



TO GET QATAR TRIBUNE'S PDF FOR FREE DAILY ON WHATSAPP  
SUBSCRIBE NOW +974 77542007

**Serena seeking return to form in quest of 24th crown at Wimbledon** PAGE 13



**THE BIG ONE**  
**CRICKET WORLD CUP**  
SRI LANKA VS SOUTH AFRICA

**'UNBEATEN' INDIA MOVE A STEP CLOSER TO WORLD CUP SEMIS**



India's players celebrate beating the West Indies in their 2019 Cricket World Cup group stage match at Old Trafford in Manchester, England, on Thursday. India won by 125 runs to move into the semi-finals of the tournament. India, who won the 1983 World Cup in England and in 2011 in India, have been unbeaten in this tournament so far. (AFP)

TEAM	P	W	L	T	NR	PTS
AUSTRALIA	7	6	1	0	0	12
INDIA	6	5	0	0	1	11
NEW ZEALAND	7	5	1	0	1	11
ENGLAND	7	4	3	0	0	8
BANGLADESH	7	3	3	0	1	7
PAKISTAN	7	3	3	0	1	7
SRI LANKA	6	2	2	0	2	6
WEST INDIES	7	1	5	0	1	3
SOUTH AFRICA	7	1	5	0	1	3
AFGHANISTAN	7	0	7	0	0	0

Note: Top four teams qualify for semi-finals.

**Dashing Kohli leads the way as India pack off West Indies**



India captain Virat Kohli during his knock of 79 runs at Old Trafford in Manchester on Thursday. Kohli, who set up the win for his side, became the fastest batsman to reach 20,000 international runs in his 417th innings. (REUTERS)

INDIA		WEST INDIES	
R. L. Rohit b Holder	45	Chit. Gayle c Jadhav b Shami	6
Rohit Sharma c Hope b Roach	15	Sunil Ambrise b b Panadeya	31
Virat Kohli c sub b Holder	74	Shai Hope b Shami	5
Vijay Shankar c Hope b Roach	14	Nicolas Pooran c Shami b Yadav	28
Kedar Jadhav c Hope b Roach	7	Shimon Hetmer c Rahul b Shami	18
Mahendra Singh Dhoni not out	56	Carlos Brathwaite c Dhoni b Bumrah	1
R. Pandya c Allen b Cottrell	46	Fabian Allen bow b Bumrah	1
Mohit Sharma c Hope b Cottrell	0	Kemar Roach not out	14
Kuldeep Yadav not out	7		
Extras (10, w)	268		
TOTAL (for 7 wickets, 50 overs)	268		
Fall of wickets: 1-29 (Sharma), 2-98 (Rohit), 3-126 (Shankar), 4-140 (Jadhav), 5-180 (Kohli), 6-250 (Pandya), 7-252 (Shami).			

one-day team, remain the only unbeaten side in the tournament and need just one victory from their remaining three league games to guarantee a semi-finals berth. West Indies joined Afghanistan and South Africa as the three teams to bow out of the race for the final four so far. "We can't complain, we have just become the number one side in the world and we have been playing like that for a while now," said captain and man-of-the-match Kohli. "Things hadn't gone our way with the bat in the last few games but we have found a way to win." Shami, who took a hat-trick in the previous game, returned figures of 4-16, removing the dangerous Chris Gayle early after a scratchy innings from the opener. But it was Kohli who set up the win as he became fastest batsman to reach 20,000 international runs in his 417th innings - India's Sachin Tendulkar and Caribbean batsman Brian Lara both required 453 international innings to reach the landmark. Wicketkeeper-batsman M.S. Dhoni and Hardik Pandya boosted the total, putting on 70 runs for the sixth wicket to punish the otherwise-disciplined bowlers. Pandya hit 46 off 38 balls while Dhoni remained unbeaten on 56, ending the innings with a big six. The West Indies bowlers, led by paceman Kemar Roach, had kept India in check until the latter stages, stemming the flow of runs with regular wickets. Roach returned impressive figures of 3-36 in his 10 overs, including the wicket of India opener Rohit Sharma for 18. Kohli, whose 82-ball knock included eight boundaries, extended his fine run of form with some eye-catching shots that charmed a partisan crowd at Old Trafford. West Indies were in trouble early in their reply when

Gayle mistimed a short ball from Shami and was caught by Kedar Jadhav to the left of mid-on after struggling to just six runs off 19 balls. Shai Hope tried to take the Shami on and hit him for a boundary but the bowler responded by rattling his stumps with the next ball as West Indies slipped to 16-2. It was all downhill from there for a struggling Caribbean side who failed to maintain momentum after their opening win against Pakistan. West Indies captain Jason Holder said: "We let ourselves down with the bat. We didn't seize the moment but I would have taken chasing 268. We didn't do it. We have let ourselves down significantly in this tournament. The bowlers had a reasonable campaign but our batting has been too inconsistent. This is our weakest format of the three." Two-time champions India next play hosts England in Birmingham on Sunday.

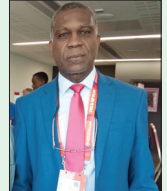
When he used to bowl for the West Indies, he was fast and furious. The man whose run up to the wicket at the moment of action was a sight to behold, 'Whispering Death' as Michael Holding was referred to during his playing days now speaks with the freedom and authority of a man who knows his trade. And indeed, having played the game with great passion and pride, Holding just cannot understand the way the West Indies have been going about their business in this World Cup. "First of all you need to understand that 50 overs is a lot of cricket. And you need proper batsmen and proper bowlers to do the job. You need wicket-taking bowlers in the side," said Holding. "I'm not a fan of players who can do a bit of this and a bit of that," he said referring to the number of all-rounders in the side. True to his self, Holding didn't hold himself back saying, "(Carlos) Brathwaite, (Sunil) Ambrise, (Faiban) Allen have no business to be in the side. They are no good. They

**Don't bring politics into sport: Holding**

**WI great refuses ICC diktat not to refer the term 'Chinaman'**

**AJAY NAIDU**  
MANCHESTER

IT'S not just America that has a problem with China as it threatens to overtake it to become the next superpower. It seems even the International Cricket Council (ICC) has a problem with China! Or else why would the ICC ask its commentators not to refer to the term 'Chinaman' which basically is a left-arm spinner's version of 'Googly'? Well, strange as it may seem the ICC, for reasons best known to them, asked its commentators to avoid saying 'Chinaman' on air. The only problem was, a certain Michael Holding didn't agree and, true to himself, he put his foot down. "Chinaman is a cricketing term and shall continue to say it. Don't bring politics into sports," the no-nonsense West Indian legend told this scribe. For the record, India's left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav dismissed Pakistan's mainstay Babar Azam with a 'Chinaman' that beat the batsman in the air and through the gate.



