an effort to win support.

It is getting closer. The latest YouGov opinion poll indicates that 28 percent of those surveyed believed Hunt would be a good prime minister, as opposed to 25 percent for his opponent. Generally, Hunt is preferred 41 to 29 percent. The problem is that this is the view of the general public. Among Conservative voters, Johnson is ahead 48 to 39 percent. Hunt is the rank outsider, but he has battered the seemingly impregnable Johnson aura.

The campaigns have also been almost exclusively single issue, with the B-word dominating every hustling and interview. But there is life beyond Brexit, with other major issues lurking in the undergrowth. They must not be ignored as Britain determines who will helm the ship over the next few years. What can the rest of the world expect from a Prime Minister Johnson or Hunt?

Whilst neither are unknown entities on the world stage, having both served as foreign secretary, they have only had relatively short periods in the role.

Would the rest of the world prefer the feel-good, risk-taking Johnson or the safe pair of hands? So many electorates grapple with this. Theresa May got the safe pair of hands vote in 2016, whereas Donald Trump's hands were anything but safe across the Atlantic. Trump and Johnson shake things up, causing people to view politics and their countries in a different light. They disrupt and pull people out of their comfort zones. This brings on debates that otherwise could be brushed under a huge carpet. May's caution, however, did not lead to a calamity-free term in office. Her aversion to risk hindered her and presented her as inflexible, while also incapable of big-picture strategizing. Perhaps the most damning, if rather unfair, line about Hunt is that he is "Theresa May in trousers."

But what sort of risk-taker is Johnson? Reckless risk-taking is the charge leveled against him. The question is are the risks carefully calculated and tested against evidence and informed debate? He is also a gaffe-prone maverick, with the most recent example a reported moment when, as foreign secretary, he allegedly described the French as "turds." He cannot remember saying this, which is hardly a denial. It is a fair bet most European leaders are hoping for Hunt.

How would these candidates handle the Middle East? Unlike May, who had pretty much a blank slate prior to her elevation, these two do have a modest track record. Johnson has occasionally stirred things up,

not least with comments about powers in the region stoking proxy wars. Hunt has pressed on the Yemen issue and worked hard on the issue of getting Iran to release British nationals such as Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe. Infamously, it was Johnson's carelessness in front of a parliamentary committee that gave the Iranian regime an excuse to extend her detention.

Both would be friendly with Israel. Hunt praised Germany's recent law equating Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) of Israel as anti-Semitic. Johnson, an ex-kibbutznik, on a visit to Israel and the Occupied Territories described supporters of BDS as "a bunch of corduroy-jacketed lefty academics." But, once again, given the distractions elsewhere, neither is likely to redraft existing policy positions.

As for Iran, neither has deviated much from the current UK policy. Notably, Hunt did not rule out the possibility of joining the US in action on Tehran, but thought this was unlikely. Under him, the Foreign Office has pursued a policy of de-escalation. Most recently he stated: "I cannot envisage any situation where they request or we agree to any moves to go to war." Johnson may think differently and may be even more determined than Hunt to cozy up to President Trump.

Overseas aid is in the cross hairs of Tory supporters who believe it is wasteful and bloated. Johnson has declared his support for closing the Department for International

Development (DFID) and to cut aid by making it dependent not on need but on cohering to UK foreign and security objectives. Hunt last year expressed his frustration that Britain did not get any credit for its near £3 billion (\$3.8 billion) annual aid to Africa. Yet Hunt has not committed to closing DFID and it is not clear what levels of aid spending he would endorse.

Islamophobia did crop up, but both candidates appear to want to swat this away. Cajoled by a former candidate, Sajid Javid, live on television to agree to an external independent inquiry into the rising levels of Islamophobia within the Conservative Party, both have been Trappist on the issue since. It is not a good look for the party as a whole, and risks getting in the way of the Labour Party shredding itself over anti-Semitism. But then, when pressed, Johnson redefined the pledge from a specific inquiry on Islamophobia to a general one on racism, including anti-Semitism. He has more of a vested interest in diverting this as he himself would be in the firing line of any inquiry given his comments likening women in burkas to "letterboxes" and "bank robbers."

In the end, the policy differences between the two may not be particularly seismic. Johnson and Hunt agree on many areas. Conservative Party voters will have to decide more on style: The competent managerial style of Hunt versus the unpredictable force of nature that is Johnson. Only three weeks to go until they give us their decision.

Opinion

World must help Yemeni people

DR. MOHAMMED AL-SULAMI

All parties in Yemen agree on the principle that the Yemeni crisis will ultimately be settled politically, not militarily. They also agree that the Houthis may

be part of the political process, as they are a part of Yemeni society, on condition that they surrender their arms to the state. This will allow Yemen to be rehabilitated and reconstructed to restore its position as an effective member state in the Arabian Gulf region.

However, reaching this ideal stage requires a tremendous amount of work, not only by the legitimate Yemeni government or the Arab coalition, but also by the international community.

Previously, the situation had been heading toward a long-awaited resolution as the noose had tightened around the Houthis in the port city of Hodeidah. Yemeni forces, backed by the Saudi-led Arab coalition, were very close to cutting off the main lifeline sustaining the Houthis by taking control of the port, its resources and everything entering the country by that channel.

In light of this reality, a number of voices emerged within the UN, and they began to call for political dialogue under the UN's supervision. They also requested the end of all military activities. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, speaking in Rimbo in Sweden in 2018, said that the Hodeidah agreement between the Yemeni government and the Houthis included a complete cease-fire and troop withdrawal. The Stockholm agreement was signed on Dec. 13, 2018. Guterres told reporters: "There is a cease-fire announced in the entire province of Hodeidah, and there will be a withdrawal of all forces from the city and the port."



But the UN has neither forced the Houthis to implement the outcomes of the Stockholm agreement nor announced the failure of this political effort, declaring its collapse and the end of all the related policies, while shifting the blame on to the Houthis and their backers. The only outcome currently ensured is that the suffering of the Yemeni people will be prolonged and the Houthis will continue to obstruct the delivery of food and medicine to the needy, as well as hampering the efforts of aid workers.

Regionally, the Iranian regime's support for the Houthis will continue through its smuggling of weapons, missiles, drones and money to the group, as well as by sending them military experts. The ordeal of the Yemenis will worsen and the danger posed by Iran's presence in the south of the Arabian Peninsula will increase. This presence will not only be detrimental to the Arabian Gulf nations, but also to the global economy and navigation at Bab Al-Mandab Strait, the Gulf of Aden and other waterways.

In the end, the international community should act to put an end to the suffering of the Yemeni people, and it needs to offer support and aid to the Yemeni government and the Arab coalition. It needs to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 2201 and 2201 and help in the rescue of other Yemeni cities that are under the control of the Iranian-backed Houthi militias.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Sulami is Head of the International Institute for Iranian Studies (Rasrah).
Twitter: @mohalsulami

For full version, log on to www.arabnews.com/opinion

Africa's noble legacy of support for Palestinian struggle

RAMZY BAROUD

Europe's "Scramble for Africa" began in earnest in 1881, but never ended. Attempts to dominate the continent using old and new strategies continue to define Western relationships with this rich region.

This reality was further validated when I arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, on June 23. Although my objective was to address various Kenyan audiences at universities, public forums and in the media, I also came here to learn. Kenya, like the rest of Africa, is a source of inspiration for all anti-colonial and liberation movements around the world. We, the Palestinians, can learn a great deal from the Kenyan struggle.

Although African countries have fought valiant battles for their freedom against their Western colonizers, neocolonialism now defines the relationship between many independent African countries and their former occupiers. Political meddling, economic control and, at times, military interventions, as in the recent cases of Libya and Mali, point to the unfortunate reality that Africa remains, in myriad ways, hostage to Western priorities, interests and dictates.

Like most colonized countries in the Southern Hemisphere, Africans fought disproportionate battles to gain their precious freedom. Here in Kenya, which became an official British colony in the 1920s, freedom fighters rose in rebellion against the brutality of their oppressors. Most notable among the various resistance campaigns was the Mau Mau Rebellion of the 1950s, which remains a stark example of the courage of Kenyans and the cruelty of colonial Britain.

Palestine fell under British occupation, the so-called British Mandate, during the same period that Kenya also became a British colony. Palestinians, too, fought and fell in their thousands as they employed various methods of collective resistance, including the legendary strike and rebellion of 1936.

