



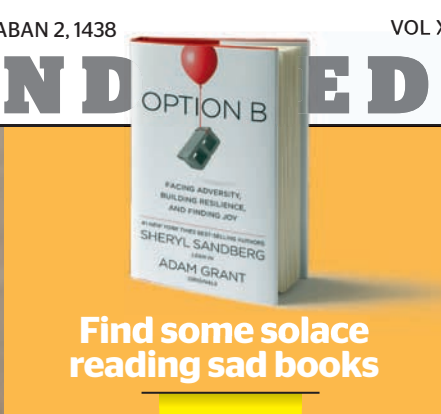
Bye bye traffic! Flying cars will be here soon

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South Koreans dress to impress

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What! Teens off social media?

BUSINESS



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SPORT



TREAT US RIGHT

Trump says US losing money defending Saudi Arabia

President Donald Trump complained that US ally Saudi Arabia was not treating the United States fairly and Washington was losing a “tremendous amount of money” defending the kingdom.

In an interview with Reuters, Trump confirmed his administration was in talks about possible visits to Saudi Arabia in the second half of May. He is due to make his first trip abroad as president for a May 25 Nato summit in Brussels and could add other stops. “Frankly, Saudi Arabia has not treated us fairly, because we are losing a tremendous amount of money in defending Saudi Arabia,” he said.

Trump’s criticism of Riyadh was a return to his 2016 election campaign rhetoric when he accused the kingdom of not pulling its weight in paying for the US security umbrella.

“Nobody’s going to mess with Saudi Arabia because we’re watching them,” Trump told a campaign rally in Wisconsin a year ago. “They’re not paying us a fair price. We’re losing our shirt.” The US is the main supplier for most Saudi military needs, from F-15 fighters to control and command systems worth tens of billions of dollars in recent years, while American contractors win major energy deals.

The world’s top oil exporter and its biggest consumer have enjoyed close economic ties for decades, with US firms building much of the infrastructure of the modern Saudi state after its oil boom in the 1970s. — Reuters

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Let’s unite for peace



Ahmed Shaaban
REPORTING FROM CAIRO

CAIRO — Reject violence in God’s name and preach tolerance and peace, said Pope Francis on his breakthrough visit to Egypt on Friday. He appealed for unity among religions during a speech at Cairo’s famed Al Azhar university, the 1,000-year-old centre of Islamic learning.

The Pontiff warmly embraced Sheikh Ahmed Al Tayeb, Al Azhar’s grand imam who hosted him and other senior Muslim and Christian leaders at a peace conference.

Francis said Egypt’s ancient civilisation was progressive. “The sun of science and religion has risen here in Egypt.

“As religious leaders, we are called to unmask violence that masquerades as purported sanctity,” Francis said. “Let us say once more a firm and clear ‘No’ to every form of violence, vengeance and hatred carried out in the name of religion or in the name of God.”

“Let’s be peacemakers and shun violence while cooperating to end poverty and exploitation,” he said.

“To counter effectively the barbarity of those who foment hatred, we need to help young people on the path to maturity and teach them to respond to the incendiary logic of evil by patiently working for the growth of good-



REACHING OUT: Pope Francis with Sheikh Ahmed Al Tayeb. — AFP

We should bravely accept our differences, grant freedom to all and become real builders of civilisation

Pope Francis

ness,” he said. Al Tayeb said Islam is not a “religion of terrorism because a minority from among its followers hijacked some of its texts” to shed blood. There were cheers from the crowd.

End the flow of weapons and money to militants, Francis said. “Only by bringing to light of day

the murky manoeuvrings that feed the cancer of war can its real causes be prevented.”

Urging interfaith dialogue, he said it is a preliminary step to avoid misleading interpretation of religious texts. “Violence leads to violence, and hatred brings more hatred.” There is a need for constant dialogue, he said.

“We should bravely accept our differences, grant freedom to all and become real builders of civilisation.”

ahmedshaaban@khaleejtimes.com

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UK foils terror plot in the nick of time

LONDON — British police said on Friday they had arrested six people as part of an active plot, the day after a knife man was arrested near parliament in a separate counter-terrorism operation.