Former West Indies pace bowler great Michael Holding at Old Trafford in Manchester on Thursday.

and Pakistan. And soon, as he pulled a short delivery from paceman Kemar Roach over the mid-wicket fence for a six, he equalled Mahendra Singh Dhoni's record of 225 sixes, the most hit by an Indian batsman in one-day cricket in his 211th ODI appearance. Had he hit one more six, he would have surpassed Dhoni to the fourth position among the batsmen with most number of sixes in one-day cricket. But, as luck would have it, he was out caught behind getting a faint edge to the wicketkeeper off Kemar Roach. The umpire didn't give him out so the West Indies asked for a referral and the TV Umpire Michael Gough gave him out much to the surprise of Rohit himself. The list is currently led by former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi, who has a staggering 351 sixes to his name. Afridi is followed by West Indian talisman Chris Gayle, who has so far hit 324 sixes in ODIs. Against Pakistan, Rohit had already surpassed Dhoni to set new records for number of international sixes. Rohit - 4th highest in the world - has 358 sixes (including ODIs, T20is and Tests) compared to Dhoni's 355.

**Michael fancies playing wicket-taking bowlers**

**AJAY NAIDU**  
MANCHESTER

WHEN he used to bowl for the West Indies, he was fast and furious. The man whose run up to the wicket at the moment of action was a sight to behold, 'Whispering Death' as Michael Holding was referred to during his playing days now speaks with the freedom and authority of a man who knows his trade. And indeed, having played the game with great passion and pride, Holding just cannot understand the way the West Indies have been going about their business in this World Cup. "First of all you need to understand that 50 overs is a lot of cricket. And you need proper batsmen and proper bowlers to do the job. You need wicket-taking bowlers in the side," said Holding. "I'm not a fan of players who can do a bit of this and a bit of that," he said referring to the number of all-rounders in the side. True to his self, Holding didn't hold himself back saying, "(Carlos) Brathwaite, (Sunil) Ambrise, (Faiban) Allen have no business to be in the side. They are no good. They



Kemar Roach is the only bowler worthy of being in West Indies team for one-dayers, according to Michael Holding.

bowl a lot of rubbish. Even I can fancy my chances as a batsman against these bowlers. I can get about 60 (runs) batting against them at this age of 65," he quipped. "In T20 cricket, they might get away bowling a few overs here and there but definitely not in One-day cricket." According to the West Indian legend only one bowler in the current side measures up to his expectations - Kemar Roach. "Roach is the only wicket-taking bowler in this side. But, strangely, they don't play him in every match. The others just make up the numbers!"

**Pakistan's Waqar says 1992 World Cup parallels are 'freaky'**

**AFP**  
LONDON

FORMER captain Waqar Younis says it is becoming "impossible to ignore" the parallels between Pakistan's World Cup resurgence and their 1992 triumph.

Victories against South Africa and New Zealand in the past week have breathed new life into Pakistan's bid to reach the semi-finals in England and Wales after they won just one of their opening five fixtures. Their trajectory through the tournament has so far mirrored that of their only World Cup triumph to date, when they started slowly in 1992 before picking up pace to lift the trophy. "It is becoming impossible to ignore the parallels with 1992," said Waqar in a column for the International Cricket Council (ICC). "The similarities are freaky and even though the players won't have been thinking about it, there is no way they can put it out of their minds altogether." The prolific fast bowler was robbed of his role in the tournament 27 years ago due

to a back injury. But he is hoping for a repeat of the scenes of joy witnessed when the team returned victorious to Pakistan. "It was heartbreaking, especially when we won, said Waqar of missing the 1992 World Cup.

to a back injury. But he is hoping for a repeat of the scenes of joy witnessed when the team returned victorious to Pakistan. "It was heartbreaking, especially when we won, said Waqar of missing the 1992 World Cup.



# Qatar's Younousse & Tijan all set for World Beach Volleyball action

### Indonesia, Aus in talks over possible 2034 World Cup bid

#### Qatar's second pair of Tamer & Assam excited to make World debut

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

It is indeed a proud moment for Qatar as their two pairs, including rising stars and fourth seed Cherif Younousse and Ahmed Tijan, begin their quest for glory in the FIVB Beach World Championships, which get underway in Hamburg, Germany on Friday.

Younousse, who has appeared in the worlds twice before and was fifth (2015) and ninth (2017) with Jefferson Santos Pereira, has teamed up with Ahmed Tijan. With their steady progress, they earned the fourth seeds in their first World Championship for the team and have been placed in Pool D.

Tamer Abdelrasoul and Assam Ahmed Mahmoud are the second duo. They also make their debut and will be eyeing to qualify for the second round, which will be as tough as the first. Mahmoud, a regular volleyball player in Al Ahli Club, is excited about getting an opportunity to play in the worlds for the first time.

"I'm very proud that I'll be representing Qatar in the World Championships for the



Qatari players with coach Mariano Baracetti (left) and officials after a training session ahead of the FIVB Beach World Championships in Hamburg, Germany.

first time. We're excited to get chance. Hopefully, we'll exploit and try to make to the next stage. We know that all the teams are tough but we worked hard and are feeling confident about good results in Hamburg," said Mahmoud before leaving Doha.

Younousse and Tijan have been the leading duo in Asia, having won the Asian Games and Asian Championship staying undefeated throughout. Besides, they have won three bronze medals in high-

ranking events on the FIVB World Tour. Their confidence level should be high, entering the event.

In three last events on the World Tour, Younousse and Tijan secured the third spot in the Four-Star Xiamen Open and followed it up with a 17th spot in the Four-Star Ostrava Open and were placed ninth in the Four-Star Warsaw Open. They also featured in two non-Tour events and won them to give a winning lift to their confidence and form.

It is needless to say that they will be seeking to improve on what Younousse achieved along with Pereira in two previous attempts. They know their level well and if they could play to what has fetched them the fourth seeds and sixth rank in the world, it won't be a problem for them to enter the knock-out, their prime objective.

Younousse and Tijan will begin with pool play in D, having been bracketed with Dries Koekelkoren and Tom



Qatari players in action during a training session in Hamburg.

#### MEN'S POOL

**Pool D**  
Cherif Younousse/Ahmed Tijan (Qatar) - Fourth seed  
Dries Koekelkoren/Tom van Walle (Belgium)  
Ondrej Perusic/David Schweiner (Czech Republic)  
Enrico Rossi/Adrian Carambula (Italy)

**Pool E**  
Konstantin Semenov/Ilya Leshchukov (Russia) - Fifth seed  
Alison Cerutti/Alvaro Morais Filho (Brazil)  
William Allen/Stafford Slick (USA)  
Tamer Abdelrasoul/Assam Mahmoud (Qatar)

stantin Semenov and Ilya Leshchukov (Russia), Alison Cerutti and Alvaro Morais Filho (Brazil) and William Allen and Stafford Slick (USA). The Qatar second team opens against the Russians at 2 pm, also on Friday.

There are 48 pairs in the men's and women's sections. They have been divided into 12 groups on single round-robin format. After the pool stage, top two pairs will advance directly to the knockout phase.

