

## IN BRIEF



## Greece seeks marbles back from U.K. museum

ATHENS  
Greece's President Prokopis Pavlopoulos called on Monday for Britain return the Parthenon marbles from the "murky prison" of its national museum, upping the rhetoric in a 200-year-old campaign for the sculptures' return. Campaigners hope for the return of classical reliefs and figures taken by a British diplomat in the early nineteenth century. REUTERS



## Exotic, dangerous bird kills owner in Florida

WASHINGTON  
A flightless bird killed its owner in Florida. Marvin Hajos, 75, was raising the cassowary and other exotic animals on his property in Alachua county. He fell to the ground by accident and the bird attacked him. Cassowaries have a dagger-like claw on each foot, and are considered the world's most dangerous bird. AFP



## Disneyland Paris bans plastic straws

PARIS  
Disneyland Paris on Monday announced a series of measures to make Europe's biggest private tourist attraction more environmentally friendly, including banning plastic straws. The theme park east of the French capital produced 19 tonnes of waste last year. AFP

# 'First' 3D printed heart has human tissues and vessels

The medical breakthrough raises possibility for transplants into patients in future

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TEL AVIV

Scientists in Israel unveiled a 3D print of a heart with human tissue and vessels on Monday, calling it a first and a "major medical breakthrough" that advances possibilities for transplants.

The heart marked "the first time anyone has successfully engineered and printed an entire heart replete with cells, blood vessels, ventricles and chambers," said Tel Aviv University's Tal Dvir, who led the project.

"People have managed to 3D-print the structure of a heart in the past, but not with cells or with blood vessels," he said.

But the scientists said many challenges remain before fully working 3D printed hearts will be available for



A 3D printed heart as big as a cherry. •AFP

transplant into patients.

Journalists were shown a 3D print of a heart about the size of a cherry at Tel Aviv University on Monday. The findings were published in the journal *Advanced Science*.

Researchers must now teach the printed hearts "to behave" like real ones. Then they plan to transplant them

into animal models, said Mr. Dvir. "Maybe, in 10 years, there will be organ printers in the finest hospitals around the world, and these procedures will be conducted routinely," he said.

But he said hospitals would likely start with simpler organs than hearts.

Cardiovascular disease is the world's leading cause of

death, according to the World Health Organization, and transplants are currently the only option available for patients in the worst cases.

## Overcoming rejection

But the number of donors is limited and many die while waiting. When they do benefit, they can fall victim to their bodies rejecting the transplant – a problem the researchers are seeking to overcome.

Using the patient's own tissue was important to eliminate the risk of an implant provoking an immune response and being rejected, Mr. Dvir said.

Challenges that remain include how to expand the cells to have enough tissue to recreate a human-sized heart, he said.

# Chinese netizens blast censored *Game of Thrones*

Not just nude scenes, even 'battle' sequences were not spared

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

While *Game of Thrones* fans worldwide were laughing and howling their way through the premiere of the latest season, Chinese fans on Monday were left blasting the censored version that streamed online in the country.

The fantasy epic on HBO is famed for its X-rated content and gory battle scenes, both known to draw the ire of China's censors.

Tech giant Tencent streamed the season premier simultaneously with HBO, letting China's legions of netizens watch alongside their worldwide peers.

"I thought the censored version meant only cutting the bed scenes!!!" typed one enraged fan on China's Twitter-like Weibo after watch-



Watered-down: Kit Harington as Jon Snow, left, and Emilia Clarke as Daenerys Targaryen in a scene from GOT. •AP

ing. "When I was watching I wasn't even a little worried about my dad being there, even the fighting scenes are cut, with even those cut, why bother watching!"

The length of Chinese version was 48 minutes compared to the 54 minute for audiences worldwide.

HBO's website is blocked in China, forcing most to watch the approved-for-Chi-

na version of the Emmy Award-winning television series – though some netizens find ways to get beyond the country's "great firewall".

"Tencent is making us pay to see a castrated version of *Game of Thrones*," said another user, who identified herself as a 19-year-old girl.

"Do any sisters have Game of Throne links to share?" she tweeted.

## Taking guard



Show of strength: Sumo wrestlers taking part in a 'honozumo', a ceremonial sumo exhibition, on the grounds of the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on Monday. •AFP

# U.K. proposes banning social media 'likes' for children

Calls for 'high privacy' and 'robust age-verification mechanisms'

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON

Britain's privacy regulator wants to stop kids from being able to "like" posts on Facebook and other social media sites as part of tough new rules it's proposing to protect children's online privacy.

Under the draft rules, which were released for consultation on Monday, tech companies would not be allowed to use "nudge techniques" that encourage children to keep using a site.

The Information Commissioner's Office said examples of "reward loops" that keep people using a site so that more of their personal data can be harvested include "likes" on Facebook and Instagram or "streaks" on Snapchat. A Snapchat streak involves two friends sending each other direct "snaps" on consecutive days.

The code of practice includes 16 standards that



Violators face punishment including, in serious cases, fines worth 4% of a company's global revenue.

must be met by apps, connected toys, social media sites, search engines, news or educational websites and streaming or other online services. It applies to companies that offer services in the U.K., even if they are based outside the country.