At one of my recent talks in Nairobi, I was asked by a young participant about "Palestinian terrorism." I told her that the Palestinian fighters of today are Kenya's Mau Mau rebels of yesteryear. I said that, if we allow Western and Israeli propaganda to define the discourse of Palestinian national liberation, then we condemn all national liberation movements throughout the Southern Hemisphere, including Kenya's own freedom fighters.

We Palestinians, however, must shoulder



Ramzy Baroud is a journalist, author and editor of Palestine Chronicle. His latest book is "The Last Earth: A Palestinian Story" (Pluto Press, London). Baroud has a Ph.D. in Palestine Studies from the University of Exeter.
Twitter: @RamzyBaroud

For full version, log on to www.arabnews.com/opinion

part of the blame of why our narrative as an oppressed, colonized and resisting nation is now misunderstood in parts of Africa. When the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) committed its historic blunder of signing off Palestinian rights in Oslo in 1993, it abandoned a decades-long Palestinian discourse of resistance and liberation. Instead, it subscribed to a whole new discourse, riddled with carefully worded language sanctioned by Washington and its European allies. Whenever Palestinians dared to deviate from their assigned role, they were decreed by the West to return to the negotiating table, which became a metaphor for obedience and submission.

Throughout these years, Palestinians mostly abandoned their far more meaningful alliances in Africa. Instead, they endlessly appealed to the goodwill of the West, hoping that the very colonial powers that primarily created, sustained and armed Israel would miraculously become more balanced and humane. However, they have remained committed to Israel and, despite occasional polite criticism of the Tel Aviv government, continued to channel their weapons to every Israeli government that has ruled over Palestinians for the last seven decades.

Alas, while Palestinians were learning their painful lesson, betrayed repeatedly by those who avowed to respect democracy and human rights, many African nations began seeing in Israel a possible ally. Kenya is, sadly, one of those countries.

Netanyahu's strategy in Kenya — and the rest of Africa — has been based on the same logic, where Israel would use its security technology to support corrupt and undemocratic regimes in exchange for their political support.

The Palestinian leadership, intellectuals, artists and civil society ambassadors must shift their attention back to the Southern Hemisphere, and Africa in particular.

The legendary Tanzanian freedom fighter Julius Nyerere, who is also celebrated in Kenya, knew well where his solidarity lay. "We have never hesitated in our support for the right of the people of Palestine to have their own land," he once said — a sentiment that was repeated by the iconic late South African President Nelson Mandela and many other African liberation leaders.

This generation of African leaders should not deviate from that noble legacy. If they betray it, they betray themselves, along with the righteous struggles of their own peoples.

A grassroots antidote to populism

ISMAEL EMELIEN AND DAVID AMIEL

The political parties that once dominated Western democracies have been shaken to the core. Many have suffered electoral debacles, not least in France, Italy, Greece, the UK, and elsewhere. Others have changed so radically that only their name remains the same.

These developments are similar across the West. Leaders of the once-dominant parties oscillate between denial and despair, while populists siphon off their traditional supporters. Some refuse to see any legitimate reason for their defeat, dismissing their opponents' supporters as "deplorable," as Hillary Clinton did shortly before losing to Donald Trump in 2016; others are too petrified by the populist surge to mount a counteroffensive.

But neither denial nor complacency will break the political impasse. Progressives must rebuild, and that starts with diagnosing the traditional parties' shortcomings. Part of the problem is that traditional parties failed to recognize the real issues of the age. Still fighting on old ideological battlefields, they turned a blind eye to declining social mobility, mounting environmental crises, rising geographic inequality, tensions over multiculturalism, and other issues that actually matter to voters. Decades ago, they were the vanguard. Today, they are alone in the woods, wondering where everyone went.

Traditional parties could also learn something from listening to voters directly, rather than only through the filters of media and pollsters. Back in 2016, French President Emmanuel Macron's movement, En Marche, started with the largest door-to-door listening



Ismael Emelien, a co-founder of En Marche, has been Head of Strategy for French President Emmanuel Macron since 2014 and was Macron's special adviser for strategy and communication from 2017 to 2019.

David Amiel coordinated the conception of Macron's campaign platform and was a policy adviser to the president from 2017 to 2019.
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tour in France's history. What voters told canvassers then became the foundation of Macron's presidential campaign.

Traditional parties also suffer from poor organization. They have long believed that modern politics should be organized around elections, with activists showing up periodically to hand out leaflets and cheer on the candidates. In this view, seizing and holding power is a party's sole raison d'être. It is little wonder that citizens and even party members feel ignored between elections.

But this model is no longer sustainable. Citizens nowadays refuse to be mere consumers of public policies. With rising levels of education have come new demands for empowerment. Voters want to be treated as political actors in their own right, not as pawns in someone else's game.

Political movements must be rebuilt accordingly. The focus should be on specific actions, not just elections. A party's formal management structure should serve as the administrative "back office," the front office should be staffed by the people on the ground.

In the future, a party's ability to offer rewarding avenues for political and community engagement will be essential to its attractiveness. And, by demonstrating progressivism in action on a daily basis, parties will have already laid the groundwork for success when election day arrives.

When voters refuse to hear what you have to say, shouting louder is not the answer. This is the hard lesson traditional parties learned. Only by demonstrating a commitment to improving lives, rather than simply winning elections, can you convince people to come to your side. For a winning alternative to populism, we need grassroots progressivism.



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Tel: +966112129000 • Fax: +966114418871 • E-mail: general@arabnews.com

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Riyadh: P.O. Box 60202, Riyadh 11523, Tel: (966-11)2128000, Fax: (966-11)2884900.
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Dammam: Tel: (966-13)847-1950. Email: mpo@rmpc-2003.net.

ARAB NEWS

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Business



China was the top buyer on average of US agriculture exports from 2010 to 2017.

END OF TARIFF WAR?

Global stocks rally on Trump-Xi breakthrough

US president's historic visit to North Korea propels the dollar

AFP London

Stock markets surged Monday after US President Donald Trump and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping agreed on the sidelines of the G20 summit to restart trade talks, reviving hopes of an end to their tariff war.

Trump's historic visit to North Korea also at the weekend, where he met leader Kim Jong Un, further soothed geopolitical concerns and propelled the dollar, as investors shunned havens, notably gold.

Oil prices also rallied after OPEC and its oil producing allies appeared firmly on course to extend their oil output caps.

"European markets are uniformly higher, particularly the heavily China-exposed DAX" index in Frankfurt, noted Fiona Cincotta, a senior market analyst at City Index trading group.

German stocks were supported also by official data showing unemployment in Germany held steady in June.

US stocks were also solidly higher, with the DJIA index gaining 250 points at the opening bell.

"US stocks are nicely higher in early action to begin the third quarter, with global markets rallying on the weekend's G-20 summit in Japan that delivered a trade truce between the US and China that agreed to hold off on implementing further tariffs," analysts at Charles Schwab said.



Traders gather at the New York Stock Exchange. US stocks on Monday were solidly higher, with the DJIA index gaining 250 points at the opening bell. AP/Flo photo

HIGHLIGHTS

- President Donald Trump says negotiations to resolve the standoff between the US and China are "back on track."
- The leader says he would hold off imposing threatened new levies on Chinese goods.
- Trump also signals a softer position on Chinese telecom giant Huawei.
- China meanwhile pledges to buy more US agricultural machinery.

Trump said negotiations to resolve the standoff between the US and China — the world's two biggest economies — were "back on track," adding that he would hold off imposing threatened new levies on Chinese goods.

Trump also signalled a softer position on Chinese telecom giant Huawei, a major bone of contention in the row, by saying US companies could sell equipment "where there's no great national security problem."

China meanwhile pledged to buy more US agricultural machinery.

The news was welcome after Trump sparked volatility on markets in early May with his shock decision to hit China with new tariffs and halt talks that had seemed to be nearing a positive end.

AGRICULTURE

What extra US farm products could China buy?

Reuters Washington

China has agreed to make unspecified new purchases of farm products from the US, President Donald Trump said after meeting his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Japan.

China was the top buyer on average of US agriculture exports from 2010 to 2017, making purchases worth \$21.6 billion a year, US Department of Agriculture (USDA) showed.

While investors await details of the agreement and confirmation from China, analysts and traders

say there are limits to how much more China can buy from the country that is typically one of its top suppliers of soybeans, grains and meat.

Below are details of where future Chinese purchases could rise.

Soybeans

The US is usually China's No. 2 supplier of soybeans, a product likely to make the list of new purchases.

Soybean imports in the 2019/20 crop year are forecast by USDA at 87 million tons.

The USDA reported a large

soybean sale on Friday of 544,000 tons to China, an apparent goodwill gesture a day before Trump and Xi met for the first time in seven months.