While four best pairs out of the 12 third best pairs will automatically be placed in the first knock-out, the remaining eight will battle it out for four slots in the Lucky Loser elimination phase. The championship will conclude on July 7 with the men's bronze and gold medal matches.

Abdelrasoul and Mahmoud are clubbed in Pool E along with fifth seeds Kon-

AFP  
JAKARTA

INDONESIA and Australia are in preliminary talks about making a joint bid for the 2034 World Cup, the Southeast Asian nation's football association said on Thursday.

The neighbours discussed the potential proposal at a special meeting of the Asian Football Federation (AFF) in Laos last week.

"At the meeting we agreed to join with Australia to continue bidding for the World Cup," Gatot Widagdo, spokesman for the Indonesian Football Association (PSSI), told AFP.

No comment was immediately available from the Australian side.

Widagdo said the PSSI started talks with Australia's football federation after Thailand withdrew from a combined bid with Indonesia to host FIFA's showpiece tournament.

The Indonesia-Australia talks come just days after Thai prime minister Prayut Chan-O-cha announced that 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations had agreed to launch a bid to host the 2034 event.

It is not clear what impact the multi-country bid would have on Australia and Indonesia's possible hosting. Indonesia also plans to team up with Australia in a bid to host the 2021 FIFA Under-20 World Cup, Widagdo said.

## Salah sends Pharaohs into AFCON last 16

AFP  
CAIRO

MOHAMED Salah scored his first goal of the Africa Cup of Nations as hosts Egypt secured a place in the last 16 on Wednesday with a 2-0 win over the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Ahmed Elmohamady prodded Egypt ahead on 25 minutes after a wicked Salah cross and the Liverpool star slammed in a second shortly before half-time to spark frenzied celebrations at a packed Cairo International Stadium.

Record seven-time champions Egypt rode their luck at times as DR Congo twice struck the crossbar in the first half but the Group A leaders held firm to join Nigeria as the first teams through to the knockout phase.

Egypt overcame the distraction of Amr Warda being

banished from the squad earlier in the day over mounting sexual harassment allegations.

"I think the team is strong and the squad is strong but we are not happy to lose a member of our family," said coach Javier Aguirre.

"The team focused more on our match and played the 90 minutes in a serious manner. I don't think the Egyptian team will be affected by the absence of anyone."

Salah was guilty of missing a handful of chances in the curtain-raiser and this season's Premier League joint top scorer again threatened inside five minutes here when an interception broke his way only for the Egyptian to skew wide under pressure.

After four days of small crowds, another capacity 75,000 crowd turned out to cheer on the hosts in the



Egypt's Mohamed Salah (centre) scores against DR Congo during their 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Group A match in Cairo on Wednesday. (EPA-EFE)

capital, but they were nearly silenced when Marcel Tisserand slammed against the bar at a corner. DR Congo came to Egypt as one of the most unpredictable qualifiers having finished

third in 2015 only to make a timid quarter-final exit two years ago, and they fell behind for the second straight game as Elmohamady forced home after the ball fell kindly to him fol-

lowing an aerial challenge with Christian Luyindama.

Having created the opener with his vicious right-wing cross, Salah then stung the palms of Ley Matampi with a powerful 25-yard free-kick.

Egypt would be rescued by the woodwork once more though when a deep cross was nodded back across goal by Bokadi Bope and Jonathan Boling's looping header bounced back off the bar.

With his side riding their luck, Salah rose to the occasion and settled Egyptian nerves two minutes before half-time with a typically brilliant finish.

Played into space down the right by Mahmoud "Trezeguet" Hassan, Salah skipped inside Tisserand and ripped a crisp low drive inside Matampi's near post to cue a volcanic eruption from the masses of delirious Egyptian supporters.

## Leclerc plays down hopes of Ferrari fightback in Austria

REUTERS  
SPELBERG, AUSTRIA

CHARLES Leclerc refused to fuel any false optimism at the Austrian Grand Prix on Thursday and said Ferrari faced another hard weekend with dominant rivals Mercedes chasing an 11th win in a row.

Formula One's oldest and most successful team arrived at the scenic Spielberg track 140 points adrift of the champions, who have won all eight races this year with Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas.

Leclerc, in his first season with Ferrari, finished third and best of the rest in last Sunday's French Grand Prix.

"I think at the moment it's quite difficult. They seem very, very quick," said the 21-year-old Monegasque when asked whether Ferrari could give Mer-

cedes a tougher time at the Red Bull Ring.

"They were extremely quick in Paul Ricard, especially in the race pace, so I think we are focusing on ourselves and trying to do the best job possible. But, to be honest, it's quite difficult to be at their level."

Leclerc is still chasing his first career win, coming close in the second race of the year in Bahrain. The youngster has been on the podium three times and sounded more hopeful after Sunday's race, in which he had chased down Bottas to finish 0.929 behind the Finn.

"I think he was struggling quite a bit in the second set of tyres with some blistering. We weren't. I think we managed quite well our race so it shows that still everything is possible but it's just very difficult," he said.

## QFA President meets CONCACAF chief



QFA President Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al Thani met with Victor Montagliani, chief of CONCACAF to discuss matters of mutual interest in football on Wednesday. Hassan al Thawadi, Secretary-General of Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, was also present during the meeting which took place on the sidelines of the CONCACAF Gold Cup currently being held in the United States. Matters of mutual interest were discussed that included signing of MoUs in the near future. The two officials later exchanged souvenirs after QFA President presented Montagliani with a football jersey.

## France-US showdown in Paris cauldron keeps women's World Cup burning

REUTERS  
PARIS

HIGH stakes, high heat, high turn-out and high expectations - the US women's soccer team have declared themselves ready for a high-profile women's World Cup quarter-final against hosts France in Paris on Friday.

For many fans the match is like a final, with "Les Bleues" among the stand-out teams of the tournament and perennial challengers to the domination of the American defending champions.

"It's going to be a fantastic match," USA co-captain Megan Rapinoe told reporters on Thursday.

"It's going to be a great stage for both teams who have had a lot of pressure and a lot of eyes on them to really just go out and perform."

The atmosphere at the Parc des Princes is expected to be highly charged, not just because of the quality of the teams but the groundswell of support from French World Cup fans and the soaring temperatures amid a heatwave.



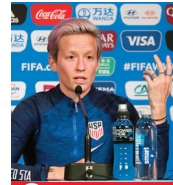
France's players take part in a training session in Clairefontaine-en-Yvelines France on eve of their 2019 Women's World Cup quarter-final match against the USA. (AFP)

The temperature is expected to hit 35 Celsius on Friday, although by the time the match kicks off at 1900 GMT, it should have dropped to around 28 degrees. TV viewing figures have exceeded all expectations, with nearly 11 million people tuning into France's 2-1 win over Brazil on Sunday.

More than 35 million watched the match in Brazil, underlining the popularity of women's soccer globally.

"This is a magnificent showcase piece for our sport," Jill Ellis, the US head coach, said on Thursday. "This game makes it bigger. Both teams want it and have to go earn it. It's going to be a fantastic game."