Just weeks after the attack on the Houses of Parliament that left five people dead and scores injured, London is once again on high alert as Britain prepares for a snap election on June 8.

“Yesterday was an extraordinary day in London,” Deputy Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu said. “I wanted to reassure the public that this increased level of terrorist activity is being matched by our action.... We are making arrests on a near daily basis.”

A woman in her twenties was shot on Thursday evening when armed police raided a property in north London as part of a counter-terrorism investigation, firing CS gas as they entered.

Six people have been arrested as part of the probe, while the woman — who is also suspected of involvement — remains in a serious but stable condition in hospital.

Hours earlier, a 27-year-old man was arrested near parliament on suspicion of terrorism offences. — AFP

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GEM OF A MOSQUE: The world’s first ever portable mosque is unveiled at Amber Palm Art Exhibition in Dubai. — Photo by Shihab

A moving experience with this Dh1m mosque

Saman Haziq

While the UAE is dotted with beautiful, impressive mosques, imagine having a private one in your backyard or garden, or in your office. Dubai was introduced to a novel concept of a ‘precious little’ portable mosque on Thursday night.

The mosque is 75% made of amber and costs a million dirhams and can be constructed in five hours. The first display model can have only two people pray at a

time, but the builder aims to customise the mosque depending on the requirement of the buyer.

The Amber Stone Mosque is the world’s first ever portable place of worship of its kind and was launched at the Burj Al Arab hotel.

“People think amber is used only in jewellery, so this was our way of innovating and also educating people about the unique characteristics and healing power of this rare stone,”

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READY RECKONER

Labour Day celebrations begin today



NATION

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TRUMP’S 100 DAYS

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TRENDING ON KT DIGITAL

VIDEO

Palm Jumeirah aerial view for Dh13,000

bit.ly/SeawingsSeaplane



Bahubali 2 movie review: An epic end

bit.ly/Bahubali2review



Celebrity chef trolls Arab teen’s cooking

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When Big B ‘hit’ Vinod Khanna with a glass

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A TRACK LESS TRAVELLED: An old image of the Outeniqua Choo Tjoe railway track in Wilderness, South Africa. Following landslides back in 2006, it now sits abandoned.

This dude Clifford lives with his dog in a cave in South Africa

Alongside an old railway in Wilderness you'll find Kaaiman's Grotto. A museum of the weird and wacky, this cave helped save Clifford. He's got fresh water, but with no electricity, he lights candles instead



THE GOOD LIFE: Clifford 'Cliffie' Brandon (left), his loyal beast, and a sneak peak inside the man cave, Kaaiman's Grotto. Right, on safari in Gondwana Game Reserve.



A FAST SPRINT, FROM ROOM TO RESTAURANT

When you think 'South Africa,' you usually think safari. So on my maiden voyage to this spectacular land, I made it my mission to go on one — a REAL safari. During my 17-day road trip along the Garden Route, I took a break from roughing it in hostels and checked myself into Gondwana Game Reserve. Situated in Mossel Bay — the very place where I also took a leap into the murky ocean and rubbed shoulders with a couple of great white sharks (by way of cage, of course) — this place did little to disappoint. The 11,000-hectare, Big 5 reserve played host to many firsts for me. My first sighting of a wild cheetah, lion and rhino — but also my first sprint from room to restaurant to avoid a run-in with the above mentioned wild, toothy predators. After being welcomed by my guide — a young man, not more than 25, whose wife also worked at the reserve — he told me to give him a call when I was ready to eat. He was going to chaperone me from my thatched, eco-hut to the dinner area. When I questioned why his presence was needed, his answer reeked 'African wilds'. "We're not fenced-in here. Our animals are free-roaming so they do wander close to camp at times. But don't worry, they tend to leave you alone if you do the same." And it made me fall more in love with the place. Completing four different safaris during my stay, I was stared out by wild elephants and got up close and personal with a little family of not-so-little giraffes. The beautiful vistas at Gondwana were a perfect backdrop to a perfect safari experience — but secretly, deep down, I think a face-to-face encounter with a lion in my bedroom may have topped off the trip. Alas, I'm still waiting for the day I wake up to a lion's roar.