There could be a few more similar purchases in coming months as tensions ease, said Darin Friedrichs, senior Asia commodity analyst at INTL FCStone.

But any large deals were expected to be conditional on progress in talks and would be made over a long timeframe, he added.

Grains

China has typically been the top

buyer of US sorghum and, despite a 25 percent US trade tariff on the grain, it has still bought a few cargoes in recent months.

But sorghum prices are rising, making it less viable for Chinese buyers to import the grain when they already face such a high tariff.

Demand for sorghum and corn, whose prices have climbed due to adverse weather conditions, were both very weak because of the African swine fever epidemic, said a trader with a state-owned firm who was not allowed to be identified.

"I don't think chances are high" for more purchases, he said.

Regarding Dried Distillers Grains with Solubles (DDGS), China has announced it would keep anti-dumping duties on the feed ingredient, which the trader said made it clear Beijing did not plan to boost its imports.

Purchases of US wheat have historically been relatively small. Beijing has been pushing Chinese growers to plant more high-quality wheat and boosting imports would undermine this policy, said a Chinese trader, who was not allowed to be identified.

OPEC+ benefiting producers and consumers alike

CORNELIA MEYER



Cornelia Meyer is a business consultant, macro-economist and energy expert.
Twitter: @MeyerResources

As OPEC oil ministers gathered in Vienna for their meetings and consultations with their non-OPEC allies, commonly referred to as OPEC+, the oil price reached a five-year high on the back of two news items.

Firstly, the truce on trade wars between US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping was good news for oil demand. Trump vowed not to raise tariffs on \$350 billion of imports from China for now. He also allowed US manufacturers to sell to Huawei again. Chinese PMI data on Monday showed that trade wars had clearly taken a toll on the country's economy, which in turn was bad for many other economies in Southeast Asia and Europe that trade with China. While the two presidents agreed on a temporary truce, we will have to wait and see how things will evolve down the road. The markets, though, gobbled up the good news.

Secondly, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed on the sidelines of last week's G20 summit to roll over the OPEC+ production

cuts, which had been agreed in December and were to expire at the end of June. They envisaged a rollover of six to nine months. This is significant because Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak was under pressure from producers in his country who sit on newly built capacity that they want to unleash on the markets. The decision was certainly aided by the quality issues the country faces in its Druzhba export pipeline.

The price of Brent reached \$66.4 per barrel in early Monday trading — a five-week high — after two weeks of steady gains due to geopolitical tensions in the Gulf and falling US inventories.

It is crucial that the production cuts are rolled over when looking at the expected increase of non-OPEC production for 2020, which stands at 2.3 million barrels per day (bpd), according to the International Energy Agency. If we are to believe the organization, which also downgraded its forecasted demand for 2019 to 1.2 million bpd due to slower economic growth, the call on OPEC crude will be around 600,000 barrels below current

OPEC production in 2020. This is quite worrisome, as OPEC+ exceeded its 1.2 million bpd production cuts by 68 percent in May. Indeed, the production of Venezuela and Iran alone is, for instance, 2.5 million barrels below 2017 levels due to the US sanctions on Iran and the deteriorating economic situation in Venezuela.

The MIS-Putin agreement is important and set the tone for Monday's and Tuesday's OPEC+ meetings. It emphasized explicit Russian support for the alliance, expressed at the highest level, despite the trade war truce, which removed one of the main threats to oil demand, albeit temporarily.

What ministers will have to ask themselves, not necessarily this week but further down the road, is whether a 1.2 million-barrel cut is sufficiently large in light of the ever-increasing non-OPEC production. Last week alone, the US increased its crude exports by 348,000 million bpd and lowered imports by 812,000 bpd.

Ministers will also discuss the formalization of the declaration of cooperation, which is the loose agreement that has bound together the 24 countries of OPEC+ since 2016. In an

ideal world this would be important for two reasons. Firstly, it takes ambiguity out of the arrangement. Up to now, pundits speculated before every meeting whether Russia was onside or not. Secondly, a formal agreement would make it easier for OPEC+ to act with speed when incremental barrels need to be added to or taken off the market. For the last three years, it was OPEC+ that acted to ease supply and demand pressures as and when they occurred. This was important in light of heightened volatility due to geopolitics and the ever-shifting macroeconomic outlooks.

BP CEO Bob Dudley and his counterpart at Shell, Ben van Beurden, reiterated the importance of oil trading in a predictable range for the purposes of investment allocations in June. The same is true for consumers, who need to have parameters allowing them to estimate what proportion of the operating budget has to be allocated to fuel or feedstock. This holds especially true for heavy consumers such as airlines or petrochemical companies. In other words, both consumers and producers benefit from the continued cooperation of OPEC+.

Business News



British manufacturers had their worst month in more than six years and consumers increased their borrowing at the slowest pace since 2014. AP

MOMENTUM

UK economy feels the strain of global slowdown as well as Brexit

Consumer lending in Britain grows at slowest pace since 2014

Reuters London

Britain's economy has lost momentum and might have shrunk in the second quarter of 2019, according to data that showed the double impact of Brexit and the slowdown in the global economy.

Manufacturers had their worst month in more than six years and consumers increased their borrowing at the slowest pace since 2014. The value of sterling fell against the dollar and the euro after the data was published.

Howard Archer, an economist with EY Item Club, a forecasting group, estimated that Britain's economy contracted by 0.2 percent in the April-June period.

The Bank of England last month cut its forecast for economic growth in the second quarter to zero.

That largely reflected an unwinding of the rush by many factories to get ready for the original Brexit deadline which has now been delayed until Oct. 31.

But economists said Monday's manufacturing purchasing managers' index showed how hard Britain's factories were also being hit by the slowdown in the world economy caused by the trade skirmishes between the US and China.

The overall PMI slumped to 48.0 in June from May's 49.4, well below the average forecast in a Reuters poll of economists and its lowest reading since February 2013.

Lack of confidence

Export demand fell for a third month as manufacturers around the world lost confidence.

Allan Monks, an economist at JP Morgan, said the weak PMI survey challenged his view that manufacturing growth would rebound at

FASTFACTS

- UK factories have weakest month in six years.
- Export demand falls due to manufacturers' lack of confidence.
- Consumer lending grows at slowest pace since 2014.
- Country's economy 'shrank 0.2 percent qq in Q2.'

the start of the third quarter.

Separate data from the Bank of England published on Monday showed lending to British consumers — whose spending has helped the economy cope with the Brexit crisis — rose by its weakest annual pace in more than five years in May. The BoE data also showed the weakest increase since April 2017 in net mortgage lending.

Archer at EY Item Club said May's mortgage data chimed with other

figures which suggested the relief from the delay of Brexit had been limited.

"Improved consumer purchasing power and robust employment growth has also recently been helpful for the housing market, but this has recently shown some signs of levelling off," he said.

Economists said they were waiting for Wednesday's PMI of Britain's dominant services industry to gauge the extent of the slowdown in the overall economy.

Chris Hare, an economist with HSBC, said he expected only a slight pickup which would point to anemic underlying growth.

"So, considerations about Brexit deadlines notwithstanding, we do not think that now is the time for the Bank of England to be raising rates," he said.

The BoE has stuck to its message that it expects to raise borrowing costs, assuming Britain can avoid a no-deal Brexit.

AGREEMENT

Careem ends Sudan operations as part of Uber takeover deal

Reuters Dubai

Careem has ended operations in Sudan as part of its planned takeover by Uber, a spokeswoman said on Monday, less than a year after the Middle Eastern ride-hailing firm launched in the country.

Careem began operations in Sudan in September 2018 after the US lifted economic sanctions in 2017.

Uber said in an SEC filing it expected Careem to divest its operations in Sudan before its \$31 billion takeover of the Dubai-headquartered company closes. The deal, announced in March, is expected to close early next year.



HIGHLIGHT

- Uber says it expected Careem to divest its operations in Sudan before its \$3.1 billion takeover of the Dubai-headquartered company closes.
- The deal, announced in March, is expected to close early next year.

Careem shut its Sudan business on June 30, a spokeswoman said in a statement.

"There are no plans to close any other markets and ceasing Sudan operations will not have any effect

on Careem's other markets," she said.

Few international firms entered Sudan after the lifting of US economic sanctions. The country remains on the US list of state sponsors of terrorism. Sudan has faced instability since protests broke out in December, resulting in the ouster of long-time President Omar Al-Bashir by the military in April.

Last week, a top US State Department official said Washington was considering all options, including possible sanctions, if there was more violence.