France and the United States were the pre-tournament favourites to lift the trophy and they have been on a crash course since December, when the draw suggested they would meet in the quarter-finals if



USA co-captain Megan Rapinoe

Big Stage!  
It's going to be a fantastic match. It's going to be a great stage for both teams who have had a lot of pressure and a lot of eyes on them to really just go out and perform.

Both teams topped their groups. "This is a big game and the players know that," said Ellis. "They're wired for this, they're built for this, you don't come into the U.S. programme and hide in the shadows - you come

in and you're in the spotlight right away."

If the French win on Friday, it would be the first time in tournament history the United States have failed to advance to the semi-finals. The Stars and Stripes have won three World Cups.

Overall, this World Cup has shown that women's soccer has star-power and can pull in fans, creating a buzz and momentum that advertisers and sponsors cannot ignore.

"The women's game in general has grown tremendously," said Rapinoe.

"I guess the task for each team is to try to be the team that is growing as fast as the game is. France has done a really good job of that."

Although France's highest World Cup finish is fourth, the team has been making waves in international football recently with top-notch players like Wendie Renard and Amandine Henry.

"This is the kind of game that makes World Cup so exciting," US forward Tobin Heath said.



## Cup Talk

## Pakistan clash draws 229m TV viewers in India

MUMBAI: The June 16 clash between neighbours India and Pakistan attracted 229 million television viewers in India, accounting for over 60% of the screen audience for the first three weeks of the World Cup in the cricket-crazy nation. The first 27 matches in the 10-team quadrennial tournament, which is being played in England and Wales, attracted 381 million viewers, according to Broadcast Audience Research Council of India.

The Virat Kohli-led side had four matches – including the washout against New Zealand – slotted in during that period, drawing a combined total of 321 million viewers. The rain-hit, stop-start World Cup match at Old Trafford, Manchester, between the political rivals drew a massive global audience and organisers received nearly 800,000 applications for tickets at the 23,000-capacity stadium. Official broadcaster Star India is showing the World Cup in six languages, including English. The broadcaster's live streaming platform Hotstar saw 170 million daily active users during the India-Pakistan match, making it the highest-ever single day reach for the platform. (REUTERS)

## Shirzad to replace Alan in Afghanistan team

AFGHANISTAN'S Sayed Ahmad Shirzad has been approved as fellow pacerman Afab Alam's replacement for the remainder of the World Cup, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Thursday. The ICC said Alam, who had taken four wickets in three matches during the tournament, had been replaced under "unusual circumstances" without further details. Shirzad has played only one ODI in his career but is in line to feature in Afghanistan's remaining two games against Pakistan on Saturday and West Indies on July 4. (REUTERS)

# Coach tells Lanka to beware of Proteas

1996 champions aim for improved batting to keep semis hopes alive

AFP

SRI Lanka coach Chandika Hathurusingha has warned that misfiring South Africa could still be dangerous after his side revived their World Cup hopes with a shock victory against England.

The Sri Lankans, the 1996 champions, had a miserable start to the tournament in England and Wales, with just one win from their first five games, during which they suffered two washouts.

But last week's win against the hosts and England's subsequent defeat at the hands of Australia has thrown the World Cup wide open.

Hathurusingha said South Africa still posed a threat in Friday's match, even though they will be heading home after the group phase.

"When you have no pressure, fearless cricket and that can get them going, so at the same time they can turn up and just want to go home, so you never know," he said.

Sri Lanka lost their One-Day International series earlier this year in South Africa 5-0 but Hathurusingha said the team were confident after their 20-run win against England.

"We think that we have a good chance because we are coming off two wins (they also beat Afghanistan earlier in the tournament) and a very good win against England, although



Being alert

When you have no pressure of qualifying, they can come and play without any pressure, fearless cricket and that can get them going, so at the same time they can turn up and just want to go home, so you never know.

Sri Lanka coach Chandika Hathurusingha on South Africa

we didn't play our best cricket to win the game in terms of batting.

"And I think we had a perfect bowling display, defending that target (232-9). I mean, cricket is a funny game.

"You can lose so many games and win the one that is the most important, it is this next game. I think we have enough talent and the skill-set to compete with them tomorrow."

The coach talked about the importance of putting partnerships together and the need to "click as a batting group".

"We have been practising a lot of power-hitting with various ways of using the net facilities we have," he said.

"The good thing that what has worked for us is that the top order, we had two good partnerships at the start, apart



Sri Lanka's Lahiru Thirimanne takes part in a training session at the Riverside Ground in Chester-le-Street, England, on Thursday, ahead of their 2019 Cricket World Cup group stage match against South Africa. (AFP)

## Duminy 'ashamed' of South Africa World Cup flop

CHESTER-LE-STREET: JP Duminy has apologised to South Africa fans after the country's "dismal" showing at the World Cup. Faf du Plessis's men have beaten only winless Afghanistan in their opening seven games, meaning they cannot mathematically reach the last four.

"It's been pretty dismal from our part," said Duminy, who will retire from the 50-over game after the tournament in England and Wales. "We obviously want to apologise to the public and the South African fans for letting them down. You know when you represent your country it is always a proud moment and you understand that you represent 50, 60 million people, that is a proud moment in itself. And when you put in performances like that, you know, you in a way almost feel ashamed of that."

Reports have emerged that coach Ottis Gibson will be in the firing line after the tournament, with Cricket South Africa (CSA) president Chris Nerzani promising that "heads will roll".

All-rounder Duminy, who has not featured in the past four matches, said the players, not the coaches, should take responsibility for a dismal campaign. "It's always a difficult one when they bear the most brunt of our performances," he added, speaking ahead of South Africa's match penultimate match against Sri Lanka on Friday. (AFP)

from the last game. We know what they can produce and we still back them to do that so hopefully in the next few games they come off.

Sri Lanka have six points after six matches, one behind Bangladesh and Pakistan and two behind fourth-placed England. Those three com-

peting teams have all played seven games.

The top four sides from the 10-team round-robin phase progress to the semi-finals.

## India and NZ games 'quarter-finals' for England, says Root

REUTERS LONDON

FOURTH-PLACED England will be playing two virtual "quarter-finals" at the Cricket World Cup when they face India and New Zealand in their last two round robin matches as they look to seal a semi-final spot, batsman Joe Root has said. England's 64-run loss to Australia on Tuesday left their qualification hopes in the balance with Bangladesh, Pakistan (both one point behind) and Sri Lanka (two points behind with a game in hand) breathing down their necks.

England had not beaten India or New Zealand in seven attempts at the World Cup since 1992 but Root is confident they can still reach the knockout stages.

"We'll see these two games as quarter-finals... which in a way when it comes round to the knockout stage, should serve you well," Root told reporters.

"We believe we're still more than capable of qualifying for the semi-finals and when that happens, it doesn't really matter how you got there because that's when the tournament really starts to kick in."