The code also calls for "high privacy" settings to be on by default and "robust age-verification mechanisms." Only the minimum amount of data should be

collected and location tracking should be disabled.

Violators face punishment including, in serious cases, fines worth 4% of a company's global revenue, which for the Silicon Valley tech giants would equal billions of dollars.

"We shouldn't have to prevent our children from being able to use it, but we must demand that they are protected when they do. This code does that," it said.

# Italy's designer wins KASHISH poster contest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PANAJI

Milan-based graphic designer Domenico De Monte has won the KASHISH International Poster Design Contest. The winner was picked by leading fashion designer Wendell Rodricks.

The winning design will become the look of the 10th edition of KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film Festival – South Asia's biggest LGBTQ film festival – to be held between June 12 and June 16 at two of city's iconic theatres Liberty Carnival Cinemas and Metro INOX.

Mr. De Monte, the first international designer to win the contest, will receive a cash prize of ₹25,000.

The theme of KASHISH 2019, 'Over The Rainbow', not only commemorates the reading down of Sec 377 and decriminalization of same-sex relationships in India but also defines the challenges in store for the LGBTQ community.

# Global measles cases up by 300%, says WHO

Raises alarm over drop in vaccination

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
GENEVA

Measles cases rose 300% worldwide through the first three months of 2019 compared to the same period last year, the UN said Monday, as concern grows over the impact of anti-vaccination stigma.

Measles, which is highly contagious, can be entirely prevented through a two-dose vaccine, but the World Health Organization (WHO) has in recent months sounded the alarm over slipping global vaccination rates.

"Preliminary global data shows that reported cases rose by 300% in the first three months of 2019, compared to the same period in 2018. This follows consecutive increases over the past



Measles can be entirely prevented through a two-dose vaccine. •AP

two years," it said in a statement.

"While this data is provisional and not yet complete, it indicates a clear trend. Many countries are in the midst of sizeable measles outbreaks, with all regions of the world experiencing sustained rises in cases," WHO further said.

# Chinese techies protest against long work hours

Alibaba's Jack Ma calls it a huge blessing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
BEIJING

Chinese tech employees have pushed back against the industry's notoriously long hours, known as the "996" schedule of working from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., six days a week, the media reported on Monday.

For months, former and current employees of some of the country's most well-known companies had been posting evidence of unpaid, often compulsory or heavily encouraged overtime on the code-sharing platform Github, media reports said.

Over the last few weeks, that discussion spread across Chinese social media, prompting an outcry and a broader debate about work culture in China.

Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba, one of the companies included in a black list of firms forcing overtime on employees, has defended its long hours in comments.

He called the "996" schedule "a huge blessing" and said workers should consider it an honour rather than a burden. "If you join Alibaba, you should get ready to work 12 hours a day. Otherwise why did you come to Alibaba? We don't need those who comfortably work eight hours," he said.

Telecom giant Huawei reportedly promotes an aggressive, cut-throat "wolf culture" among its ranks.

On Github, users have created a blacklist of more than 150 companies, including Bytedance, Pinduoduo.

# In S. Korea, gay soldiers fight a battle within

They face prison for 2 years if convicted and a possible forced outing to family

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SEOUL

Productive and driven, he was a model army officer, but he had a secret: he was in a gay sexual relationship with a fellow soldier – a crime under South Korea's military law.

He kept his sexuality hidden from everyone, including friends and family, only meeting his lover off-base and after work.

Same-sex acts are legal for South Korean civilians, although homosexual people live largely under the radar as it remains a conservative society, influenced by evangelical Christianity.

"I worked very hard as an officer, but none of that mattered when I became a suspect," the 27-year-old, who asked for anonymity, said.

"There were days when I just wanted to die," he ad-

ded, explaining that he was caught after authorities discovered his messages on his partner's phone.

He faced a criminal conviction and a possible forced outing to his parents, whom he had hoped would never find out the truth about his homosexuality, describing them as "conservative, devout Christians".

## Conscription system

South Korea has a conscript army to defend itself against the nuclear-armed North, with all able-bodied male citizens obliged to serve for nearly two years.

Doing so is seen as a patriotic duty, and failure to complete service can bring enduring stigma that affects social standing, employment prospects and more.

South Korea is also the world's only advanced eco-



Consensual gay sex between soldiers is a crime under military rules. •AFP

nomy to make consensual gay sex between soldiers a crime under military rules. Under clause 92.6 of its criminal code, known as the military sodomy law, soldiers can be jailed for two years with labour if convicted at a court-martial.

The officer was among 22 soldiers arrested during a 2017 inquiry into homosexual activity in the army.

He was luckier as he was charged during his last month of service, so his case

was transferred to a civilian court and he was later acquitted. It was the first time a soldier charged under the military sodomy law had been found not guilty. And while he has begun a civilian life with a new job, and thus far avoided his family finding out any details of his sexual orientation – prosecutors have since appealed, leaving him in a legal and social limbo as he awaits the next hearing.

In 2017, investigators forced suspects to message dating app users in front of them to hunt down other gay soldiers, it said.

Three navy officers are currently under investigation for violating clause 92.6, said MHRCK, an advocacy group, after one of them revealed he was gay to a military counsellor, who then reported him.