Other local ride-hailing apps such as Tirhal operate in Sudan.

BizBriefs

THE BEST OF THE REST

Logistics

Dubai port operator acquires Topaz Energy

Dubai port and logistics giant DP World said Monday it has acquired Topaz Energy and Marine, an offshore international vessel and marine logistics company for nearly \$1.1 billion. Dubai-based Topaz is a subsidiary of Renaissance, a publicly traded firm on Oman's Muscat stock exchange, with Standard Chartered Private Equity holding a minority stake.

Topaz operates a modern fleet of 117 vessels and operates mainly in the Caspian Sea, the Middle East and North Africa, and West Africa, DP World said in a statement. It has long-standing relationships with leading international energy firms like British Petroleum, Chevron, Dragon Oil and ExxonMobil among others.

DP World is a global logistics provider and operates around 78 ports and terminals in 40 countries. **AFP**

Securities

Ireland invests Apple taxes in low-risk bonds

Ireland's debt agency has invested disputed taxes collected from Apple in low risk, highly rated euro-dominated fixed income securities, mainly short to medium-term sovereign and quasi-sovereign bonds, it said in an annual report.

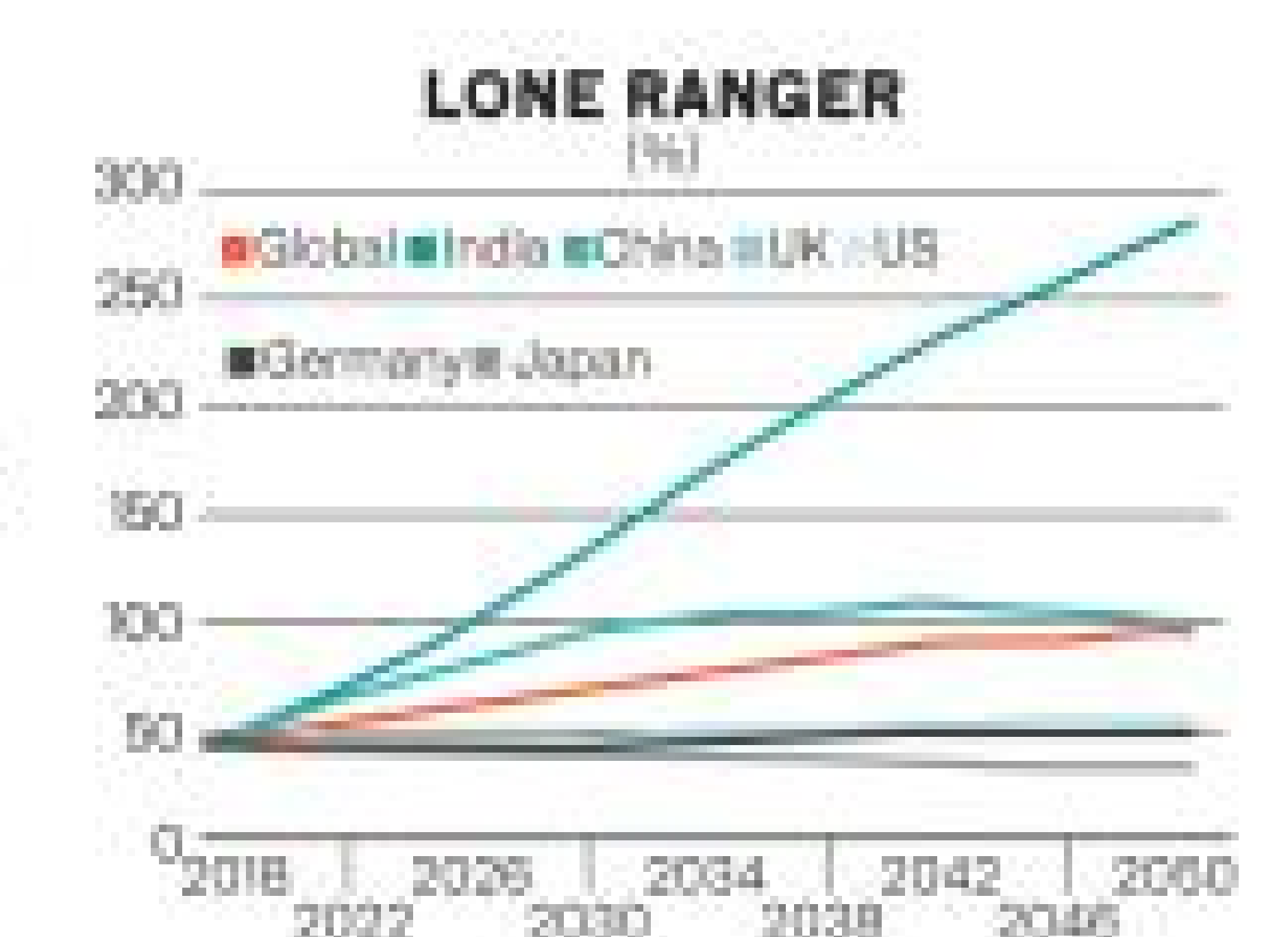
The European Commission ruled in 2016 that Apple had received unfair tax incentives from Dublin in breach of EU state aid rules and ordered Ireland to recover more than €34 billion from the iPhone maker.

While Apple and Dublin are appealing against the ruling, saying the tax treatment was in line with Irish and EU law, Apple nevertheless had to hand over the full amount, pending the result of the appeal — which will likely take several years. The government said Irish taxpayers would be protected from any losses when setting up the fund. **Reuters**

Chart of THE DAY

Global demand for electricity generation is expected to surge 62 percent by 2050, but one major economy will not be getting in on the power party.

Source: Bloomberg



What We're Reading

FOR THE TRAIN OR THE PLANE

True North Business

Another landmark leadership book by Bobby Albert, True North Business provides the compass and road map required for the journey to meaningful success, says a review published on goodreads.com. Let us face it, the marketplace is more competitive and bewildering

than ever. Leaders need a proven way to confidently chart their path and lead their people.

In True North Business, Bobby Albert presents the True North principles that equip today's leaders to create their True North Compass — a rock-solid reference that allows them to authentically lead with confidence.



Investment

Walmart to invest \$1.2bn in China to upgrade logistics

Walmart plans to invest 8 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) in China over the next 10 years to upgrade logistics, the US retail giant said on its social media account Monday.

The company also said in the statement it would set up or renovate more than 10 logistics centers in the country.

The statement followed a meeting between President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping over the weekend in Osaka, Japan that rekindled hope for a US-China trade deal. Walmart has been pushing to integrate its retail network in China with the country's burgeoning "smart retail" movement, as retailers and tech giants such as Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Tencent Holdings Ltd. cut deals to combine online and high street shopping. **Reuters**

Break-up concerns

Fortum wants to resume talks with Uniper

Fortum, the state-controlled Finnish utility, wants to restart talks with the management of Germany's Uniper, in which it owns 49.9 percent after a hostile takeover, it said on Monday.

"We are in contact with the Supervisory Board of Uniper with a view to resuming such discussions as soon as possible," Fortum said in a statement, adding that it is interested in the company as a whole. The utility responded to a letter from the head of Uniper's works council in which labor representatives had demanded clarity about Fortum's intentions with Uniper amid concerns that Fortum may want to break up the company.

"The continued obscurity around Fortum's strategy is no longer acceptable," Harald Seegatz had said in the works council letter.

Fortum and Uniper have been at loggerheads since the Finnish utility tried to acquire a majority in the German group in 2017. **Reuters**

Media

INTERVIEW

My nightmare under Israeli fire in the West Bank

PBS correspondent Jane Ferguson describes increased risk covering region



Jane Ferguson's career covering the Middle East has taken her from Yemen to the UAE, Iraq, Syria and Palestine. Photos/Supplied

Sarah Glubb London

When the PBS NewsHour special correspondent Jane Ferguson says that journalists are facing an increased physical threat, she has plenty of experience to draw on.

Just last week, she posted a video on Twitter in which she appeared in a car with a blotched red face after her broadcast team escaped a barrage of teargas fired by Israeli forces toward the press in the West Bank.

She said that they were deliberately targeted, along with dozens of other journalists, as they covered a small protest in Ramallah against the US-organized economic conference for the Palestinians in Manama.

"This was huge, at least 15 gas canisters came careening down on everybody," Ferguson told Arab News. "One smashed the window and the car was engulfed, there was gas everywhere and we could not see anything."

"It was very scary because there was a lot of other press running around trying to escape and we were trying to drive our car and not hit anybody in these really thick plumes of smoke."