"I personally think we've got to be very calm about how we approach the next couple of games. The games themselves might get quite emotional, especially the atmosphere at Edgbaston for the World Cup. Root also said that England have not adapted to the slow pitches at the tournament, having played on batsman-friendly surfaces at the same grounds during One-Day International bilateral series played in the build-up to the World Cup. The hosts were criticised for not making most of the conditions against Australia despite winning the toss while their "one-dimensional" approach to batting has been slammed by pundits.

## THE CHAMPIONSHIPS: WIMBLEDON 2019

## Serena arrives, seeks return to form

REUTERS LONDON

SERENA Williams will bring her quest for a now-equaling 24th Grand Slam title to Wimbledon next week where she will try to shake off a nagging knee injury and show the tennis world that her window of opportunity is still open.

Williams has won 23 Grand Slam titles, one behind the all-time record held by Margaret Court, for over two years and has shown little evidence of late that she will be able to snap that drought at the All England Club.

"As long as she's playing, she's going to be a threat to win anything," ESPN tennis analyst and former world number one John McEnroe told a conference call.

"But it's just now there's more things that can go wrong. I suppose, like more days where she might not have it and other days where players won't give in as easily. So that just makes it more difficult." The 37-year-old American's time on court has been limited



Serena Williams of USA arrives for a training session at the All England Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, on Wednesday. The tournament will be held from July 1 to July 14. (EPA-EFE)

to a handful of matches since the Australian Open in January due in part to a knee injury that kept her from competing in a tune-up event ahead of Wimbledon, where action begins on July 1.

After losing in the third round at the French Open, Williams did not exactly sound her confident self when asked if she would have enough time to get in optimal shape for Wimbledon, where she is a

seven-times winner.

"I hope so. I'm still working on it and working on getting there," said Williams. "So I think it will be, I think it is enough time. We'll see, but I definitely hope so." When Williams was at the peak of her career, she was so far above the competition that she could barrel her way through a Grand Slam draw even if she was having an off day.

But the combination of injury, a limited playing schedule and an increased standard of women's tennis over the past few years have left many to question whether she can again triumph in one of tennis' big riband events.

Two steps slower Williams won the most recent of her Grand Slam titles at the 2017 Australian Open when she was in the early stages of her pregnancy, which led to her taking a year off from competition.

She came back with a bang in 2018 and despite not playing at her best managed to reach the final at both Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

"It's hard for me to bet against Serena. Look what happened last year: Two finals in Grand Slams," said ESPN tennis analyst and 18-times Grand Slam champion Chris Evert.

"The one difference that I see in Serena is since she's come back, she's been one or two steps slower than normal. I think that's a little bit of fitness. I think it's a little bit of match play. I think it's a lit-

tle bit of confidence." Healthy legs are key to any player's game but perhaps even more vital for someone like Williams who relies heavily on her physicality and court coverage to set up big shots.

Williams has been unable to deliver her trademark big serves on a consistent basis of late but will likely take comfort in the friendly confines of the All England Club given she is most effective on grass.

But unlike in her prime, Williams' rivals know she is not the same player she once was and do not walk onto the court nearly as intimidated as they once were when facing one of the game's all-time greats.

"There's so many things that may be going against Serena, and she thrives on that, and she loves that, and that's when she comes through," said Evert.

"I would have said in January, if there was any Grand Slam she was going to win, it would probably be Wimbledon... and if her serve is on, she's going to be tough to beat."



Rafael Nadal takes a break during a training session at the All England Championships in Wimbledon, London, on Wednesday. (EPA-EFE)

## Wary of past pain, Nadal eyes 3rd title

REUTERS LONDON

RAFA Nadal received a degree of sympathy this week when he questioned a Wimbledon seedings formula that relegated him down to third in this year's draw despite a world ranking of two.

After all, he has been champion there twice, is bang in form after a record-stretching 12th French Open, is injury free and last year was a whisker away from reaching the final.

Despite that, the 33-year-old would be the first to admit that despite twice lifting the trophy the All England Club's lawns have not always been a happy hunting ground.

While his 2008 defeat of Roger Federer in a final for the ages stands as one of his greatest days, shock losses at the hands of Steve Darcis, Lucas Rozol, Dustin Brown and Gilles Muller represent some of his darkest moments.

Wimbledon's low bouncing lawns also provide the ultimate test of the creaky knees that disrupted Nadal's season this year and forced him to withdraw from Miami.

It is why Nadal's excitement is tempered by a little trepidation every time he heads to his most erratic Grand Slam and why there is a sense of unfinished business.

After backing up his 2008 triumph in 2016, Tomas Berdych in the 2010 final and reaching the final again in 2011 – Nadal then went five visits without going past the fourth round.

Those dismissing his grass-court prowess were forced to eat humble pie last year when Nadal roared through to the semi-finals when he lost 8-6 in the fifth set to Novak Djokovic in one of the highest-quality matches ever seen on Centre Court.

Nadal has again opted to play on Centre Court's grass-court matches in the build-up to Wimbledon, preferring instead to practise in Mallorca and then take part in the Aspal Classic exhibition event at the swanky Hurlingham Club where on Wednesday he was soundly beaten by Marin Cilic.

"I love to play on grass," he said shortly after claiming his 18th Grand Slam title by defeating Dominic Thiem in Paris. "Honestly, the last two years that I played in Wimbledon, I felt close again."

## Don't care-Kyrgios the hottest ticket in town

REUTERS LONDON

PERHAPS, in years to come, tennis fans will yearn for the days of "characters like Nick Kyrgios", just as they do for John McEnroe, the one-time Superbrat everyone loved to hate who is now embraced as a lovable rogue from the golden age.

Maybe the Australian will publish an autobiography titled "Bothered" (as in not), just as McEnroe did with "Seri-

ous" (as in "you cannot be"), his most famous outburst of all).

The main difference between the two, of course, is that McEnroe won seven – 77 of them, including seven Grand Slam singles crowns, and loved the game. Kyrgios would appear to have more in common with Andre Agassi, who also achieved greatness on court despite, he later revealed in his autobiography, hating almost every minute of his career.

Kyrgios should be challenging the dominance of the



Nick Kyrgios of Australia.

Big Three. His head-to-head record against them is impressive (2-0 against Novak Djokovic, 3-3 against Rafa Nadal, but 1-5 against Roger Federer) and it seems to be generally accepted that he has the talent

to win Grand Slams.

The problem appears to be that Kyrgios doesn't seem to care about it and has never gone beyond the quarter-finals in a major. Still only 24, his career is littered with fines and penalties, particularly for "tantrums".

– not trying – which he often does when anything gets under his skin. He serves under-arm, argues with and abuses officials and fans, and shows scant respect for opponents.

In a recent interview he ripped into Djokovic ("super

player" but with a "sick obsession with wanting to be liked") and Nadal ("super salty" and "gracious only when he wins").

He says he does not care about fans when he tanks or is ejected from a tournament – he was at this year's Italian Open for throwing a chair.

He boasts of the millions he has in the bank and uses those riches to justify not needing to try. He pulled out of this year's French Open citing illness, days after saying the tournament "absolutely sucks".





