

# Code-breaker Turing to appear on new British £50 banknote

LONDON: World War II code-breaker Alan Turing has been chosen to feature on Britain's new £50 note, the Bank of England announced yesterday, decades after his tragic death following a conviction for homosexuality. Turing played a pivotal role in the development of early computers, but his career was cut short by his conviction in 1952 for gross indecency with a 19-year-old man. He did not go to prison but was chemically castrated and died of cyanide poisoning in an apparent suicide in 1954, aged 41.

"Alan Turing was an outstanding mathematician whose work has had an enormous impact on how we live today," Bank of England governor Mark Carney said as he unveiled the note worth £50 (\$63). "As the father of computer science and artificial intelligence, as well as war hero, Alan Turing's contributions were far ranging and path breaking," he said at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester, northwest England. "Turing is a giant on whose shoulders so many now stand."

Turing received a posthumous pardon from Queen Elizabeth II in 2013. In 2017, the "Alan Turing Law" posthumously pardoned men who had been cautioned or convicted under historical legislation that outlawed homosexual acts in Britain. "It is only fitting that we remember his legacy and the brilliant contribution LGBT people have made to our country on the new £50 note," outgoing Prime Minister Theresa May said. The note, which is due to enter circulation by the end of 2021, shows a photo of Turing taken in 1951.

The Oscar-winning 2014 film "The Imitation Game" starring Benedict Cumberbatch brought belated acclaim for Turing's key wartime role when he helped crack German military communication codes, handing the allies a huge trove of intelligence. "Alan Turing's pioneering work in mathematics and computer science played a crucial part in ending the Second World War," May added.

The Bank of England is putting new faces on Britain's banknotes as it switches from paper to polymer, or thin, flexible plastic film that is seen as more



MANCHESTER: Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, speaks in front of the concept design for the new £50 banknote, featuring mathematician and scientist Alan Turing, during a presentation at the Science and Industry Museum yesterday. — AFP

durable and secure. The new £20 note, due to enter circulation next year, will feature artist J M W Turner on its back. The new polymer £5 and £10 notes

already in circulation show wartime leader Winston Churchill and author Jane Austen respectively. The queen features on the front of Britain's bank notes. The

£50 is by far the least used among the general public, and seen as a note favored by criminals who want to move large amounts of cash. — AFP

## Aussie kids take stolen car on 1,000-km trip

SYDNEY: Four children took a stolen four-wheel drive on a 1,000-km road trip across the Australian outback before being nabbed by police, officials said yesterday. A 14-year-old boy, two 13-year-old boys and a 10-year-old girl began their epic journey on Saturday when they took cash and packed fishing rods in a vehicle belonging to one of their families in the coastal Queensland town of Rockhampton, police said. One of the children left a note for his family telling them of his plans.

Queensland police said the car was spotted early on Sunday morning in the outback town of Banana, where the kids allegedly stole petrol, before travel-

ling south. The car was found on Sunday night near Grafton, in the neighboring state of New South Wales, about 11 hours' drive from Rockhampton. New South Wales police said officers had to force their way into the vehicle after the children refused to get out.

"They have locked themselves in the car and police have had to use a baton to get in to arrest them," Coffs-Clarence district acting inspector Darren Williams told reporters. It was not clear which of the children had been behind the wheel, but Williams said it was likely they had shared the driving. "It is a long way, in excess of 1,000 (km) from Rockhampton down to Grafton," he said. "I couldn't imagine one person driving that way in two days."

Police are investigating several alleged offences committed during the road trip, Williams said. The children, who were found unharmed, have been taken into care. Williams said it was unclear what prompted the children to take the trip, but one of the boys was originally from Grafton. — AFP

## Cop who killed Ethiopian-Israeli released on bail

JERUSALEM: A police officer who shot dead a 19-year-old Ethiopian-Israeli, sparking nationwide protests, was freed on bail from house arrest yesterday, Israel's justice ministry said. The officer, who was off-duty and said he felt his life was in danger at the time of the June 30 shooting, will be subject to a series of restrictions while the investigation continues. The bail amount was not made public by the ministry following the closed-door court hearing over the shooting of Solomon Teka in Kiryat Haim near the northern port city of Haifa. Israeli media reported the amount at 5,000 shekels (\$1,400).