For Ferguson, who has been covering the Palestinian-Israeli conflict since 2012, the incident illustrates the new era of challenges faced by journalists covering the region. From County Armagh in Northern Ireland, Ferguson was inspired by the journalism around her to pursue her career. But she completed her stud-

ies at a time of tightening budgets and major job losses in the media industry.

"I had always grown up wanting to be a foreign correspondent. I grew up in Northern Ireland watching the BBC but it was simply impossible to get the job in 2007," Ferguson said.

Instead, she decided to go to Yemen to learn Arabic in 2008.

"I chose Yemen admittedly because it was cheaper and I was on a small budget and I wanted to go somewhere that I knew nothing about," the 34-year-old said. "I'm really glad that I did because I fell in love with it."

For young journalists, that period was also the start of the expansion of the freelance industry as news organizations were not hiring young people and "so they had to go to the field and sell their own work."

After a spell at a newspaper in Dubai, Ferguson got her break in broadcasting in 2010, freelancing for CNN's Abu Dhabi bureau.

She then started working for Al Jazeera Eng-

lish in 2011 as the Middle East became embroiled in uprisings that dominated global news agendas.

And with the seismic changes that shaped the region came bigger challenges facing the journalists covering them.

It is becoming more common for governments to make it difficult for journalists to operate in places such as Syria, Turkey and Egypt, said Ferguson, who is based in Beirut. As a woman working for an American

news network, she said that she does not experience more challenges than other journalists in the region, partly because they are all facing repression against freedom of speech. But she said reporters in the Middle East are also being seen as less honest and independent observers.

"There was at least a semblance of respect for journalists being there for a reason and I think that that is eroding at the minute and I think all journalists are feeling that," said Ferguson, speaking on the phone from Gaza.

She also believes journalists in the region are facing challenges gaining access to stories because governments are making it harder to operate.

But when she was working in Afghanistan as an Al Jazeera correspondent, she said it was much harder to gain access.

"It's harder for me to drink tea with government ministers or to be invited into social circles where men, who are typically the power brokers that we as journalists need to talk to and to build relationships with, that is harder as a woman in Afghanistan," Ferguson said.

She added that "in the Arab world I find it to be less of a handicap," referring to several senior editorial posts held by women in the Middle East, including The Washington Post and The New York Times.

On her current assignment in Palestine, Ferguson, who joined PBS in 2015, is at the forefront of the latest major story to engulf the region.

BIO

BORN: Sept. 15, 1984 in County Armagh, Northern Ireland

EDUCATION: The Royal School Armagh, the Lawrenceville Prep School in New Jersey

DEGREE: English Literature and Politics, University of York

CAREER: Freelance correspondent for CNN International 2010-2011, Freelance correspondent for Al Jazeera English 2011-2014, Special correspondent for PBS NewsHour 2015-Present

AWARDS: 2019 George Polk Award, 2019 Peabody Nominee, 2019 Livingston Award shortlist, Overseas Press Club of America Citation 2017

From the reactions she has seen on the ground, she said it is difficult for the Palestinians to accept the economic component of the Trump administration's plan without seeing the political one.

"They are trying to separate the two," she said, adding that it is hard for the Palestinians "to discuss economics and international investment without talking about occupation, parameters and the relevant laws."

She said there is also confusion about whether the Trump administration would support the two-state solution, which has

been a deadlock in negotiations for decades, or opt for a one-state solution, which she said would be a huge policy shift and raises several questions.

"I think that is certainly causing a level of anxiety around the region, not knowing whether or not there is still commitment to a two-state solution, because if there isn't, then where do you go from there?"

Having lived in Yemen, and having had to go back there several times since 2008 as a reporter, Ferguson expressed her sadness over the current situation in the country.

"Every time I go there, I can't believe it could get any worse, the violence, the hunger, the humanitarian crisis, and yet it always does. It is just incredibly sad to watch," she said.

Ferguson has also worked in Egypt and Somalia, but with fresh protests taking place in north African countries this year, she said the initial reasons for the Arab Spring had not gone away.

"I think they are actually intensifying. The Arab Spring was about Arabs, young people especially, wanting a brighter future for themselves, an economically viable future, more dignity, less repression," she said.

She said on a psychological level especially, it has not gone away and it does not surprise her that it comes back in waves.

"I do not want to generalize about the Arab world because it is very diverse but that is one common thread," she said.

As part of her work, Ferguson has also worked with Syrian and Palestinian refugees and displaced persons.

She said: "A huge part of our job is trying to tell their stories and also try to maintain interest in their stories."

"What is most striking for me is that an entire generation of young people are growing up without an education, and perhaps during times of war an education sounds like a luxury, but in reality and in the longer term what is that going to do to an entire generation of Syrians?"

On the recent escalation of tensions between the US and Iran, Ferguson claims that one of the most difficult things about covering this story is that there is so much that we do not know due to all the backroom discussions.

"I think it is very clear that neither side really wants a war."

I think the danger is overestimating how far you can push either side and that is why everyone is rightly nervous," she said.

Ferguson advised young journalists to not look at journalism as a lifestyle or an exciting job, but rather consider what to do with your intellect, time and life.



How Middle East Eye is fake-news central

IBRAHIM ALKHAMIS



Ibrahim Alkhamis is an expert in media and Gulf politics with a special emphasis on fake news.

In the world of political media, ownership is an important issue that implies editorial influence. This in itself is harmless as it grants a level of transparency to an outlet: We know that Al Jazeera belongs to Qatar's royal family (yet it denies having editorial influence), Al Arabiya to the MBC Group, Fox News to Rupert Murdoch's media empire, and CNN to AT&T.

Media ownership is a fact of the business world and is not inherently negative, but public awareness of this ownership is essential to understand perspective and influence, whether cultural or geopolitical.

As the Arab Spring was starting to phase out post-2013, Al Jazeera's success in giving a platform to Islamists was beginning to wane. At the time, an outlet called Middle East Eye (MEE) began to form in London, with job listings posted and staff carefully selected.

It brands itself as independent, yet MEE has had many Al Jazeera journalists freelancing for or joining its content production team, causing red flags to be raised regarding its financing. David Hearst, MEE's editor-in-chief and a former foreign correspondent for The Guardian,

refused to give details about the outlet's finances, attributing its existence to "individual private donors" who he claimed were "interested in democracy in the Middle East."

As MEE began to publish articles, it mirrored Al Jazeera's editorial policy, highlighting human rights issues throughout the Middle East except when it came to Qatar's domestic or foreign policies. What is alarming is that many human rights organizations, such as Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International, use MEE's articles as a point of reference, as do the New York Times, the Washington Post and Germany's Deutsche Welle.

MEE claims to report on the Middle East, but there are no articles discussing Qatar's imprisonment of members of its royal family, such as Sheikh Talal bin Abdul Aziz Al-Thani, or the abuses faced by his wife and children. Yet it pumps out articles containing rumors and fabrications against Qatar's state enemies, especially Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt.

These articles are displayed as fact with obscure sources and hard-hitting headlines, reinforcing stereotypes of enemy states. This is reflected in Hearst's articles during his time

at The Guardian, claiming absurdly that the 2014 Gaza War was backed by Saudi Arabia. He repeated this claim in 2018 but with a slight adjustment, that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was pushing a war with Gaza.

Hearst also famously claimed that the Saudis were supporting the Houthis in Yemen as a means of stopping an Islamist takeover. Yet Saudi Arabia went to war against the Houthis in 2015, two years after his dubious claims. Hearst seems to be informed mainly by Islamist propaganda.

He is surrounded by former Al Jazeera staff, including news editors Arwa Ibrahim and Jacob Powell, and senior editors Graeme Baker and Larry Johnson.

It comes as no surprise that reviews on Glassdoor, where current and former employees can review their place of employment, center around MEE's obscure funding. Two of the three available reviews on the website highlight MEE's "secret nature of funding," while one accuses the outlet of pushing stories with anonymous sources onto its reporters. These sources seem to be too secretive even for MEE's own journalists.

From royal family dramas to weaponizing the Palestinian cause by accusing Qatar's enemies of doing secret deals with Israel, MEE's "exclusive" content tends to center on attacking countries by using anonymous sources. This clearly illustrates that its purpose is not to report, but to propagate a pro-Qatar narrative in the West, where Al Jazeera has failed to penetrate effectively. MEE's "exclusives" are exclusive in their creativity, not their reliability.

It is an instrument in creating an illusion of reliability and diverse news sources for the pro-Qatar narrative. MEE functions as an extension to Al Jazeera without having to be accused of being a state-owned outlet. Media is arguably the only tool in Qatar's diplomacy, other than cash incentives to its clients worldwide. Diversification of platforms is a new goal in Doha's media strategy, but there should be no room for ownership or funding to be hidden.