SCOTT LAIRD

TRAVELPULSE | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

# Tips for enjoying a hassle free visit to Paris

FRANCE is the world's most visited country, with almost 87 million tourism visitors in 2017. A significant portion of those visitors, which is more than the population of France itself, were bound for Paris.

Paris is at the top of many travelers' lists and has been for centuries. It was the kickoff point for the Grand Tour tradition among the upper classes during the headiest years of the British Empire, as well as a must-stop destination for debutantes to buy ball gowns during the Belle Époque.

Today, throngs of global visitors stand in lines to see attractions such as the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, smile with delight as they bite into their first Parisian croissant and excitedly peer through the glass barrier at the macaron counter at Ladurée.

They also get into arguments with each other over budgeting or, worse, fall asleep into their bouillabaisse from exhaustion or fall for common tourist scams. Here's a short list of tips I've compiled over the course of several visits to Paris.

## Avoid the train from the airport

If arriving at Charles de Gaulle International Airport in Roissy, the RER Regional train serves Gare du Nord, where connections to taxis and the Paris Metro are available. While this is generally the most convenient way into Paris, it's also fraught with problems. Laden with luggage off an overnight flight from North America, jetlagged with clouded judgment, it makes visitors a prime target for pickpockets — even veteran travelers can fall victim.

It's better to take one of the direct bus services (some of which have free Wi-Fi) that drop off at points convenient to several Paris hotels, or enjoy the door-direct service of a taxi or a ridesharing service. After a few days of being used to the rhythm of the city, with the benefit of a few good night's sleeps, it's less risky to take the train back to the airport (although a taxi to the train station is probably a safer bet — save the Metro for in-stay journeys without luggage).

## Ignore strangers near popular tourist attractions

It's a shame to have to give such advice when the purpose of travel is to connect with new people, but most situations where visitors to Paris will be approached on the street by a stranger turn out to be well-trodden scams. Don't sign petitions, trust anyone who has "found" jewelry on the



The Stravinsky Fountain sits between the Centre Pompidou museum and Saint-Merri church.

ground or take a picture for someone who will drop their own camera and demand payment. Scammers prey on the good nature and politeness of visitors, and it's, unfortunately, safer to ignore strangers on the street.

That's not to say one shouldn't strike up conversations with neighbors in cafes or restaurants, but something starts to seem odd, trust your gut.

## Don't ignore the concierge

Hotel concierges are lifesavers in Paris, particularly when it comes to booking tables in restaurants (often necessary a day or two in advance) or offering advice about excursions or pre-booking museum tickets. Best of all, their services are free of charge.

Concierges also cultivate relationships with many of the proprietors of restaurants they frequently send guests to, so guests



The Pantheon, in Paris; Latin Quarter, holds the tombs of Voltaire, Rousseau, Alexandre Dumas and other famous French citizens.

will arrive armed with the power of that relationship to ensure they have a trouble-free experience.

## Don't overschedule

This is good advice for any destination, but even more so in the City of Light, where half the joy of exploring the city is getting lost



Nearly 7 million people visit the Eiffel Tower every year. (TNS)



and wandering. Too many visitors attempt to work off a checklist, attempting to see the Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Montmartre and Arc de Triomphe all in the same day.

A better idea is to agree on one or two prime objectives for each day, preferably within the same area. Perhaps it's the Eiffel Tower in the

morning and Musee d'Orsay in the afternoon, knowing each won't take an entire half day, leaving plenty of time for transit and wandering. My visits have generally been long weekends, and I tend to focus each trip on a different quarter of the city.

## Don't be afraid to 'be a tourist'

Most visitors to Paris simply will not blend in, no matter how hard they try. Don't be afraid to take pictures of monuments or take advantage of the Batobus, the tourist boat that stops at popular attractions along the Seine. In spite of its reputation for snooty residents, Paris has fully embraced the fact that tourism is one of the city's major industries. Visitors needn't be ashamed of their status, and attempts to "go native" will typically only make one stand out even more.

## But don't overdo it

That said, there's also no harm in paying general respect to the norms of a place one is visiting. One needn't be a fashion plate, but generally speak-

ing Parisians don't wear shorts, tank tops, baseball caps, flip-flops, souvenir items or stereotypically "French" attire (the one exception seems to be horizontally striped shirts).

Parisians are also generally reserved — it's rare that they'll strike up conversations with strangers and when they do speak, it's generally several decibels lower than what North Americans may be used to — it's polite to modulate accordingly.

## Preplan expenses and preplan flexibility

Preplanning can be important when it comes to budget, but it's also important to allow enough budget for contingencies, such as taking cabs or rideshares when pressed for time or due to fatigue, when hunger strikes or a refreshment break is needed. Most of the arguments I overhear in Paris concern budget or time management, so it's best for everyone's sanity if the major non-negotiable items are settled in advance.



Cafes with outdoor seating line the streets of Paris, and are a good place to people watch.



Lining up for crepes at La Droguerie on Rue des Rosiers in the Marais neighborhood of Paris.



No trip to Paris is complete without sampling a few macarons.



Le Consulat Cafe in the Montmartre section of Paris is said to have been a popular hangout for artists such as Picasso and Van Gogh.

## Annabelle Comes Home: Latest in the uneven horror franchise is a letdown



Katie Sarife in a still from the film Annabelle Comes Home. (TNS)

RAFER GUZMÁN

NEWSDAY | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ANNABELLE Comes Home, the latest entry in Gary Dauberman's successful horror franchise, feels like a test of David Lynch's oft-cited theory that 70 index cards equal a feature film.

He didn't say they have to be related, did he? Dauberman, the screenwriter and co-creator of the "Annabelle" franchise — part of the "Conjuring" universe — makes his directorial debut with this third installment. It's a mix of high points and low points, much like the overall series itself. The characters can be compelling, the young cast (all female) is engaging and there's even a little thread of pathos running through the story. Somewhere around the 50th index card, though, the ideas lose focus, the story unravels and "Annabelle Comes Home" starts to feel like a stack of random ideas.

The movie gets off to a fairly strong start. Ed and Lorraine Warren, the famed paranormal investigators (series regulars Patrick Wilson and Vera

Farmiga), provide a slight twist to the usual baby-sitting scenario: Their daughter, Judy (Mckenna Grace), has a touch of clairvoyance, like Mom. Their basement is spookier than the average, too, filled with evil objects from old cases. The only local girl brave enough to take a weekend-long gig watching Judy is Mary Ellen, played by Madison Iseman as a plucky, All-American blonde.

Enter Daniela, a raven-haired troublemaker who invites herself over, makes a bee-line for the basement and discovers a glass case containing the doll Annabelle (she of the ginger pigtails and death-mask smile). This is where things get good. Daniela, played with smarts and a sly sexuality by Katie Sarife, feels like a blend of Louise Brooks in "Pandora's Box" and Veronica Lodge in the "Archie" comics. "What'd you do to get in here?" she asks the doll, as if addressing a fellow delinquent. Daniela has a personal reason for dabbling with damnation, though, making her the film's most (perhaps only) complex character.