Teka's death sparked three days of nationwide protests that were often violent over longstanding grievances of Ethiopian-Israelis, who say they are discriminat-

ed against and targeted by police because they are black. There are some 140,000 Ethiopian-Israelis, of whom around 50,000 were born in Israel. They are Jewish, but say they are in many cases still seen as outsiders.

Yesterday's decision coincided with an Israeli parliament session on issues facing the Ethiopian-Israeli community. Outside parliament, a few dozen demonstrators protested and chanted slogans such as "a murdering cop has to be in prison," "we are all Solomon Teka" and "not black, not white, we're all humans". Some sought to block a nearby road before being cleared by police, who arrested seven people.

"As a mother, I'm scared. You raise a child, he goes out and you don't know what police could do to him," said Eden Gamber, a mother of two from Ramle in central Israel. Police said Teka was killed when the off-duty officer saw a fight between youths and tried to break it up. After the officer identified himself, the youths threw stones at him and he opened fire at Teka after feeling that his life was in danger, a police statement said. Police later said the officer hadn't fired directly at Teka but the bullet had ricocheted off the ground and then hit him. — AFP

## Trump steps up attacks on...

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"These are people that hate our country," Trump said. "They hate it, I think, with a passion. Now, it's possible I'm wrong. The voter will decide." He accused the congresswomen of using anti-Semitic language and voicing hatred for Israel, suggesting that they might be communists. "When will the Radical Left Congresswomen apologize to our Country, the people of Israel and even to the Office of the President, for the foul language they have used, and the terrible things they have said," Trump wrote on Twitter. "So many people are angry at them & their horrible & disgusting actions," Trump said.

Trump has been roundly criticized for his attacks by Democrats, who accused him of racism. Republicans have been slower to respond, but yesterday, moderate Senator Susan Collins called on him to retract his comments. Collins said while she disagreed with the political views of the leftist representatives, "the president's tweet that some members of Congress

should go back to the 'places from which they came' was way over the line, and he should take that down."

Another Republican senator, Lindsey Graham, urged Trump to "aim higher" and take on their policies. "They are American citizens," Graham said on "Fox & Friends." Both Collins and Graham nevertheless accused the women lawmakers of being anti-Semitic. Trump last year reportedly referred to countries in Africa as "s\*\*\*hole" nations, and has often described the influx of US-bound migrants as an "invasion". He was also a leading proponent of the "birther" conspiracy theory that Barack Obama was not born on US soil and therefore could not legally be president.

Republican Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania said "the citizenship of all four is as valid as mine". "They are entitled to their opinions, however misguided they may be," he added. Will Hurd, the only black Republican in the House of Representatives, told CNN that Trump's tweets were "racist and xenophobic" and "behavior that's unbecoming of the leader of the free world". Senator Tim Scott, a black Republican from South Carolina, criticized Trump for using "unacceptable personal attacks and racially offensive language" while Republican Representative Mike Turner of Ohio said the remarks were "racist and he should apologize". — AFP

er let traitors and putschists destroy our country, our freedom and our dignity."

The day, known as "15 July" in Turkey, has become a national holiday. Arzu, who was among the thousands who came to see Erdogan speak in Ankara, said she was there to "honor our martyrs", adding: "Without them, we would not be alive." Ankara accuses former ally-turned-foe Fethullah Gulen, a Muslim cleric exiled in the United States, of having ordered the attempted coup. He lists his movement as a "terrorist" organization.