Hearst and others in MEE weaponize their stories by propagating fake news with anonymous sources, thereby misleading human rights organizations and other news outlets. The response to this must be demands for transparency regarding financial and news sources.

There has been limited adoption of blockchain within the MENA region, although there is considerable interest in the GCC.

Ramzi Khoury
Principal with Strategy& Middle East



Corporate

PRESS RELEASES FROM THE WORLD OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE



Omega's Speedmaster Moonwatch is crafted in 18-carat Sedna gold and is known as the 'First Omega in Space.'

TIMEPIECE

Omega honors winners of Stephen Hawking Medal

Swiss watchmaker Omega has awarded four unique Speedmaster watches to the winners of this year's Stephen Hawking Medal for Science Communication at the 2019 Starmus V festival in Zurich, Switzerland.

On stage were the winners including Brian Eno, for his contribution to the popularization of science; Todd Douglas Miller, for making Apollo 11, a documentary about the famous space mission; and astronaut and Omega ambassador Buzz Aldrin, who received a lifetime achievement award for his passion for space that continues to inspire many today. A medal and watch will also be separately presented to Elon Musk, for his accomplishments in space travel and for humanity.

The Stephen Hawking Medal for Science Communication is one of the world's most celebrated science communication awards. With its partnership of the Starmus festival, Omega said it is proud to align itself with the prize and contribute specially crafted timepieces for the annual winners.

Presenting the watches on stage was Raynald Aeschlimann, president and CEO of Omega. He said: "It's a great honor to be here among so many esteemed names in the science community. I know these winners are truly deserving of the medal and they have all shown a great commitment to human understanding and progress. Omega has its own pioneering history and future in space, so we are thrilled to join the celebrations and share in this common quest for excellence."

The winning watch is a Speedmaster Moonwatch crafted in 18-carat Sedna gold. The model is known as the "First Omega in Space," and is based on the iconic



Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin and President and CEO of Omega Raynald Aeschlimann at the 2019 Starmus V festival in Zurich, Switzerland.

watch that astronaut Walter Schirra wore during the Sigma 7 mission of the Mercury program in 1962. Today's updated design features a brown polished ceramic bezel ring and a matt chromium nitride tachymeter scale, as well as brown PVD subdials and a central opaline silvery dial. The watch is distinguished by its caseback, which includes the words, "Winner of the Stephen Hawking Medal for Sci-

FASTFACT

The winning watch — a Speedmaster Moonwatch — is based on the iconic watch that astronaut Walter Schirra wore during the Sigma 7 mission of the Mercury program in 1962.

ence Communication," as well as a laser-engraved medallion that follows the exact design of the medal itself. This includes the Starmus logo and images of Alexei Leonov during the first human spacewalk and the "Red Special" guitar of Queen's Brian May.

The Starmus festival, a combination of science, art and music, aims to help the general public understand and appreciate science. Since

2011, it has included performances and presentations from astronauts, cosmonauts, Nobel Prize winners and prominent figures from science, culture, the arts and music.

For the 50th anniversary year of the Apollo 11 mission, this year's festival included Apollo astronauts, such as Omega ambassador Charlie Duke, the youngest person to walk on the moon, and veteran astronaut Nicole Stott, also an Omega ambassador.

Corporate Briefs

THE BEST OF THE BEST

Electricity

Jeddah South Thermal Power Plant wins ISO certification

Saudi Electricity Company's Jeddah South Thermal Power Plant has won ISO certification for quality and environmental compliance from Germany's TÜV Nord Group.

Khalid bin Abdulrahman Al-Tuaimi, executive vice president for power generation, said the plant's certification came after TÜV Nord, the German group that issues globally recognized quality certification, had concluded its inspection and testing of systems and operations and verified the presence of a well-documented, active environmental quality and compliance system.

TÜV's certification process involved extensive interviews with specialists and multiple field visits, he added.

"This ISO certificate is the culmination of the efforts of the power plant's staff, who worked hard to put in place every system and quality every department to do their part in maintaining excellence in the quality of our product and compliance with the most rigorous environmental regulations," said Al-Tuaimi.

He highlighted the Saudi Electricity Company's commitment to quality, compliance, and environmental awareness.

Investment

Riyad Capital launches forex trading services

Riyad Capital has announced the launch of Forex Contracts Trading Service via Riyad Forex.

"This service comes along with multiple options of currencies including more than 20 currency pairs available for trading — the high liquidity pairs, as well as the advantage of trading without any hidden commissions or additions to invisible differences within lower spreads between supply and demand, which adds higher flexibility in the buy and sell transactions," a press release said.

Riyad Capital, which is a licensed company by the Capital Market Authority, is the first company to offer forex trading services in the Kingdom. It also provides a wide range of investment products through advanced electronic channels and a dedicated team to meet all needs and aspirations of the investors and stakeholders.

Automobile

Genesis tops J.D. Power 2019 US Initial Quality Study

For the second year in a row, Genesis placed first in the J.D. Power 2019 US Initial Quality Study (IQS) among all automotive brands. With a score of 63 problems experienced per 100 vehicles (PP100), Genesis led both the premium segment as well as the industry overall in initial quality.

The IQS, now in its fourth decade, serves as the industry benchmark for new vehicle quality measured at 90 days of ownership.

"We are extremely thrilled to be recognized for highest quality by J.D. Power for two consecutive years — particularly considering we are a relatively young brand," said Manfred Fitzgerald, executive vice president and global head of the Genesis brand. "This is a testament toward our promise to deliver the most desirable products for our customers. We will continue to hold our products, brand and customer experience to the highest standard in all facets."

INNOVATION

GCC telecoms urged to seize blockchain opportunity

Blockchain technology is expected to have a tremendous impact on GCC national economies. To harness its full potential, telecom operators have to adopt the right strategy, operating model, partnerships, and capabilities for their selected blockchain value proposition, and engage with regulators, according to a recent study by Strategy& Middle East, part of the PwC network.

The new study discusses the benefits that blockchain can offer and how telecom operators in the Middle East and North Africa are positioned to profit from this technology.

Dr. Daniel Diemers, partner with Strategy& in Zurich, said: "Blockchain as a technology has been adopted by businesses across various industries and its potential is expected to reach \$96 billion by 2024, according to market estimates. Like other industries, we are witnessing an increased adoption of blockchain technology within the telecom sector."

Blockchain is one way to reassure customers that their information is protected. Due to its encryption technology and the dispersal of information, it is very difficult to hack and is not susceptible to a single point of technical failure. It can also reduce transaction costs by removing unnecessary middlemen and document duplication.

According to the study, inter-

nally, blockchain can streamline telecom operators' storage of customer identities, reduce the costs of number portability, and facilitate roaming services between multiple operators.

"However, telecom operators have to adapt," said Jad Hagi, partner with Strategy& Middle East. "They must carefully analyze their own capabilities before selecting their value proposition and a target market. A portfolio of relevant use cases

HIGHLIGHT

Blockchain can also reduce transaction costs by removing unnecessary middlemen and document duplication.

for each target market is needed for more effective marketing and business development."

Ramzi Khoury, principal with Strategy& Middle East, said: "There has been limited adoption of blockchain within the MENA region, although there is considerable interest in the countries of the GCC. Interestingly, GCC organizations are creating the very partnerships that telecom operators should consider."

Dubai's government is planning for all visa applications, bill payments, and license renewals to be transacted digitally using blockchain.

RECOGNITION

Hyundai Santa Fe wins 'best mid-size family SUV' award



The PR Arabia National Auto Award 2018/2019 ceremony was held in Jeddah last week.

The organizing committee of PR Arabia National Auto Award 2018/2019 has named the new Hyundai Santa Fe the "Best Mid-Size Family SUV 2019" at its awards ceremony, held in Jeddah last week.

In the presence of several car distributors and specialists, as well as Saudi media representatives, PR Arabia National Auto Award announced this year's winners. The Santa Fe won the award after being shortlisted through a public voting process.

"The Santa Fe is a very important model for Hyundai in Saudi Arabia, with almost two decades of satisfied customers appreciating its excellent quality of design and manufacture,"

said Mike Song, Hyundai's head of operations for the Middle East and Africa. "The latest generation raises this already popular SUV to an even higher level, with a product that we firmly believe is the best in its class. We are very proud of this award, showing that, once again, Hyundai stands apart from the competition."