During the film's enjoyable first acts, Dauberman lights a slow fuse and

patiently lets it burn. He has fun with the early-'70s backdrop, using the forgotten board game Feely-Meeley to create a couple of shivery moments. Once Annabelle gets loose and wreaks havoc, though, Dauberman throws in every idea from his corkboard: Demons, dead priests, bloody brides, a doorway to the afterlife. Cinematographer Michael Burgess ("The Curse of La Llorona") shoots most of it in a muddy charcoal-gray, as if trying to hide the clichés.

"Annabelle Comes Home" is a letdown partly because it starts out so well. It would be interesting to see Dauberman, who also adapted Stephen King's "It," tackle a coming-of-age film or even a straight-ahead drama and use a fresh deck.

<b>Film:</b>	ANNABELLE COMES HOME
<b>Rating:</b>	★ ★ (R - some gruesome imagery)
<b>Director:</b>	Gary Dauberman
<b>Cast:</b>	Madison Iseman, Mckenna Grace, Katie Sarife
<b>NOW SHOWING IN QATAR</b>	

**Annabelle Comes Home kicks off Tuesday with solid \$3.5 million in US**

REBECCA RUBIN

VARIEITY ENTERTAINMENT NEWS SERVICE

WARNER Bros. and New Line's Annabelle Comes Home collected strong \$3.5 mn in Tuesday night previews.

The supernatural thriller is expected to earn \$30 mn over its first five days in theaters. Annabelle Comes Home is the third Annabelle movie and seventh entry in the Conjuring franchise. Preview ticket sales are in line with honor titles like Purgé 3: Election Year (\$3.6 mn), The Curse of La Llorona (\$2.8 mn). Those numbers are slightly above 2014's Annabelle, which earned \$2.1 mn in previews.

Annabelle Comes Home is on pace for one of the lowest debuts in the Conjuring Universe. The first Annabelle movie marks the smallest start with \$3.7 mn. The biggest opening weekend in the franchise belongs to The Nun with \$53 mn.

Despite new offerings, Disney and Pixar's Toy Story 4 is expected to lead domestic box office charts again. The animated forquel launched with \$118 mn last weekend and has since generated \$135 mn in North America and \$258 mn worldwide.

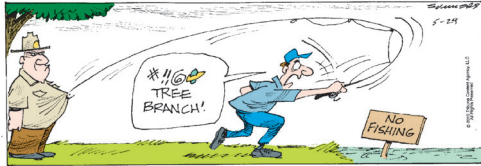


# QT KIDS CORNER



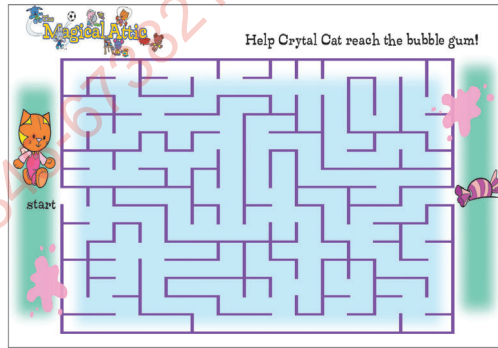
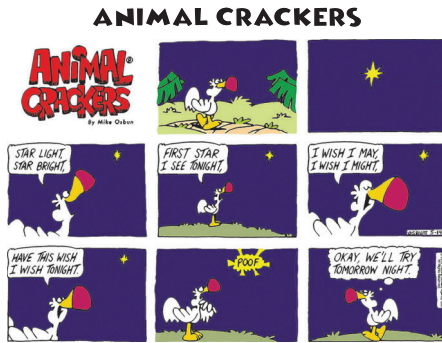
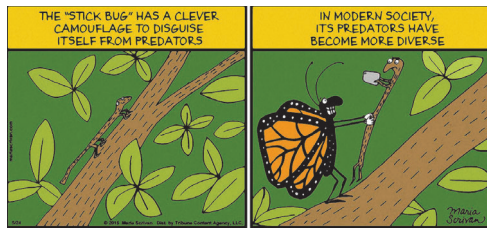
## Bound & Gagged

By Dana Summers



## Half Full

By Maria Scrivan



## PLAYHOUSE

### Los Angeles Times Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15						16	
17					18						19	
20				21							22	
23				24							25	
26	27	28	29	30					31	32	33	
34		35				36			37			
38						39			40			
41				42	43			44	45			
46				47				48		49		
50								51	52			
53	54	55				56	57	58		59	60	61
62						63				64		
65						66				67		
68						69				70		

By Paul Coulter  
©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

- ACROSS**
- 1 Soft ball
  - 5 Berkshire Hathaway headquarters city
  - 10 Greenish-yellow pear
  - 14 Mine, in Montreal
  - 15 Chicano rock band Los
  - 16 "Enchanted" girl in a 2004 film
  - 17 Hors d'oeuvre cracker
  - 18 Lose tauness
  - 19 Logician's error, maybe
  - 20 2011 Steve Carell romcom
  - 23 Slangy affirmative
  - 24 Light beam
  - 25 Possessor's realm
  - 28 Lav, in Bath
  - 30 Zero in
  - 31 Federal bldgs. with mailboxes
  - 34 Rickety abode
  - 38 Diva's time to shine
  - 39 Savings plan ints.
  - 40 Fair-haired sci-fi race
  - 41 "Stop whining!"
  - 42 Chinese menu surname
  - 47 Put away
  - 48 Pine... cleaning brand
  - 49 Old Nintendo game console: Abbr.
  - 50 UFO pilots, supposedly
  - 51 Nintendo game console
  - 53 Weather ch., 34; no
  - 41-Across has any
- DOWN**
- 1 DEA operative
  - 2 House of Saud bigwig
  - 3 Duty roster
  - 4 Like soda pop
  - 5 Part of a comfort simile
  - 6 Mad Magazine cartoonist
  - 7 Leigh Hunt's "\_\_\_ Ben Adhem"
  - 8 Earring style
  - 9 "Take two \_\_\_ and call me +"
  - 10 Kind of dancer
  - 11 Breakfast spread
  - 12 Balkan native
  - 13 Superman accessory
  - 21 Holler
  - 22 Beaver
  - 62 Similar in nature
  - 63 Online biz
  - 64 Compete for the America's Cup
  - 65 Fish catchers
  - 66 Art class subjects
  - 67 Stubbson sort
  - 68 Aussie greeting
  - 69 Part of LED
  - 70 Marked for deletion
  - 1 DEB operative
  - 2 House of Saud bigwig
  - 3 Duty roster
  - 4 Like soda pop
  - 5 Part of a comfort simile
  - 6 Mad Magazine cartoonist
  - 7 Leigh Hunt's "\_\_\_ Ben Adhem"
  - 8 Earring style
  - 9 "Take two \_\_\_ and call me +"
  - 10 Kind of dancer
  - 11 Breakfast spread
  - 12 Balkan native
  - 13 Superman accessory
  - 21 Holler
  - 22 Beaver
- creations
- 25 Town, in Germany
  - 26 Irish banknotes
  - 27 Protein-building acid
  - 29 Poet with dedication?
  - 31 McCain's running mate
  - 32 "... all ye faithful ..."
  - 33 Decides not to attend
  - 35 Baseball club
  - 36 Tulsa sch. named for an evangelist
  - 37 Use an axe on
  - 42 Test version
  - 43 London area that includes Canary Wharf
  - 44 "Is there another way?"
  - 45 Landed
  - 50 Ity
  - 52 Answer at the door
  - 53 Pealed
  - 54 Scratched (out)
  - 55 Pocket bread
  - 56 Small decorative case
  - 57 Carpenter's groove
  - 58 Wasn't honest
  - 59 French waters
  - 60 Stir up
  - 61 Malamute's burden