Kelly Clarke



When I first touched down in South Africa a few months back, I was planning to do it all; Table Mountain, swimming with sharks, a safari. My backpack was bulging with clothes, but I'd brought along a bucketload of enthusiasm too. Seventeen days later, as the plane tyres hit the tarmac back in Dubai, my initial to-do list was etched in over-zealous ticks. But when people asked me how my trip was, it was my brush with a man and his cave that dominated my tales from South Africa. The man in question was Clifford — affectionately known as Cliffie to locals. Make no mistake here, he is a modern day cave man; a man who lives in a cave. The day we met was unplanned, unexpected, but his story was uplifting. Take a five-hour drive North-east from Cape Town, and you'll stumble upon a little place called Wilderness. With its endless beaches and small-town feel, it has many hidden gems — Kaaiman's Grotto being the stand out. I'd travelled from Mossel Bay on that day; just 50 minutes away — so it made for the perfect day trip. As I made my way down a winding, abandoned railway track hidden along the seaside, the sheer cliff face to my right couldn't have been more of a contrast to the wide open ocean to my left. The track lay on the old Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe railway line, which fell into disuse following landslides in 2006. As the overgrown grass brushed up against my legs, I was hit with a pang of curiosity at seeing signs of life ahead. That's because Wilderness is

true to its name. It is every bit as wild as it sounds. The never-ending railway track — although eerie by sound — was charming by sight. But with only the clash of the ocean waves beside me, that sign of life offered some welcome respite from the silent isolation.

Up ahead was a man with a dog. He was bald, casually dressed, but wore a wide smile. As I got closer he introduced himself — it was Clifford. You

MY FOUR STANDOUTS FROM GONDWANA GAME RESERVE:

1. Accommodation — individual thatched eco-pods overlook the beautiful vistas that surround you. It's heavenly come morning, noon and night
 2. The Big 5 — and that's why you go on a safari, right?
 3. Your Guide — these are passionate people who aren't doing it only for the pay cheque
 4. Location — situated just 30km from the Garden Route, this place is the perfect stop off from beach to bush.
- www.preferredhotels.com/destinations/mossel-bay/gondwana-game-reserve



could tell he was keen for some human interaction and he told me to pop by his place just up ahead: "You'll know it when you get to it," he said. And he wasn't wrong. As I walked on another 150m, a small wooden deck caught my attention. It was adorned with sea shells — all different shapes and sizes — hanging like a baby's mobile. The décor was eccentric, and a wooden signboard read: Kaaiman's Grotto. Clifford said it was a "divine force" nine years earlier that led him to this abandoned seaside shelter. And much like its exterior, a walk through the cave revealed yet more eccentricities. It was a hidden trail of unusual trinkets, photos and books. This place was more than just a cave. It was a museum of the weird and wonderful. More than just a hollow space beneath rock, it had a great story — as did Clifford. Kaaiman's Grotto helped save him; it turned him into a "new man". A former drug-addict, he said he first stumbled on the cave back in 2008 to seek refuge from his turbulent life. Now, he calls it home. Today, Clifford helps run the place as a kind of shelter for anybody: "single parents, troubled teens, anyone". With no supplied electricity, candles and torches offer light from the dark, but fresh water, a toilet, and cooking facilities are all in full working order. Once a bustling restaurant frequented by passersby on the railway, the cave was left to rot after business went bust in the mid 2000s. But Clifford helped breathe new life back into the cave — and the cave helped "breathe new life" into him. With a warm presence and many stories to tell, if you ever find yourself rambling along that train track in Wilderness, drop by and have a chat with Clifford. You won't be left disappointed.

kelly@khaleejtimes.com
Kelly covers Education and other important stuff. She finds it endearing when people call her Kel