The awards program also has a separate category named "Special Awards" where the Hyundai Kona Color Drive campaign was named the "Best Marketing Campaign 2018-2019."

The Kona Color Drive competition invited women to create customized exterior designs for the sub-compact SUV. The campaign ran from Sept. 23

to Nov. 25, 2018. More than 230,000 people visited the competition web pages, and 6,134 from across the Kingdom submitted artwork.

The Hyundai Kona is a stylish premium sub-compact SUV that was launched in the Saudi market last year, and has a particularly strong appeal for female drivers. For their chance to win, women logged into a campaign microsite equipped with digital "paint" and graphic design tools. After viewing a short video highlighting the Kona's key features, entrants were tasked with flexing their creative muscles to come up with a colorful bodywork look by selecting shades, special effects, and various pen, brush and spray tools.



Sri Lanka's Avishka Fernando celebrates his century.

CRICKET WORLD CUP

Sri Lanka survive Windies scare to win by 23 runs

AFP Chester-le-Street

Sri Lanka held off a West Indies charge at Chester-le-Street on Monday to win an exciting battle of two World Cup also-runs by 23 runs.

Both teams came into the match aware they could not reach the semifinals but the Caribbean side came close to pulling off the highest successful chase in World Cup history.

Sri Lanka batted brightly to post an imposing total of 338 for six in their 50 overs, thanks largely to Avishka Fernando's first one-day international century.

That total looked beyond the West Indies in the early part of their innings but Nicholas Pooran dug deep, also scoring his maiden ODI ton.

The West Indies found themselves in early trouble at 22-2, with Samil Ambris and Shai Hope back in the dressing room, both dismissed by veteran fast bowler Lasith Malinga.

Chris Gayle flickered briefly but was caught for 35 from a steeping top edge by Jeffrey Vandersay off the bowling of Kasun Rajitha.

Pooran, 23, held the innings together but the West Indies' hopes were badly hit when Carlos

FASTFACT

Both teams came into the match already out of the semifinal race but the Caribbean side came close to pulling off the highest successful chase in World Cup history.

Brathwaite was unhelpfully run out when bowler Isuru Udana diverted the ball into the stumps off his fingertips, with the batsman well out of his ground.

The West Indies looked down and out at 199-6 in the 35th over but

Pooran put on 83 for the seventh wicket with Fabian Allen to keep them in the hunt before a second run-out.

The Caribbean side needed 31 runs off the final three overs when captain Dimuth Karunaratne summoned Angelo Mathews to bowl for the first time in an ODI since 2017.

He struck with his first ball, removing a distraught Pooran, who slashed at an innocuous wide delivery and was caught behind by wicketkeeper Kusal Perera.

Earlier, Fernando hit a sparkling maiden ODI century, with all of the top order chipping in to help him.

The 21-year-old reached three figures off exactly 100 balls with eight fours and two sixes but was caught by Fabian Allen off the bowling of Sheldon Cottrell for 104.

Sri Lanka revived their fading hopes of reaching the World Cup semifinals by beating England but a heavy defeat to South Africa and results elsewhere ended their chances.

West Indies started the tournament with a thumping seven-wicket win against Pakistan but have not won a single match since, with their batsmen in particular letting them down.

WIMBLEDON

Second-seeded Osaka falls in first round upset to Putinseva

On the men's side, top seeds Alexander Zverev and Stefanos Tsitsipas both lose their matches

AP Wimbledon

After winning two straight Grand Slam titles, Naomi Osaka has now failed to reach the second week at the last two majors.

Osaka, who was ranked No. 1 in the world until last week, lost to Yulia Putinseva 7-6 (4), 6-2 on Monday in the first round at Wimbledon.

The second-seeded Osaka won the US Open last year and the Australian Open this year, but she lost in the third round at the French Open and now the first round at the All England Club.

"I just don't think I played that well," said Osaka, who also lost to Putinseva two weeks ago in Birmingham. "But I wasn't surprised because I've played her, like, twice already."

Osaka had 38 unforced errors on Center Court, while Putinseva had only seven.

Osaka later cut short her news conference, leaving before any questions were asked in Japanese.

"Can I leave?" she asked the moderator after several short answers. "I feel like I'm about to cry."

There were two big upsets on the men's side as well with both sixth-seeded Alexander Zverev and seventh-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas losing in the first round.

Zverev lost to Jiri Vesely of the Czech Republic 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5, while Tsitsipas was beaten by Thomas Fabbiano of Italy 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (8), 6-3.

Both Zverev and Tsitsipas are among the younger generation of players expected to eventually replace the Big Three of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak



Kazakhstan's Yulia Putinseva in action during her first round match against Japan's Naomi Osaka. Reuters

Djokovic in men's tennis.

Tsitsipas, who beat Federer at the Australian Open en route to the semifinals, saved two match points in the fourth-set tiebreaker and failed to convert three break

points early in the fifth. Fabbiano broke Tsitsipas twice in the final set, including in the last game when the Greek popped a shot long.

It was the 102nd-ranked Fabbiano's first win over a top-10 player.

Zverev, who lost in the first round at the All England Club for the first time in five appearances, said his confidence was "below zero" right now.

"It was kind of a typical Grand

Slam match for me. I started off well, then one or two things don't go my way, and everything kind of a little bit falls apart," the German said. "Yeah, I'm not very high on confidence right now."

WHEELING & DEALING

As Leonard ponders, free agency moves shake NBA landscape

AFP New York

Kawhi Leonard's uncertain NBA free agency fate kept three teams in limbo Monday as players continued to make deals that shook the league landscape.

Players and teams began agreeing to terms on new deals Sunday even though no contracts can be signed until next Saturday.

Leonard, who led the Toronto Raptors to the NBA title last month, was expected to meet with the Los Angeles Lakers and Los Angeles Clippers and the Raptors this week before making a decision on where to sign a new deal.

The Raptors are trying to keep together their championship squad

while the Clippers, in Leonard's home town, have a similar young team that would offer him a starring role.

The Lakers, who have cleared \$32 million in salary cap space, could offer the two-time NBA Finals Most Valuable Player a chance to form a super team with LeBron James and Anthony Davis. But so many other top free agents have already reportedly signed elsewhere, the club would have trouble spending their money if Leonard turns them down.

Among the other players the Lakers were reportedly looking at was D'Angelo Russell, who went to the Golden State Warriors for four years at \$17 million after the club traded Andre Iguodala to Memphis to free up money under NBA salary cap rules.

Russell would partner Steph Curry in the Warriors' backcourt until Klay Thompson, set to sign a

NUMBER

\$32

million in salary cap space could allow the Lakers to offer Kawhi Leonard a chance to form a super team with LeBron James and Anthony Davis.

new maximum deal, returns from a torn knee ligament next season.

Also reportedly waiting on Leonard's decision is Toronto guard Danny Green, who is being wooed by Dallas.

In the biggest reported deals on day one of free agency, Brooklyn secured two-time NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant, who ruptured an Achilles tendon as Golden State lost in the NBA finals, and Kyrie Irving from Boston. Each accepted

contracts below the maximum, allowing the Nets to also grab center DeAndre Jordan, who played for Dallas last season.

Durant will miss next season while recovering, but Irving and Jordan will spark a Nets squad that made the playoffs last season.

Philadelphia also made significant moves, landing Dominican big man Al Horford from Boston and trading with Miami for Josh Richardson, in a deal that cost them guard Jimmy Butler, while re-signing Tobias Harris. The 76ers already boast Australian playmaker Ben Simmons and Cameroonian front-line force Joel Embiid.

Milwaukee, which won an NBA-best 60 games last season before falling to Toronto in the Eastern Conference final, kept Khris Middleton and Brook Lopez and figure to remain a contender next season.

Sport Briefs

THE BEST OF THE REST

US Senior Open

Stricker makes record debut and wins

Steve Stricker made his US Senior Open debut one for the record book by closing with a 1-under 69 to set the 72-hole record and win by six shots.

Stricker birdied the opening hole on the Warren Golf Course at Notre Dame and was never seriously challenged. He finished at 19-under 261. The previous record was 264 by Kenny Perry in 2017 at Salem Country Club. The 53-year-old Stricker won a PGA Tour Champions major for the second time this year. He won the Regions Tradition in May.

Jerry Kelly (69) and defending champion David Toms (68) tied for second. **AP**



Golf

Lashley leads wire-to-wire for 1st PGA Tour win

Nate Lashley completed an unlikely wire-to-wire victory in the Rocket Mortgage Classic on Sunday for his first PGA Tour title.