## SUDOKU

THE SAURAU OF POZZLES By The Mephem Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

© 2018 The Mephem Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAGEE  
RISVU  
RIYFUP  
VACRIA

Answer here:

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

HE LIKED TO GAMBLE BY PLAYING ROULETTE AND THEN BLACKJACK OR ---

backlash or - VICE VERSA

Answer: He liked to gamble by playing roulette and then blackjack or - VICE VERSA

Jumbles: EAGLE VIRUS PUZZLE CAVIAR

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

ANSWERS



LABOUR MINISTER MEETS INDONESIAN OFFICIAL



Minister of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs HE Youssef bin Mohammed al Othman Fakhroo met with Chairman of the Protection Agency and the Indonesian Manpower Placement Nusrun Wahid and his accompanying delegation in Doha on Thursday. During the meeting, they discussed activating the agreement to recruit skilled and semi-skilled Indonesian workers to Qatar soon. (QNA)

MAHMOUD MEETS CHAIRMAN OF TWELVE PLUS GROUP



Speaker of the Advisory (Shura) Council HE Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid al Mahmoud met with Duarte Pacheco, chairman of the Twelve Plus Group, which includes the parliaments of the European countries, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, on the sidelines of his official visit to Portugal. The meeting reviewed the parliamentary relations between Qatar and the Twelve Plus Group and the ways of supporting and strengthening them. They also discussed a number of issues of common concern. The meeting was attended by members of the Shura Council and members of the Assembly of Portugal and Ambassador of Qatar to Portugal HE Saad bin Ali al Mohannadi. (QNA / LISBON)

# Qatar Airways wraps up an outstanding week of awards, inaugural flights and orders

QA swept up honours at Skytrax and APEX awards, launched two new destinations in the Philippines and Portugal, and announced order for five new Boeing 777 freighters

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

QATAR Airways (QA) has wrapped up a remarkable week, concluding a successful appearance at the Paris Air Show 2019, launching inaugural flights to Davao, the Philippines and Lisbon in Portugal, and breaking records at the 2019 Skytrax World Airline Awards and 2019 Passenger Experience Association's (APEX) Passenger Choice Awards.

QA swept up honours at the prestigious 2019 Skytrax World Airline Awards and 2019 Passenger APEX Passenger Choice Awards. The national airline of Qatar took home a total of 11 Skytrax World Airline Awards, including 'World's Best Airline' - becoming the only airline in the



competition's history to win it five times (2011, 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2019).

The airline was also named 'Best Airline in the Middle East', 'Best Cabin Service in the Middle East', 'Best Food & Beverage in the Middle East', and 'Best Seat Comfort in the Middle East'.

QA also set a new mark at the 2019 APEX Passenger Choice Awards, winning four out of six in the highly competitive Middle East category - an

all-time record for a single airline in a region. The airline was named 'Best Overall Carrier in the Middle East', 'Best Cabin Service in the Middle East', 'Best Food & Beverage in the Middle East', and 'Best Seat Comfort in the Middle East'.

QA Group Chief Executive Akbar al Baker said: "We are honoured to be globally recognised by our customers, by winning these prestigious awards. Setting new records

at two separate awards events is a landmark achievement and, is testament to the tireless efforts of the entire Qatar Airways team. It is a proud moment for the airline as our constant innovation and service standards set the benchmark in our industry.

"These standards and innovative thinking were on display at the Paris Air Show 2019 with our showcase of the ultra-modern Airbus A350-1000 alongside the state-of-the-art Gulfstream G500 and announcement of our order of five new Boeing 777 Freighters. During the same seven day period we also demonstrated our commitment to competing people around the world, by launching two new exciting destinations: Davao in the Philippines and Lisbon in Portugal."

# ICAI holds yoga session



The event held at Birla Public School was attended by around 70 people including chapter members, their spouses and students.

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

THE Doha chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) commemorated the International Yoga Day recently by hosting an interactive yoga session for its members at Birla Public School (BPS).

The event was attended by around 70 people including chapter members, their

spouses and students.

The session was conducted by yoga practitioner at the Indian Embassy Ashish Gahlawat. He conducted basic yoga exercises which can be practised daily along with breathing techniques that relax the mind and the body. Captain Kapil Kaushik, the defence attaché at the Indian Embassy, was the chief guest for the event. In his keynote address, Capt Kaushik highlighted the

health benefits of yoga and its growing popularity across the world.

Earlier, ICAI Doha chapter chairperson CA Rukkiya Pachisa welcomed the members while the vote of thanks was proposed by chapter vice chairman CA Sandeep Chowdhary.

The Doha chapter of ICAI, which was established in 1981, is the oldest of the 33 overseas chapters of the ICAI.

## SCHOOL STUDENTS, TEACHERS MARK INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY



MES INDIAN SCHOOL: MES Indian School organised special yoga classes for students at its Conference Hall to mark the International Yoga Day recently. With the objective of health for all and to inculcate the value of discipline among students, the event saw participation of a number of enthusiastic students. The school's principal Hameeda Kadar highlighted the significance of yoga in mitigating stress and anxiety that one confronts in day-to-day life and urged the students to practice it on a daily basis. Heads of sections, teachers and students attended the programme. (TNN)



IDEAL INDIAN SCHOOL: IDEAL Indian School (IIS) organised yoga sessions for its students on the occasion of the International Yoga Day recently. Nearly 500 students of Junior, Girls and Boys sections demonstrated various 'asanas' (yoga postures) with great enthusiasm. Warm up and stretching exercises were also conducted while the benefits of yoga exercises were highlighted simultaneously. Principal Syed Shoukath Ali encouraged the students to practice yoga regularly to keep fit and improve concentration. (TNN)

# QAF celebrates graduation of 32nd batch of diploma course



Qatari Armed Forces celebrated the graduation of the 32nd batch of Military Sciences Diploma course including 133 officers at Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College in the presence of Deputy Chief of Staff for Education and Training Major General Hamad Ahmed al Nuaimi. The training session lasted for nine months and included a sword drill in the Republic of Turkey last April, marching movements of all kinds, light weapons and field skills, as well as a number of topics related to map and compass, signal, duties of staff, field aid and military geography. (QNA)