Some 8,000 military personnel took part in the bid to overthrow Erdogan, backed by 35 fighter jets, three boats, 37 helicopters and 74 tanks, according to state news agency Anadolu. Since 2016, tens of thousands of people have been detained while 150,000 public sector employees have been suspended or sacked over alleged links to Gulen. Anadolu reported Sunday that 110 suspected Gulen movement members have been extradited to Turkey from more than 20 countries. Hundreds of life sentences have been handed down against accused putschists. There are still almost daily police raids to capture suspects accused of ties to Gulen. Based in Pennsylvania, he strongly denies Ankara's claims. His movement rejects the "terrorist" tag, insisting it promotes education and moderate Islam. — AFP



JERUSALEM: Policemen detain an Israeli man of Ethiopian origin during a protest outside the Knesset (Israeli parliament) yesterday. — AFP

## President: Drug gangs behind...

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Authorities have said local jihadist group National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ) were responsible for the suicide bombings in churches and hotels that killed at least 258 people in April. The attacks were later claimed by the Islamic State group.

Sirisena's office said the day after the bombings that local terrorists and international terror groups were responsible for the attacks. But in a statement issued by his office yesterday, Sirisena said the attacks "were the work of international drug dealers". "Drug barons carried out this attack to discredit me and discourage my anti-narcotics drive. I will not be deterred," he said. Sirisena is waging a battle against efforts by his governing coalition in parliament to abolish capital punishment, which has been subject to a moratorium since 1976.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe discounted the president's claims. "Police completed the investigations within about two weeks," Sudarshana Gunawardana told AFP. "There is no mention of drug dealers being involved. We have no reason to doubt our investigators." He said speedier justice would be a bigger deterrent to drug traffickers than the threat of capital punishment. "We don't believe hanging people will address the issue, especially considering that it takes several decades to get a conviction."

Sri Lanka courts take on average 17 years to com-

plete criminal trials for grave offences such as murder and rape. Gunawardana said Wickremesinghe was opposed to capital punishment as it was against the policy of his United National Party, and noted that there was cross-bench support in the legislature to completely abolish it.

Police officials said investigations into the April 21 suicide bombings were still ongoing, and all the more than 100 people in custody were Sri Lankans. "We are going on the basis that this was a crime planned and executed by a group of radicalized Sri Lankan Muslims," a senior police official told AFP, asking not to be named. "Everyone involved in the attacks is either dead or in custody."

Sirisena has marshaled public support for an end to the moratorium on the death penalty, saying that hangings would deter the illegal drugs trade. "If the government brings legislation to abolish capital punishment, I will declare a day of national mourning," Sirisena said in the statement, adding that public opinion favored hanging condemned criminals. He said the leading Buddhist monk Omalpe Sobitha had advised him to resume hangings and not to abandon his war on narcotics.

Sri Lanka courts routinely hand down death sentences to drug offenders, murderers and rapists but it is automatically commuted a term of life imprisonment. Sri Lanka's Supreme Court earlier this month suspended Sirisena's moves to hang four drug convicts. The court banned any executions until it rules on a petition seeking a declaration that hanging breaches the country's constitution. The next hearing in the case is in October. Sri Lanka's last hangman retired in 2014, but officials said they had selected two new executioners from a pool of candidates. — AFP

## Erdogan hails S-400 deal on...

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Relations with the West deteriorated after the coup bid, as Turkish officials accused the West of not giving Ankara sufficient support. Over the same period, Erdogan has grown ever closer to Russian President Vladimir Putin, raising concerns in Europe and the United States. Erdogan said Turkey's "next target was joint production with Russia" of the next missile defense system. "We are taking every measure to make sure our people do not suffer the betrayal of 15 July again or something similar," Erdogan added.

Earlier yesterday, the president took part in a tense ceremony at parliament, which was bombed during the attempted putsch. He was scheduled to give a speech in Istanbul later yesterday and inaugurate a museum dedicated to the failed coup of July 15, 2016. Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said on Twitter that Turkey "sends a powerful message of unity and solidarity to the world: We will die but nev-