Lashley closed with a 2-under 70 to finish at 25-under 263 and win by six shots, the margin he took into the day after opening with rounds of 63, 67 and 63.

The 36-year-old Lashley's parents and girlfriend were killed in a plane crash 15 years ago. He dabbled in real estate after graduating from the University of Arizona, quit playing professional golf several years ago and resumed playing in the PGA Tour's minor leagues. The 353rd ranked player in the world slipped into the PGA Tour's first event in Detroit as an alternate on Wednesday. **AP**

Cycling

Nibali to lead Bahrain-Merida at Tour de France

Italy's Vincenzo Nibali, 2014 champion and a five-time stage winner on the Tour de France, will lead the Bahrain-Merida team in this year's race.

It will be 34-year-old Nibali's eighth Tour and comes after he was forced to pull out last year after he was brought down by a collision with a spectator as he climbed Alpe d'Huez.

Nibali will be backed by compatriot Damiano Caruso and Australia's reigning world time-trial champion Rohan Dennis.

Bahrain-Merida team for Tour de France: Vincenzo Nibali (ITA), Damiano Caruso (ITA), Sonny Colbrelli (ITA), Rohan Dennis (AUS), Ivan Garcia Cortina (ESP), Matej Mohoric (SLO), Dylan Teuns (BEL), Jan Tratnik (CZE) **APF**



Kawhi Leonard

& Finally



Justin Bieber accused Taylor Swift of 'crossing a line' Sunday after she shared a social media post attacking his manager Scooter Braun for buying the rights to much of her back catalog.

TheSix

Airbnb Adventures

Airbnb just unveiled "Airbnb Adventures," opportunity for daring guests to take tours organized by local hosts. One of the featured holidays is a magical 7-day tour of Jordan.



Day 1: Hike through the Dana Biosphere

Guests will journey from Amman to the country's largest nature reserve for a 2.5 hour hike, before camping in Wadi Ghuweir.



Day 2: Explore the Sharah Mountains

Trekkers will hike a further 16.4km through the mountain range. After enjoying views of the Wadi Araba Desert, guests will camp in Furon.



Day 3: Walk through Bedouin shepherd paths

After following nomadic trails through the canyons of Ghibour Whedat, campers will settle in for the night.



Day 4: Learn about Nabatean ruins

Trekkers will explore Little Petra, believed by archaeologists to be a "suburb" of Petra. Visitors will see rock-carved facades and ancient buildings.



Day 5: Peek into the past in Petra

Visitors will avoid the tourists and take a "back door" tour through the ancient city before checking in to a local hotel.



Day 6 and 7: Desert safari to the Dead Sea

Guests will head to Wadi Rum for a 4x4 jeep tour. The next and final day of the schedule involves a visit to the Dead Sea before guests head back to Amman.

CLOSE UP

Nour Arida walks the runway as Paris Couture Week kicks off

Arab News Dubai

Lebanese designer Nicolas Jebran unveiled his latest collection on the sidelines of Paris Couture Week on Sunday, treating a lineup of regional influencers to a first look at his new line.

With the likes of influencer Karen Wazen on hand to take in the new collection, Jebran highlighted his love of social media stars by calling on blogger Nour Arida to close the show.

Arida took to the runway in a semi-sheer, embellished wedding dress with exaggerated hip accents and a cathedral-style veil.

The rest of the collection, dubbed "My Golden Odyssey" by the fashion house, featured structured looks in leathers and velvets in a rich palette of shades — from ruby reds to deep purples, with sparkles galore.

"Sharing a trip into the soul, a look toward a journey that passed and building the blocks of what comes next, the adventures, the obstacles, the laughs... Nicolas Jebran's golden odyssey," the fashion house posted on Instagram, detailing the inspiration behind the couture collection.

"This collection is a culmination of all my life's work," Jebran said before the models took to the catwalk, according to Vogue



Syrian designer Rami Al-Ali showed off his new collection in Paris. Instagram

Arabia, a fitting opener for a designer who has showcased his collections in Beirut for the past 20 years.

Jebran has dressed the who's who of Hollywood and the music



Influencer Karen Wazen was on hand at Nicolas Jebran's couture week show. Instagram

FASHIONFIX

Nicolas Jebran highlighted his love of social media stars by calling on blogger Nour Arida to close the show.

His latest collection featured structured looks in leathers and velvets in a rich palette of shades.

He said the collection is a 'culmination of all my life's work.'

industry, with Cardi B, Beyoncé and Katy Perry having worn his clinging creations in the past and superstar Jennifer Lopez flaunting a neon green body suit by the designer on her current world tour.

He isn't the only Arab designer to take to the storied streets of Paris this week, however.

Syrian designer Rami Al-Ali staged a dazzling preview of his Fall 2019 Couture collection at the Hotel Ritz Paris on Sunday, showing off a 17-piece line featuring crepe, organza, tulle and chiffon, dotted over with Swarovski crystals and pearls for that extra touch of decadence.

Meanwhile, a new exhibition paying tribute to Azzedine Alaïa and his summer 1991 collection was unveiled on Monday in Paris. The "Azzedine Alaïa: The Tati Collection" show features designs that were inspired by Parisian budget store Tati and modelled by Naomi Campbell in the 1990s.

SCREEN LEGEND

Tributes pour in for Egyptian actor Ezzat Abu Auf

Arab News Dubai

Arab celebrities have been paying tribute to veteran Egyptian actor Ezzat Abu Auf, who died in the early hours of Monday at a hospital in Cairo.

The star, who died at the age of 70, was suffering from liver and heart problems, according to local media reports.

Abu Auf was shooting a movie with the Egyptian actor and singer Tamer Hosny at the time of his death.

"We belong to God and to him we return. The respectable artist and father Ezzat Abu Auf died. I ask you to pray for him," Hosny tweeted on Monday morning.

Born in 1948, the acting legend was most famous for his roles in "Hawanem Garden City," "Nisf Rabie Al-Akhir" and "Ziziniyah."



Kim Kardashian named her new shapewear line 'Kimono.' AFP

KARDASHIAN DRAMA

Kyoto mayor joins #KimOhNo row

AFP Tokyo

The mayor of Japan's ancient capital Kyoto has entered into an unlikely correspondence with the queen of selfies Kim Kardashian West, asking her to reconsider naming her shapewear line "Kimono."

The American pop culture icon sparked a social media storm last week when she unveiled the new line, with some in Japan and abroad accusing her of disrespecting the traditional outfit.

And now the mayor has waded into the debate — being had on Twitter under the hashtag #KimOhNo — penning a letter to the star to ask her to reconsider. Kyoto officials told AFP.

"We're concerned that a wrong understanding of kimono will spread since Ms. Kardashian is such a powerful influencer," said Mai Sakai, a Kyoto city official in charge of traditional crafts.

INTERVIEW

Composer Ghiya Rushidat scores big with her new album

Suffiya Ansari Dubai

Born in Saudi Arabia and raised in Jordan, musician Ghiya Rushidat has made a name for herself as one of Hollywood's go-to composers for video games and TV shows.

The award-winning composer, a recipient of the BMI Pete Carpenter Fellowship, was just announced as one of the talents selected for the Sundance Institute of Film Music and Sound Design Lab, where composers, directors and sound designers will collaborate to develop music and sound for fiction and nonfiction film projects from July 9-22.

Rushidat spoke to Arab News about her career and her upcoming album, "All the Imaginary Video Games I Scored."

The composer grew up playing the piano, but only started composing when her boyfriend died of cancer in 2008.

"I was not able to express myself and I was in so much agony ... it was the first time I ever composed," Rushidat said.

She released the composition online and was soon approached by a director who asked to use the track in a documentary, kick-starting her career.

The composer opened up about



The album is set to be released on July 12. Instagram

her artistic process, revealing that it isn't all it's cracked up to be.

"I cry, I sob, I have sleepless nights, I go for walks, I try as much as I can because there are so many stressors in life and art is very pure so I want to make sure it's coming from my heart."

The composer has worked on a variety of projects, including creating compositions for TV shows, as well as scoring video games.

"Composing for TV is more stressful," Rushidat revealed, pointing to the tight deadlines involved in television work.

"I really enjoy video games because I feel that I'm

connecting more with people."

Rushidat's love of the video game genre is evident in the title of her first album, which is set to be released on July 12.

"It is really different because it talks about who I want to be rather than who I am now," she said of the 17-track album.

The boundary-pushing young artist is one to watch and ended by sharing her advice for budding composers.

"Self-doubt and the impostor syndrome are the two vicious diseases that we have as artists ... (but) I think everyone has their own path and you need to trust that."